



## **THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY STATEMENT ON REMARKS MADE BY THE PRESIDENT OF UGANDA IN SOUTH AFRICA**

The Uganda Law Society is concerned by statements allegedly made by the President of the Republic of Uganda attacking the Judiciary. This followed the delivery of the Constitutional Court ruling in the consolidated petitions against the Attorney General challenging the lifting of the age limit and the constitutionality of extending the term of the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament and the current Local Government Councils.

These sorts of remarks undermine the independence of the Judiciary and reduce public confidence in the Courts of Law and ultimately the efficacy of the Rule of Law in Uganda. They herald impunity and a rule by law rather than a Rule of Law.

The petitions were filed in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, which also create, protect and emphasise the independence of the Judiciary. If the Judiciary cannot be relied upon to adjudicate cases impartially and in accordance with the law, without external pressures and influences, its role will then be distorted and the public's confidence in the Judiciary will be undermined.

Judicial independence is a pre-requisite to the Rule of Law, which is a bedrock of any democratic society and good governance. It should therefore be jealously protected and guarded.

Thus the Judiciary should be allowed to uphold the Rule of Law without fear or favour and this requires that procedure, form and substance are adhered to in ensuring the proper dispensation of justice.

We therefore recommend the following actions;

- i. The President, as the fountain of honour, should refrain from making statements that threaten or undermine the independence of the Judiciary; and
- ii. Parties aggrieved by the decision of the Constitutional Court should consider appealing the decision.

The Uganda Law Society is the vanguard of the rule of law and will continue to challenge any affront thereto, whether real or perceived.

For God and My Country.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SP Kinobe".

**Simon Peter M. Kinobe**  
**President Uganda Law Society**