



UGANDA LAW SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

2023/2024

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Acronyms

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AGM	Annual General Meeting
ALC	Annual Law Conference
CAP	Chapter
CBA	Canadian Bar Association
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
EAC	East African Community
EALS	East Africa Law Society
ECCMIS	Electronic Court Case Management Information System
CLE	Continuing Legal Education
IT	Information Technology
IUIU	Islamic University in Uganda
HC	High Court
HREA	Human Rights Enforcement Act
IDLO	International Development Law Organisation
IRC	International Rescue Committee
JLOS	Justice, Law and Order Sector
KCCA	Kampala Capital City Authority
LAP	Legal Aid Project
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MUBS	Makerere University Business School
MUK	Makerere University Kampala
NBA	Norwegian Bar Association
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
SACCO	Savings and Credit Cooperative Society
UCU	Uganda Christian University
UHRC	Uganda Human Rights Commission
ULS	Uganda Law Society
UN	United Nations
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WTO	World Trade Organisation





President's Foreword

Bernard Oundo

On behalf of the Uganda Law Society (ULS) Council, it is my distinct honor to present the Annual Report for the year 2023/2024.

I would like to begin by expressing my deepest gratitude to our esteemed members for entrusting the Council and me with the leadership of this prestigious society for two consecutive terms. It has been an extraordinary privilege to serve you.

In September 2022, our Council embarked on a journey with the "Members First" agenda—a commitment to prioritize the needs and aspirations of our membership. During our second term of leadership in September 2023, we continued with this agenda pledging to deliver services that are not only efficient but also centered around the interests of our members.

In alignment with this vision, we developed a comprehensive 5-year strategic plan (2023-2027) aimed at strengthening the ULS's role as a leading Bar Association dedicated to advancing access to justice, upholding the rule of law, and promoting good governance in Uganda.

I am proud to highlight the significant milestones we have achieved under this mandate:



01

Digitization of Services

- **e-Receipts:** We introduced an e-receipt system that allows members to make payments to ULS seamlessly. Receipts are automatically sent to the member's email and the Chief Registrar's Office for processing the practicing certificate, eliminating the need for in-person verification.
- **Digital IDs:** Members can now access their Digital IDs at any time and from anywhere, doing away with the need for physical ID cards.
- **Real-time CLE Points Accreditation:** We have implemented real-time accreditation of Continuing Legal Education (CLE) points, along with the issuance of digital CLE certificates, making the process more convenient for our members.
- ULS is actively collaborating with the Judiciary to streamline the process for obtaining practicing certificates. Through the integration of our members' portal with the judiciary's online system.



02 Member Welfare

- **ULS Healthcare and Benevolent Fund:** This fund has been fully registered and operationalized with a dedicated Board of Directors. Starting January 2024, UGX 25,000 from the annual subscription fees are allocated to the fund, with UGX 75,000 annual contribution required from each member.
- **Advocates Last Funeral Contribution:** Recognizing the financial burdens faced by members during challenging times, we have increased the Advocates Last Funeral Contribution from UGX 500,000 to UGX 3,000,000.



03 Continuing Legal Education & Professional Development

- The Council significantly reduced the cost of CLE trainings for young advocates.
- Partnered with stakeholders like UNICAF University for 80% scholarship for Masters programs.
- A public interest litigation case was filed and judgment was given in favour of ULS where court declared that the introduction of stamp duty of Ugx 100,000 for practicing certificates is unconstitutional.



04 The ULS House

Despite budgetary constraints, the construction of the ULS House has progressed steadily. The completion of the superstructure, with all four floors now erected is a significant milestone. The Secretariat moved into the ULS House in September 2024, as we continue with the remaining works.

I extend my deep appreciation to the ULS House Committee chaired by James Mukasa Sebugenyi SC for the relentless effort in ensuring that the ULS house construction project moves on smoothly and steadily.



05 Promoting the Rule of Law

Promotion of the Rule of Law has been a priority for the ULS Council.

The Society's mandate under the ULS Act is to advise the government and the public on matters of rule of law and human rights.

The following interventions were made:

- ULS represented and secured bail for over 80 protesters during the March to Parliament protests in July 2024.

- A public interest litigation case was filed to demand for redress for the protesters who were tortured. We also filed the public interest case challenging provisions of the Computer Misuse Act
- Several stakeholder engagements were held with state actors on issues of human rights
- 15 press statements have been released on various legal issues affecting the country.
- We influenced policy processes by preparing position papers on various Bills presented before Parliament including; the Income Tax (Amendment) Act, the Human Assisted Reproductive Bill 2023, the Uganda Human Organ Donation and Transplant Act 2022, the Contract Farming Act 2023, among others.
- Three reports have been issued on the state of Rule of Law in Uganda which highlight breaches and give recommendations.
- Two Rule of Law Symposiums have been held which offer a platform for discourse between stakeholders and advocates on issues of rule of law.



05

Promoting Access to Justice

With the support of our donors, ULS is operating 23 Legal Aid Clinics countrywide located in Kampala, Luzira, Jinja, Luwero, Masindi, Kabale, Kabarole, Mbarara, Gulu, Pader, Kitgum, Arua, Yumbe, Moyo, Amuria, Kaberamaido, Soroti, Abim, Kotido, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Nabilatuk and Amudat.

The legal aid clinics are aimed at offering free legal aid services to indigent, vulnerable and marginalized persons. In 2023, a total of 82,099 individuals benefited from the project's services.

Of these, 46,187 individuals directly benefited from the services of; free legal representation, legal advice, and alternative dispute resolution.

“As we reflect on these accomplishments, I thank our development partners for supporting us to execute our mandate.”

I also thank the Secretariat for their hard work and professionalism in executing their work. I express my sincere appreciation to the membership for your support and trust in the Council's leadership.

The progress we have made would not have been possible without your active involvement and encouragement. It has been an honor to serve you, and I encourage each one to continue in the collaboration to advance the mission of the Uganda Law Society.

Thank You!



CEO's Foreword

Mable Nimwesiga

As we present the Uganda Law Society's Annual Report for 2023-2024, I am filled with gratitude.

This past year has been one of growth, innovation, and steadfast dedication to our vision of being a proficient Bar Association in fostering access to justice, the rule of law and good governance in Uganda.

I thank our membership for your active engagement and contributions which enable us to efficiently serve this nation. The strength of our Society lies in the commitment of our members. Through participating in our various trainings and programs, providing feedback, participating in pro bono work, advocating for the rule of law, you have played a major role in promoting our progress.

Our development partners have also been pivotal in our journey. Your collaboration and trust have allowed us to pursue goals and achieve meaningful outcomes.

Together, we have made significant strides in fostering the rule of law and supporting access to justice in Uganda.

Over the past year, we have undertaken several key initiatives aimed at enhancing access to justice and strengthening the legal profession. Our efforts to digitize services have streamlined processes and improved accessibility for our members and promoting efficiency in service delivery.

The Legal Aid Project has continued to be a vital resource, extending its reach to 23 districts and providing critical support to those in need. This initiative underscores our dedication to serving the most vulnerable in our society and ensuring that justice is accessible to all.


In addition, our quarterly reports on the state of the rule of law have provided valuable insights into the challenges we face as a nation. These reports have become an essential tool in our advocacy efforts, helping to highlight areas where improvements are needed and guiding our actions moving forward.

Our Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs remain a cornerstone of our commitment to your professional development.

We have expanded these programs to ensure that our members are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to thrive in an ever-evolving legal landscape.

As you read through this Annual Report, I hope you will take pride in the collective achievements of the Uganda Law Society. The progress we have made is a direct result of your support and loyalty to the Society.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our shared mission.



**Together, we will continue
to build a stronger legal
community in Uganda.**



Executive Summary

It is with great pride and a sense of purpose that we present to you the Annual Report of the Uganda Law Society, covering the period from September 2023 to 1st September 2024. This report serves as a testament to the ULS' steadfast commitment to advancing the legal profession, upholding the rule of law, and contributing to the socio-legal landscape of Uganda.

The past year has been marked by challenges, resilience, and remarkable achievements. In the face of global uncertainties, the Uganda Law Society has demonstrated unwavering dedication to its mission of promoting justice, legal excellence, and the protection of human rights. Through innovative initiatives, collaborative efforts, and a strong sense of community, we have not only weathered the storm but have also emerged stronger and more united than ever before.

In this report, you will find a comprehensive overview of our key activities, accomplishments, and the impact we have had on the legal community and society at large. From advocacy for legal reforms to capacity-building programs, from pro bono initiatives to

engagement with the broader public, every facet of our work is driven by a shared commitment to a more just, equitable, and inclusive Uganda.

The Uganda Law Society Secretariat extends its deepest gratitude to its dedicated council, members, partners, and stakeholders who have played an instrumental role in our achievements over the past year. The support, expertise, and unwavering belief in the ideals of justice and the rule of law have been the cornerstone of the organization's success.

As we navigate the dynamic legal landscape of Uganda, the ULS remains resolute in its pursuit of excellence and in the service of justice. Together with the membership, the ULS will continue to shape a legal community that is not only adept at addressing contemporary challenges but is also a beacon of integrity, professionalism, and ethical conduct.

We invite you to delve into the pages of this report, reflecting on the collective efforts that have brought us to this point and looking forward to the opportunities that lie ahead.

Your feedback and insights are invaluable as we chart the course for the future.

ABOUT US

The Uganda Law Society (ULS) is the National Bar Association of Uganda. It was established in 1956 by the Uganda Law Society Act Cap 276 of the Laws of Uganda.

As the National Bar Association, the ULS is enjoined to assist the Government and the Courts in all matters affecting legislation and administration and practice of law in Uganda; to protect and assist the public in Uganda in all matters touching, ancillary/incidental to the law; and to maintain and improve the standards of conduct and learning of the legal profession in Uganda.

VISION: A proficient Bar Association fostering Access to Justice, the Rule of law and good governance in Uganda	MISSION: To develop a skilled and empowered legal profession in execution of its statutory mandate
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STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1	Enhance the relevance of the ULS to its membership
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2	Enhance the relevance of the ULS to the Government and other stakeholders.”
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3	Enhance the promotion of Rule of Law, good governance and the respect for human rights
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4	Increase access to justice for the vulnerable, indigent and marginalized persons as well as other stakeholders.
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 5	Enhance the capacity of the ULS to sustainably deliver on its mandate.

Shared Values – the Principles we uphold: Integrity, Competence, Accountability, Independence and Professionalism.

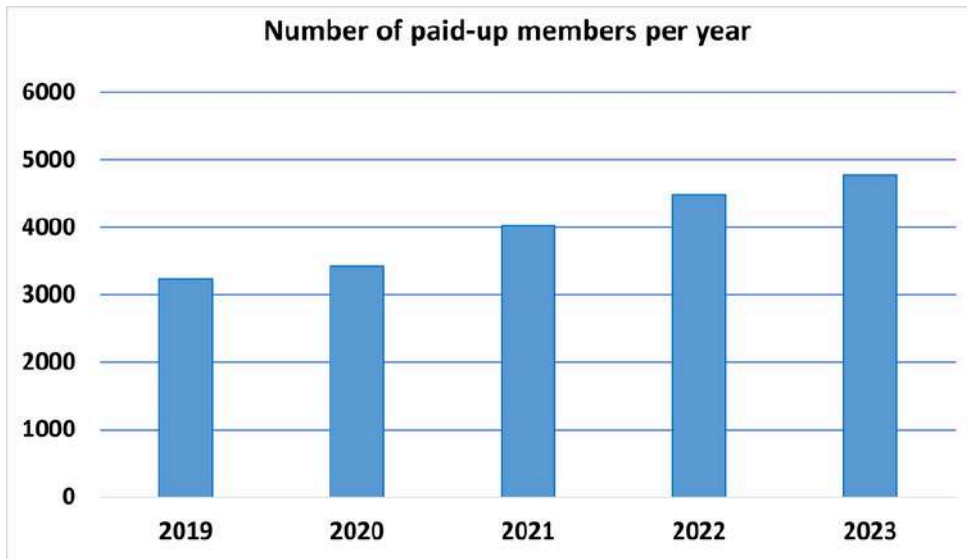


01

ULS Membership Demographics

ULS MEMBERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS

The number of ULS paid-up members has gradually increased over the last 5 years from 3239 members in 2019 to 4783 in 2023.



The positive trends in the paid membership can be attributed to the new initiatives developed by the ULS Council to interest its members both the young and senior lawyers. Members' benefits have increased overtime and ULS's visibility is not doubttable.

With the launch of new developments especially the Benevolent Fund, the number of paid-up members is expected to continue growing steadily in the coming years.

The ULS statistics currently stand at 3,263 young lawyers with 5 years and below of practice, 1241 being lawyers with 6 -10 years of practice and 2,136 as lawyers with 10 years of practice and above



Young Lawyers

3,263

49%

Lawyers – 6 years of practice & above

1,241

19%

Senior lawyers (20 years of practice and above

2,136

32%



02

Corporate Governance Framework

The responsibility for good governance rests with the Council of the Uganda Law Society, which reports to the General Assembly of the ULS Membership.

The Council is enabled by the Uganda Law Society Act of 1956, CAP 276 of the Laws of Uganda to retain certain matters for its own preserve; other specific responsibilities are delegated to its principal Committees. Such Committees include but are not limited to; the Rule of Law and Strategic Litigation Committee, the Female Lawyers Committee, the Legal Aid and Pro Bono Services Committee, the Training and Professional Development, Finance Planning and Administration Committee, Membership Welfare & Social Affairs Committee, Young Lawyers Committee, In-House Lawyers Committee, Research and Publications Committee as well as the ULS Benevolent Fund and SACCO Committee among others. Each of these Committees operates within defined terms of reference. The Chairperson of each Committee reports to Council on its proceedings, and minutes of the meetings are available as appropriate.

THE ULS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2023/2024



Bernard Oundo
President



Martin Asingwire B.
Vice President



Isaac Atukunda
Hon. Secretary



Isaac Kyagaba
Treasurer



Fatuma Omar
Rep. Central



Emmanuel Egaru O
Rep. North



Obedo Deogracious
Rep. Eastern



Allan Musasire
Rep. Western



Stella Nyandria
Rep. Solicitor General



John Bosco Suuza
Rep. Attorney General

COUNCIL MEETINGS ATTENDANCE FOR 2022-2023

The Council holds its meeting on a quarterly basis. Therefore, in a one-year service term, the Council holds a total of twelve meetings.

President



Bernard Oundo

Meetings Attendance

No. of meetings held 4

No. of meetings attended 4

(Missed non)

100%

Vice President



Martin Asingwire
Baryaraha

Meetings Attendance

No. of meetings held 4

No. of meetings attended 4

(Missed non)

100%

Hon. Secretary



Isaac Atukunda

Meetings Attendance

No. of meetings held 4

No. of meetings attended 4

(Missed non)

100%

Treasurer



Isaac Kyagaba

Meetings Attendance

No. of meetings held 4

No. of meetings attended 4

(Missed non)

100%

Rep. Central



Fatuma Omar

Meetings Attendance

No. of meetings held 4

No. of meetings attended 4

(Missed non)

100%

Rep. Western



Allan Musasire

Meetings Attendance

No. of meetings held 4

No. of meetings attended 4

(Missed non)

100%

Rep. North



Emmanuel Egaru Omiat

Meetings Attendance

No. of meetings held 4

No. of meetings attended 4

(Missed non)

100%

Rep. Eastern



Obedo Deogracious

Meetings Attendance

No. of meetings held 4

No. of meetings attended 4

(Missed non)

100%

Rep. Attorney General



John Bosco Suuza

Meetings Attendance

No. of meetings held 4

No. of meetings attended 4

(Missed non)

100%

Rep. Solicitor General



Stella Nyandria

Meetings Attendance

No. of meetings held 4

No. of meetings attended 4

(Missed non)

100%



03

**Milestones of
the ULS Council
2023/24**



A Journey Filled with Transformative Milestones

01



Digitalization of ULS Services

- Introduction of e-Receipts. The e-receipt system allows members to make payments to ULS and receipts are automatically sent to the Chief Registrar's Office for processing the practicing certificate, eliminating the need for in-person verification.
- The ULS members digital Identity Cards were introduced as an alternative to the physical I.Ds ensuring easy identification of members.
- ULS Members CLE Points are accredited in real time and Digital CLE Certificates are being issued.
- Majority of the ULS services are now being offered online without the need for a Member to visit the Secretariat for Services.

02



Promotion of relevant Continuing Legal Education & Professional Development of the Legal Practitioners in Uganda.

- Reduced the cost of CLE trainings for young advocates.
- Provided and conducted Professional and specialized CLE Trainings based on the cluster needs of legal practitioners.
- Partnered with stakeholders like UNICAF University for 80% scholarship for Masters programs.
- A public interest litigation case was filed and judgment was given in favour of ULS where court declared that the introduction of stamp duty of Ugx 100,000 for practicing certificates is unconstitutional.

03



Promotion of the Rule of Law

The promotion and protection of Rule of Law has been at the center of our focus.

- ULS represented accused persons who were arrested during the March to Parliament protests. Bail was secured for 77 persons.
- The ULS Legal Aid Project is representing protesters who faced torture during their detention and arrest. The cases have been filed in the High Court (Civil Division).
- Over 15 press statements have been released in the reporting period highlighting issues of human rights violation, and calling upon government to uphold accountability, transparency and rule of law.

04
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- Four quarterly rule of law reports have been published during the reporting period which. These reports highlight rule of law breaches and offer recommendations to stakeholders. The report launches also give a platform for stakeholder engagement.

Promotion of the Welfare of the Members of Uganda Law Society

- Establishment of ULS HealthCare and Benevolent Fund. An Annual allocation of UGX 25,000 shall be made from Annual Subscription to the Fund and a Member shall make an annual contribution of UGX 75,000 to the fund as resolved in the Extra Ordinary General meeting.
- Registration of the ULS SACCO. The process for operationalization of the SACCO is ongoing and updates on all processes and activities shall be provided to ULS Members.
- Increment of the Advocate Last Funeral contribution from UGX 500,000 to UGX 3,000,000 when an advocate passes on.

05
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Continuing with the Construction of Uganda Law Society House

The Construction of ULS House has progressed steadily and the construction of the Superstructure was completed. This is despite a limited Resource basket.

The Secretariat moved into the ULS House as the completion process continues.

06
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Bridging the Communication gap

- Introduced ULS Monthly Newsletter known as the “Members First Newsletter” is published monthly and shared digitally and on the website for future reference by all.
- A Department of Public Relations and Communications was established at the Secretariat to further enhance communication with members and all our stakeholders.
- Members’ emails and Telephone Contacts have been updated so that all ULS Members are able to receive timely communication.

07
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Protection and widening of Practice Space

- Engagement of Stakeholders like URSB, Ministry of Lands and other government agencies to ensure that Legal work is carried exclusively by registered Members of Uganda Law Society who are enrolled Advocates.
- Specialized CLEs in Technology, Oil & Gas, Construction, Trial Advocacy
- Petitioned entities like URSB to revise its staff recruitment policy and ensure that work which is normally done by advocates should be exclusively done by advocates
- Engaged the Judicial Service Commission to ensure that only enrolled advocates are recruited to the Bench.

08
▼

Resolving issues relating to ECCMIS and practice before Courts of Law

- Set up an ECCMIS Committee
- Operationalized Bar-Bench Forums and Meetings
- Engaged the Deputy Chief Justice, the Chief Registrar and the Principal Judge
This has resulted in 70% reduction of ECCMIS related complaints and challenges.

09
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Mentorship and Professional Development of Young Advocates

Initiatives have been undertaken to empower young lawyers including;

- Young Lawyers Mentorship Series
- Young Lawyers symposium
- Reduced CLE cost for Advocates with less than 5yrs in practice

10
▼

Building of Strategic Relationships with Stakeholders like donors, the government and Media

- More than 5 Stakeholder engagement series have been held (Judiciary Heads of Court Divisions, Security, Registrar General, Administrator General, Commissioner Land Registration), and ULS Members have been able to directly interact directly with the Stakeholders
- Engagements have been had with the IGG on fighting corruption, Chief Registrar on conduct of judicial officers, Principal Judge on Judicial Accountability, and quality of judicial decisions, Minister of Justice on Rule of Law and Protection of Human Rights, Deputy Chief Justice on performance and Administration of the Judiciary, State House Land Protection Unit on persecution of Advocates, CID Director on prosecution of Advocates etc.
- Increased media engagements and this has placed ULS as thought leader in the public. The ULS President has appeared on several media platforms like Nation Media, NBS, Next Radio etc to address matters regarding ULS membership, issues of rule of law.

