



Members FIRST

N E W S L E T T E R

A MOVE TO
SERVE OUR
MEMBERSHIP
Better



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Foreword



Dear ULS Members and Stakeholders,

Happy and blessed 2023!

Welcome to Issue No.4 of the Uganda Law Society Members' First Newsletter.

Our first issue this year highlights the roadmap set for key activities that council has flagged off in line with the Members First Agenda. Our focus is to create a Member Centric ULS.

In this issue we run feature stories on the Digitization process, Benevolent fund, the Uganda Law Society Sacco. We have also shared with you stories from the Secretariat highlighting the achievements and key milestones achieved this month.

We appreciate the secretariat and all the different stakeholders who enable them to serve in their respective capacities.

I congratulate the new advocates who were enrolled in January plus the new Judges who were recently appointed to serve in their different capacities.

We have also dedicated a special section to the Late Retired Hon Lady Justice Elizabeth Ibanda- Nahamya. We appreciate her contribution to the Judiciary in Uganda and beyond and pray that her soul rests in peace.

Last but not least, we continue to thank all our partners and different stakeholders for the support to Uganda Law Society.

Special gratitude goes to the Editorial team for its commitment and effort in publishing this Newsletter.

Thank you!

Counsel Atukunda Isaac

Hon. Secretary ULS and Chairperson Research and Publications, ULS

Word From The C.E.O



Dear Members,

I am so honored to wish you all a happy new year.

I would like to appreciate each of you for the support and individual contribution to Uganda Law Society. I further congratulate you for not giving up and doing your best to make it through the previous year.

The New Year presents us with an open book of 365 fresh blank pages. We all have the opportunity to use our discretion backed with our potential to be the author of the kind of story we desire.

Let's not forget that our attitude is always the key to our altitude, so let us keep up the positive attitude as we strive for greater horizons.

He who has health has hope and he who has hope has everything. I appeal to you to remain healthy by taking on healthy living habits as this is one of the assurances that will enable you to fully execute your mandate as Advocates.

As the Uganda Law Society Secretariat, our commitment to you is to render efficient member centric services in a bid to ensure your smooth practice and welfare throughout the year. In this regard, we have already embarked on automation of most of our services so that Uganda Law Society services are a click away.

It is my humble prayer that the Good Lord grants you immeasurable abundance in all your undertakings.

Yours in Service

Okwalinga Moses
Chief Executive Officer; Uganda Law Society

ULS President's New Year Message



***“Alone we can do so little;
Together we can do so much.”***

- Helen Keller

Dear Members,

It is with great pleasure that I wish you all a happy New Year full of happiness and success in your personal and professional lives. It's our desire that each of us chooses to make their contribution to make our society what we would like it to be.

This year, council and I continue to focus on delivering our Members First agenda to ensure that our members are at the centre of what we do. Our first action this year is automation of our systems that will enable each member to be able to access Uganda Law Society Services at the click of a button. I am happy to note that since the beginning of the year, 1,422 (One Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Two) members have already enrolled on to the system. I request every member to take the opportunity to enrol on the system.

The initiatives around the SACCO and the Benevolent Fund are already being implemented and the leadership of these committees will soon reach out and make presentations to membership on the structure of these initiatives.

Our resolve to contribute to the Rule of Law remains firm and we are thankful for the strides made so far. We shall continue to be at the forefront of Justice and ensure we deliver on our

mandate as expected. We thank all stakeholders who haven't given up on ensuring all Ugandans get a fair hearing. We appreciate all lawyers for their Pro-bono services and encourage you to continue serving Ugandans.

This year, our CLE shall aim at serving unique needs of our members and we encourage as many lawyers as possible to retool, reinvent and relearn.

The ULS House remains top on our priority list and during the course of the year we shall engage you on our course of action. Your support in realizing the big dream will be much appreciated.

We will in the first quarter of this year focus on initiatives on improving our Legal Practice environment. We will engage relevant stakeholders like the Uganda Registration Services Bureau, the Judiciary, The Ministry of Lands and Urban Development, the Uganda Police and other security agencies with a view of working together and improving our legal practice environment. I congratulate our newly appointed judges and wish them success as they serve Ugandans in their respective capacities. To our new advocates, congratulations on your recent enrolment we wish you success as you take on this noble responsibility.

Last but not least I pass our condolences to the family, relatives, friends and the Judiciary family on the passing on of The Late Retired Hon Lady Justice Elizabeth Ibanda- Nahamya. We appreciate her contribution to the Judiciary in Uganda and the world. May her soul Rest in Peace.

I now welcome you to read our first newsletter of 2023.

**Bernard Oundo,
President, Uganda Law Society**



UGANDA LAW SOCIETY GOES DIGITAL

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why is Uganda Law Society going digital?

As part of the ULS Members First drive, we found it essential to put in place systems that help us keep track of each and every member. We have in the past had various challenges including providing timely updates of members Continuing Legal Education (CLE) points, countrywide on boarding of members, ensuring timely updates on trainings and events among many other services. In order to address these gaps, the first step we have embarked on is to build a comprehensive database of all our members. This will continuously be updated for ease of work.

2. How does the online portal work?

The members' portal is a highly interactive dashboard that uses each member's valid email to enable registration, validation and logging into your account.

Each member's dashboard is enabled with access to rich functionality such as providing you with events and training updates, allowing you to pay for subscriptions, automatic generation of ID's.

The process flow for old members is that they will only need to validate their profiles by submitting their Full names, Email and Telephone contacts. New members on the other hand will have to register a fresh.

Once you have been onboarded, you may

proceed to automatically trigger a password reset and log in. Once logged in, you can perform the following actions;

- Update / Manage your profiles – Kindly keep these details up to date always.
- Pay annual subscriptions (no need to make trips to bank or to the ULS office - you can even use mobile money to make payments and shall receive acknowledgement and receipts once your payments have been reconciled).
- Gain access to latest events and trainings and quickly subscribe to them.
- Receive and take part in pro-bono activities that are assigned to you.

The above are the current services accessed. A support team is available incase any member needs extra support.

3. Who should access the members' portal?

The members portal can be accessed by members of Uganda Law Society who include all enrolled advocates in Uganda.

4. How do I access the online members' portal?

The online members 'portal can be accessed by visiting the official website of the Uganda Law Society www.uls.or.ug followed by a click on members' login

Or it can be accessed by ;

Clicking the [link www.members.ulsportal.or.ug](http://www.members.ulsportal.or.ug)

Before you proceed to login, you should either

register if you are a new member or validate your membership in case you have been a member before.

5. Should old members register afresh?

It may not be necessary for old members to register since we already have most of the records of the existing members. However, since the online portal works very much with a link to your emails, it is important to make sure that we have our records updated with a valid email and your phone number. The email ought to be a personal email so that you can always have access to your profile through password reset.

6. How will new members get registered?

New members are required to select the option to register afresh. In this case, they shall submit enrollment certificates that are certified along with other details.

