



3rd November 2018

**UGANDA LAW SOCIETY STATEMENT ON THE PRESS STATEMENT MADE BY
THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO LAND MATTERS**

The Uganda Law Society has learnt of the press statement issued by the Commission of Inquiry into Land Matters, regarding some cases which have revealed some issues in the way some members of the Judiciary are handling land disputes.

While we are cognizant of the role of the Land Commission and of their terms of reference which clearly mandate them to investigate land issues and land conflict resolution mechanisms among others, the Uganda Law Society would like to categorically state that this matter should not have been addressed in a press statement but rather communicated in form of a report with recommendations to the Judiciary. This would allow the Judiciary to address the issues highlighted therein and to improve the adjudication of land matters. We believe that the Commission brought out serious matters and these should have been handled in a way that would get the Judiciary to address them positively.

We also would like to categorically state that under Article 129 of the Constitution the Judiciary remains the only body with the preserve and jurisdiction to adjudicate land matters. We also note that this power should be exercised judiciously and with accountability.

As members of the legal profession it is imperative that we protect the independence and sanctity of the Judiciary as a neutral body with the power to act independently in the adjudication of conflict.

We also continue to advise all members of the legal profession in the private sector, government and civil society that it's a professional requirement that we treat and address ourselves with courtesy and decorum at all times. This is a noble profession and the requirement is mandatory.

As Uganda Law Society we stand for good governance, and applaud the Commission in the way it has unearthed certain irregularities. We also hereby appeal to the Judiciary to look into these irregularities and to address them to avoid similar reoccurrences.

We encourage both entities to foster dialogue for the good of the nation.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

Simon Peter M. Kinobe

PRESIDENT- UGANDA LAW SOCIETY