11

Support of ULS Lawyers League

- Offered UGX 35,000,000 sponsorship to ULS Lawyers League.

12

Regional Members

- Sponsorship of Regional Dinners
- Started Regional Bar-Bench Engagements
- Legal Aid Project Offices to act as Liaison Offices for Regional Members
- Started regional based CLE training

13

Successful stakeholder engagements

- ULS held discussions with key stakeholders, including the Law Council, the Office of the Attorney General, and the LDC to address the exclusion of 1,640 law students from admission to the Bar Course. This resulted in the government allocating additional funds to support a second intake of students in January 2025, ensuring that all eligible candidates can pursue their legal training.



REPORT ON THE ULS HOUSE

At the 33rd Annual General Meeting, the ULS membership resolved to construct a new ULS House at Plot 5A John Babiiha Acacia Avenue Kololo.

In May 2021, the process was kick-started by placing an advert in the papers after which an evaluation exercise of the 5 bidders was undertaken.

Henley Property Developers Ltd, the best evaluated bidder was awarded a contract under Contract Ref NO. ULS/WORKS/2021-22/00001 for the Contract Price of UGX 12,886,905,179.

The project is being managed by Arch Design Limited as the Project Managers.

ULS HOUSE PROJECT

Current Project Overview



Start date	September 2021
Cost of project	13,205,505,179/=
Certificates paid	12
Total payments made	5,539,296,330/=

PAYMENTS SO FAR MADE

Details	Payment date	Amount (UGX)	Status
Advance payment	16th September 2022	2,133,810,474	Paid ✓
Interim Payment 02	13th April 2022	408,798,168	Paid ✓
Interim Payment 03	20th May 2022	212,461,646	Paid ✓
Interim Payment 04	10th August 2022	202,225,878	Paid ✓
Interim Payment 05	12th August 2022	546,550,930	Paid ✓
Interim Payment 06	23rd September, 2022	233,811,894	Paid ✓
Interim Payment 07	20th October 2022	200,231,428	Paid ✓
Interim Payment 08	25th November 2022	182,661,297	Paid ✓
Interim Payment 09	8th May 2023	504,151,645	Paid ✓
Interim Payment 10	2nd August 2023	308,565,226	Paid ✓
Interim Payment 11		400,122,029	Paid ✓
Interim Payment 12		205,905,715	Paid ✓
TOTAL		5,539,296,330	

The ULS House design encompasses five (5) office levels and two (2) basements with the following layout:



PROGRESS PER MONTH

ACTIVITY	PROGRESS	DATE
Procurement process initiated by placing an advert in the papers		May 2021
Pre- bid meeting		May 2021
Bid opening		June 2021
Evaluation of bidders		June 2021
Issue of notice of best evaluated bidder		July 2021
Contracts Committee sitting to approve Best Evaluated Bidder		July 2021
Conclusion of Negotiation		July 2021
Introductory meeting with the Contractor, ULS Council, ULS House Committee and Project Manager		September 2021
Handover of site and erecting of a signage of Plot 5A1, John Babiiha Avenue		September 2021
Contractor pursuing performance guarantee, necessary insurances and advance guarantee and seeking permission to commence excavation and construction from Kampala Capital City Authority		September 2021
Site staging area, site offices and temporary facilities Leveling the packing lower level	60 % completed 50 % completed	November 2021
Commencement of parking area. Demolition of the boundary wall		December 2021
Concrete slab for parking level 2A Applying mezzanine floor on columns above level 1A	100% completed 100% completed	March 2022
Excavation of wing 2	100% completed	June 2022
Laying of the foundation		July 2022
Raft foundation complete for entire building Part A - three levels of the structure Part B – columns at level 2B ready for concrete	100% completed	August 2022

PROGRESS PER MONTH

ACTIVITY	PROGRESS	DATE
Council resolves to focus on completion of the superstructure first, followed by subsequent installation of finishing elements		April 2023
Basement 2A, Basement 2B, Basement 1B, Ground floor , First floor(Grid 5"-1), Second and Third floor	100% completed (3 levels and mezzanine completed)	June 2023
Fourth floor External finishes	26% 60%	July, 2023
Fourth floor Roof slab External finished	100% completed (superstructure) 26% 60%	August 2023
Terrace Block walling Plastering	100%	May 2024
Roof level	100%	May 2024
Basement 1A, 2A, 1B, 2B, Mezzanine Paintings (walls, soffit of staircase and ceiling)	65%	May 2024
Doors and windows	21%	May 2024
External Finishes Rendering to walls Ornamental copings	80% 20%	May 2024
Electricals First fix (terrace and roof) Laying cables trays and trunking (basement to first floor)	18% 100% 45%	May 2024

PROGRESS PER MONTH

ACTIVITY	PROGRESS	DATE
Mechanical installations Internal water supply and internal drainage works	18% 90%	Mechanical installations Internal water supply and internal drainage works
Internal finishes	46%	June 2024
Ground floor Painting 1st, 2nd coats (walls, soffit of staircase and ceiling)	26% 70%	June 2024
First floor Painting 1st, 2nd coats (walls, soffit of staircase and ceiling) Wall tiling Floor tiling and skirting	46% 75% 85% 60%	June 2024

Objective of the ULS House

The objectives of the ULS house is to benefit both its members and the public in the following ways;

- The ULS will be able to have a Secretariat customized to a standard Bar Association facility.
- Provide advocates and other persons the chance to conduct research and resourcefully access information from a well-furnished and equipped resource center.
- The arbitration center will facilitate a less costly and speedy process of resolving disputes without going to court.
- The conference center will be used as a venue for CLE trainings and thus reduce the cost the Secretariat spends on paying for venues in expensive facilities which will in turn reduce on the amount members have to pay for the CLE trainings. The meeting rooms will facilitate engagements
- An innovation hub will offer employment opportunities to our young, newly graduated lawyers and in turn provide desperately needed affordable legal services.
- The coffee-shop and a health club for members' leisure



THE PROGRESS IN PICTURES



The ULS old house



Excavation and ground breaking works



Front view of the ULS House as of June 2024

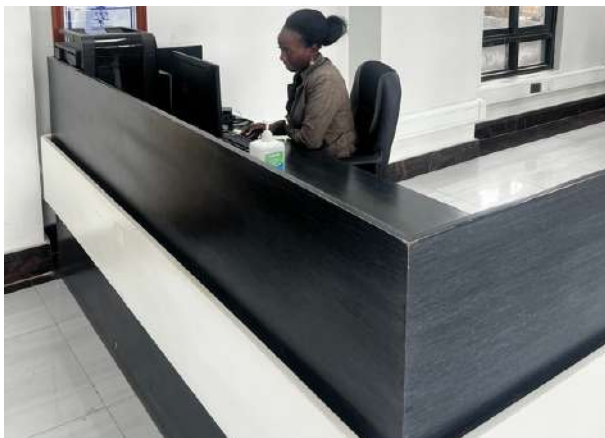
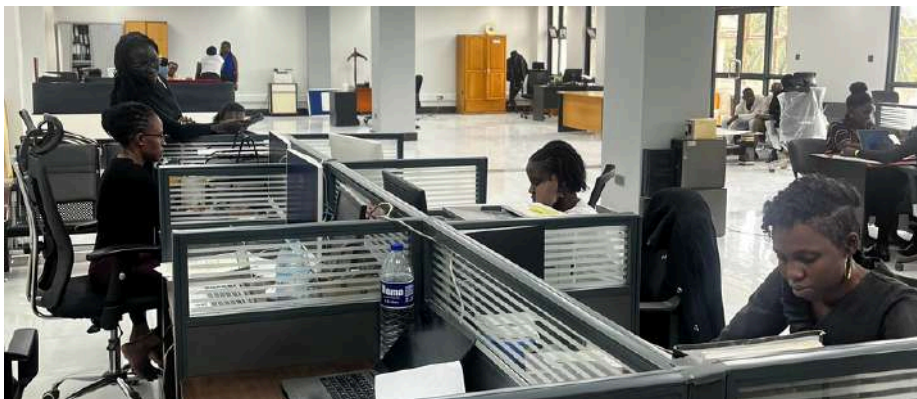


Front view of the ULS House as of August 2024



**THE PROGRESS IN
PICTURES**

ULS SECRETARIAT NOW AT IT'S **OWN NEW HOME!**



Staff at the ULS Secretariat serving in the new ULS House Building



MOST LATEST ON THE ULS HOUSE

Its a dream come true!

**ULS SECRETARIAT OFFICES
MOVED TO KOLOLO PLOT 5A,
JOHN BABIHA (ACACIA) AVENUE**



04

ULS Departments

The ULS Secretariat under the leadership of the Office of the Chief Executive Officer assisted by the management team that has ten (11) Departments; Legal Aid and Pro-bono Services, Professional Development, Rule of Law; Members' Affairs, Strategic Litigation, Audit and Compliance, Information Technology (I.T), Procurement & Logistics, Human Resources, Finance and Administration, Public Relations & Events Management. These departments operate as hereunder;

Human Resource Department

The Human Resource (HR) department plays a pivotal role in ensuring the effective functionality of the organization. The HR department serves as a central pillar in achieving the society's objectives by managing and supporting its most valuable asset: its human capital. Key responsibilities and functions of the HR department within the Uganda Law Society include; Recruitment and talent acquisition, training, and development, fostering employee relations, and performance management through maintaining performance appraisal systems that evaluate employee performance and provide feedback for continuous improvement.

The department also ensures that employees are fairly compensated for their work and administers benefit programs to support their overall well-being in addition to ensuring that the organization complies with labor laws, regulations, and industry standards, reducing legal and operational risks. The department collaborates with the leadership to align HR strategies with the society's overall goals and objectives, ensuring that the workforce supports the organization's mission.

Professional Development

The Professional Development Department remains a vital component in enhancing the skills, knowledge, and expertise of the members of the Uganda Law Society by ensuring they stay abreast of the latest legal trends, techniques, and best practices.

It is headed by the Head of Professional Development who is supported by an Assistant Litigation Officer working closely with the Professional Development Committee, among other committees. One of the key responsibilities of the Professional Development and Litigation Department is organizing Continuing Legal Education (CLE) trainings. These events provide crucial opportunities for legal professionals to engage in ongoing learning, which is essential in a field as dynamic and evolving as law. Through CLE trainings, professionals can deepen their understanding of new legal precedents, and emerging areas of law, and refine their advocacy and legal research skills. By organizing and successfully conducting multiple CLE events, they have contributed significantly to the professional growth and development of the legal team. These events not only serve as platforms for education but have also facilitated networking, knowledge sharing, and collaboration among legal practitioners.



Strategic Litigation Department

The Strategic Litigation Department focuses on legal research and bringing important cases to court that benefit the public. The department digs deep into the law, and uses the law to make positive changes in society. The department aims at promoting equity and fairness through public interest litigation.

Information Technology Department

The I.T Department is responsible for managing and leveraging technology to support the society's operations and strategic objectives. The IT Department's role is to ensure that the organization's technological infrastructure is robust, secure, and aligned with its mission. The IT Department provides a range of critical services and support to the Uganda Law Society which include; infrastructure management, software development and integration, cyber security and data protection, website management, overseeing the organization's databases, and ensuring that information is stored securely and can be accessed efficiently when needed, among others.

Finance and Administration Department

The Finance and Administration Department is responsible for managing the financial resources, administrative functions, and operational support necessary for the smooth functioning of society. The department oversees financial transactions, budgeting, reporting, and providing crucial administrative support. Its primary goal is to ensure the efficient allocation and utilization of resources to achieve the ULS's objectives. This includes preparing financial statements, managing cash flow, and ensuring compliance with financial regulations. It assesses financial

risks and develops strategies to mitigate potential financial challenges, ensuring the stability and sustainability of the ULS.

The Finance and Administration Department manages the financial health and administrative functions of the organization. By effectively stewarding resources and providing essential administrative support, it enables the ULS to fulfill its mission and serve its members and stakeholders effectively.

Audit & Compliance Department

The Internal Audit Department is responsible for ensuring that the society's operations are conducted in compliance with relevant laws, regulations, and internal policies. It operates independently from other departments to maintain objectivity and impartiality in its assessments and reports directly to the ULS Council. The department identifies and assesses potential risks that may affect the achievement of the ULS's objectives. This includes financial, operational, and compliance risks. It evaluates the adequacy and effectiveness of internal controls in place across various functions within the organization. This helps in ensuring that resources are used efficiently and assets are safeguarded.

The department ensures that the ULS is in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and internal policies. It also conducts financial audits to verify the accuracy, completeness, and reliability of financial records and reports. This includes reviewing financial transactions, budgets, and financial statements. It assesses the efficiency and effectiveness of operational processes and procedures.



Public Relations & Events Coordination Department

The Public Relations (PR) Department is in charge of managing and enhancing the organization's visibility, reputation, and relationships with various stakeholders, both within and outside the legal community. This department is headed by the Head, Public Relations who is supported by a Graphics and Content Developer. The Public Relations Department is responsible for strategically communicating the society's mission, values, and activities to its target audience. It plays a critical role in creating media relations, content creation, events promotion, social media management, and brand management in addition to supporting the compilation of the ULS Monthly Newsletter.

Procurement & Logistics Department

The Procurement Department is responsible for managing the acquisition of goods, services, and works needed by the organization, ensuring that they are obtained efficiently, ethically, and in compliance with relevant laws and policies. Additionally, it is responsible for inventory and asset management which has enabled accurate asset reporting, inventory movement and physical checks. The department is also responsible for maintaining the ULS Fleet database and ensuring that they are in the right mechanical condition i.e motor vehicles, motor bikes and generators. The department has two staff and is supported by the Contracts and Evaluation Committee. The department oversees the procurement and disposal processes which contributes to the efficient functioning of the organization and helps achieve its mission.

Members' Affairs Department

The ULS through the Members' Affairs Department continued to conduct activities that benefit members. The Department headed by the Head of Members' Affairs works closely with two Program Officers and ULS Committees namely: the Professional Development and Members' Affairs Committee, the Female Lawyers Committee, the Elections Committee, and the Young Lawyers Committee among others to execute the mandate of the ULS to its membership.

Legal Aid and Pro Bono Department

The Key departmental outcome areas for this department include;

- Increased access to quality legal and advisory support services through Legal Aid
- Increased access to quality legal and advisory services through Pro Bono Services
- Increased Respect for Human Rights.

The Legal Aid and Pro bono department is manned through 23 offices that are spread out across the country in several districts, serving the indigent, vulnerable, and marginalized persons. The success of the Legal Aid Project is largely attributed to the continued funding of the projects by the various funders as mentioned above including; IDLO, ECHO, IRC, UNODC, UN Women, DRC, and ALIGHT. Because of the increased visibility of the project, there has been an increase in the number of stakeholders that the project has collaborated with as has been shown above. A more comprehensive discussion of the activities and performance of the department is well brought out in the second part of this report.

Rule of Law Department

This department is responsible for implementing the ULS's vision of upholding the rule of law. It is headed by the Head of the Rule of Law Department and assisted by the Rule of Law Officer as well as the Legal Officer in charge of Research. The department works closely with the Rule of Law Committee, Research and Publications Committee, and In-house Counsel Committee.

The Rule of Law Department is tasked with undertaking several activities that are aimed at promoting and upholding the rule of law. These include the following;

- Managing and executing ULS Rule of Law Project activities.
- Generating the ULS Quarterly Reports on the State of the Rule of Law.
- Compiling the ULS Monthly Newsletter
- Monitoring and Creation of activities revolving around the Rule of Law Clubs Project, and advancing related partnerships.
- Providing professional support to collective ULS Processes of Law Review and Reform, by working together with ULS law clusters.



01

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1

TO ENHANCE THE RELEVANCE OF ULS TO ITS MEMBERSHIP



As per our statutory mandate to develop a skilled and empowered Legal Profession, the ULS has continued to focus on the professional development of its members. The relevance of any professional organization to its membership was crucial for its sustainability and growth. Therefore, the objective of enhancing the relevance of ULS to its membership was paramount to retain current members and attract new ones. One effective way to achieve this was by expanding and improving members' benefits.

Strategies Implemented to Achieve the Objective;

ULS has continued to offer a wide range of educational programs, seminars, workshops, and webinars to cater to the diverse needs and interests of its members. These covered various legal fields, including emerging areas of law. ULS organized regular networking events, conferences, and forums that facilitated interaction and collaboration among members.

In addition to that the ULS through the department of Professional Development has organized several membership oriented activities. These include;

Women in Law Conference and Awards

The Women in Law Conference and Awards Ceremony organized by the ULS Female Lawyers Committee was held on 20th October 2023 under the theme “Shattering glass ceilings to redefine power and inspire the future of the law”.

The conference comprised of panel discussions with Dr. Paulina Chiwangu, the Country Representative UN Women as the Chief Guest, and attendance by the International Association of Women Judges-Uganda (IAWJ-U) and several ULS members. The Conference also comprised of the awarding of women lawyers who have made significant strides and achievements in various categories.



Photo of award winners at the Women in Law Conference

East African Law Society (EALS) Annual Law Conference and AGM

The East African Law Society (EALS) held its Annual Conference and General Meeting on 22nd – 25th November 2023 under the theme: "One Region, One People: The Role of the Law and Legal Profession in Defining the Future of East African Community" in Bujumbura, Burundi. The event was attended by all East African National Bar Presidents included President Bernard Oundo and many members from ULS. The Conference comprised of various sessions ranging from technology, law firm management, a women lawyers forum, young lawyers forum, in-house counsel forum, among others.



Construction and Infrastructure Symposium

A 2-day Construction and Infrastructure Symposium on 7th and 8th December 2023 under the theme: Creating Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure in Uganda. The training delved into core principles of construction, analyses of construction costs, common challenges in construction projects, adjudication of construction disputes, FIDIC contracts, among others.

Opening of the New Law Year 2024

On February 9, 2024, the Judiciary organized the Opening of the New Law Year 2024 which was attended by members of the Bench and members of the Bar with the Vice President of Uganda as a Chief Guest. The ULS President called for concerted efforts from stakeholders to address issues of interference with judicial independence.



ULS President, Mr. Bernard Oundo alongside the Hon. Chief Justice Alphonse Owiny-Dollo at the New Law Year 2024



ULS President Mr. Bernard Oundo (centre) with members of Bar at the Opening of the New Law Year 2024

Bar Bench Forum

On 21st February 2024, ULS held the Bar Bench Forum.

The forum, hosted at the Sheraton Hotel Kampala, brought together estimated Justices of the Bench and members of the Bar in a collective effort to address the key concerns, challenges, and opportunities in today's legal landscape.

The event had an attendance of close to 150 judicial officers and over 1000 lawyers attended virtually.



ULS Litigation Training 2024

ULS held a 2-day litigation training hosted by ULS President Bernard Oundo and convened by SC James Sebugenyi Mukasa, a partner at S&L Advocates.

The training was attended physically by 25 advocates and 140 advocates online. Various topics were discussed including; interlocutory applications, civil appeals, public interest litigation, navigating challenges as a young lawyer, among others.



EALS Master Class Training on Digital Forensics and Electronic Evidence

ULS President, Bernard Oundo hosted a 2- day Master Class training on Digital Forensics and Electronic Evidence Handling and Presentation for Lawyers organised by the East Africa Law Society (EALS) at Skyz Hotel Naguru-Kampala.

Lawyers were taught various topics including cybercrime and technological advancement.



ULS Hon. Secretary, Mr. Isaac Atukunda opening the EALS Master Class training on Digital Forensics and Electronic Evidence Handling

National Labour Convention

In commemoration of the International Labour day of 2024, the Uganda Law Society in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development and the Industrial Court held a two-day National Labour Convention and Expo under the theme "Improving Access to Justice: Equity and the Future of Work".



Hon. Jackson Kafuzi, the Deputy Attorney General and ULS President Bernard Oundo at the National Labour Convention Expo

Young Lawyers' Symposium

On 27th and 28th of May 2024, ULS held the 5th Annual Young Lawyers' Symposium to provide a platform for young lawyers to share experiences and exchange ideas on how to overcome these challenges.