7. Why are we making the enrollment certificate a requirement for old members?

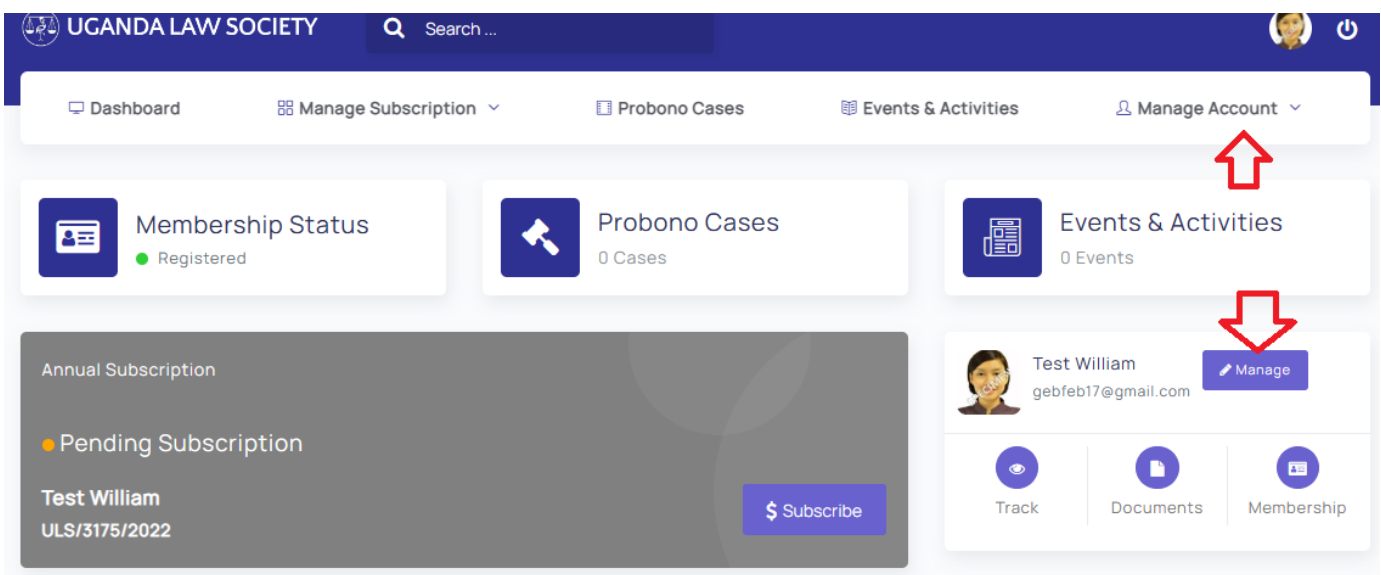
For the existing members, this record is not necessarily mandatory but helps us update your records since it's a mandatory requirement for new members.

8. What else can I do after logging into the member's portal?

- Update / Manage your profiles - keep these details up to date always
- Pay annual subscriptions (no need to make trips to bank or to the ULS office - you can even use mobile money to make payments and you will receive acknowledgement and receipts once your payments have been reconciled).
- Gain access to latest events and trainings and quickly subscribe to them.
- Receive and take part in pro-bono activities that are assigned to you.

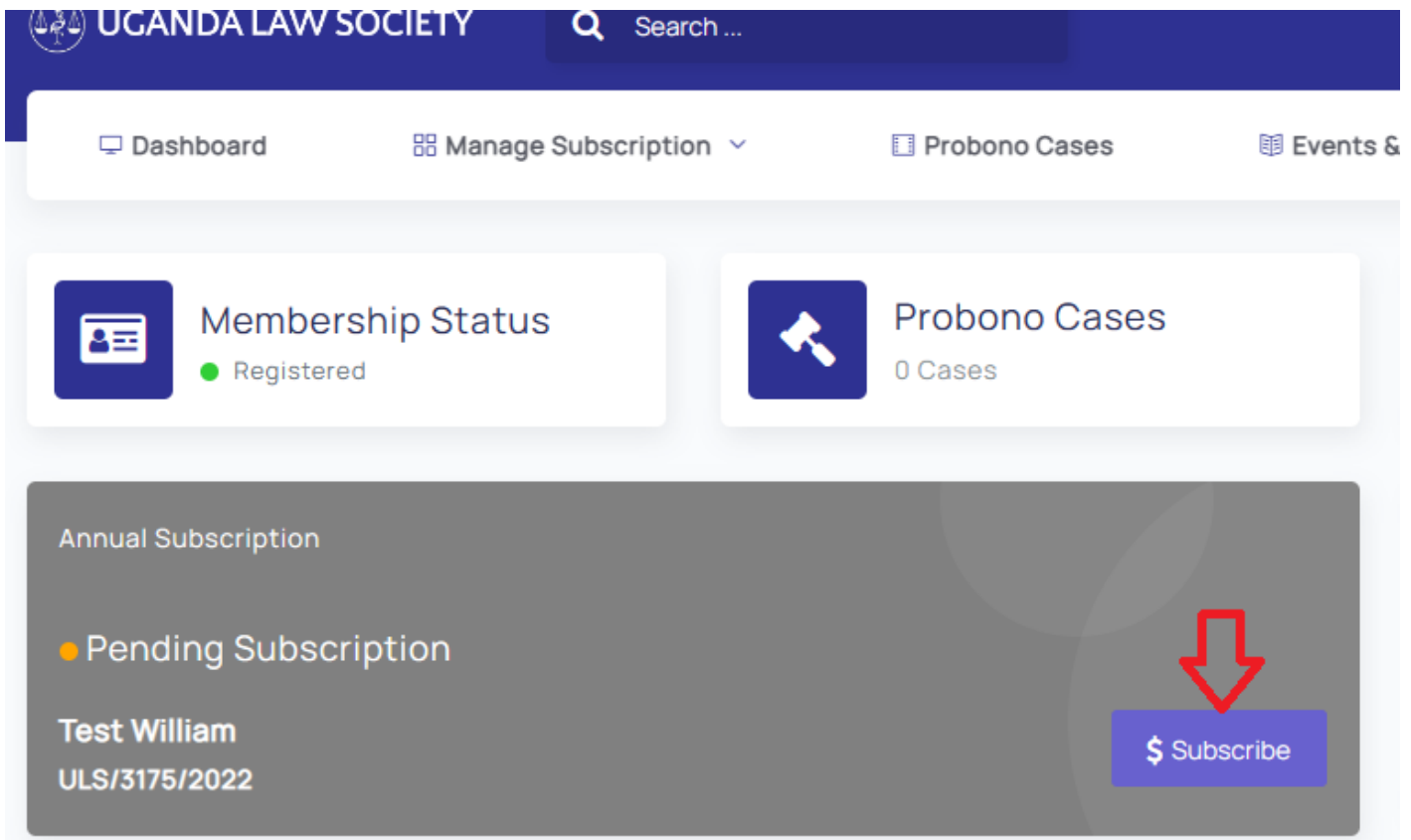
9. How do I update my place of work in the portal?

When logged in, click on Manage Profile to update your profile



10. How shall we be paying for subscriptions?

From the main dashboard when logged in, click on the Subscribe button to make a payment.



- Always make sure you select the right year to pay for.
- You can make payment either through mobile money or by attaching any receipts in case you paid through the bank.
- No cash payments shall be accepted .

11. How will members get their receipts?

Mobile money payments shall be immediately followed with an acknowledgement mail and eventually an automatically generated receipt shall be sent to your email. In the near future, we shall ensure that such transactions and receipts that we generate are easily validated by the Judiciary and the Law Council.

