



UGANDA LAW SOCIETY STATEMENT ON LAW DEVELOPMENT CENTRE PRE-ENTRY EXAMINATIONS

The Uganda Law Society (ULS) has taken note of recent media reports to the effect that Parliament has “scrapped” pre-entry exams for lawyers seeking admission to the Law Development Centre (LDC). As a statutory body mandated to guide the public on all matters touching and incidental to the law, we are of the view that Parliament is not clothed with the said mandate, jurisdiction and or authority.

The Advocates Act, 2002 gives the Law Council the mandate to exercise through the medium of the Committee on Legal Education and Training, general supervision and control over professional legal education in Uganda including continuing legal education for persons qualified to practice law in Uganda. Therefore, we are of the view that it is the mandate of the Law Council to regulate the pre-entry exams, assess its relevance and determine its removal and not Parliament.

Furthermore, the Law Council derives this mandate from the Advocates Act Legal Notices 12 of 2010 and 17 of 2007 which require people to be admitted to the Bar Course after taking an examination. It provides that, “the exam shall be based on knowledge obtained from an approved law degree, aptitude and the values an applicant attaches to the legal profession”. These regulations were enacted for purposes of quality and standards control and are law in force. Therefore the issue of pre-entry is a creature of Law. Also note that there are clearly spelt out procedures and processes for setting aside a law and a directive of parliament is not one of the said procedures.

We reiterate that as Uganda Law Society, we are committed to supporting the Law Council and the Law Development Center in any efforts taken to fulfil their mandate of regulating and standardizing the provision of legal education in Uganda aimed at ensuring the passing out of quality lawyers.

Regards,

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PRESIDENT
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