The symposium also had panels of senior lawyers from various areas of legal practice including government entities, private legal practice, NGO sector, among others



Annual Law Conference 2024

The Uganda Law Society successfully held its 7th Annual Law Conference (ALC) on the 29th and 30th of August 2024 at the Commonwealth Resort Hotel, Munyonyo. The conference, themed "Legal Practice in a Changing Society: Addressing Emerging Challenges and Opportunities," attracted over 1,200 members, marking the highest turnout in the event's history.



ULS President welcomes Deputy Chief Justice Richard Buteera



Deputy Chief Justice Richard Buteera giving his keynote address on day 2 of the ALC





Post Bank receives an award from Deputy Chief Justice Richard Buteera for being the biggest sponsor of the ALC



Group photo of dignitaries at the event

KEY INNOVATIONS BY THE ULS COUNCIL

Digitalization of ULS services

During the reporting period, ULS services were digitized easing service delivery. The following are the new digital developments:

ULS e-receipt

Members are now able to receive e-receipts upon making any payments such as subscriptions for membership to ULS or EALS, ULS House, Benevolent fund, CLE Trainings. Once a payment is made, an e-receipt is automatically sent to the member's email and to the Chief Registrar's Office. Therefore there is no need to go to the Secretariat for verification but one can proceed to the High Court to process a Practicing Certificate.

Digital I.D

On 15th December 2023, during the Annual Law Dinner, the ULS Council launched the ULS Digital I.D. The digital I.D is an electronic solution for proof of identity for ULS members. It serves as the digital alternative for physical I.Ds therefore a member can use their I.D anywhere and at any time without need of a physical copy.



ULS Council launches the ULS Digital I.D alongside Justice Irene Mulyagonja and other dignitaries at the Annual Law Dinner

ULS Members CLE Points are accredited in real time and Digital CLE Certificates are being issued

Launch of the ULS Healthcare and Benevolent Fund

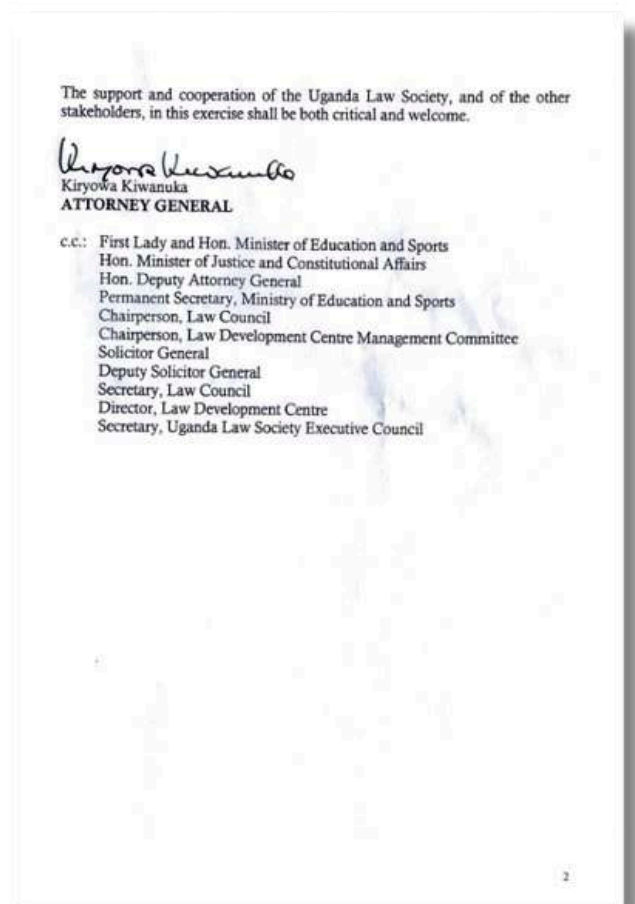
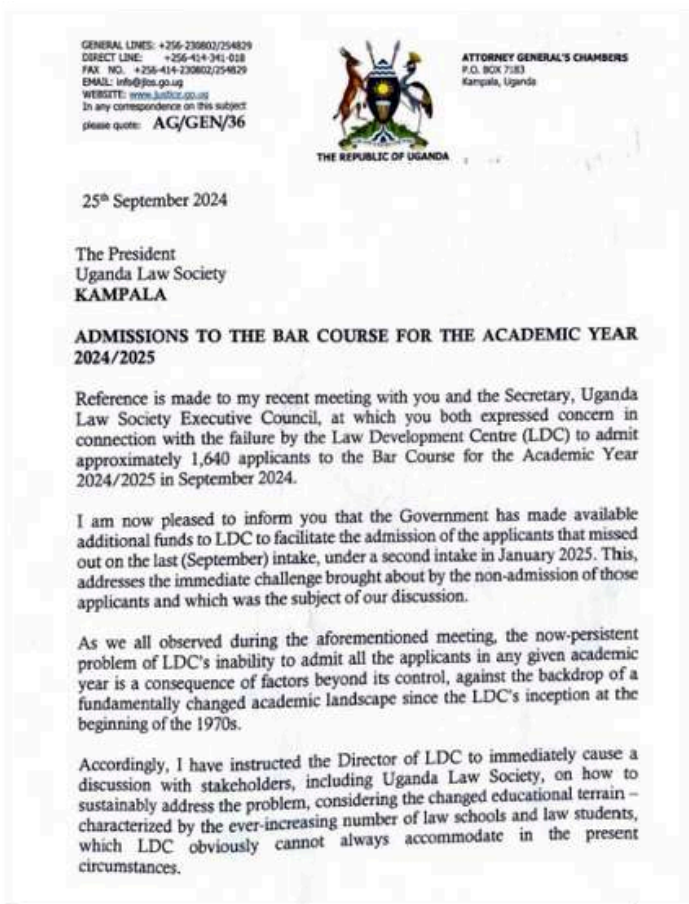
On 11th July 2024, Uganda Law Society launched the ULS Healthcare and Benevolent Fund. The fund is aimed at offering support to the members during times of sickness and death, addressing the financial burden of medical care and supporting families when a member passes away. An inaugural Board was appointed to manage the Fund

SUCCESSFUL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS

The Council has consistently engaged stakeholders to safeguard the development and progress of the legal profession.

A significant issue addressed was the exclusion of 1,640 law students from admission to the Bar Course at the Law Development Centre (LDC) due to inadequate facilities to accommodate the large number of applicants. In response, the Uganda Law Society (ULS) held discussions with key stakeholders, including the Law Council, the Office of the Attorney General, and the LDC, among others.

These efforts resulted in the government allocating additional funds to support a second intake of students in January 2025, ensuring that all eligible candidates can pursue their legal training.



Attorney General's Letter

CLE Trainings and Webinars

The Professional Development and Members' Affairs has several CLE trainings and webinars focusing on relevant areas of law to build the membership professionally.

These have ranged from various topics including but not limited to; tax, arbitration, family law, oil and gas, banking, sports law, intellectual property, employment law, trial advocacy among others. The trainings are specially curated by bringing together experts in the relevant fields and designing discussion topics that are of benefit to the membership. These trainings also have CLE points attached.

The Council also held regional trainings in Western, Eastern and Northern region.

In Western region, a training was held on retirement benefits was held in collaboration with Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority (URBRA).

For Eastern region, a training was convened by the ULS Vice President Mr. Martin Asingwire at Source of the Nile Hotel Jinja under the topic: Navigating Legal Landscape: Ownership, Accuracy and Diligence in Property Transactions.

19 CLEs were held in the review period and these include:

- Tax Law Symposium
- Insurance Law and Practice Training
- Oil & Gas Sector: Challenges and Opportunities
- Banking Law Symposium
- Retirement Benefits Law Training
- Sports Law Practice and Disputes Adjudication
- Litigation Training
- Emerging Trends in Intellectual Property
- Insolvency Law & Business Restructure Symposium
- Law Firm Management
- Construction and Infrastructure Symposium
- Criminal Law Practice Training
- Intellectual Property Symposium
- 2nd Annual National Labour Convention & Expo
- Technology Skills Development Training
- 6th Annual Technology Symposium
- 15th Annual Rule of Law Symposium
- Young Lawyers Symposium
- Ethical Conduct for Advocates
- Practice Management Training

8 Webinars were held:

- Young Lawyers Mentorship Series with North Western Pritzker School of Law
- Succession Law
- Criminal Law Webinar
- Family Law Cluster Series
- Intellectual Property Cluster Webinar
- Human Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill
- Young Lawyers Mentorship Series- Academia as a Career Choice
- Rule of Law Webinar Series

During the review period, there has been an increase in CLE attendance especially for the free CLEs which have attracted a large attendance of the membership. The CLE's and webinars have also focused on the development of young lawyers, this is shown by the high attendance in the month of May where the Young Lawyers' Symposium attendance was at 2939.

The month of February also had a sky-rocketing attendance of the Bar- Bench Forum which attracted 6130 attendees indicating the importance of stakeholder engagement to improve legal practice.

Other trainings with high attendance were; the Rule of Law Symposium at 3368, Construction Law Symposium at 1873, Litigation Training at 1747.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2

ENHANCE THE RELEVANCE OF ULS TO GOVERNMENT AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS



Given the ULS mandate to advise government and the public on all matters incidental to the law, ULS has continued to engage government and various stakeholders through creating partnerships. Some of these partnerships are explained below among other activities that were undertaken to fulfill this strategic objective as follows;

Partnerships Created 01

ULS - Royal Danish Embassy Partnership

On 25th June 2024, the Uganda Law Society and the Royal Danish Embassy entered into a partnership to launch a project titled "Enhancing the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights in Uganda." This initiative aims to enhance the provision of legal aid services in three legal aid clinics in Kabong, Moyo, and Arua. The project also aims to benefit vulnerable, marginalized, and indigent justice seekers among a population of approximately 3,900 local residents.



ULS - The Innovation Village

On 26th July 2024, the Uganda Law Society in partnership with the Innovation Village hosted the third edition of the Legal Tech Expo under the theme: Breaking Barriers to Digitalization of the Legal Industry.

This collaboration aimed at advancing innovation and technology within the legal industry and shape the future for legal practice. This partnership will enable the creation of innovative solutions to digitize legal services, improving efficiency and impact on communities in accessing justice.



ULS – Evolve Foundation

On 25th January 2024, ULS entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Evolve-Foundation for International Legal Assistance. This partnership aims to enhance capacity within the legal profession and elevate access to justice by offering Pro bono legal advice and assistance in capital cases. The agreement includes a commitment to providing comprehensive training and mentorship to Ugandan advocates actively engaged in such cases.



Engagements with local and international stakeholders

02

The Council engaged in several courtesy visits, meetings and several engagements with various stakeholders to foster and enhance various relationships with the Uganda Law Society. These include the following;

- The Council held a meeting with the Chief Registrar, HW Sarah Langa Siu to discuss issues that affect collaborative efforts between the Bar and the Bench.



- The ULS President participated in the Judiciary's Consultative Meeting on Proposed Rules and Practice Directions. The discussions centred on the Judicature (Electronic Filing, Service and Virtual Recordings) Rules 2024, Enhancement of Pecuniary Jurisdiction of Magistrates Courts, The Constitution (Opening of Mobile Courts) Practice Directions 2024 and the Judicature (Cases of Persons with Disabilities) Rules 2019.



ULS led by the CEO, Ms. Mable Nimwesiga paid a courtesy visit to the Embassy of Ireland in Uganda to discuss the ongoing progress of the Legal Aid Project in Karamoja Sub-Region.



With the support of the Embassy, ULS is operating 3 legal aid clinics in the Karamoja region in the districts of Kotido, Moroto and Nakapiripiriti.

The ULS President Bernard Oundo hosted a delegation from the Cameroon Bar Association. The discussion focused on building relationships between ULS and the Cameroon Bar Association, enhancing partnerships among African lawyers, diversification & specialization in the legal practice, and addressing shared challenges faced by Bar associations



The ULS President Bernard Oundo met with a team from Ministry of ICT, UN Global Pulse Uganda and UNDP for the pre-validation of the first ever National Data Strategy for Uganda. The Strategy is being developed to promote improved data governance & regulation, as well as supporting innovation and ensuring strategic data utilization as an economic resource.



3. On 4th June 2024, the ULS President Bernard Oundo and the Hon. Secretary Isaac Atukunda met with UNOC to discuss matters of oil and gas.



ULS representatives led by the CEO Ms. Mable Nimwesiga attended a meeting organized by Ireland Embassy Uganda Audit Committee in Nadugent Sub-county, Moroto District, to review the Embassy's stakeholder engagement



The ULS met with a team from EALS. The discussions centered on strengthening collaboration and advancing legal practice within the East African region. Additionally, they reviewed preparations for the upcoming EALS AGM which is set to be hosted in Uganda in November 2024.



The ULS President Bernard Oundo hosted a delegation from the Cameroon Bar Association. The discussion focused on building relationships between ULS and the Cameroon Bar Association, enhancing partnerships among African lawyers, diversification & specialization in the legal practice, and addressing shared challenges faced by Bar associations

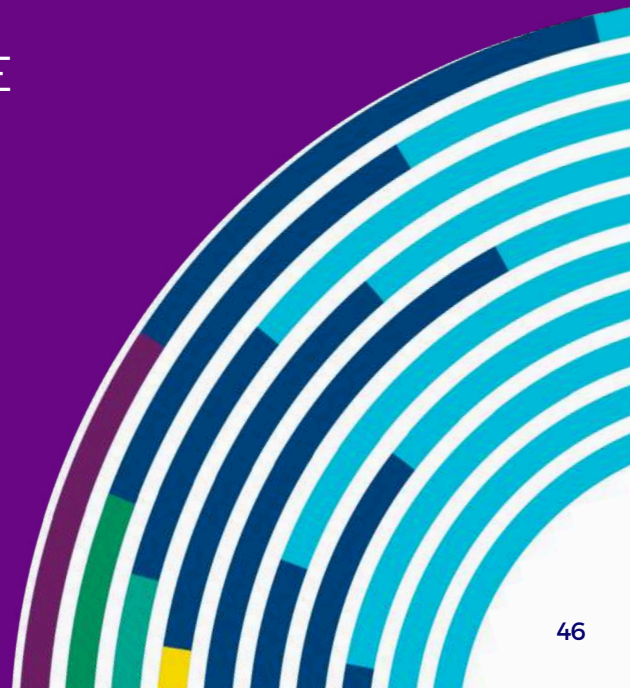




03

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3

ENHANCE THE PROMOTION OF RULE OF LAW, GOOD GOVERNANCE AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



This objective is premised on one of the primary mandates of the Uganda Law Society, which is to the public; ensuring that both human rights and the rule of law are upheld and promoted.

ULS under the Rule of Law Department continued to publish the quarterly Rule of Law Reports and the inaugural Law Journal was also published.

The ULS also engaged with several stakeholders in the course of the review period on various rule of law issues, presenting position papers and submissions where necessary. The above is expounded in this section as follows;

Offering Legal Support to Peaceful Demonstrators

ULS led by the President Bernard Oundo provided legal aid services to over 80 accused persons facing charges of Public Nuisance following the 'March to Parliament' protests that took place on 23rd and 25th July where the youth were demonstrating against corruption in government institutions especially the Parliament of Uganda. Several youths were arrested and detained in prisons across Kampala and ULS secured bail for a total of 77 peaceful protesters.

Photos showing ULS Council and ULS Legal Aid department representing peaceful demonstrators in Courts of Law



**LIST OF PERSONS WHO RECEIVED LEGAL AID BEFORE COURTS OF LAW
DURING MARCH TO PARLIAMENT DEMONSTRATIONS**

NO.	NAME	COURT	OFFENCE	STATUS
1.	MUWONGE VIANE	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
2.	SHABIL ABDUL MAJID	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
3.	ONYANGO DAVID	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
4.	MUTIBWA INNOCENT	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
5.	KARUNGI HAMZA	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
6.	KANUNU ASHIRAF	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
7.	KIYAGA EDDIE	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
8.	ABDUL BAST NAJIB	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
9.	SAGALA ABDRAHUMAN	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
10.	KATO JEREMIAH	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
11.	MUHWEZI ERICK	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
12.	LUBEGA HUSSEIN	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
13.	AGUJJA SAMUEL	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
14.	MASERUKA ROBERT	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
15.	MBABAZI KEZIA	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BOND
16.	ALOIKIN PRAISE	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
17.	NABIRYE GLORIA	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
18.	KOBUSINGYE NORAH	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
19.	MAKANA KENNEDY	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
20.	WERE SALIM	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
21.	OTIENO GEORGE VICTOR	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
22.	NASASIIRA MELVIN	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
23.	KIRYA SAMSON	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
24.	MUCUNGUZI ABEL	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
25.	KULE RONALD MBUGA	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
26.	KWIKIRIZA GEDION	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
27.	BYAKUTANGAZA EZRA	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
28.	SEMUYABA EDWARD	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
29.	TAYEBWA JONATHAN	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
30.	KIYENGO FRED	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
31.	KATEREGA MATHIAS	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
32.	ASIIMWE AARON	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
33.	YUB DENIS	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
34.	BATABAALE RONALD LUBWAMA	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
35.	NANA NAMAYA ANNETTE NIWATRIKA MUBARIKKIA	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
36.	APIO JARED	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
37.	TUMWEBAZE CHARLES	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
38.	NAMUTYABA SLYVIA	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
39.	PROSCOVIA MUKISA	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
40.	SSERUNKUMA JOHN BOSCO	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
41.	YASIN GALIWANGO	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
42.	KWIZERA RONALS	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
43.	NDYASIMA NELSON	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
44.	BUWEMBO HABIB	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
45.	KISAKYE SAMUEL	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
46.	OTUULE ISAAC	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
47.	KAJUBI MAKTUN	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
48.	KIKWIYAKALE HUMPREY	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL

49.	OBURU PAUL	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
50.	WANDUKWA SIMON	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
51.	BWETE ABDUL NAZIZ	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
52.	NATABI MARGARET	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
53.	MOOLI BRIAN	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
54.	KEMTOOMA NYINANKYENZIBA	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
55.	KALEM JOHN	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
56.	LUBEGA INNOCENT	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
57.	TUMUHAISE ROBERT	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
58.	NAWENUWE ERIYA	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
59.	KAMOGA BRUNO	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
60.	SSENTONGO MUHAMAD	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
61.	ALEX TWIKIRIZE	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
62.	NAMBULE GALEN	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
63.	LUTAAYA EDWARD	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
64.	SSEMPIJA IVAN	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
65.	MATOVU TRAVOR SIMON	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
66.	MUGISHA DAVID	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
67.	KIWANDA ROBERT	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
68.	MUSIRI DAVID	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
69.	SSEGWANYE ARNOLD	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
70.	TAMALE NELSON	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
71.	AKISO BENJAMIN	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
72.	MUKIIBI ISAAC	BUGANDA ROAD	COMMON NUISANCE	RELEASED ON BAIL
73.	PATO DENNIS	CITY HALL	TAKING PART IN UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY	RELEASED ON BAIL
74.	KALENDE ABIGAIL	CITY HALL	TAKING PART IN UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY	RELEASED ON BAIL
75.	NALUNKUMA RUTH	CITY HALL	TAKING PART IN UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY	RELEASED ON BAIL

Involvement in Law Reform Processes

During the review period, the ULS through the Rule of Law department particularly influenced policy processes by preparing position papers on various Bills presented before Parliament as well as coordinating the input of ULS expert law Clusters on policies and Bills as detailed here below:

- Appeared before the Parliamentary Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development and shared views on the Tax Amendment Bills, 2023
- Compiled comments on the shared views on the Human Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill 2023, Public Finance Management (Amendment) Bill.
- Appeared before the Parliamentary Committee on Tourism, Trade and Industry and presented views on the Alcohol Control Bill.
- Appeared before the Parliamentary Committee Agriculture to present views on the Contract Farming Bill, 2023.



U.S. President Bernard Oundo appearing before the Parliamentary Committee on Health, and the Committee on Trade, Tourism & Industry presenting U.S.' opinion on the Alcohol Control Bill of 2023



Mr. Cephas Birungi and Ms. Rebecca Nambi of the U.S. Tax Cluster delivering the U.S.' opinion to the Parliamentary Committee on Finance, Planning and Economic Development on the Tax (Amendment) Bills 2023



U.S. team led by Western Council Representative Allan Musasire presenting U.S.' Opinion on the Farming Contract Bill 2023 before the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture

Rule of Law and Human Rights Initiatives

The ULS has launched four Rule of Law Quarterly Reports during the review period, reflecting on the salient rule of law issues in the country. Several recommendations to duty bearers and stakeholders were subsequently made.