12. How can I access my Continuing Legal Education (CLE) points?


In future, the CLE points shall be calculated automatically and updated to your profiles. It should however be noted that the CLE points for the previous years are being calculated manually and shall be accessed through your portal for members who have been onboarded.




Benefits of Automation




#LetsGoDigital



Membership Status
● Registered




My 2022 CLE Points
24 points





Events & Activities
0 Events

2023 Annual Subscription

● Pending Subscription







Payment for Membership Received. Inbox 

 Uganda Law Soc... 11:04
to me  

Dear 

This is a confirmation that we received **UGX 500,000/=** as payment for your Membership Subscription for the year **2023** via Mobile Money /Proof Of Payment

Payment reference : **1674460727**

Your Membership for **2023**, will be approved shortly

Thank you,

The Uganda Law Society Membership Team

- You can pay your Annual membership subscription online.
- You can check for your CLE points.
- You can check for upcoming CLE events.

REGISTER NOW

Registration link:
<https://members.ulsportal.or.ug/>

Scan QR Code



To Register now

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Courtesy Visit to the Uganda Law Reform Commission

On 17th January, 2023, the Uganda Law Society President, Mr. Bernard Oundo paid a courtesy visit to the Chairperson of the Uganda Law Reform Commission, Dr. Pamela Tibihikirra-Kalyegira.

This meeting was attended by the leadership team at the Uganda Law Reform Commission and members from Uganda Law Society Secretariat. The purpose of the visit was to discuss matters of mutual interest and to strengthen the relationship between the two entities.



The Secretariat staff and Law Reform teams during the Courtesy visit



New Advocates Enrolled

On Friday 27 January 2023, the Chief Registrar of Courts of Judicature, Her Worship Sarah Langa Siu, presided over the enrollment of lawyers as Advocates of the High Court at the Judiciary Headquarters in Kampala.

The event was also attended by the Uganda Law Society President Mr. Bernard Oundo, Ms. Noame Kyampaire, Senior State Attorney at the Uganda Law Council.

A total of 78 lawyers signed the roll of advocates after which they were handed their enrollment Certificates. With their new enrollment certificates, the advocates can now process their first practicing certificates and appear in Magistrates Courts for a period of one year. Thereafter, they will be eligible to appear before the High Court.



The Head of Professional Development and Members' Affairs Department at Uganda Law Society, Mrs. Doreen Atukunda Rwomushana(inset) briefs the lawyers before the enrollment exercise



The Uganda Law Society President Mr. Bernard Oundo addresses the new advocates.



Her Worship Sarah Langa Siu, Chief Registrar of Courts of Judicature makes her remarks



A lawyer joyfully signs the Roll of advocates



The new advocates after receiving their practicing certificates



The newly enrolled advocates pose for a picture with Ms. Noame Kyampaire, Senior State Attorney at Law Council(Front row – Third from the left) , Her Worship Sarah Langa Siu, the Chief Registrar (Front row – Fourth from the left) and Mr. Bernard Oundo, Uganda Law Society President (Front row - Center)

SECRETARIAT UPDATES

Uganda Law Society Goes Digital

The year 2023, the Uganda Law Society Secretariat in a bid to support the Members First Agenda rolled out the Automation Process. This activity is aimed at bringing services closer to all our members. The team is happy to support all members countrywide.

We are happy to reveal that as of 28th January 2023, 1422 members had fully registered online. We hereby make a call to all our readers to engage with the ongoing exercise and visit our Uganda Law Society website to pay for your annual membership subscription.

Members Affairs and Professional Development Department

This year, each of our members will receive a diary and lapel. This initiative was spearheaded by the Members Affairs Team. We are currently registering new members and will keep updating our members on progress. We hope that you have received your lapel and diary.

Benefits of Automation

Membership Status
Registered

My 2022 CLE Points
24 points

Events & Activities
0 Events

2023 Annual Subscription
Pending Subscription
\$ Subscribe

Payment for Membership Received.
Uganda Law Soc... 1104
to me

Dear,
This is a confirmation that we received UGX 500,000/- as payment for your Membership Subscription for the year 2023 via Mobile Money /Proof Of Payment.
Payment reference: 1674460727
Your Membership for 2023, will be approved shortly
Thank you,
The Uganda Law Society Membership Team

- You can pay your Annual membership subscription online.
- You can check for your CLE points.
- You can check for upcoming CLE events.

REGISTER NOW
Registration link:
<https://members.ulsportal.or.ug/>

Scan QR Code
To Register now



Flier highlighting benefits of the automation process.

Rule of Law Department Updates

The Competition Bill, 2022

On 16th January, 2023, the President of the Uganda Law Society Mr Bernard Oundo together with other members from the Secretariat appeared before the Parliamentary Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry to present their views on the Competition Bill.

The object of this Bill is to establish a comprehensive legal regime on competition in Uganda, to promote and sustain fair competition in the markets in Uganda and to control anti-competitive behaviour of firms that has a negative impact on the competition in Uganda's Market.



The National Sports Bill, 2021 and the Physical Activity and Sports Bill, 2022

The President of the Uganda Law Society was joined by ULS members (Sports expert lawyers) appeared before the Parliamentary Committee on Education and Sports on 25th January, 2023 to present views on the National Sports Bill, 2021 and the Physical Activity and Sports Bill, 2022.

The President of the Uganda Law Society was joined by ULS members (Sports expert lawyers) appeared before the Parliamentary Committee on Education and Sports on 25th January, 2023 to present views on the National Sports Bill, 2021 and the Physical Activity and Sports Bill, 2022.

The object of the Bills is to repeal the National Council of Sports Act, Cap 48;

