

STATEMENT ON THE LAUNCH OF THE FIRST UGANDA LAW SOCIETY QUARTERLY REPORT OF 2018 ON THE STATE OF THE RULE OF LAW IN UGANDA

This morning the Uganda Law Society (ULS) launched its first Quarterly Report on the State of the Rule of Law for the year 2018 and the fifth issue in the series of this report. This event which was held at the Kampala Serena Hotel was well attended by representatives from State and non State institutions as well as from the Diplomatic Community.

In 2017, the ULS opted to commence a proactive rather than reactionary approach to tackling Rule of Law issues prevailing in our Country. This strategy was intended to supplement the ULS press statements which were a good first response to the issues at hand. Beyond these statements, the quarterly Rule of Law reports have been a good addition because they serve as platforms in which incidents affecting the Rule of Law during each quarter are analysed by a High Level Advisory Panel; which in addition to highlighting legal issues arising, offered appropriate recommendations on the same. These reports also serve as a permanent record of particular acts of impunity; which are stored by the ULS for future follow up.

Recommendations made have been and will always be shared with the relevant stakeholders for implementation. In situations where they are not heeded to, further action is taken to address the issues arising. For instance, in the last quarter, the ULS litigation team filed two petitions before the Constitutional Court to cause implementation of the recommendations from the previous ULS quarterly reports. These include:

1. *ULS vs Attorney General, Constitutional Petition No. 52 /2017* – Challenging the actions and omissions by the Government in not providing adequate support to the Judiciary; to enable this Arm of Government to perform its constitutional mandate.
2. *ULS vs Attorney General, Constitutional Petition No. 3/2018* – Challenging the manner and the substance in which the removal of age limit bill was passed.

The ULS will continue with the approach of initial engagement based on recommendations in these Quarterly Reports and will only take further measures under both national and international law; where there is no response.

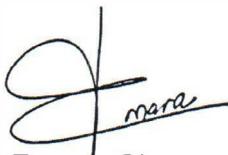
I am pleased to report that the publication of these reports has strengthened the ULS response to Rule of Law issues in Uganda and yielded great interest from our development partners and in the Justice, Law and Order Sector; who have continually supported this initiative. I remain

indebted to the High Level Advisory Panel chaired by Prof. Fredrick Ssempebwa, comprising Mrs. Gertrude W. Karugaba, Mrs. Lydia Ochieng Obbo, Mr. Andrew Kasirye and Ms. Loyola Karobwa for a great job in steering this assignment. I wish to also express my gratitude to Prof. Joe Oloka Onyango for his excellent input to these reports during the first year of the Panel. A big thank you to the ULS team comprising Ms. Irene S. Kwaga, Ms. Mary Nalwoga, Ms. Rita Aligo, Ms. Gloria Kisaakye and the Rule of Law Committee chaired by Dr. Daniel Ruhweza for a great job in putting this report together.

Establishing a culture that respects the Rule of Law is a journey and starting this journey with you and coming thus far has made it truly worthwhile. I am deeply convinced that though we may not see instant results all the time, one day we will reap the good fruits we have collectively sowed.

This is also the last report I will be presiding over as President of the Uganda Law Society, and in line with our tradition and values of democracy, we will be glad to hand to the next Council this innovation as one of the mechanisms that we established to ensure that we adopt a more proactive and consistent approach on matters to do with the Rule of Law in our Country.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Francis Gimara', written over a horizontal line.

Francis Gimara

PRESIDENT – UGANDA LAW SOCIETY

22nd March 2018