ULS President Bernard Oundo alongside the Solicitor General Mr. Francis Atoke, the German Ambassador- H.E Matthias Schauer and Dr. Daniel Ruhweza at the 2nd Quarter Rule of Law Report 2024



Lady Justice Jane Frances Abodo, the DPP of Uganda and Col. Deo Karikona, Director Human Rights UPDF during the launch of the 1st Quarter Rule of Law Report of 2024

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PRESS STATEMENTS

The Rule of Law Department has drafted several statements and legal opinions on salient rule of law issues, and notable legal issues across the country.



UGANDA LAW SOCIETY

STATEMENT BY UGANDA LAW SOCIETY ON THE SAFETY OF DR. JIMMY SPIRE SSENTONGO, AGATHER ATUHAIRE, AND OTHER SOCIAL MEDIA ACTIVISTS

The Uganda Law Society expresses grave concerns over the threats to the lives of Dr. Jimmy Spire Sentongo, Agather Atuhaire, Anthony Natif, and Godwin Toko, among other social media activists.

In any democracy, citizens are entitled to demand accountability of their leadership and Uganda is no exception to this. The team of Dr. Jimmy Spire Sentongo, Anthony Natif, Agather Atuhaire, and Godwin Toko are social media activists who have been demanding accountability from our leaders in Parliament through #UgandaParliamentExhibition on their social media platforms especially X (formerly Twitter).

We, therefore, condemn the threats and intimidation to silence citizens' urge for accountability of the holders of public offices. We call for a swift investigation of the threats made and the bringing to book of the perpetrators.

The Uganda Law Society once again calls upon leaders to always be open to criticism and accountability and to respond to citizens concerns where legitimate as this is one of the tenets of democracy.

Bernard Oundo
President, Uganda Law Society

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Block 228 Plot 492 Bwala, Wanda Off Nairobi - Kasasa Road P.O. Box 434 Kampala, Uganda Tel: +256 414 342 424 / +256 414 341 891
Toll Free Line: 0800000000 and 0800000001 E-mail: info@uls.or.ug Website: www.uls.or.ug



14th June 2024

UGANDA LAW SOCIETY

ABDUCTION OF BUSIKI COUNTY MP PAUL AKAMBA FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE ON BAIL

Upon his release on bail granted by the Anti-Corruption Court earlier this afternoon (the 14th June 2024), Busiki County MP, Paul Akamba, was violently abducted by masked and plain clothed gunmen, bundled in a motor vehicle and driven away to an undisclosed location.

As at the time of issuance of this Statement, the whereabouts of Mr. Akamba are still unknown. This appalling incident marks an alarming return of the dark days of violent interference in the judicial process by armed security operatives in blatant disregard of court orders granting accused persons bail and further in violation of the constitutional rights of the accused persons as well as the independence of the judiciary.

It should be recalled that in November 2005 and March 2007, armed state security agents violently invaded the High Court premises to prevent the lawful release of accused persons and to unlawfully take them into custody notwithstanding the court orders granting them bail. This conduct on both occasions was declared by the Constitutional Court of Uganda to be unlawful and in contravention of the constitutional rights of the accused persons as well as the independence of the judiciary in, amongst other judgments, Constitutional Petition No. 18 of 2005, *Uganda Law Society vs the Attorney General* and Constitutional Petition No. 7 of 2007, *Dr. Kizza Besigye and others vs the Attorney General*.

As with the above cases, Mr. Akamba's violent abduction in violation of the Court order granting him bail is unconstitutional as it violates Mr. Akamba's rights to liberty, to a fair hearing and to the presumption of innocence. It is also an affront to the independence and authority of the judiciary of Uganda which is guaranteed by Article 128 of the Constitution of Uganda.

Mr. Akamba's abduction re-emphasizes Uganda's rapid return to the dark past of arrests and detentions and reflects erosion of progress in the quest for rule of law. This distressing trend must be urgently and jointly addressed by all stakeholders to avoid further entrenchment.

Uganda Law Society (ULS) strongly condemns Mr. Akamba's abduction and the violation of his rights as well as the authority and orders of the Anti-Corruption Court and calls for Mr. Akamba's immediate release in compliance with the Court's bail order.

ULS further calls for an immediate investigation into the abduction as well as the swift prosecution of all officials who will have been evidently implicated in the abduction.

ULS remains steadfast in its commitment to promoting the rule of law, human rights, and good governance in Uganda.

Bernard Oundo
President, Uganda Law Society

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UGANDA LAW SOCIETY

STATEMENT ON "SERVICE AWARD" EMOLUMENTS PAID TO A SECTION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT AND OTHER CONTROVERSIAL PARLIAMENTARY EMOLUMENTS

Press reports have revealed that on 6th May 2022, the Uganda Parliamentary Commission resolved to reward a former Leader of Opposition and backbencher Commissioners with one-time, personal-to-holder "Service Award" emoluments of UGX500m and UGX400m respectively.

General misgivings have been expressed by the public as to the morality and legality of the above "Service Award" emoluments in light of the high levels of misappropriation of public funds, large pay disparities, and conflicts of interest in the determination by Government officials of their emoluments.

In fulfillment of its statutory duty to protect and assist the public and Government in all matters relating to law and legislation in Uganda, the Uganda Law Society deems it imperative to guide on the legality of the above and similar emoluments, gratuities, allowances, or payments to Members of Parliament.

Who determines the emoluments (including gratuities, allowances, pensions, etc.) of MPs?

Article 85(1) of Uganda's 1995 Constitution empowers Parliament to determine the emoluments (including gratuity, pension, and allowances) of Members of Parliament.

However, in accordance with Article 93, the introduction of any new emoluments or upward alteration of existing ones must be by way of a Bill or motion introduced in

Parliament on behalf of the Government (that is to say, the Executive arm) upon which

Parliament becomes empowered to consider the same and determine such emoluments.

Therefore, to the extent that there was no Bill or motion presented on behalf of the

Executive in relation to the impugned "Service Award" emoluments, they constitute an illegal charge on the Consolidated Fund of Uganda and ought to be thoroughly investigated.

The Supreme Court has confirmed the above position in Parliamentary Commission vs Mwesigye Wilson, Constitutional Appeal No. 8 of 2016, wherein it determined that the emoluments of Members of Parliament can only be altered (other than by reduction) upon a Bill or motion introduced on behalf of the Executive. The Court further held that the Parliamentary Commission is bound by this procedure of determination of emoluments of Members of Parliament.

ULS thus urges Parliament to abide by the Constitutional and statutory laws governing the determination of their emoluments (including salaries, gratuities, pension, and other benefits) and to lead by example in demonstrating proper and economical use of public funds.

To remedy the perennial problem of payment disparities and conflicts of interest in the determination of the emoluments of Members of Parliament, ULS urges the creation of an independent Salaries and Remuneration Commission to determine the remuneration of all Government employees and officials including Members of Parliament. This would necessitate constitutional as well as statutory amendments but is necessary to deal with the problem and provide an inclusive and lasting solution.

In the premises, ULS:

1. calls upon the Parliament of Uganda and the Parliamentary Commission to publicly address the above issues and demonstrate commitment to the binding laws governing the remuneration of Members of Parliament; and
2. calls upon the Government and all public servants to uphold the principles of accountability, transparency, and adherence to the rule of law in all matters related to the administration of public funds and the remuneration of public officials to create and maintain public trust and ensure the responsible use of taxpayers' money.

ULS remains committed to the execution of its mandate of enhancing the promotion of the Rule of Law, Human Rights, and Good Governance in Uganda.

Bernard Oundo
President, Uganda Law Society

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UGANDA LAW SOCIETY

UGANDA LAW SOCIETY STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE INTERFERENCE WITH THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY

The Uganda Law Society expresses great concern over a recent communication from the Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Hon. Robert Mao, dated 19th March 2024 and addressed to the Hon. Principal Judge in which the Hon. Minister clearly interferes with due process of law in the administration of justice by the judiciary in High Court Civil Suit No. 22 of 2024, Francis Ishanga and another vs Kellen Keremera and 2 others.

In the impugned letter, the Hon. Minister directs the Acting Inspector General of Police to restore a pre-existing status quo by placing Mr. Francis Ishanga back into possession of a disputed property contrary to a pre-existing court order that has not been varied or set aside. This is unlawful and blatant interference with the independence of the judiciary contrary to Article 128 of the Constitution of Uganda, 1995 which provides that:

- 1) In the exercise of judicial power, the courts shall be independent and shall not be subject to the control or direction of any person or authority.
- 2) No person or authority shall interfere with the courts or judicial officers in the exercise of their judicial functions.
- 3) All organs and agencies of the State shall accord to the courts such assistance as may be required to ensure the effectiveness of the courts.*

It should be remembered that the law of the land is that a court order once issued must be obeyed unless and until it is varied or set aside by the court under the applicable laws of review, revision, appeal, and other similar procedures for correction of possible errors. This fundamental principle applies regardless of whether the order was or was not erroneous.

We, therefore, caution the Police and other government agencies against implementing the unlawful directive of the Hon. Minister and advise the aggrieved parties to instead utilize the existing legal procedures pertaining to review, appeal, and other similar remedies provided for under law and within the purview of the courts.

As constitutionally mandated, the judiciary should operate independently in interpreting and applying the law, devoid of any external influence or coercion. Upholding this independence is crucial for the proper functioning of the legal system and the administration of justice.

All complainants should instead be advised to utilize the already established legal processes for review, revision, appeal, and other forms of correction of erroneous judicial decisions. Recourse to the existing judicial remedies within the legal system ensures due process of law without affecting judicial independence and the doctrine of separation of powers.

Litigants are also reminded that a key part of judicial independence is the entitlement by judicial officers to decide matters in good faith based on their own reasonable interpretation of the law and assessment of the evidence, without any improper influence, even where the resultant decision may be considered to be erroneous by one or more of the litigants, their lawyers, appellate judges, or the general public.

The Uganda Law Society therefore urges the Judiciary to treat with contempt such letters and communications whose sole aim is to interfere with Judicial Independence and continue to make judicial decisions basing solely on the law and evidence presented before them as this is paramount to maintaining public trust in the legal system and upholding justice.

Bernard Oundo
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UGANDA LAW SOCIETY

STATEMENT ON THE THREAT TO ACADEMIC FREEDOM AT INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING IN UGANDA

The Uganda Law Society (ULS) has noted with concern a letter circulating on social media attributed to Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, the Vice Chancellor of Makerere University, addressed to the Acting Principal of the School of Law, Makerere University. The letter calls for an emergency investigation by the School Academic Board of Makerere Law School into the Principles of Constitutional Law II Examination paper L1210, which included questions regarding recent trends and happenings in the three arms of Government.

The courts of law have also pronounced themselves on academic freedom in David Kitara Lagoro v Gulu University (HCMC No. 10 of 2017) where Justice Stephen Mubiru held that:

"Academic freedom is the freedom of teachers and students to teach, study and pursue knowledge without unreasonable interference or restriction from law, institutional regulations, or public pressure... any attempt by government or courts to influence university and public tertiary institution decisions would violate the concept of minimal state intervention and enhance the possibility of breaches of academic freedom."

In fulfillment of its statutory duty to promote human rights, uphold the rule of law, and assist the public and Government in all matters related to law and legislation in Uganda, the ULS deems it imperative to comment and clarify on the propriety of the aforementioned issues.

Academic freedom is a fundamental right recognized by both international treaties and the laws of the Republic of Uganda. Article 29(1)(b) of the Constitution as a subset of the rights to education and freedom of expression states that every person shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and belief which shall include academic freedom in institutions of learning.

The Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR), which interprets the ICESCR, has stated that "the right to education can only be enjoyed if accompanied by the academic freedom of staff and students." (CESCR, General Comment 13, para. 38.)

Academic freedom encompasses a series of other widely accepted human rights, including freedom of opinion, expression, association, and assembly. These civil and political rights are enumerated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and legally binding on states parties to the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

(ICCPR), C.A. Res. 2200A (XXI), 21 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 16) at 52, U.N. Doc. A/6316, 999 U.N.T.S. 171, December 16, 1966.)

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While aware that there are limitations to most human rights and freedoms, ULS is certain that the impugned exam and others like it, involve hypothetical questions within the confines of academic freedom and learning as they aim to encourage students to think beyond theoretical knowledge and apply their acquired understanding to current real-life situations. Indeed a quick glance at other examinations reveals that this is not the first time that such questions or scenarios would be set for a subject of this nature or a law examination. This level of intimidation insinuated by the university authorities is a threat to academic freedom and should have no place in our educational institutions especially in institutions of higher learning.

ULS, therefore, calls upon all individuals and authorities to respect academic freedom and generally the right to freedom of thought, conscience and belief as guaranteed under the Constitution.

We will continue to monitor this matter closely to ensure that the due process of law prevails and rights are protected.

Bernard Oundo
President, Uganda Law Society

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- The Uganda Law Society participated in the organization and celebration of the International Human Rights Day that was celebrated on 10th December 2023.

PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION

UGANDA LAW SOCIETY & 2 ORS VERSUS HOIMA SUGAR LTD & 3 ORS MISC. CAUSE NO 151 OF 2021 HIGH COURT CIVIL DIVISION (The Bugoma Forest Suit)

ULS, and 2 others filed this application under [Under Article 50(1)&(2) of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda; Sections 3, 4, 6(3), and 10 of the Human Rights (Enforcement) Act 2019; Section 3 (3) of the National Environment Act, 2019; Section 33 of the Judicature Act, Cap 13; and Rules 3, 5(1) (a), and (d), 6(1) (d), (2), 7 (1), 8, 9, 10 & 11 (1) (a), and (d), 6(1) (d), (2), 7(1), 8, 9, 10 & 11 (1) (a), (f), & (2) of the Judicature (Fundamental Rights and Other Freedoms (Enforcement Procedure) Rules, 2019 and other enabling laws seeking for an ORDER halting Hoima Sugar Ltd.'s project activities on the project area that threaten the right to a descent, clean and healthy environment, an ORDER halting Hoima Sugar Ltd.'s environmental degradation and/or pollution on the project area in Kyangwali – Kikuube district, an ORDER for appropriate environmental restoration orders and several other declarations.

The matter dismissed on preliminary point of law raised by the respondent and the ruling shall be delivered on notice.

UGANDA LAW SOCIETY AND 12 OTHERS VERSUS ATTORNEY GENERAL (CONST PET NO. 32 OF 2020)

The ULS and other professional bodies including the Uganda Medical Association, Uganda Institute of Professional Engineers, Institution of Surveyors of Uganda, Institute of certified public accountants of Uganda, Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda, Uganda Veterinary Association, Uganda Society of Architects, Association of Graduate Nurses and midwives of Uganda, Insurance Training College, Medical Clinical Officers Professionals Uganda Association, Uganda Dental Association and Uganda Veterinary Paraprofessional Association of Uganda challenging the enactment of the Stamp Duty (amendment Act) 2020 which introduced a stamp duty on the legal and other professionals in the amount of Ug. X. 100.000/= (one hundred thousand shillings) over and above the already existing levies. Conferencing was done on the 4th day of October 2021 and we are awaiting the same to be fixed for hearing. Written submissions were filed and the case has been fixed for hearing.

UGANDA LAW SOCIETY VS AG (CONSTITUTIONAL PETITION NO.1 OF 2019).

This petition sought to challenge the constitutionality of Sections 24 & 25 of the Computer Misuse Act, 2011 and inconsistent with Article 29(1)(a) and 28(12) of the 1995 Constitution. Judgment was granted in favour of ULS on the grounds that freedom of expression is a constitutional right.

UGANDA LAW SOCIETY VS AG (COA-00-CV-CPC-0053-2012)

This petition seeks for a declaration that unwarranted attacks on the Judges and Justices of the courts of judicature contravene Article 144(2), (3), (4) and (7) of the constitution. The petition was granted in favour of ULS.

The Rule of Law Clubs Project

The Rule of Law Department currently has 40 Rule of Law clubs established in Secondary schools and 14 established in Universities. During the review period, the Department established a Rule of Law Club in King Ceasor University

ULS in conjunction with the Cavendish Rule of Law club successfully organized a speaker series under the theme "Impact of Technology and AI on Legal Practice in Uganda," featured distinguished speakers, namely Ms. Ivy N. Mapfaira from the Centre for Dispute Resolution (CTDR) and Mr. Raymond Amumpaire from the Centre for Artificial Intelligence Ethics and Governance in Africa (CAIEGA).

The Rule of Law Department in conjunction with Penal Reform International supported the UIIU 2nd Constitutional Law Moot Court Competition under the theme 'Contending Corruption for the Utmost Attainable Standard of Health'. The moot competition was adjudicated by 3 judges who are advocates of the High Court and members of Uganda Law Society. The students were able to improve their skills in legal research and trial advocacy, and they also got a chance to network with lawyers who shared tips and guidance on how to become good and successful lawyers.

On March 8, 2024, the Uganda Law Society Rule of Law Department organized a panel discussion for Gayaza High School through the Rule of Law Club, focusing on the theme; Rights of Women, and the Challenges faced by Women in the 21st Century.

Rule of Law Week 13th to 17th November 2023

During the review period, the Uganda Law Society through the Rule of Law Department organized several activities, the Annual Rule of Law Week. These activities included the following;

- Held radio talk shows in the four regions of the country and radios including; CBS- Kampala, Voice of Teso- Soroti,
- Held TV talk shows on NBS TV, NTV, Family TV and BABA TV
- ULS Legal Aid clinics carried out community and prison outreaches in several areas. Prison outreaches were held at Soroti government prison, Luzira prison (Murchison bay) Masindi government prison, Butuntumula Government Prison Kitalya prison, Masindi government prison, Katojo prison, Jinja remand prison, Gulu main prison, among others
- The Rule of Law Clubs held community sensitizations on human rights and rule of law in several areas; Bishop Stuart University held a community sensitization Kacence in Mbarara, Makerere University held the sensitization in Kikoni, and Cavendish University in Kamwokya.
- Bishop Stuart University conducted a debate on the Rule of Law

These activities were crowned off by the Rule of Law Symposium held on 17th November 2023.



Left: A team from the ULS Luwero Legal Aid Clinic visit Butuntumula Government Prison situate in Luwero District. Right: ULS Kabale Legal Aid Clinic conducting sensitization at Kisoro Government Prison



ULS staff from the legal aid clinics appearing on radio talk-shows during the Rule of Law Week



Sensitization at Kamwokya Markert led by the Cavendish University Rule of Law Club

Annual Rule of Law Symposium

ULS through its Rule of Law Department held the Rule of Law Symposium under the theme “Advancing the Fight for Human Rights; The critical Security Sector Agencies”. The event was attended by representatives from; Ministry of Justice, UPDF, Uganda Police, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), German Embassy, American Embassy, Austrian Development Cooperation Agency, Governance Security Programme (formerly JLOS), Justice Centers, Rule of Law clubs, and members from the public. The hybrid event was attended by over 70 participants physically and over 600 participants online.

Discussions revolved around the role of the security agencies in promoting and respecting human rights, civilian oversight mechanisms and accountability, the importance of human rights compliance in the use of force, transparency, and information sharing within the security sector. Moreover, emphasis was placed on police reforms geared towards community policing, judicial oversight concerning military justice, and seeking justice for victims of security sector abuses. Collaboration between civil society, communities, and the security sector was also a crucial focal point.



Hon. Norbert Mao, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and Col. Deo Akiiki of UPDF giving remarks at the Symposium

ULS Monthly Newsletter

The Monthly Newsletter is a monthly online publication that addresses issues that affect our members. The objective of this newsletter is to educate and inform the members and stakeholders. It is through this issue that the Uganda Law Society council and secretariat share what has transpired in the legal space locally and internationally while highlighting what the different stakeholders have been able to achieve and how the members can grow their professionalism. It also addresses emerging trends and areas that are of interest to our members. This newsletter is accessed by over 6,000 members across the country, our stakeholders include development partners, the judiciary, and government partners that work directly with the society and the public.