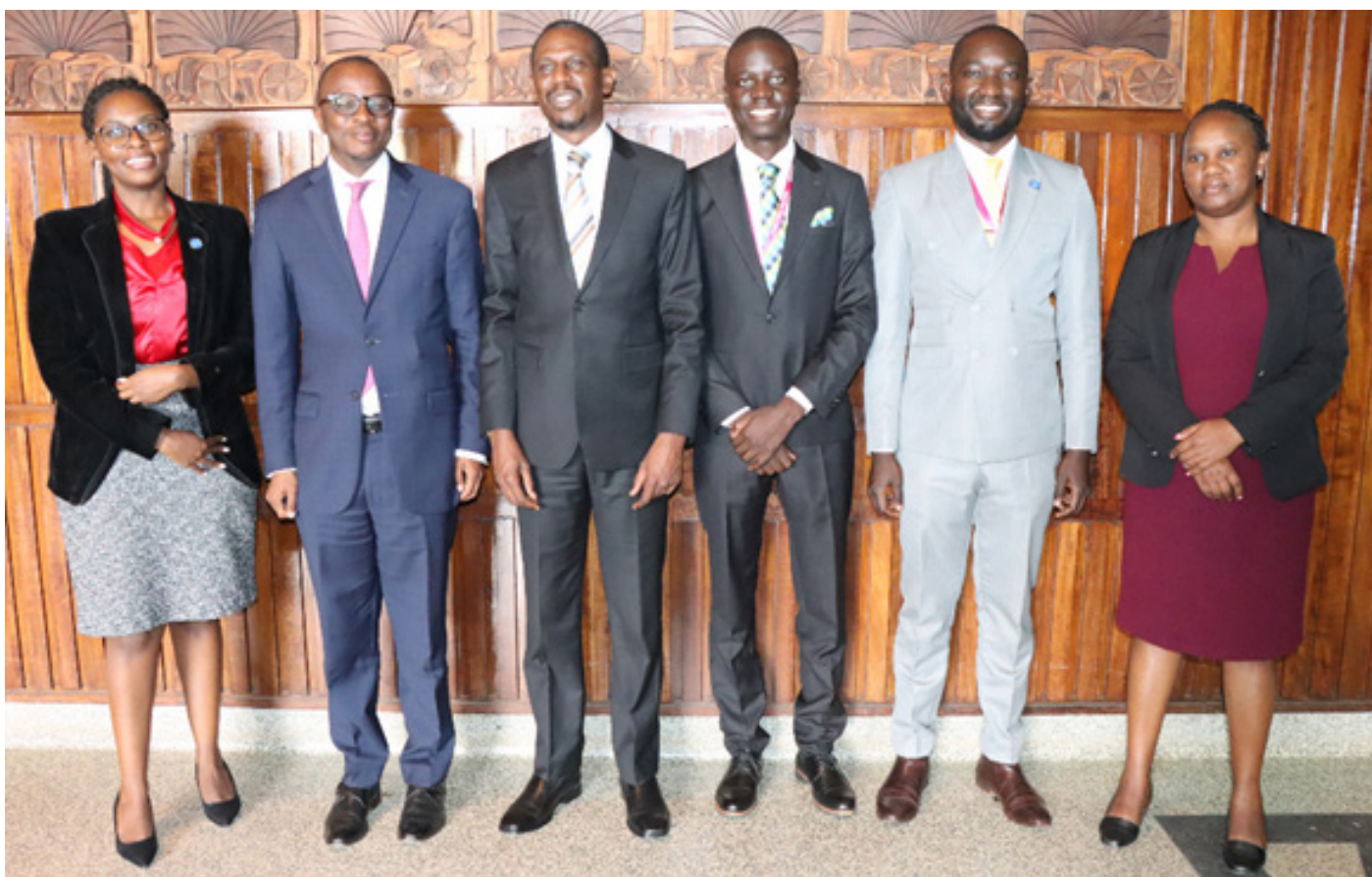
- To consolidate and modernise the law relating to the incorporation and registration of national sports organisations and community sports clubs.
- To provide for the management, promotion, development and regulation of professional, amateur and recreational sports in Uganda.
- To streamline the recreation, registration and management of national sports organisations and community sports organisations and community sports clubs.
- To codify the obligations of the State under international sports governing statutes.

- To prohibit match fixing, corruption, illegal manipulation and illegal betting in sports.
- To encourage and promote drug-free sports and to provide for related matters.

The Uganda Law Society made its presentation alongside the Attorney General who presented a harmonised report on the Bills.



The ULS President (speaking) accompanied by Sports Law expert lawyers - Ivan Ojakol and Timothy Kajja (right)



Left to right: Ms. Tubwaine Owamazima (ULS Secretariat), Mr. Bernard Oundo (ULS President), Hon. Kiryowa Kiwanuka (Attorney General), Mr. Ivan Ojakol, Mr. Timothy Kajja (Members of the ULS Tax Law Cluster) and Ms. Leah Nasasira (Deputy CEO – ULS)

The Law Revision (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill, 2022

On Friday 27th January 2023, the Uganda Law Society participated in a workshop organized by Uganda Law Reform Commission at Golden Tulip Hotel, Kampala.

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the Law Revision (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill, 2022. The object of the Bill is to repeal ninety nine Acts of Parliament, harmonise the currency point system in all the laws of Uganda, modify fees, costs and values and amend some Acts of Parliament.

The workshop brought together lawyers from different fields of practice, representatives from Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and a team from Uganda Law Reform Commission which included members of the editorial team and the Commissioner in charge of law revision.

The discussions at this workshop involved among others an exposition of the key concerns of the Bill, the need for the proposed Bill, the Bill's intention to promote human rights. The participants also made recommendations and best practices for effective legislation under the Bill.



The Chairperson – Uganda Law Reform Commission Dr. Pamela Tibihikirra-Kalyegira responds to comments from participants



The President Uganda Law Society, Mr Bernard Oundo makes his remarks



Senior Counsel Mr. John Mary Mugisha (left) makes comments on the Bill. Mr. Mugisha is also the Chairperson of the Uganda Law Society Law Reform Committee



Ms. Sarah Mitanda from the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs explains some aspects in the Bill



Advocate Winnie Adukule(right) presents comments on the the Law Revision (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill, 2022



A group photo taken at the workshop

Attendance of the Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition at Islamic University in Uganda

On 18 January 2023, the Uganda Law Society - Rule of Law Club of the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) in partnership with the School of Law of IUIU organized the first ever IUIU Campuses Inter-Campus Constitutional Moot Court Competition. This event was hosted at the IUIU main Campus in Kibuli, Kampala. The theme of the moot was “Our Environment, Our Right”. The moot was attended by participants from IUIU Mbale Campus, the Female campus,

and the Main Campus. The event was graced by the Rector Mr. Gyagenda Ismael and Hon. Justice Musa Ssekaana, who was the guest of honor.

The Uganda Law Society Rule of Law department is certain that the moot enabled the participants to improve their legal research abilities, oratory skills, confidence in communicating and expressing their views in front of the people as well as acquiring the closest experience of a courtroom.

The event simulated a real court environment to give law students an opportunity to put their learning into practice.



Hon. Justice Musa Ssekaana makes his remarks



The Chief Guest Hon. Justice Musa Ssekaana (Middle) joined by participants after the Moot competition.

LEGAL AID

With support from International Bar Association (IBA), The Uganda Law Society through legal aid and pro-bono project conducted plea bargain sessions in December 2022 aimed at decongesting prisons which saw it successfully represent **481 (four hundred and eight one)** inmates **471 male** and **10 female** across the country in Magistrates courts.

The plea bargain sessions were conducted by Magistrates courts of **Nakapiripirit** where 45 inmates were represented, **Mukono** (30) **Buganda road** (78), **Nateete/Rubaga** (34), **Mattugga** (35), **City Hall** (50) **Luwero** (41) **Wobulenzi** (133) and **Kalangala** (53) inmates.

The sessions were conducted both at courts and at various prison facilities (mobile courts) through collaboration with the Judiciary and Director of Private Prosecutions and Uganda Prisons Services.

Preceding these sessions, awareness campaigns were conducted by Uganda Law Society. During these sessions inmates were sensitized about their rights, criminal trial processes, self-representation as well as plea

ULS Successfully conducts a Prison Decongestion Program

bargain and a number of them registered and benefitted from the plea bargain sessions.

Legal representation was offered by Pro bono advocates and Legal aid staff in the different areas of operation.

During these plea bargain sessions, inmates were given lighter sentences like community service, reduced sentences among others upon legal representation by pro bono advocates.

Before Uganda Law Society intervention, most of the inmates had over stayed on remand without their cases being heard and were not even sure their cases would be heard and concluded yet the numbers of inmates in the various prisons were increasing day by day with new entrants.

This particular activity offered an instant impact where a big number of the inmates were released from prison and were able to go back to their families and continue supporting them since several of them were the sole bread winners of their families.

Below are some of the pictures taken during the Prison De-congestion Activities



Left : Uganda Law Society Advocates conducting sensitization at Kalangala main prison.

Right: Uganda Law Society Advocates interviewing clients during a plea bargain session at Mugoye prison Kalangala



PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT

ULS ECCMIS COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

The President of Uganda Law Society is delighted to announce the appointment of **Senior Advocate Tibaijuka Ateenyi** as Chairperson of the ULS ECCMIS Committee. He will be deputized by **Advocate Mukiibi Paul** and **Advocate Lelia Katusiime**.

The ULS will now engage with the Judiciary as a Society and not on individual complaints by members. The ULS ECCMIS Committee will be tasked with coming up with a framework for this engagement so that the issues around ECCMIS are solved in a timely manner for the benefit of our over 4000 membership.



Senior Advocate
Tibaijuka Ateenyi

Mr. Tibaijuka is a Senior Advocate and Founding Partner Tibaijuka & Co. Advocates.

From 1984 to 1986, he served as a Legal Assistant, Obol Ochola & Co Advocates.

From 1990 to 1996, he served as a Partner in M/s Owiny-Dollo, Tibaijuka & Co. Advocates.

From 1996 to 1998, he worked as a Partner in M/s Katureebe, Twinomukunzi Advocates.

He is an External Examiner at Law Development Center.

Throughout his career, he has written various professional Papers and Publications which have contributed to Ugandan jurisprudence.



Advocate
Mukiibi Paul

Paul is an Advocate of Courts of Judicature in Uganda with 15 years practical experience. He is a Head, Law Reporting, Research and Law Reform at LDC. He is also a Secretary, Editorial Board, Uganda Law Reports (ULR), He is an Editorial Board Member of the Uganda Living Law Journal (ULLJ) of the Uganda Law Reform Commission (ULRC); and a Editorial Board Member of the Uganda Law Society Law Journal. Paul is Professional Advisor at LDC, Kampala.

He is a Senior Partner at M/s. Mukiibi & Kyeyune Advocates; a Commissioner for Oaths and Notary Public.



Advocate
Lelia Katusiime

Lelia is an Advocate, Commissioner of Oaths and Notary Public of the Courts of Judicature and a Fellow of the Chartered Governance Institute (ICSA), United Kingdom. She has over 20 years' experience in legal practice and she is currently the Managing Partner at KALNAR Advocates. She is also a Lecturer and Assistant Head Subject for Corporate and Commercial Practice, Lecturer Civil Litigation, Corporate Governance and Legal Writing at LDC. She is currently the General Secretary of the Uganda Catholic Lawyers Association (UCLS).



Establishment Of the Uganda Law Society Health and Benevolent Fund, A Positive Step in The Right Direction to addressing Members Welfare.

Acts of benevolence are typically acts of charity or voluntary giving more so in times of emergency. This could be related to medical bills for critical illness, bereavement/ final send-off of a loved one or close member of the society and any other welfare need like school fees or the well-being of the deceased's family or a member that has suffered permanent disability or incapacitation.

Over the years we have observed that the number of members who have undergone difficult situations that need members' intervention and voluntary contribution are many. The challenges that members have had to contribute to include indebtedness, arrest, prolonged sickness, medical emergency, surgery, death of a member, family and close relative. The society has always come through to help and with the existence of social media channels mainly WhatsApp group forums of University Alumni Class, LDC Alumni, Judiciary Court Users Platforms, Legal Practice Clusters among others exhibiting a spirit of concern and togetherness for any such a member through collecting money to help when the need arises.

The period before and during the Covid19 Pandemic however brought to bare eyes the situation and joint efforts had to be put together to address some of these issues, these included the first ever Car Wash Fundraising Drive for comrade Moses Kugumikiriza (R.I.P) and Covid 19 victims like Advocate Gabriel Acaye. During the Covid 19 Lockdown period

a "Covid 19 Emergency Lawyers Fund for Lawyers" was also set up by members who felt that there was need to "acknowledge and attend to health, mental and economic tolls created by the lockdown on lawyers" if I am to quote the word of Isaac Semakadde who the convener of leadership with Advocate Assumpta Kemigisha as Chairperson.

During the reign of Uganda Law Society previous leadership President Emeritus Senior Counsel Pheona Wall came up with ULS Medicare Medical Insurance Scheme in partnership of KenBright Insurance, a medical partnership for subsidized Covid19 PCR Tests and vaccinations with Ruby Medical Center. The Advocates Physical Fitness and Wellness Conference was also introduced as a way of trying to improve the health and welfare of the members.

The Member's First Welfare Campaign

As at the end of 2022, it was evident that the welfare issue required a total solution in the run up to presidency, the theme was members' welfare and any candidate who had a better package would easily win members support and attention. Promises ranged from introducing welfare schemes to deductions on members subscription to cater for medical emergencies and improving members welfare.

This with no doubt became one of the core mandates of the new council and to the fulfillment of its promises, UGX 50,000,000= (Fifty Million Uganda Shillings) was set aside in last year's budgetary allocations as a seed fund for the ULS Health and Benevolent/Welfare Scheme, this announcement was made in the first edition of The Members First Newsletter as one of the 30 Days Achievement.

The Health and Benevolent Committee

The leadership of President Oundo Bernard has continued to commit to this cause and recently appointed the Steering Committee composed of Senior Advocate Lydia Ochieng Obbo of Frederick, Francis and Associates Advocates deputized by First Deputy Munaabi Phillip of Diadem Advocates and Barbara Kitui of the Governance and Security Program secretariat.

The committees' core mandate is to establish a fully functional health and welfare scheme through benchmarking and building on experiences from the Law Society of Kenya and Tanganyika Law Society who already have a similar fund and create a standing and operational fund for Uganda Law Society. The committee will be advised by ULS Vice President and long serving council member Byaruhanga Martin Asingwire and assisted by committee members; Aisha Aliwala, Peter Lubulwa, Morgan Bonna, Rebecca Nambafu, fu, John Magezi, Joseph Lubega, Lydia Ntono and Akanyijuka Denis who are all members of Uganda Law Society. The committee's representation includes all categories of members in the society.

The Uphill task and progress so far made. Structuring the Fund.

Benevolent schemes are not regulated in Uganda, the closest model is the retirement and provident funds which are largely employment-based arrangements, the Subcommittee has thus had several engagements and consultations both online and physical on the best vehicle with which to establish the long-awaited scheme. The different forms it would take include a company limited by Guarantee or a Trust Fund, the Trust fund however presents more advantages, which is the preferred form –a Trust with a fully functional secretariat independent of the Uganda Law Society administration so as to give members will have the best out of the efforts behind its establishment the Steering Committee and the Committee are very optimistic that by the Launch of the ULS Health and Benevolent Fund proper guidelines will have been set on how members will make applications and the member benefits. The fund is committed to always ensure timely and proper accountability to its members.

Fund Operationalization and Sustainability – A humble call for voluntary donations.