UGANDA LAW SOCIETY AND 12 OTHERS VERSUS ATTORNEY GENERAL (CONST PET NO. 32 OF 2020)

The ULS and other professional bodies including the Uganda Medical Association, Uganda Institute of Professional Engineers, Institution of Surveyors of Uganda, Institute of certified public accountants of Uganda, Pharmaceutical Society of Uganda, Uganda Veterinary Association, Uganda Society of Architects, Association of Graduate Nurses and midwives of Uganda, Insurance Training College, Medical Clinical Officers Professionals Uganda Association, Uganda Dental Association and Uganda Veterinary Paraprofessional Association of Uganda challenging the enactment of the Stamp Duty (amendment Act) 2020 which introduced a stamp duty on the legal and other professionals in the amount of Ug. X. 100.000/= (one hundred thousand shillings) over and above the already existing levies. Conferencing was done on the 4th day of October 2021 and we are awaiting the same to be fixed for hearing.

Judgment was delivered on 13th February 2024 in favour of the petitioners.

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This petition seeks for a declaration that unwarranted attacks on the Judges and Justices of the courts of judicature contravene Article 144(2), (3), (4) and (7) of the constitution. The petition was granted in favour of ULS.

ARAALI KAGORO MANDELA & OTHERS Vs UGANDA LAW SOCIETY (HC MC NO. 173 OF 2020)

The ULS Executive Council resolved to hold a virtual/e-AGM and accordingly applied to this honorable court for leave to conduct a virtual AGM vide Misc. cause No.143 of 2020, however while the same was pending hearing the applicants' filed the above application before this honorable court challenging the Respondent's decision to conduct a virtual AGM as well as exclude unpaid members from taking part in the e-AGM and subsequent elections of the council members among others. Judgment was read in ULS's favor and application dismissed without costs.

Judgment granted in favour of ULS.

UGANDA LAW SOCIETY & 2 ORS VERSUS HOIMA SUGAR LTD & 3 ORS MISC. CAUSE NO 151 OF 2021 HIGH COURT CIVIL DIVISION (The Bugoma Forest Suit)

ULS, and 2 others filed this application under [Under Article 50(1)&(2) of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda; Sections 3, 4, 6(3), and 10 of the Human Rights (Enforcement) Act 2019; Section 3 (3) of the National Environment Act, 2019; Section 33 of the Judicature Act, Cap 13; and Rules 3, 5(1) (a), and (d), 6(1) (d), (2), 7 (1), 8, 9, 10 & 11 (1) (a), and (d), 6(1) (d), (2), 7(1), 8, 9, 10 & 11 (1) (a), (f), & (2) of the Judicature (Fundamental Rights and Other Freedoms (Enforcement Procedure) Rules, 2019 and other enabling laws seeking for an ORDER halting Hoima Sugar Ltd.'s

project activities on the project area that threaten the right to a descent, clean and healthy environment, an ORDER halting Hoima Sugar Ltd.'s environmental degradation and/or pollution on the project area in Kyangwali – Kikuube district, an ORDER for appropriate environmental restoration orders and several other declarations.

The matter dismissed on preliminary point of law raised by the respondent and the ruling shall be delivered on notice.

UGANDA LAW SOCIETY Vs ATTORNEY GENERAL (COA-00-CV-CPC-0009-2010)

This Petition sought to challenge the takeover by the DPP and subsequent dismissal of Cr. case 344/07 (Uganda Vs Ivan Nkwasiabwe & Sam Edotu) which was commenced by private prosecution by the petitioner as inconsistent and in contravention with Articles 20, 45, 120 (3) (a) of the 1995 Constitution. The case is pending a hearing in the constitutional court.

UGANDA LAW SOCIETY VERSUS KCCA AND ATTORNEY GENERAL (MISC. CAUSE NO. 243 OF 2017)

The ULS filed this application for Judicial Review seeking orders for certiorari and prohibition to quash and restrain items 17(in part A) and items 25 (in part C) of the Trade (Licensing) (Amendment of schedule) Instrument No. 2 of 2017 respectively which purported to require law firms/ advocates who are already licensed annually to carry out their trade by the advocates Act (Cap 267) through the issuance of a practicing certificate and a certificate of approval of chambers and payment of dues in respect of both to now also seek a further "license to trade" from the town or municipal council and if granted pay further "licensing dues" in respect thereof.

The application was heard by Justice Musa Ssekaana who allowed the application with no orders as to costs thereby issuing orders of certiorari and prohibition as prayed for by the applicant (ULS).

KEY PUBLICATIONS DURING THE REVIEW PERIOD

- 1.The ULS Rule of Law Report July-September, 2023
 - 2.The ULS Rule of Law Quarterly Report January- March 2024
 - 3.The ULS Rule of Law Quarterly Report April- June 2024
- The ULS Law Journal

ULS IN THE PRESS





"Mr. Akamba's abduction re-emphasizes Uganda's rapid return to the dark past of arrests and detentions and reflects the erosion of progress in the quest for rule of law."

Bernard Oundo
President,
Uganda Law Society.



Uganda Law Society injects Shs400m into members' healthcare fund

Friday, July 12, 2024



"We believe that the need for verification of documents does not have a basis in court and neither is it backed by bail guidelines."

Bernard Oundo
President,
Uganda Law Society.



Law society criticizes law delays in human rights complaints, calls for UHRC's ind...



Global electricity demand set to

Home / NEWS / Human rights and academic freedom under threat in Uganda, report finds

Human rights and academic freedom under threat in Uganda, report finds

The Independent July 20, 2024 NEWS



GUEST:



BERNARD OUNDO
President, ULS

TOPIC:

Can the match to Parliament cause reform in Uganda's Corruption problem?

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Law society speaks out against appointment of 'Acting Judges'

The Independent September 22, 2023 NEWS



The Observer

LOG IN

With acting judges, Uganda may end up with acting judiciary - Uganda Law Society

September 22, 2023 Written by URN



Insider

Uganda Law Society Launches the Rule of Law Report, Police Judiciary On The Spot

BY OUR REPORTER – NOVEMBER 23, 2023 –
UPDATED: NOVEMBER 23, 2023 NO COMMENTS
6 MINS READ





REPORTS FROM THE ULS COMMITTEES

The Council implements its duties with the assistance of a number of Committees. These Committees are appointed by the Council in accordance with Section 11 of the Uganda Law Society Act, Cap 276. The ULS Council commissioned the ULS Clusters and Committees which are practice specialty groups whose objective is to enrich members' careers, provide opportunities for leadership, authorship and speaking engagements, and promote member involvement in diversity, advocacy and public service initiatives.

REPORTS FROM THE ULS COMMITTEES

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

The Research and Publications Committee of the ULS was composed in January 2023 as follows: Dr. Rose Nakayi (Chairperson), Dr. Tonny R. Kirabiraba (Deputy Chairperson) and the members are: Ms. Mirembe Linda, Mr. Sam Mukwatiriri, Mr. Oscar M. Nkengi, Mr. Karoli Ssemwogerere, Mr. Collins A. Kyeyune, Mr. Moses Sserwanga, Mr. Amana Timothy, Mr. Isaac Atukunda, Ms. Martha Nuunu.

The Committee's Terms of Reference (ToRs) include:

- (i) To advise on and ensure the establishment and maintenance of the Uganda Law Society website;
- (ii) To prepare and ensure the publication and distribution of the Uganda Law Society Annual Reports and monthly bulletins;
- (iii) To ensure the preparation, publishing and marketing of the Uganda Law Society Law Reports on an Annual basis;
- (iv) Undertake periodic research, and advise on the policy briefs generated by the Uganda Law Society on topical rule of law and administration of Justice issues in Uganda, etc.

The Committee also offers support to the Secretariat (and other ULS Committees) on aspects of their mandate with a research and dissemination component.

During the review period, the Committee put together a rule of law series webinar on succession law where members discussed new developments in succession law and the new precedents set in family law.

The Committee led by the Chairperson constituted an editorial committee to oversee the compilation and publication of the ULS Journal Volume 2. The journal was published in September 2024 featuring 10 articles from lawyers on different fields of law including; technology, construction law, intellectual property law, criminal law, oil and gas, among others.

IN-HOUSE COUNSEL COMMITTEE

The In-House Lawyers (IHL) Committee of the Uganda Law Society (ULS) was formed to provide a forum for the ULS IHL to share best practices, discuss legal issues and risks, and provide recommendations to the Council of the Uganda Law Society.

Membership:

The Committee is composed of in-House Lawyers from various organisations, as is designated by the Council. The current membership is as follows; Anne Abeja (Chairperson), Deborah Kituyi (Vice Chairperson), Muhammed K. Ssenoga (Vice Chairperson), Emmanuel A.A Partaker (Secretary), Annabel Mwesigye, Ritah Asimwe, Margrate Tushemereire, Judith Ayebare, Obadia Ismail, Jennipher Arinda Karekaho, Esther Chebijira, Joana Nakandha, Mary Ngonzi, Irene Nuwabine, Tony Kalungi, Yvonne Nakimuli, Teddy Namasinga Lubowa, Ann Simiyu Wokuri, Francesca N. Kakooza, Doreen Nyangoma Kagambe, Hilda Kamugisha, Robert Kandole, Ibrahi Mwanje, Ivan Eguman, Edna Kasozi, Irene Atukunda, Sharifah Nalweyiso, Linda Atuhaire, Hannington Kyogola, Najib Kasole, Diana Prida Praff and Cynthia Ampairwe.

Roles and responsibilities:

The Committee was charged with the following roles and responsibilities:

- 1.Consolidating a list of all Boards that require ULS Representatives.
- 2.Compiling a directory of who, among the Bar membership, serves as IHL.
- 3.Representing and promoting the interests of IHL at national and international levels.
- 4.Developing CLE opportunities that focus on issues of concern to in-house practitioners and provide easily accessible practical advice tailored to in-house advocates.
- 5.Sourcing and advocating for training opportunities for IHL.
- 6.Strengthening relationships between private practice advocates and IHL as well as other strategic partners locally and internationally.
- 7.Preparing, perusing, and contributing to legislation affecting IHL both at national and international levels.
- 8.Ensuring that the views of IHL influence policy and work of the society.
- 9.Providing articles, publications and content for the ULS Newsletter and Lawyers' Voice that would be of relevance to IHL.
- 10.Sponsoring networking opportunities and practice resources for this group.
- 11.Any other duties as may be assigned by the Council.

YOUNG LAWYERS COMMITTEE

The Young Lawyers' Committee is dedicated to empowering and nurturing the next generation of legal professionals and providing a platform for young lawyers to learn, grow and excel in their legal careers. Through various initiatives and activities, the Young Lawyers' Committee aims to bridge the gap between aspiring legal professionals and seasoned experts in the field.

The Committee organized and held the 5th annual young lawyers symposium on 27th and 28th May 2024 under the theme "Resilient Minds, Innovative Practice". The Symposium highlighted the following topics;

- 1."The Corporate Whisperer: Mastering Key Skills for Commercial and In-House Practice"
- 2.The Young Lawyer's Dilemma: A candid conversation between Young and Senior Members."
- 3."Reflections so far: Peer Mentorship"
- 4."Expanding Horizons: Lawyers in Government and Civil Society"
- 5."The Long Mile: Running a Sustainable Legal Practice"
- 6."Advocacy and Excellence in Court: A Judge's Perspective"

The key note speakers included Hon. Justice Geoffrey Kiryabwire and James Mukasa Ssebugenyi SC. Some key panelists included; Ms. Fiona Nalwanga Magona – Partner at MMAKS Advocates, Angelina Namakula Ofwono- Chief Legal Officer and Company Secretary at DFCU Bank, Mr. Dennis Kakonge- Legal and Regulatory Director at Airtel, Elison Karuhanga- Partner at KAA, Mr. Isaac Mpanga, Senior Legal Officer at Uganda Development Bank, Mr. John Musiime, Partner at Dentons, Mr. Maxim Mutabingwa of Mutabingwa & Co. Advocates, Ms. Deepa Verma, a Partner at Verma & Partners, Ms. Roy Nambogo, Founding Partner of Nambogo & Co. Advocates, among others.

The various panelists shared their experiences in their respective fields. Key pointers that cut across the discussions were; ethical conduct and professionalism, embracing alternative dispute resolution (ADR), innovativeness, embracing emerging trends, honesty and integrity, strategic partnerships, among others.



Conclusion:

The Young Lawyers Committee will continue to provide opportunities for our members to learn from experienced legal practitioners and to build lasting relationships within the legal community. We aspire to expand our initiatives and further support the development of the next generation of legal professionals.

FEMALE LAWYERS COMMITTEE

The Female Lawyers Committee is committed to advancing the role of women in the legal profession, promoting gender equality, and creating a supportive network for female lawyers. Our goal is to empower and inspire female legal professionals to reach their full potential and contribute meaningfully to the legal community.

Visit to Wakisa Ministries Pregnancy Care Centre

In commemoration of the Women’s month of March, the ULS Female Lawyers Committee organized an outreach to Wakisa Ministries Pregnancy Care Centre, a pregnancy care home in Wakiso that offers support to teenage mothers. Established in 2005, the Wakisa Ministries aims at promoting the dignity of young girls with crisis pregnancy while addressing their emotional, physical and spiritual wellbeing through providing temporary shelter, counselling and care services, and equipping them with life and vocational skills.

The ULS Female Lawyers Committee led by the ULS President, Bernard Oundo and the Committee Vice President, Anita Nantale visited the ministry on 15th March 2024 with donations ranging from baby clothing, diapers, groceries, food stuffs and other items to give support to the young mothers. During the visit, the ULS pledged to provide pro bono services to the center.



Women in Law Conference and Awards

On 20th October 2023, the Women Lawyers' Committee organized the Women in Law Conference and Awards under the theme: "Shattering Glass Ceilings to Redefine Power and Inspire the Future of the Law". The Chief Guest, Dr. Paulina Chiwangu, the Country Representative UN Women Uganda gave a keynote address commending the celebration of powerful women in law who have not only broken through barriers but have also paved away for the future where gender is no longer a limitation but a source of strength. She also recognized ULS for being a key partner of UN Women is fostering access to justice for women and girls through the legal aid project in various upcountry districts. The Conference also comprised of panel discussions reflecting on women's progress in law and gender equality with key women speakers such as Hon. Dr. Miria Matembe and Ruth Sebatindira SC.



ULS BENEVOLENT FUND COMMITTEE

On 11th July 2024, Uganda Law Society launched the ULS Healthcare and Benevolent Fund. An inaugural Board was appointed to manage the Fund. The Board is chaired by Ms. Lydia Ochieng Obbo and other Board members include Mr. Bernard Oundo SC, Mr. Munaabi Philip, Ms. Barbra Kitui, Dr. Elizabeth Ekochu Asege, Mr. Lwetabe Allan and Ms. Mary Namale. They were sworn in by HW Ayebare Tumwebaze Ag. Registrar/Private Legal Secretary to the Chief Justice. The team of Board members is composed of lawyers, economists, a medical doctor, accountants, an insurance actuary, and other competencies all directed to ensuring efficiency and strategic direction of the Fund.

Contributions for the Fund began in January 2024, with members contributing UGX 75,000 and the Society contributing UGX 25,000 for each member. With these collections, the President presented a cheque of UGX 402,300,000/= (Uganda Shillings Four Hundred Two Million Three Hundred Thousand) for the new Board to commence their work.

HEALTH AND BENEVOLENT FUND BOARD COMPOSITION



Lydia Ochieng-Obbo
Board Chairperson



Alan N. Lwetabe
Board Member



Namale Mary
Board Member



Phillip Munaabi
Board Member



Bernard Oundo
ULS Representative



Dr. Elizabeth Ekochu
Board Member



Barbara Kitui
Board Member

THE TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Training and Professional Development Committee works closely with the Professional Development and Litigation program to enhance the knowledge and skills of the ULS membership. The Committee's mission is to organize continuous legal education programs that empower lawyers to stay at the forefront of the ever-evolving legal landscape. The Committee chairperson is Hope Atuhairwe. The Vice-Chairpersons are Patrick Turinawe and Bridget Nambooze.

Over the past year, the Committee has been working towards providing high-quality continuous legal education opportunities to our members. These programs have covered a wide range of legal topics and have featured expert speakers and engaging workshops. We recognize the importance of staying current in the legal field, and our initiatives have been designed to ensure that our members have access to the latest legal developments and best practices.

These trainings not only offer a platform for career growth but are also accredited with CLE points which benefit the members with compliance and fulfillment of requirements for renewal of practicing certificates.

REPORTS FROM THE ULS REPRESENTATIVES TO STATUTORY & OTHER BODIES

REPORT OF THE ULS REPRESENTATIVE TO MILD MAY UGANDA - MR. JOHN MUGALULA

In light of the AGM held on the 19th day of January 2023, please find here below the report on some of the key highlights for the year 2023 at Mildmay. The Executive Director Dr. Barbara Mukasa left Mildmay in January 2024 and was replaced by Dr. Yvonne Karamagi. The outgoing Executive Director served 8 years in that role and she led the team to transform Mildmay Uganda strategic Information Department into Mildmay Uganda Centre for Research and Strategic Information; distinct from the hospital among others.

a) Reporting Period

This report covers some of the activities of the years 2023 and 2024.

b) Number of Meetings Held

Mildmay Uganda held its AGM on Friday 19th of January 2024 which I duly attended as representative of Uganda Law Society. This meeting was however held virtually due to the then ongoing Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) summit which had caused several traffic diversions and roadblocks.

c) Key Highlights

The minutes of the previous AGM held on the 27th day of January 2023 were reviewed and adopted.

The AGM was informed of the appointment of two New Board of Directors members inter alia: Rev. Prof John Mulindwa Kitayimbwa who is the Deputy Vice Chancellor in charge of Academic Affairs at Uganda Christian University and Mr. Joseph Mutasaaga who is currently the Head Business Planning at National Drug Authority –Uganda. The appointment was seconded by the AGM.

The minutes of the AGM held on 27th January 2023 were reviewed and adopted.

The Executive Director Dr Barbara Mukasa gave the Mildmay Uganda Programme Update Report.

The audited financial statements for the year 2022/2023 were presented and adopted.

d) Challenges faced

I did not encounter any challenges during this period.

e) Recommendation

I shall keep you informed of any further developments about the areas of interest regarding Mildmay Uganda and please do not hesitate to contact me in case of any further clarifications.

It is always a pleasure representing Uganda Law Society to this noble and altruistic organization.

ULS REPRESENTATIVE TO THE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT AND DISPOSAL OF PUBLIC ASSETS AUTHORITY (PPDA) – MS. RITA NAMAKIKA NANGONO

- **General Performance** - Overall, 22% of the outcome targets were achieved, however poor performance was still observed on the lower absorption rates of the procurement budget and lengthy procurement processes depicted by longer average time to complete the procurement process.

- **Procurement Audits** - In accordance with Section 7 (j) (i) of the PPDA Act, the Authority is mandated to conduct procurement and disposal audits in government institutions. In fulfilment of the above mandate, the Authority completed 93 Performance Audits, 40 Contract Audits, 63 Compliance Inspections and 21 Bid Preparatory Audits. The audit findings also revealed that only 63% of contracts by value were completed within the contractual timelines implying that 37% of the contracts by value were not completed within the contractual period. Only 49% of the procurements were subjected to open competition and payment was made on time in 37% of the contracts.
- **Investigations** - The Authority conducted 70 investigations. The average investigation lead time was 35 working days. The lead time was higher than the lead time provided in the PPDA Investigations Manual due to delays in submission of procurement and disposal action files, delays in holding interviews which limits the rights granted under the principle of natural justice and lack of adequate funds to undertake physical verification where a requirement.
- **Accreditations** - The Authority handled 22 applications for accreditation of alternative procurement procedures from various entities. Of these, 15 were granted, three were rejected and four were still under consideration.
- **Deviations** - the Authority received and granted 13 requests for deviations.
- **Electronic Government Procurement System** - The Authority continued to implement the E-GP to provide a platform for: increased transparency in procurement procedures and practices; improved efficiency in procurement by minimizing the procurement cycle time, maximizing value for money and fostering accountability; improved confidentiality, integrity and authenticity of transactions between the PDEs and the suppliers.
- **Suspension of Providers** - The Authority received 76 recommendations to suspend the providers in the financial year. The Authority found merit in 12 recommendations and suspended the providers.
- **Study on Lead Times and Causes of Delays in the Procurement Processes by High Spend Entities-** Public procurement represents a significant proportion (60%) of the budget and this therefore calls for efficiency in the public procurement processes to achieve value for money. The efficiency of any procurement process is measured by the procurement lead time, the time taken at the different stages of the procurement processes. Shorter lead times in the public procurement cycle lead to an improved budget absorption rate, timely service delivery and increased trust in public institutions while longer lead times lead to delay in project completion, price escalation due to contract variations and discourages bidders from participating in public procurement, hence lower competition. Findings on Causes of Delays included the following:
 1. Delays in pre-initiation activities: delayed submission and approval of user department work plans, budgets and consolidated procurement plans, delayed initiation of procurements.
 2. Laxity by the user departments and the lack of capacity to develop the right specifications for the procurement.
 3. Delays in confirmation of funding by the Accounting Officers. As a result of tight schedules and not delegating the procurements
 4. Delayed submission to the Contracts Committee for approval by PDU. As a result of staffing gaps back-and-forth processes.