The Holy Bible in **1 John 3:17** calls for benevolence towards the needy, it says ***“But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?”***

This is the same spirit of the Sadaqah which Allah says averts calamity and increases sustenance and blessings in one's life. Qur'an, 2: 245 says "Who is it that would loan Allah a goodly loan so He may multiply it for him many times over? And it is Allah who withholds and grants abundance, and to Him you will be returned". Kind donations and giving is the foundation of benevolence.

The Health and Benevolent Fund is expected to have funded by Sponsor allocations, (ULS as the main sponsor), members subscription, fundraising drives and members charitable donations with the ever-increasing membership of ULS at 4,750 members and growing, we trust that the fund will be a life-long investment.

Membership to the Benevolent Fund

All Uganda Law Society Members shall be members of the Health and Benevolent Fund. The Steering Committee has already managed to convince the ULS Executive Council under the direction of President Oundo to deduct allocate UGX 25,000= (Twenty-Five Thousand Shillings Only) from each members Subscription for the year 2023 as a member's benevolent fee. This will be the Basic Membership of any paid-up member of Uganda Law Society. Other membership categories like Premium and Life Member will be communicated to the membership upon at the official launch of the fund.

Expected Member Benefits/ Programs

To start with, the ULS Council has agreed to contribute UGX 3,000,000= (Three Million

Shillings) as a Decent Send Off-fee to a departed member this was increased from the previous 500,000= (Five Hundred Thousand shillings) that had been resolved as a benevolent fee for the deceased's family. The Benevolent Fund will, as opposed to giving the money to the family also ensure that a departed member gets a decent funeral by working together with the family.

This is the basic figure for any member of Uganda Law Society who at the untimely demise is up to date with his/her subscription in ULS, the Health and Benevolent Fund Committee may however advise on any increment that can be made for Senior Counsel or any distinguished member for his or her service to the society.

Programs like Health/Medical Insurance, Family Benefits, Education Support for an incapacitated/departed member, among others will be extended to members with Premium and Life Member Status. This is therefore an early call to embrace and join the fund upon its launch.

At the time of writing this article, the committee was in the process of formulating a road map, calendar of activities and guidelines that will be shared at the official launch. We are certain that by 24th February the ULS Executive and the Health and Benevolent Fund committee will be kicking off the establishment of the long awaited members Health and Benevolent Scheme.

We wish you a happy new year.

Mr Phillip Munaabi

First Deputy Chair

ULS Health and Benevolent Fund Steering committee.



PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENT

BENEVOLENT FUND COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

The President of Uganda Law Society is delighted to announce the appointment of **Senior Advocate Lydia Ochieng Obbo** as Chairperson of the ULS Benevolent Fund Committee. She will be deputized by **Advocate Phillip Munaabi** and **Advocate Barbara Kitui**.



Senior Advocate
Lydia Ochieng Obbo

Lydia has 40+ years professional experience spanning private business law practice and banking law. She worked in the Central Bank's Legal Department (1983- 1994) for 10 years after which she took early retirement and joined private practice and consulting.

She has governance experience gained over the past 20 years, having served on a number of Boards which include:- and the PPDA (2011 – 2019), the Danish funded Agribusiness Trust (aBi) as Board Chair (2011 – 2018), Finance Trust Bank (2013- 2017) and is currently the new Chair of Uganda Women's Trust (UWT) , the micro finance NGO which gave birth to Finance Trust Bank.



Advocate
Phillip Munaabi

Phillip is an Advocate of the high court of Uganda, and a Certified Professional Mediator for the Mediation Training Institute, Nairobi. He is the Business Development Partner at Diadem Advocates.

He is an active member of Uganda Law Society and the East African Law Society where he has served on various committees in different capacities. Passionate about members affairs, he has previously spearheaded several fundraising drives for different members who have especially been in need of medical assistance.



Advocate
Barbara Kitui

Barbara Kitui currently serves at the Governance and Security Programme Secretariat – formerly Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS).

She holds a Bachelor of Laws Degree (MUK), Dip. LP (Law Development Centre), LLM HRDA (Pretoria).

She is an expert on access to justice with public and private sector experience. She is passionate about research and strategic planning and has made several publications.

Barbara serves as Secretary General of the Uganda Christian Lawyers' Fraternity Board and is an active member of Uganda Law Society, Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA-Uganda) and the East African Law Society.

MEMBERS FIRST



The ULS Cooperative Society, A New Dawn to Financial Autonomy and Inclusion

During one of the most vibrant election cycles Uganda Law Society has ever had, nothing invoked a more inclusive debate than the coined catch phrase of **Members First**.

All candidates adjusted and polished their manifestos to portray the need for members' continued desires to have a society that is much more than a transactional platform, where one only pays subscription and garners CLE points.

On top of everyone's lips was the long-awaited activation of the cooperative that had failed to get out of the starting blocks, many years since the AGM unanimously gave it a green light. After passing through a pandemic and a lockdown, reality hit our noble profession when we were categorized as a non-essential sector. Lawyers felt that the future was not as rosy as we have always thought it to be and that something had to be done. With this reality check the cooperative became so relevant and a must have for one of the oldest, largest and best organized member-based organization in Uganda.

The Vision and Mission of the ULS cooperative will revolve around the following principles as summarized below;

A. Shared Ownership and Governance of the Society

What makes the ULS Cooperative very attractive is that it will be member-owned, and member-governed. This is important in ensuring that those put in charge of the society shall be people with a genuine interest in the

success of the cooperative. Members though meetings will have an opportunity to contribute directly to making major decisions concerning the operations of the Cooperative. ULS members will have a sense of control and the ability to oversee the board and management regarding the running of affairs of the cooperative.

B. Adopting a Saving Culture for all Lawyers in Uganda

The ULS cooperative will help its members develop a saving culture and investment through the different products offered.

We intend to have user friendly charges from the opening amounts to the maintenance of these savings. By learning how to save regularly, ULS members will better manage their finances and prepare themselves for tough economic times.

C. Wealth Accumulation for members

In the operation of a Cooperative, it's customary every financial year, to declare and distribute returns on members' shares and savings in form of dividends and interests. Members of ULS will surely accumulate wealth.

Access to Affordable Credit to its members

The ULS Cooperative intends to offer affordable credit facilities through diverse products and services that members can take advantage of to develop themselves. The plan is to ensure that the interest rates is lower than what commercial banks and microfinance institutions charge.

D. Financial Literacy for all members of the Uganda Law society

The Uganda Law Society Cooperative will strive to provide members with financial literacy, information and training. The society will invest a lot of time and resources to educate their members on financial management and other pertinent areas that affect their financial well-being.

In brief this is why you should join the ULS Cooperative

1. Get ability to mobilize savings/deposits, which without the ULS cooperative would otherwise prove difficult for many Lawyers.
2. Get access to diversified well-tailored financial products & services including school fees, medical financing, micro and macro loans, Housing loan, car loans etc.
3. The ULS Cooperative will help you Maximize returns on your savings. Your savings will allow you to borrow at rates that will be more competitive than conventional financial institutions while at the same time they earn you a dividend at the end of the year.

4. The ULS Cooperative intends to become the primary Vehicle for Investments-If you plan to buy land, start a business, start by joining and saving in the ULS Cooperative.
5. As a robust member group, the ULS Cooperative intends to be a key Partnership for Wealth Creation and we intend to own assets from our pooled resources such as housing estates, land etc.