Main Challenges Encountered

1. System Challenges

a) Weak Contract Management: Though big strides have been made in the post contracting stage, many procurements are mismanaged at the contract management stage where contract managers do not diligently carry out their duties and leave government projects at the mercy of the profit motivated contractors who end up doing substandard work. The Authority recommends that the Accounting Officers should prevail over User Departments to appoint contract supervisors/managers that should report any deviations from the terms and conditions of the signed contracts.

b) Corruption and Unethical Practices: Public procurement is prone to corruption, particularly due to the high value transactions, complexity and close interaction between the public and private sector through the bidding processes. Evaluation of Bids persists to be perceived as the stage most susceptible to corruption. Corruption in procurement erodes bidder confidence and results into higher bid prices that ultimately increases the cost of delivering services to citizens. While PPDA cannot alone totally remove corruption it is incumbent upon PPDA to ensure that the system promotes transparency, efficiency, economy, fairness, and accountability where corrupt activities will be more difficult to conceal and will be easier to punish administratively or criminally. This requires strong partnerships with other oversight and enforcement agencies as well as the civil society.

c) Delays in Evaluation of bids especially for High Value Contracts: There still exist challenges in the evaluation of procurements which stem from unethical conduct where evaluators disclose information unofficially which results into lengthy appeals that sometimes end up in courts of law. This unnecessarily lengthens the procurement process.

d) Poor Planning in Procurements: Entities are continuously failing to plan and cost procurements especially the big and complex projects and as a result they end up over or undervaluing procurements. This is caused by failure of Entities to clearly scope the proposed projects.

e) Manual Procurement System: As a regulator, the Authority is constrained by the inaccurate data and reports submitted by Entities due to the manual system. This has been worsened by failure to have easy access to the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS) real time to verify accuracy of the data submitted by the Entities. The manual procurement process is further more prone to manipulation/bid tampering and inefficiencies in the process.

2. Institutional Challenge

a) Limited Funding for Audit Coverage: Due to funding constraints, the Authority is notable to audit all the Entities under its jurisdiction and currently conducts audits on a sample and risk basis. The current audit coverage is only 49% and this position is continuously being worsened by the ever increasing number of both Central and Local Government Entities.

b) Standard Bidding Documents (SBDs): The process of reviewing the SBDs has been prolonged by the delay in the reviewing the Regulations. However the process of reviewing the regulations was completed and the review of SBDs will soon start.

c) Delay in Investigations: This is caused by increasing number of complaints from anonymous complainants who cannot be contacted to substantiate the complaints and poor record keeping by entities

REPORT OF THE ULS REPRESENTATIVE TO JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION – MS. NORAH MATOVU

The Judicial Service Commission (the Commission) is established under Article 146 of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

·Recruitment of Judicial officers and Administrative Cadre of Judiciary Service

The commission recruited judicial officers between 2023 and 2024 totaling to 142. The recruitment of administrative and other staff of the Judiciary Service during the FY 2023/2024 totaled up to 400. The sub-committee of the Search and Recruitment Committee handles the shortlisting and presents a report to the Committee which then organizes the schedule for the recruitment that is discussed and agreed upon by the full Commission before interviews are conducted.

·Disciplinary cases handled by the Commission in FY 2023/2024

The Commission cleared 110 complaints during the FY 2023/2024 as indicated below.

- a) Two judicial officers were suspended (one for a period of 3 years and the other for 6 months).
- b) Two judicial officers were found culpable and were required to compensate the complainants and another was reprimanded.
- c) One judicial officer was retired in public interest.
- d) One hundred and seven complaints (107) were processed and the files finally closed as no disciplinary issue was identified.
- e) One Judicial Officer who was dismissed in the previous FY 2022/2023 was reinstated after a review and reversal of the decision of the Commission.

·Emerging issues from the LEPAR Directorate's activities:

(i)Prison inmates' sensitization

Long stay on remand both during trial and before committal. Some inmates reported being on remand for as long as 5 years awaiting committal to the High Court. Long adjournment of cases especially on petty offences lead to delays on remand. There are long delays in starting of the hearing of both capital and non- capital offences mainly because many people are incarcerated before investigations are completed.

Congestion in prisons is still a major challenge which raises various human rights concerns that require urgent attention. There was an issue raised on bail for people who are not resident in areas where they have been charged.

(ii)Issues raised through the Court users' sensitization sessions, radio talk shows and district sensitization campaigns

-More courts have been established right up to constituency level. However, the increase in the number of state attorneys to prosecute the cases in a timely manner is still not properly aligned with need.

-Complaints of corruption by the Police are common and these sometimes involve Counsel representing the parties.

-The administration of estates of deceased person is increasingly proving to be a source of many cases for litigation. In the process properties are held in abeyance for a long time as parties go through the litigation processes.

(iii) Limited Awareness about the services of Legal Aid providers

Many individuals need legal aid services to assist them with navigating the court processes. In spite of the need, the majority do not know who offers legal aid and how to get the assistance. There is a need to raise awareness about legally recognized institutions providing legal aid so that the public can easily access these services especially those offered by Uganda Law Society.

In addition, given the requirement for ULS members to render pro bono services, it would be great to provide information to the Commission on the contact details of law firms/ service centers in different parts of the country where citizens can access quality services.

(i) Reduction of Public Trust in the Legal Profession

Many court users expressed frustration about the untruthfulness of legal practitioners. It was a serious concern that about 70% of those who participated in different interactive sessions over the year expressed concern that the quality of legal services rendered by Advocates is wanting. This expression of frustration by the people from whom judicial power is derived is a major concern for the Commission. The Uganda Law Society needs to address it head on and the bad apples are spoiling the image of the legal profession.

(ii) Corruption in the Judiciary

It has been stated in almost all the meetings with court users, suspects in prisons, and court staff that some members of ULS have been accomplices in corrupt practices that result in bottlenecks in the justice delivery system. This is a matter the Leadership of the Uganda Law Society has to tackle. ULS should advocate for strengthening the Law Council to reign in errant advocates. Complaints against errant advocates take so long to be resolved. As the size of the membership of the Uganda Law Society continues to grow there has to be an internal mechanism for dealing with ethical issues and indiscipline.

ULS DEPARTED MEMBERS



2024

Late Prof. Dr. Edward Khiddu Makubuya SC
Late Deo Rubamba Nkunzingoma SC
Late Moses Mutebi
Late Murhon Hilda Viola
Late Okiot Raphael
Late Ntende Samuel Fredrick
Late Waiswa Ramadhan
Late Lubega Brian
Late Nalwoga Racheal
Late Martin Ogellan Mungao
Late Kakuru Francis Mpairwe
Late Samuel Wegoye
Late Abigaba David
Late Fred Mugisha

2023

Late Retired Justice Elizabeth Ibanda Nahamya
Late Anthony Yeboah Wameli
Late Innocent Habumugisha
Late Okanyum Bernard Anthony
Late Lt. Richard Baluku
Late Hon. Justice Kenneth Kakuru
Late Retired Justice Wilson Musene
Late Jeff Bogere Mukhwana
Late Prof. John Ntambirweki
Late Winfred Kunihira
Late Robert Akinya Opiya Kiiza
Late Kenneth Mutungi
Late Hillary Katembeko
Late Hon. Lady Justice Stella Arach- Amoko
Late Julia Namusabi
Late H/W Margaret Aanyu
Late Gloria Kampiire Basaza
Late John Chris Bakiza
Late Titus Kiyemba
Late Alex Ayebazibwe Makorogo

May their souls continue to Rest in Peace

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, as we look back on the years 2023–2024, these milestones are all a result of the collective efforts of our dedicated members, the invaluable support of our development partners, and the hard work of our committed staff.

The "Members First" agenda has guided our actions and has brought about positive change. Our journey is far from over. As we move forward, we remain committed to our vision, constantly striving for excellence in all that we do. We will continue to innovate, adapt to the changing times, and meet the evolving needs of our members and the public at large.

As we look ahead, we are inspired by the progress made and the positive impact had on our society. We reaffirm our commitment to access to justice, the rule of law, and good governance. Together, we will continue to shape the legal landscape of Uganda and contribute to a more just and equitable society.





LEGAL AID PROJECT REPORT 2024



OUR DONORS



NORWEGIAN
REFUGEE COUNCIL



FOREWORD BY VICE PRESIDENT OF ULS



Greetings dear distinguished members and partners of the Uganda Law Society. Am happy to write the foreword to this LAP Report, a report that gives an account of the many great milestones that our team of lawyers and other staff have achieved in the period starting January 2023 and ending June 2024.

Ensuring access to Justice for the indigent and marginalised groups is one of the core mandates of Uganda Law Society and at the forefront of executing this mandate is Legal Aid Project of Uganda Law Society, currently registered as an NGO operating 23 Legal Aid Clinics across the country, and ensuring that the people, whose rights would have otherwise been trampled upon.

During my visits to these clinics to monitor and evaluate our progress and our work, I was alarmed at the extent of indigency and marginalisation of people, especially elderly, women, physically challenged and children. The Access to justice ground is not levelled for them as an enabler to guard their rights. But I was, with even greater magnitude, amazed at the work and efforts by our teams to create a fighting chance for these people.

Without wasting another breath, I wish to express and indicate my deepest and heartfelt gratitude to our development partners. Thank you International Development Law Organisation, UN Women, International Rescue Committee, Danish Refugee Council, Norwegian Refugee Council, ALIGHT-Uganda, Royal Embassy of Netherlands, Embassy of Ireland in Uganda, Governance and Security Programme - Access to Justice Sub-Programme, and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, without forgetting our equally important partners, you the members of Uganda Law Society.

In the ever-dwindling donor space, you have stood by us and steadfast, because you have kept your eyes on the values that we share, and on the people for whom we must stand and defend. Your efforts, finances and support are a remarkable footprint in human history.

In this report, you can tell that try as we have, we still have a long way to go, but we shall not tire, because of the people that look up to us but also those that encourage and support us. It also shows that there is an immense possibility to uplift and improve human life by securing basic rights and aiding a smooth road to access to justice. It will show you the statistics of the beneficiaries, thereby giving you insights into what we can collectively achieve.

It has been, therefore, a great honour to serve Uganda Law Society as the Vice President and equally powerful to serve as Board Chair of Legal Aid of Uganda Law Society.

I want to end by thanking President Bernard Oundo and the entire Council of Uganda Law Society. I congratulate you President and team for the achievements in this report that we achieved under and because of your leadership. Equally so, thank the Head LAP/Pro Bono Christine Awori and your team, together with our foot soldiers in the 23 clinics for the job well done. Thank you all for the support over the years.

God Bless you.

Martin Asingwire Baryaruha
Vice President

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Legal Aid Project of Uganda Law Society (LAP-ULS) continued in its tireless role of enhancing access to justice for the indigent, vulnerable and marginalized people in communities through its 23 legal aid clinics across the country with support from a range of development partners. These partners included; UN Women, International Development Law Organization (IDLO), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Governance and Security Programme - Access to Justice Sub-Programme (formerly JLOS), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), ALIGHT-Uganda, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), the Royal Embassy of Netherlands, the Embassy of Ireland in Uganda and the Royal Danish Embassy.

In 2023, a total of 82,099 (54557M, 27542F) individuals benefited from the project's services. Of these, 46,187 (30129M, 16058F) individuals directly benefited from the services of; free legal representation, legal advice, and ADR/mediation, while 35,912 (24428M, 11484F) indirectly benefited through legal and human rights awareness. Of the clients who received direct legal assistance, 3,144 people had their legal matters resolved (1827 through ADR/mediation and 1,317 in courts), 257 were released on bail, 87 matters remained pending mediation, 1,045 cases remained pending in Court while 9,929 people were given legal advice and counseling.

Worth noting, the LAP-ULS with funding from ALIGHT-Uganda, IRC, NRC and DRC, implemented activities to facilitate access to justice for refugees and host communities in Arua Urban, Nakivale, Kyangwali, Rwamwanja, Oruchinga, Bidibidi, Imvepi, Rhino and Kyaka II Refugee Settlements. The activities included; legal and human rights awareness, representation in courts, ADR/mediation, legal advice and counseling and support for legal documentation such as name verification for refugees.

The LAP-ULS worked with 47 advocates through the Pro Bono Office to provide legal assistance under the Duty Counsel Programme. This is a programme where advocates are stationed at identified courts and police stations to provide legal advice and representation to the people that are unrepresented and stranded at the courts and police stations. A total of 1,261 people benefited from the programme by receiving legal advice, referral and on-spot representation in court. This was at the Chief Magistrates Courts of Kasangati, Nabweru, City Hall (KCCA), Buganda Road, Nakawa and Makindye, and Old Kiira Road, Wandegaya, Kawempe, Katwe and Kampala Central Police Stations.

The LAP-ULS also with support from the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Kampala, commemorated the fourteenth annual National Pro Bono day on 1st September 2023 which was organized under the theme ***“Understanding Succession Processes as a Means to Protect Property Rights and End Family Conflicts”*** with the view to raise awareness about the legal aspects surrounding succession. A total of 1,141 (M=741, F=400) advocates participated and 3,187 (M=1891, F=1296) clients attended and received legal support during the celebrations which took place at different venues in nine districts to wit Kabale, Mbarara, Soroti, Kabarole, Jinja, Kampala, Masindi, Arua and Gulu. These celebrations were preceded by week-long activities which included; human rights awareness sessions, plea bargain sessions, court hearings and bail applications among others.

The LAP-ULS trained and worked with community-based volunteers/paralegals to act as foot soldiers in strengthening the referral system and expanding basic legal aid services in areas beyond the reach of legal aid clinics. A total of 3,923 (1138M, 2785F) people benefited from the services of the community-based volunteers/paralegals.

The communities also benefited from innovative methods of legal assistance such as Interactive Voice Response (IVR), Puliida Wo, and the Electronic Legal Aid Centre which helped people to get on spot legal assistance without necessarily visiting the legal aid clinics physically. These innovations improved access to legal services for 32,220 people in 2023.

The LAP’s interventions were not without challenges, and some of the challenges that were faced during the year included; the insecurity in the Karamoja region which affected smooth implementation of activities, frequent court adjournments due to reasons such as absence of judicial officers leading to delay in hearing and completion of court cases, inadequate office equipment such as computers, laptops and furniture for the clinics, high staff turnover due to lack of funding, delay in receipt of funds from the development partners leading to delay in implementation of planned project activities among others.

In spite of these challenges, by receiving funds from the different development partners, and the commitment of LAP-ULS team with a heart to serve the indigent, vulnerable and marginalized, the LAP was able to achieve its main objective of enhancing access to justice for the indigent, vulnerable and marginalized persons in the communities.

ABOUT THE LEGAL AID PROJECT

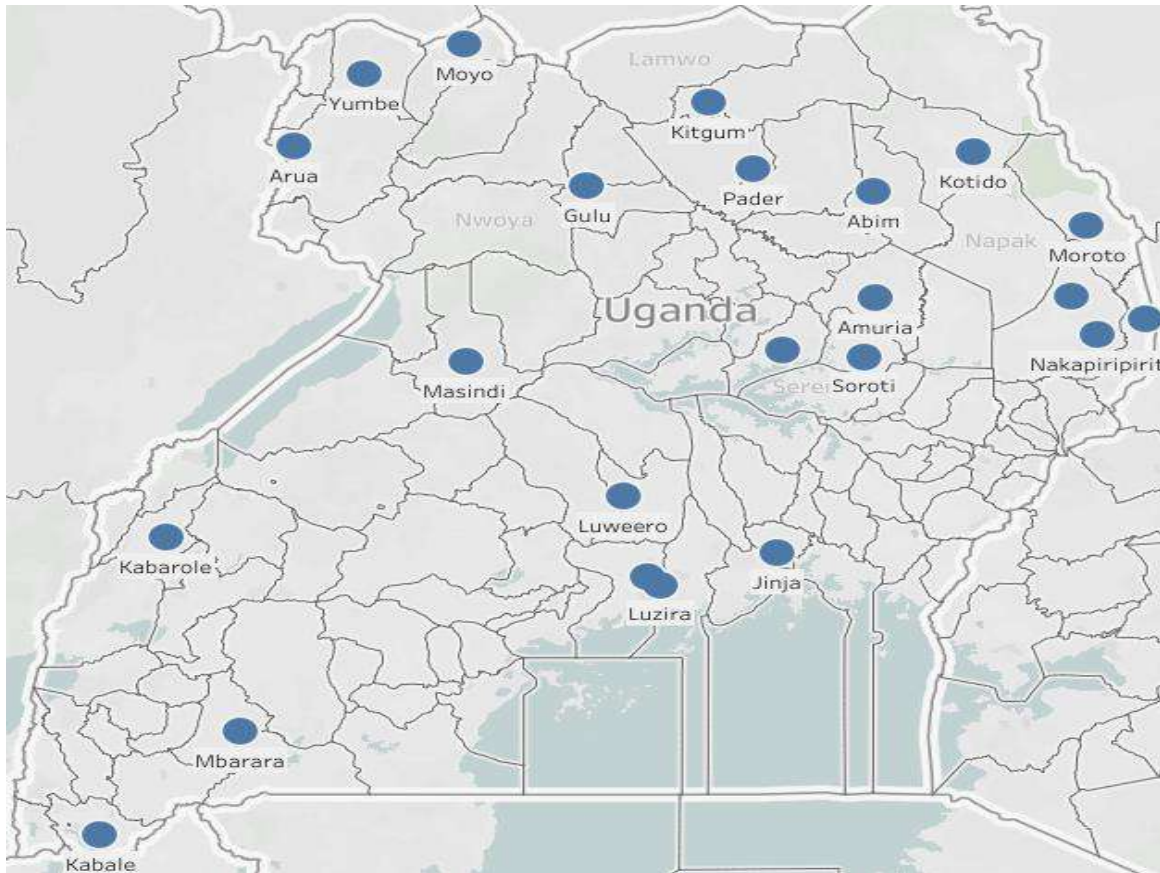
The Legal Aid Project is a non-governmental organization which was established in 1992 by the Uganda Law Society under the Trustee Incorporation Act and the Non-Government Organization Act. The Project strives for a Ugandan society in which all human rights are respected, promoted, and defended to ensure that access to justice is a reality for all people regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, or socioeconomic status.

The Legal Aid Project of the Uganda Law Society (LAP-ULS) implements project activities under the strategic objectives 3 and 4 of the ULS 2023-2027 Strategic Plan: To enhance the promotion of the rule of law, good governance and the respect for human rights as well as to increase access to justice for the indigent, marginalized and vulnerable persons in Uganda.

The LAP-ULS has over the years positioned itself as the leading provider of comprehensive legal aid services in the country with 23 legal aid clinics located in Kampala, Luzira, Jinja, Luwero, Masindi, Kabale, Kabarole, Mbarara, Gulu, Pader, Kitgum, Arua, Yumbe, Moyo, Amuria, Kaberamaido, Soroti, Abim, Kotido, Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Nabilatuk and Amudat.

The LAP-ULS has been able to make tremendous strides in achieving its objectives of enhancing access to justice for the indigent, marginalized and vulnerable Ugandans and the promotion of the rule of law and respect for human rights with financial support from different development partners who include; the International development law organization (IDLO), UN women, International rescue committee (IRC), Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), ALIGHT-Uganda, Netherlands Embassy Kampala, Governance and Security Programme-Access to Justice Sub-Programme (formerly JLOS), Embassy of Ireland in Uganda, and the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Map of Uganda showing the area of coverage for the LAP-ULS



OVERVIEW OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THE LEGAL AID PROJECT DURING 2023-2024

In the reporting year 2023-2024, the project continued in its role to enhance access to justice for vulnerable, marginalized and indigent persons through the provision of legal aid and also implementation of activities aimed at protecting and promoting human rights. The project managed to achieve this through the 23 Legal Aid clinics across the country.

A total of 82,099 (54557M, 27542F) individuals benefited from the services offered by the project during the year (An 11.1% decrease from 2022). Of these, 46,187 (30129M, 16058F) individuals directly benefited from the services of; free legal representation, legal advice, and ADR/mediation, accounting for 56.2% of the beneficiaries. Whereas 35,912 (24428M, 11484F) indirectly benefited through legal and human rights awareness accounting for 43.7% of the total beneficiaries. The biggest percentage of the beneficiaries were male (66.5%) while females accounted for 33.5%.

The project assisted these beneficiaries through community awareness campaigns, radio broadcasts, mobile clinics, visits to detention facilities, the use of community-based paralegals, pro bono advocates, attending to walk-in clients at legal aid clinics and the use of innovations such as Puliida wo and Interactive Voice Response (IVR). In the last six consecutive years (2018-2023), the project has reached a cumulative number of 517,921 beneficiaries.

Table 1: Summary performance based on targets

Indicator	Target	Achievement	Percentage achievement	comments
# of clients represented in court through Legal Aid	12,000	11,218	94	Below target
# of cases completed in Courts of Law	-	2,520	—	Low completion
# of cases handled on ADR through Legal Aid	3,000	3,741	125	Above target
# of cases completed through ADR	-	2,115	—	Low completion
# of clients advised	8,000	16,350	204	Above target
# of ULS members (Advocates) providing Pro Bono services	820	432	53	Below target
# of clients accessing Pro Bono services	3,600	1261	35	Below target
# of cases completed in courts through pro bono	200-	48	—	Low level of completion
# of cases resolved through ADR under Pro Bono	-	11	—	Low level of completion
# of clients advised through Pro bono	1,800	-	—	Above target
# of advocates on Duty Counsel	40	47	118	Above target
# of clients advised through Duty Counsel	1,500	990	66	Below target
# of vulnerable persons reached with messages on their rights and obligations	14,400	15,132	105	Above target
# of sensitization forums/events held	200	373	187	Above target
Through media			—	
Radio talk shows	15	62	413	Above target
Radio spot messages	180	-	0	
Through community meetings			—	
Community sensitizations/locus visits	100	145	145	Above target
Detention facilities visits (police & prison)	100	166	166	Above target
IEC materials	3,000	1,760	59	Below target
Electronic Legal Aid Centre	5,000	20,780	416	Above target
Pulidawo App	3,000	4,874	162	Above target
IVR	1,000	6,566	657	Above target

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: Increase access to Justice for Indigent, marginalized and vulnerable Persons in Uganda

Outcome 1: Increased access to Quality Legal Aid and Advisory Support Services to Indigent Marginalized and Vulnerable Persons

The LAP-ULS in a bid to achieve increased access to quality legal aid and advisory support services for the indigent, marginalized and vulnerable persons maintained 23 established clinics through which the services were provided. Six clinics located in Kampala, Jinja, Masindi, Gulu, Kabarole and Kabale received financial support from the IDLO; Four clinics of Mbarara, Soroti, Luwero and Luzira, as well as the Pro-bono project received financial support from the Netherlands Embassy in Kampala; Nine satellite clinics of Abim, Amuria, Kaberamaido, Nakapiripirit, Nabilatuk, Amudat, Pader, Gulu and Kitgum received support from UN Women. In Mid-2023, the LAP-ULS was able to secure a partnership with the Embassy of Ireland in Uganda, and the financial support from the Embassy went towards three clinics in the Karamoja region in districts of Moroto, Kotido and Nakapiripirit.

In addition, the LAP-ULS implemented activities geared at enhancing access to justice for refugees and host communities in West Nile and Mid-Western Uganda supported by IRC, DRC, NRC and ALIGHT- Uganda. It also had an intervention supported by UNODC aimed at decongesting the detention facilities. The project worked with community-based paralegals to extend basic legal aid services to the communities which are beyond the physical reach of the project due to resource constraints.

1.1: Legal Representation and Advisory Support Services through Legal Aid Clinics

Through the established legal aid clinics, a total of 26,294 people benefitted from services including legal representation in court, use of ADR/mediation to settle disputes, offering legal advice and counseling, referral to other partners, mobile clinics, and visits to detention facilities. The clinics attended to both civil and criminal matters as presented by clients.

A total of 3,482 people had their legal matters resolved (1,827 through ADR/mediation and 1,655 in courts), 87 matters remained pending mediation, 1,045 cases remained pending in courts while 10,666 people were given legal advice and referred to other service providers.

Of the cases handled during the year, Criminal cases had the highest percentage at 40% (10592/26294) followed by GBV cases which included economic violence cases, physical violence, sexual violence, emotional violence and harmful traditional practices with a total of 7,413 cases accounting for 28.1%, Custody and maintenance cases at 1,637(6.2%) and Administration of Estates cases at 1,135 (4.3%). The other cases included divorce and separation, debt claims, employment claims and accident claim among others as provided in figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Nature of cases handled through the Legal Aid Clinics in 2023

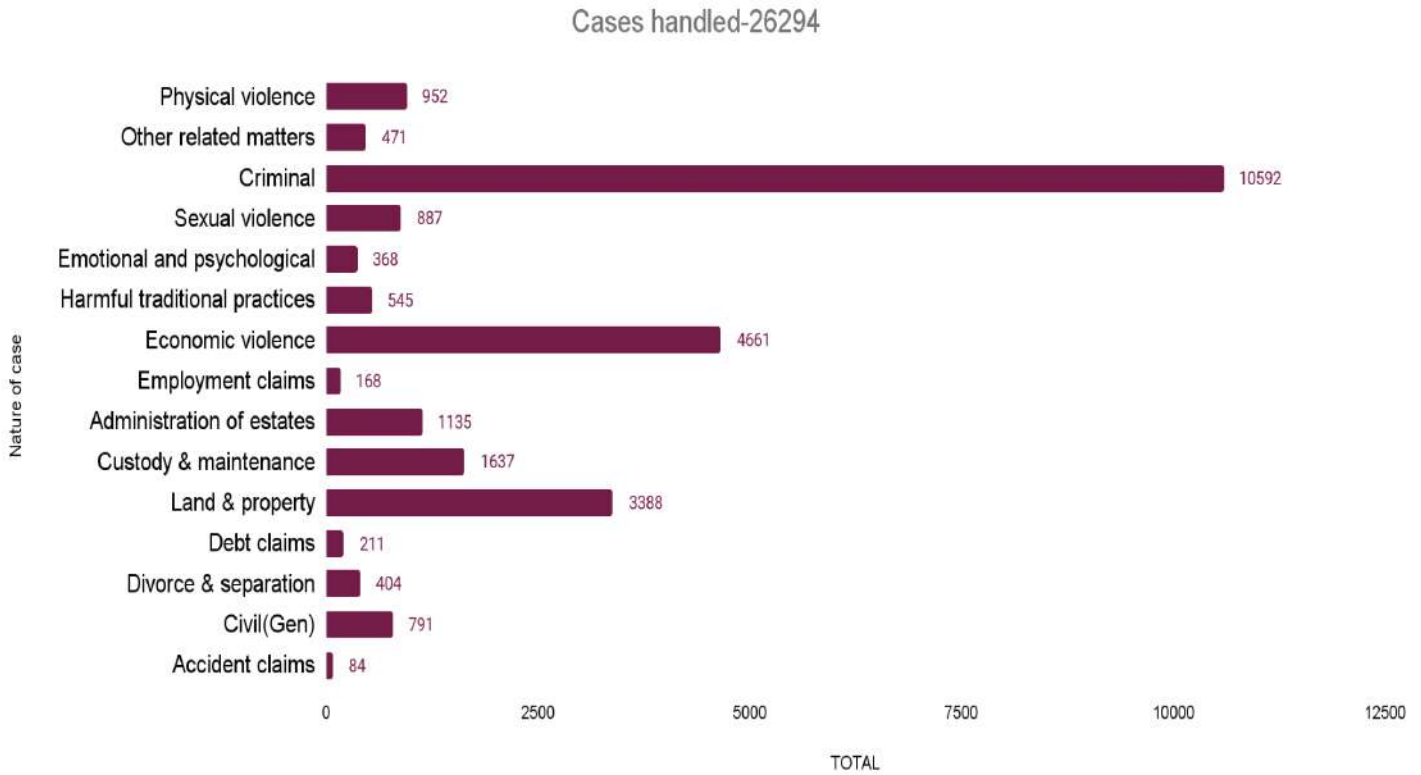
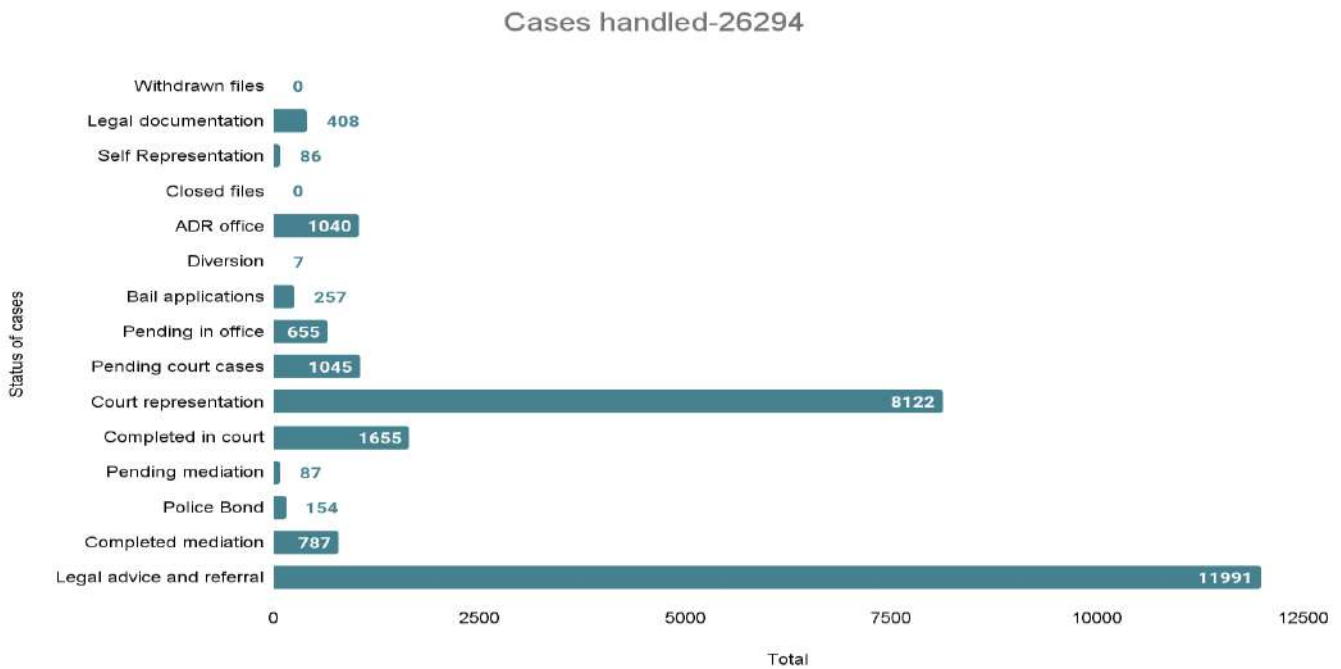


Figure 2: Status of Progress of cases Handled by the Legal Aid Clinics in 2023



1.1.1: Legal Representation and Advisory Support through the 6 Clinics Supported by IDLO

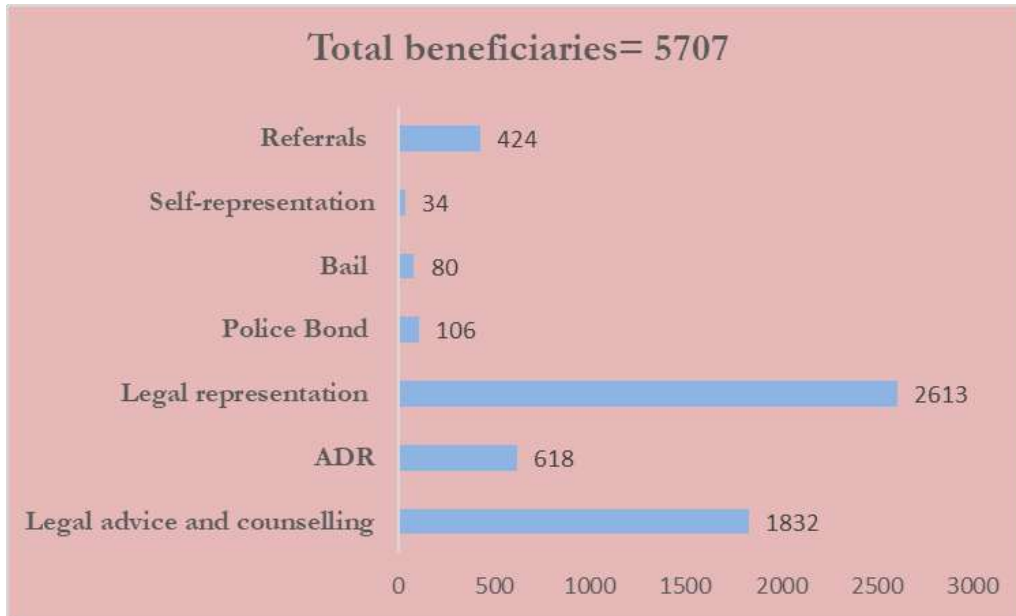
With funding from IDLO, LAP-ULS continued to implement a community justice program entitled "Enhancing Access to Justice for Marginalized and Vulnerable Communities in Uganda." The project is implemented through the six legal aid clinics in Kampala, Masindi, Gulu, Kabale, Kabarole and Jinja, which provide legal aid to indigent, vulnerable and marginalized people in the communities. A total of 5,707 (3127M, 2580F) individuals accessed the services of legal representation, use of ADR/mediation, legal counseling, and referral to other service providers during the period April 2023-December 2023. 1,905 (33%) of these beneficiaries had land and property claims, 1,887 had criminal matters, 394 civil (general), 604 administration of estates, 397 custody and maintenance, 272 divorce and separation, 107 debt claims, 102 employment claims, and 39 accident claims.

A total of 2,613 cases were represented in court while 618 people benefitted from ADR/mediation. Additionally, 80 beneficiaries were supported to get bail from court whereas 106 were released on bond at police stations. Further, the 6 Legal aid clinics offered legal advice and counseling to 1,832 beneficiaries and referred 424 people to other service providers for support beyond that which legal aid clinics provide.

Figure 3: Nature of cases handled by the 6 Legal Aid Clinics supported by IDLO in 2023



Figure 4: Legal aid services that were offered in the 6 Legal Aid Clinics supported by IDLO in 2023



1.1.2: Legal Representation and Advisory support through the 4 clinics supported by the Netherlands Embassy in Kampala

LAP-ULS received support from the Netherlands Embassy in Kampala for a period of one (1) year for 4 legal aid clinics of Luwero, Luzira, Soroti, and Mbarara to provide basic legal aid services to indigent, vulnerable, and marginalized persons in the communities. A total of 7,905 (5763M, **2142F**) clients benefited from legal representation in Court, use of ADR/mediation, legal advice, and referrals to other service providers. 1,282 (23%) of the cases involved Land and property claims, 2,881 criminal matters, 131 Divorce and separation matters, 132 custody and child support matters, 515 administration of estates matters, 92 debt claims, 56 employment matters, and 377 general civil matters.

A total of 3,385 cases were represented in court (795 cases concluded), 177 clients were granted bail, 1,419 clients received legal advice and referral, 48 were released on Police bond, and 422 cases were resolved through ADR/mediation at the legal aid clinics/offices.

Figure 5: Nature of cases handled by the 4 Legal Aid Clinics supported by the Netherlands Embassy in 2023

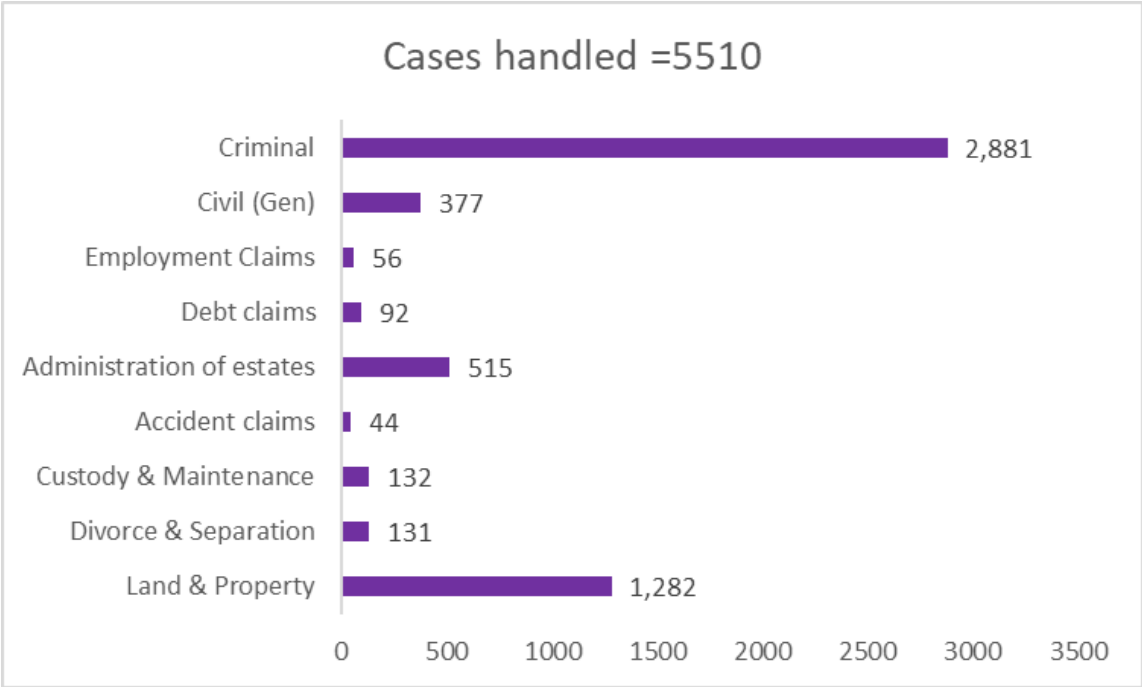
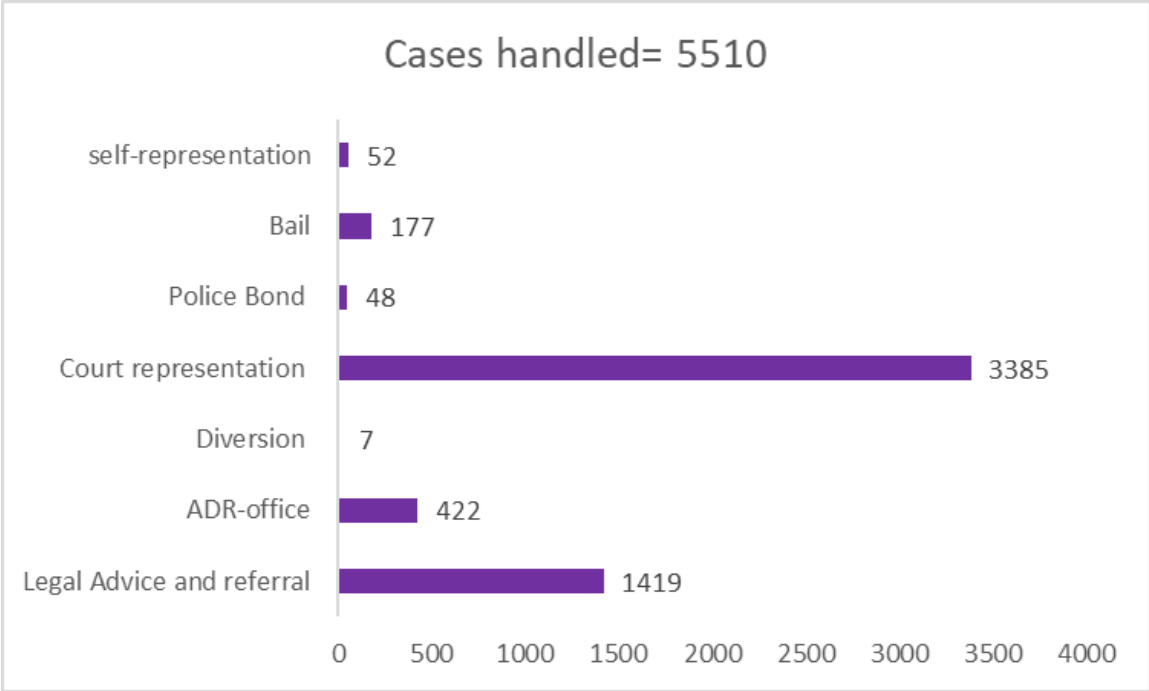


Figure 6: Status of cases handled by the 4 Legal Aid Clinics supported by the Netherlands Embassy in 2023



1.1.3: Legal Representation and Advisory support through the 9 Satellite Clinics supported by UN Women

UN Women supported the LAP-ULS to implement a project entitled “Enhancing access to quality legal aid and referral services for women and girls who experienced violence, and promoting sexual and reproductive health rights” in the districts of; Gulu, Kitgum, Nakapiripirit, Amudat, Amuria, Kaberamaido, Abim, Pader and Nabilatuk. The project provided legal assistance to the affected women and girls in the 9 districts to access justice through both formal and informal justice systems such as legal representation in court, legal counseling and advice, mediation, and legal and human rights education.