A strong vibrant ULS Cooperative Society will play an integral role in Financial Inclusion and there is no doubt that it is by far the best vehicle to guarantee equitable development among all lawyers and, it will be well placed to bring about rapid economic and social transformation for all members of the Uganda Law society, young and old.

In adopting the members first principle, the time for YOU to join the ULS COOPERATIVE is now.

Open your eyes, stand up, seize the opportunity

**Advocate Gyaviira Morgan Bonna
Chairman ULS SACCO Committee**



Obituary : Justice Nahamya

Justice Elizabeth Ibanda Nahamya, an accomplished, savvy, and committed Judge with a passion for International Criminal Law, Human Rights, and International Humanitarian Law, passed on January 5th in The Hague, Netherlands.

Justice Nahamya who had retired from judicial service in 2017 after she clocked the retirement age of 65, died at the age of 70.

She had a notable legal background both nationally and internationally with contributions made to the United Nations Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Arusha, and the Special Court for Sienna Leone, Sierra Leone.

She also had intense knowledge and understanding of Human Rights policies, practices and procedures as well as institutions on a global scale.

Selected achievements

- Participated as a researcher for Constituent Assembly and successfully advised women delegates to include provisions on minority representations, women's human rights, and issues that pertained to accountability and the environment.
- **Contributed to the 1995 Constitution** whereby articles on accountability of Public Officials and establishment of Anti-Corruption Courts were included.
- **Spearheaded establishment of an anti-corruption NGO known as Transparency Uganda in 1993** that was an

anti-corruption crusade and promoted civil society awareness of their rights and challenged public officials who practiced corruption or abused their offices.

- **Legal Adviser to the Women Caucus of the Constituent Assembly** and advised Women Delegates to introduce provisions that enhanced the political status of women.

- **Established and grew a successful law firm** and in role of Private Practitioner supported Women's Rights by providing practical support to the Legal Aid Project that assisted indigent citizens (particularly women and children).

National and international legal experience

March 2018: Appointed as Judge in Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT).

October 2017: Founding Director, Emerging Solutions Africa, an NGO specialising in access to justice, legal aid, consulting and research on SGVB, particularly in human trafficking, refugees' rights, women and girls' rights; sexual harassment, and witness protection.

November 2017-Present: Member of the African Legal Aid Peer Review Panel.

June 2017

Freelance Independent International Legal Expert: Engaging in consultancies relating to International Law, International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law.

June 2013

Listed on the Roster of Eminent Judges for the Residual Special Court for Sierra Leone for three years and now the Vice President on the List: Under a contingency arrangement, Judges on the List are called upon as and when needed and particularly, if the only fugitive John Paul Koroma is apprehended and has to be tried.

March 2009 – May 2017

Judge, International Crimes Division of the High Court of Uganda: Adjudicate on matters arising from the Juba Process between the I.R.A. and the Government of the Republic of Uganda, particularly try perpetrators of Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes under the auspices of the complementarity principle of the Rome Statue, and preside over domestic criminal law cases comprising criminal miscellaneous applications and substantial hearings.

2004 – 2008

Special Court for Sierra Leone, Freetown, Sierra Leone.

• Principal Defender/ Deputy Principal Defender

• Served as Deputy Principal Defender and later as Principal Defender for The Special Court for Sierra Leone that was set-up jointly by the Government of Sierra Leone and the United Nations and is mandated to try those for serious violations of international humanitarian rights and criminal law. This included, but was not limited to, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.

• Represented the Principal Defender as requested and provided substantive and formidable defence capabilities to accused persons as necessary, ensured the rights of the accused in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and Evidence of the Court and other applicable rules. Also carried out the administrative and management role of the Defence Office of the Special Court

1996 – 2004

United Nations Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Arusha, and Tanzania Trial Chamber Coordinator

• Managed all trials conducted by the Trial Chamber and attended court sessions as a support Lawyer to judges in the United Nations Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Arusha, and Tanzania.

• Served as a liaison between the Chamber and other sections such as Defence, Prosecution, Court Management, and associated Chambers to ensure an efficient order of the court.

• Participated in the preparation of the Plenary Sessions and conducted extensive legal research on assigned topics that included, but was not limited to, International Human Rights Law, Humanitarian Law, Criminal Law, Procedural Matters, and Evidence.

• Supported and assisted Judges on motions and summarising of evidence; and, briefed Judges on assigned case status including disclosure matters and indictments.

• Prepared analytical reports and opinions on legal matters and supervised staff of multinational interns assigned to the Trial Chamber.

• Provided comprehensive legal advice on matters such as International Humanitarian, Human Rights and Criminal Law.

1993 – 1996

Ibanda Nahamya & Co. Advocates
Founding Partner

- Established and grew this general practice law firm with responsibility for client representation in various criminal, civil, and commercial cases.
- Represented women and children as part of the legal aid cases assigned to the firm by the Women Lawyers Association (FIDA U).
- Challenged a number of issues relative to women and children's rights that included succession rights after the death of a husband, maintenance of children by their fathers, and cases of physical violence against married women.
- Counselling women on a wide array of legal matters and provided information and support.

1992 – 1993

Ministry of Justice & Constitutional Affairs
Research

- Conducted research on a diverse range of legal subjects and Human Rights issues and served as Legal Secretary to a Select Committee of the Consultative Assembly on Land, Environment, and the Inspectorate of Government and Leadership Code.

- Contributed as Legal Advisor to the Women Caucus of the Constituency Assembly and the Constituency Assembly Clerk.

- Participated in drafting of the Parliamentary Election Bill and the Presidential Election Bill.

- Monitored the Presidential elections under the auspices of the Transparency Uganda.

1990 – 1992: Katende, Ssempebwa & Co. Advocates, Kampala.

1979–1980: Mawaali & Co. Advocates, Jinja.

Education and Training

1. Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice, University of New Haven, CT, USA, 1980
2. Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice, Law Development Centre, Kampala, 1976
3. LLB (Honours), Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda, 1975

President Museveni meets newly appointed Supreme Court, Court of Appeal Justices

President Museveni on January 25, met the newly appointed Justices of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal at State House, Entebbe.

The three new Justices of the Supreme Court included; Elizabeth Musoke, Stephen Musota, and Christopher Madrama Martin Izama.

The head of the State was also introduced to Justice Eva Luswata Kauma of the Court of Appeal.

The four justices were introduced to President Museveni and did not take judicial oath and oath of allegiance because they did the same when they were first appointed to the Judiciary/ Bench.

Justice Oscar Kihika is the only judge that took oath since he was joining the Judiciary (Bench) for the very first time. Justice Kihika previously worked as the president of the Uganda Law Society and also the director legal at the NRM Secretariat.

The oaths were administered by the Judiciary Chief Registrar, Ms. Sarah Langa Siu.

In his remarks shortly after the oath taking, President Museveni congratulated the newly appointed Justices before commending Chief Justice Alfonse Owiny-Dollo for improving the performance of the Judiciary.

“I really congratulate the new Judges and I want to thank the Chief Justice for the passion he has put in making the Judiciary effective,” he said.

President Museveni further took the Justices

through the economic history of the country; pointing out that the economy had virtually collapsed. He said the British had left behind what they dubbed at the University as an enclave economy of 3Cs (Coffee, Copper and Cotton and 3Ts (Tobacco, Tea and Tourism).

He added that when NRM came to power in 1986, the government aimed at reversing the whole process and concentrated on four principle areas that were minimum recovery, expansion of the economy, its diversification and promoting qualitative economy based on knowledge like the innovation of electric mobility.

He stressed that diagnostical analysis of society is always done by the political leadership that include the Executive, Legislature and the Judiciary who act as medical doctors. The President observed that if the diagnosis is wrongly done, the economy will collapse but if done correctly the economy will flourish.

On some of the concerns raised by the judicial officers especially those bearing some financial implications in the Judiciary, President Museveni pledged to convene a meeting of all the arms of government to collectively agree on how to pave a way forward for further improvement of their performance.

On some of the concerns raised by the judicial officers especially those bearing some financial implications in the Judiciary, President Museveni pledged to convene a meeting of all the arms of government to collectively agree on how to pave a way forward for further improvement of their performance.

The Chief Justice in his remarks thanked President Museveni for his unwavering support that has changed the performance of the Judiciary for the better.

“With the enhanced budget we have been able to double the number of judicial officers,” he said.

He added that High Court circuits were created in Moroto, Tororo, Iganga, Bulemezi, Rukungiri and in Hoima.

The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs Hon. Norbert Mao thanked President Museveni for his support to the Judiciary noting that services have tremendously improved.

“We have received unprecedented support from you personally, the Executive and Parliament as manifested in the improved terms of service and improved infrastructural development,” he noted.

Hon. Mao observed that with the enhanced

budget, there will be less donor dependence. The Justice Minister also used the event to announce that a new Judiciary structure is in the offing to ensure that Judges appointed have the necessary support.

He also extended gratitude for the support given to his Ministry since assuming office.

“In the four months, I have been in office I have noted with relief and pleasure that there is very little friction between the Judiciary and other branches of the Government. We feel that there is greater respect for Judges,” he said.

The ceremony was also attended by the Deputy Chief Justice Hon. Justice Richard Buteera, the Principal Judge Dr. Justice Flavian Zeija, the Chairman of the Judicial Service Commission, Justice Benjamin Kabiito and the Deputy Head of Public Service Mrs. Deborah Katuramu, Judiciary’s Permanent, Mr. Pius Bigirimana and the judiciary fraternity.

With the appointment of three justices to the highest court, it brings the total number to 10. The justices would have been 11 but one of them, Justice Rubby Opio Aweri died late last year.

At the Court of Appeal, with the new additions, the number of justices stands now at 13 with the approved structure being 15. This means that the court is less by two justices.



The President H.E. Yoweri Kaguta T Museveni joined by the Chief Justice, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and the newly appointed Judges at State House.

Chief Justice asks Museveni for more budgetary allocations

Chief Justice Alfonse Owiny-Dollo used this year's opening of the 24th annual judges' conference to ask President Museveni to prioritise raising the Judiciary budget.

The head of the Judiciary reasoned that more needs to be done like recruitment of judges to tackle the backlog monster among other demands if they are to deliver timely justice to Ugandans.

"Your Excellency, I appeal to you to continue supporting the Judiciary so that we do not lose the gains we have registered regarding minimising case backlog at the Magistrate Grade One level. 3,586 cases completed by the Magistrates have been appealed and are pending before the High Court which is already overwhelmed by the cases handled at first instance. We should recruit more judges

so that we do not have an increase of backlog at the High Court resulting from appeals from the Magistrates Courts," Chief Justice Dollo said on January 30.

Adding: "In addition to the above, Your Excellency, we are in the processing of completing the compilation of the value of cases in our Courts, the preliminary report so far indicates trillions and trillions of shillings locked up in disputes in this country. The highest sums of money locked up is in the Commercial Court where we need a minimum of 20 judges to expeditiously dispose of cases,"

“Your Excellency the average caseload per judge of the High Court now is 945 cases. We appeal for a caseload of 300 cases per judge which is possible if more judges are recruited. As you have supported the Judiciary before, we will deliver timely justice to all our people once we have the numbers.”

The Chief Justice further said the already enhanced has done wonders in recruitment of more judicial officers and construction of more courts but the same is not enough.

“The recent appointment of 16 Judges of the High Court has raised their number to 70 up from 56, as a result of which we have already operationalized the High Court Circuits of Moroto, Tororo, Iganga, Luwero, Hoima and Rukungiri,” Justice Dollo said

“Just a year ago, we had only 42 Chief Magistrates, today, we have 77 Chief Magistrates and consequently, we have operationalized more Magisterial areas of Dokolo, Mayuge, Sironko, Katakwi, Rakai, Kiryandongo, Kyenjojo, Bubulo, Kumi, Kamuli, Isingiro, Kotido, Kira and Lugazi. Karamoja sub-region now has 2 Chief Magistrates, while Acholi Sub region has 4 Chief Magistrate,” he continued.

About three years ago, the Judiciary budget was raised from about Shs190billion to now Shs382billion. The targeted budget if the Judiciary is to operate fully, is Shs800billion, which will be achieved in a gradual manner.

But responding to the demands of the Chief Justice, President Museveni who was the chief guest, said they can work with the available resources and administer justice to Ugandans.

He scoffed at the Judiciary saying, him as a freedom fighter, he has led armies for the past 50 years and that in most times, he has led them “with little or no money” but he has been

succeeding.

Likewise, he advised the judicial officers to deliver justice “with or without money”.

“We should consider the issue of prioritization, what if we don’t have enough money to do all these things, what do we do? Could we say that a country without money will have no justice, is that what really we are saying, that a country without enough money shall have no justice,” President Museveni said in response to CJ’s request.

“My answer is, when we were in the bush controlling the Luweero Triangle, we were having very serious justice without money. I was both the Chief Justice and President, I was combining both. We had justice but without money so that on I cannot agree,” he added.

Mr Museveni also said he had recently met the Chief Justice and that they agreed to have an inter-branch meeting with the Speaker, himself, Prime Minister and Vice President such that they see how much money they have to resolve these issues.

Speaking at the same event, Justice and Constitutional Affairs Minister, Norbert Mao, whose remarks were read out by Attorney General Kiryowa Kiwanuka, said the Judiciary needs more clerks, process servers, secretaries among others to support Judicial Officers in the courts across the country.

He further said the Judiciary is working with the ministry to submit to Cabinet for its approval, the proposals for the Bill to amend the Judicature act, Cap. 13 to increase the number of Justices of the Supreme Court from eleven (11) including the Chief Justice to 21, the number of Justices of the Court of Appeal from 15 including the Deputy Chief Justice to 56 and a motion for a resolution of Parliament to increase the number of Judges of the High

Court from 83 including the Principal Judge to 151 as approved by Cabinet in its meeting of 9th August 2021.

By press time, our very own president of the Uganda Law Society, Counsel Bernard Oundo, was to be part of a panel to discuss the process of digitalised court process.

This year's conference that is running under the theme: "The Judiciary Transformation Agenda Enhanced Access to Justice."



President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni makes his remarks



Chief Justice Alfonse Owiny-Dollo makes his remarks at the opening ceremony.



South African Chief Justice Raymond Zondo makes his remarks



Uganda Law Society president Bernard Oundo (First Right) joined by other participants at the Annual Judges Conference

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