A total of 8,966 (2911M, 6055F) people received direct legal assistance from the project lawyers in the 9 satellite clinics during the year. Of these, 4,661 cases were related to denial of access to economic resources, 887 were cases of sexual violence, 1,082 were cases of child abuse, 952 were cases of physical violence, 545 were cases of harmful traditional practices, 368 were cases of emotional and psychological violence and 471 cases arose from other related matters. Also, 4,568 clients received legal advice, 1,442 were supported through ADR/mediation and 1,183 were represented in court. A total of 1,215 cases were concluded through ADR/mediation and in court (787 ADR/mediation and 428 in court), and 1,410 cases remained pending in court and in the offices of LAP (755 in court and 655 in the offices of LAP).

Figure 7: Nature of cases handled in the 9 Satellite Clinics with support from UN Women during 2023

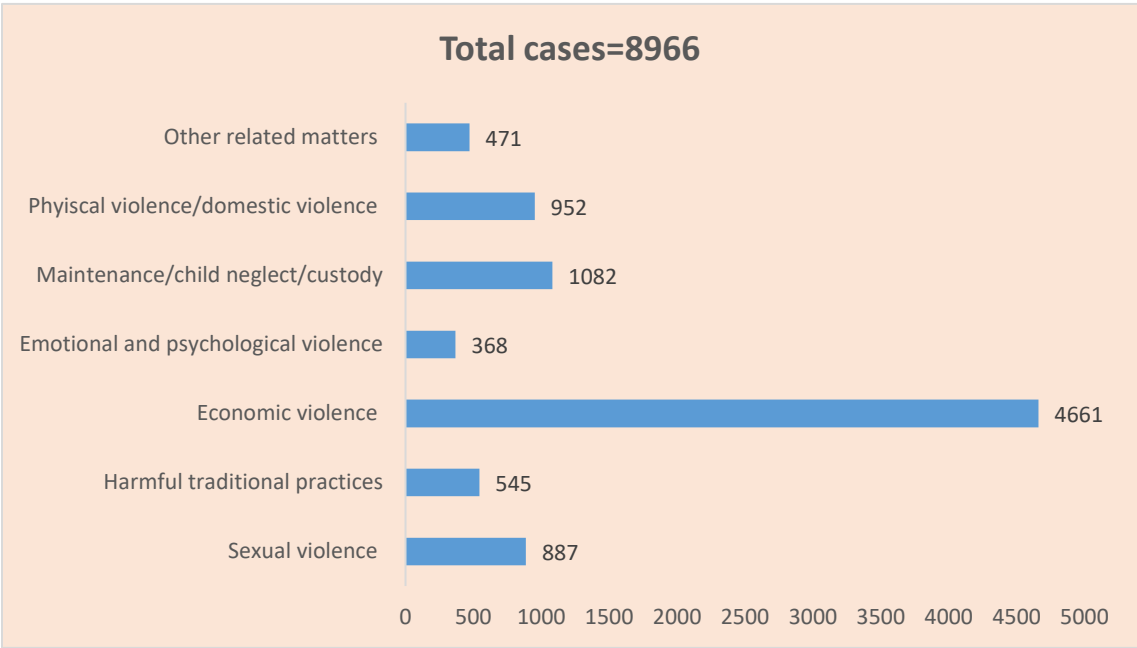
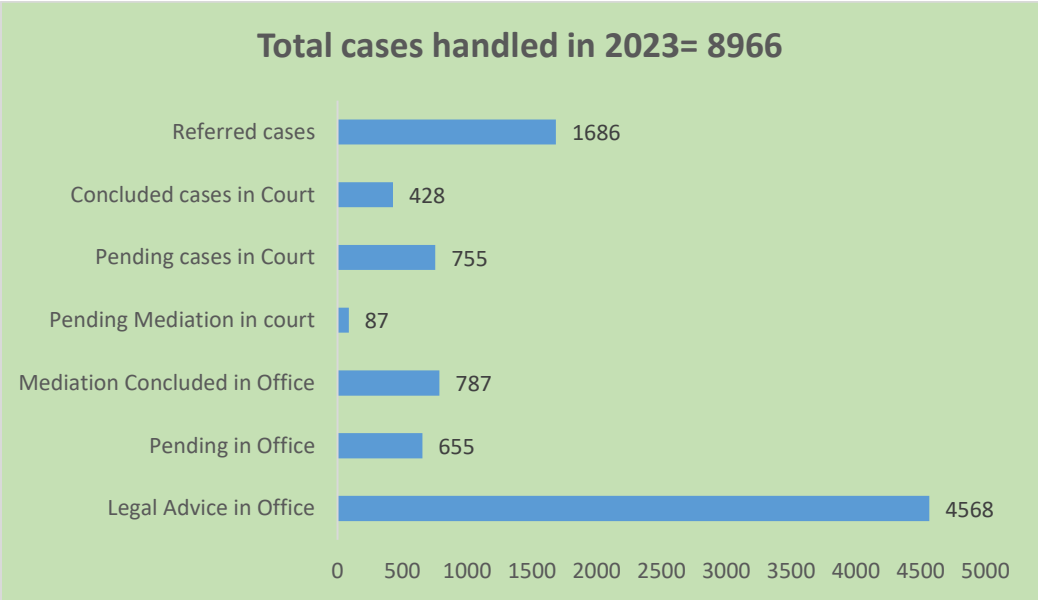


Figure 8: Status of cases handled in the 9 Satellite Clinics with support from UN Women during 2023



1.1.4. Legal Representation and Advisory services through the 3 Legal Aid Clinics supported by Embassy of Ireland in Uganda in 2023

During the course of 2023, the LAP-ULS was privileged to enter into a partnership with the Embassy of Ireland in Uganda to support 3 clinics of Moroto, Kotido and Nakapiripirit in enhancing access to justice for the indigent, vulnerable and marginalized persons in Karamoja region. With this support, during the year, a total of 1,775 (1585M, 190F) people were supported by the 3 clinics, and of these, 706 (646M, 60F) were represented in courts of law, 263 (200M, 63F) were offered Legal Advice whereas 34 (27M, 7F) were supported with ADR services. The Clinics were also in position to conduct outreaches in communities and prisons, reaching 528 people (477M, 51F) during the reporting period. Also, 20 prison visits were made, through which 139 inmates (132M, 7F) were registered for Legal aid support. The Legal aid clinics did conduct 2 mobile court sessions in which 105 persons (103M, 2F) were represented by the LAP staff.

Worth noting, the 3 clinics also trained a total of 62 (35M, 27F) community-based paralegals to support the LAP team in being the foot soldiers to extend basic legal assistance to the communities especially those that are a far reach for the LAP team.

Figure 9: Nature and number of cases handled by the Legal aid Clinics supported by the Embassy of Ireland in Uganda in 2023.

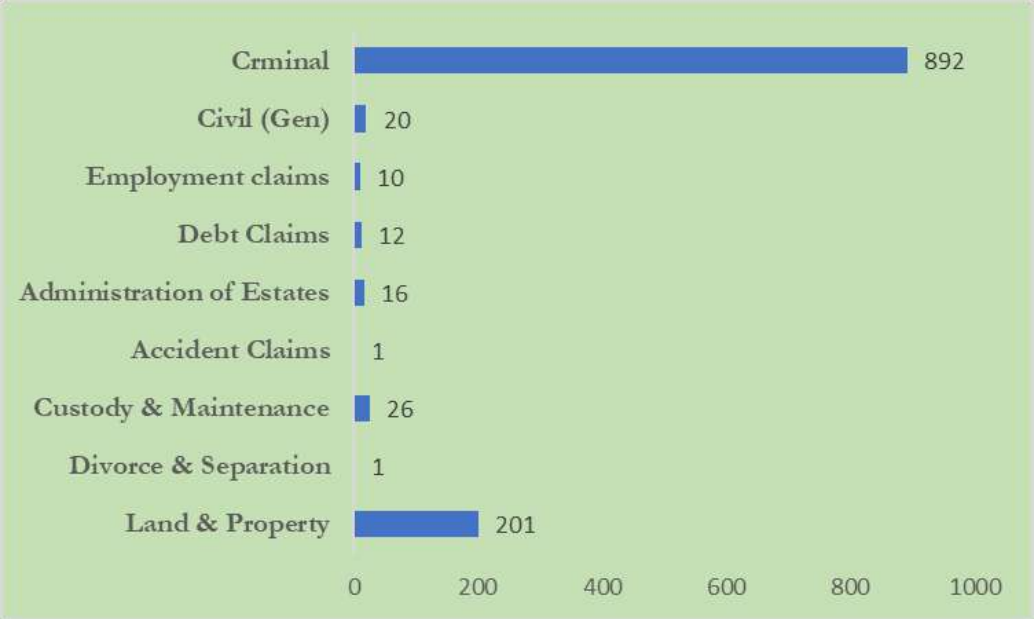
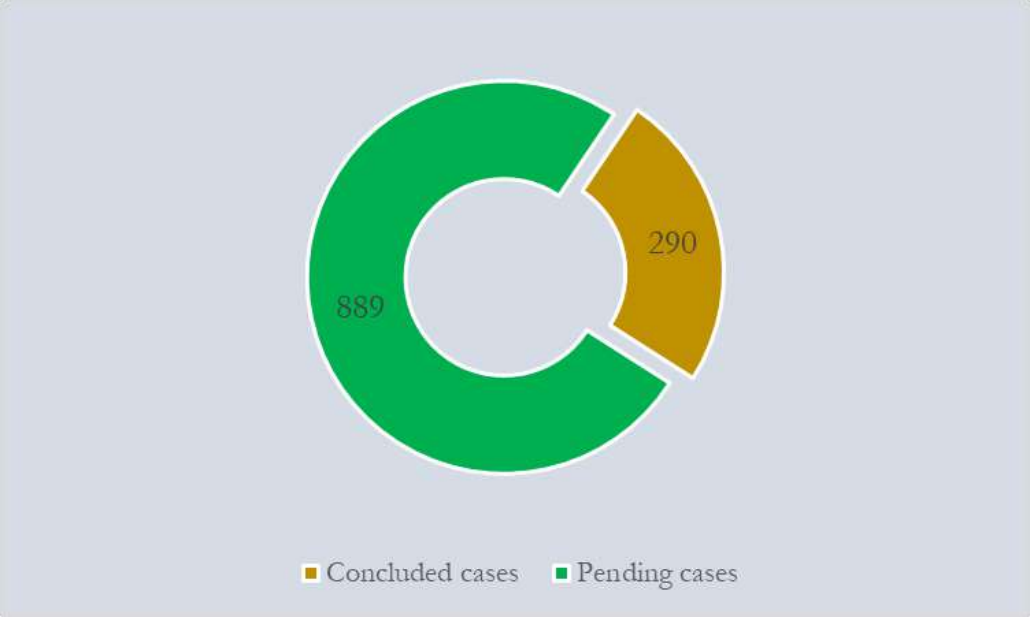


Figure 10: Status of cases handled by the Legal aid Clinics supported by the Embassy of Ireland in Uganda in 2023.



1.2: Legal Aid Interventions for Refugees and Host Communities

1.2.1: Legal Representation and Advisory Support for the Refugees and Host Communities in West Nile and Mid-Western Uganda supported by IRC

In 2023, a total of 3,227 (1880M, 1347F) Persons we Serve in Bidibidi Settlement in Yumbe, Imvepi Settlement in Arua and Kyaka II Settlement in Kyegegwa were reached with legal aid services with support from IRC under the UNHCR, BPRM and ECHO-APEAL projects. Out of these, 599 (501M, 98F) were represented in courts of law and by ADR/mediation of their cases. 502 (457M, 45F) people received legal advice and counsel during visits to detention facilities and 235 (98M, 137F) received legal advice during 42 mobile clinics that were conducted in the Settlements and the host communities, while 108 (76M, 32F) persons we serve were supported with legal documentation such as statutory declarations, deed polls and production warrants.

Also, to note, 1,783 (748M, 1035F) Persons we serve benefitted from the legal awareness sessions which were conducted during which information was shared on legal and human rights, the criminal justice system, and how to access redress in case of violation of rights.

Capacity building training was also conducted for 66 (42M, 24F) community-based paralegals, 115 (80M, 35F) non-state actors who included the local leadership in the area for example the local council committees and the refugee welfare committees, and 51 (34M, 17F) state actors who included the police, prisons and local government officials. These trainings were aimed at enhancing their capacity in providing support services to the refugees and host community members.

Figure 11: Status of cases handled under the IRC Refugee Projects in West-Nile region and Kyegegwa during 2023

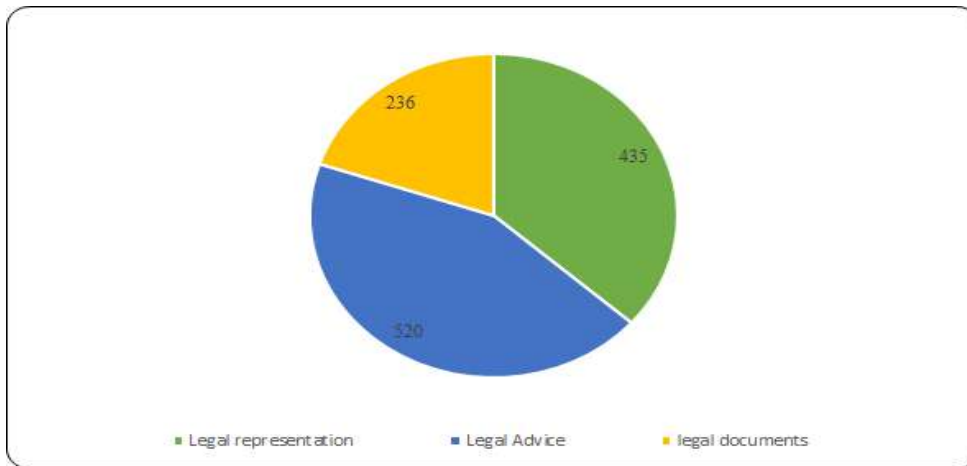


1.2.2: Legal Representation of Persons we Serve supported by Danish Refugee Council (DRC)

With financial support from the DRC, LAP-ULS continued to provide legal representation to the Persons we Serve in Rhino and Imvepi Settlements in Arua. The project is being implemented through

the legal aid clinic in Arua and the activities thereunder are: Legal representation which includes appearances in courts of law, police and prisons, legal advice and counseling, referral to other partners, and conducting capacity building training for stakeholders. An overall total of 2,453 (1594M, 859F) People were provided with legal assistance among which 435 were represented in courts and police, 236 were supported with legal documentation, 520 were given legal advice and counseling at detention facilities and 1,262 persons of concern were assisted during legal and human rights awareness sessions. A total of 146 cases were concluded.

Figure 12: Number of Persons we Serve who were supported by the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) in 2023



1.2.2: Legal Representation of Persons we Serve supported by Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)

The LAP-ULS was also privileged to enter into partnership with the NRC in mid-2023 to extend legal aid assistance to the refugees and the host community members in Arua Urban. The services provided included legal assistance through ADR/mediation, representation in Courts of Law, legal drafting, legal counseling and community awareness on Housing Land and Property, Legal Identity and Employment law and policy, mass awareness on GBV, and training of stakeholders on GBV. During 2023, a total of 2,239 (1135M, 1104F) people received legal aid assistance, and of these, 797 (290M, 507F) were represented in court and through ADR/mediation, 64 (36M, 28F) were supported with legal drafting, 64 (37M, 27F) were provided with legal advice and counseling on Housing Land and Property, Legal Identity, and Employment law, 52 (47M, 5F) children at risk and unaccompanied minors were assisted and reunited with their families, 1,262 (725M, 537F) people benefited from information on GBV, rule of law and child specific prevention measures during the awareness sessions conducted.

The LAP team also conducted trainings for stakeholders on GBV and Child Protection, and a total of 32 (17M, 15F) participated in the trainings.

Table 2: Summary of Persons we Serve supported by the NRC in 2023

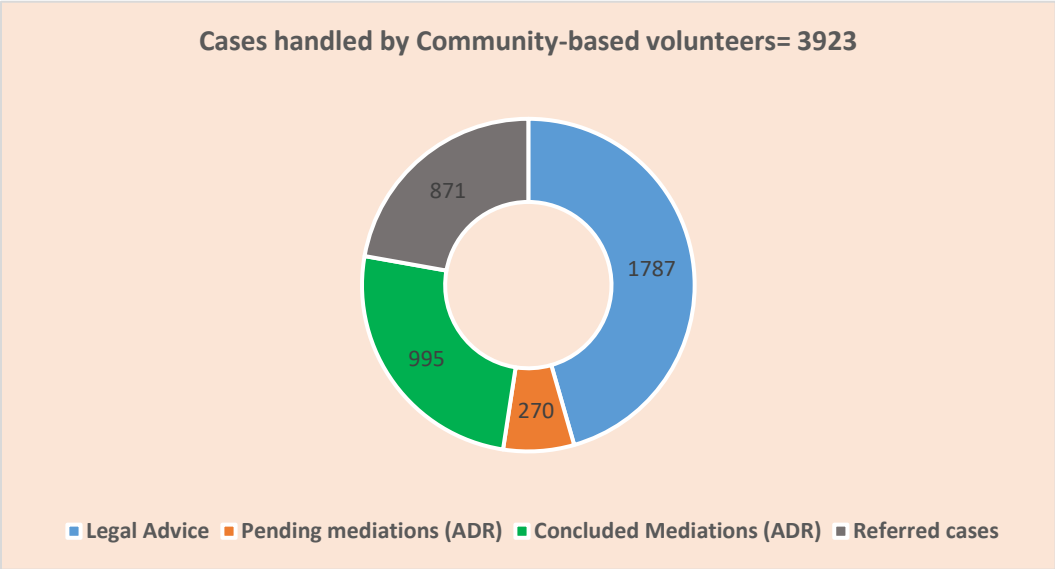
Nature of service	Male	Female	Total
Representation in court and through ADR/mediation	290	507	797
Support with legal drafting	36	28	64
Legal advice and counseling on Housing Land and Property, Legal Identity, and Employment law	37	27	64
Children at risk and unaccompanied minors assisted and reunited with their families	47	5	52
People benefited from information on GBV, rule of law and child specific prevention measures during the awareness sessions conducted.	725	537	1,262
Overall Total	1,135	1,104	2,239

1.3: Legal Aid Interventions through the Informal Justice Mechanisms

The Legal Aid Project of ULS has so far trained 2,943 (1733M, 1210F) paralegals/volunteers to act as foot soldiers in strengthening the referral system and expanding basic legal aid services in areas beyond the reach of legal aid clinics. Services provided by the volunteers include referral of community members in need of legal services, legal advice, mediation of simple matters and community sensitization.

(UN Women) A total of 3,923 (1138M, 2785F) community members benefited from the services provided by the community-based volunteers. Of these, 1,787 received legal advice and 270 received mediation support. Also, 995 matters were resolved through mediation while 871 matters were referred to either the police, health facilities, shelters or other legal aid providers.

Figure 13: Graph showing number of people served by the community-based paralegals in 2023 (UN Women)



1.5: Legal Aid through the Pro Bono The Pro Bono Project of the Uganda Law Society

Over the past 14 years, the Uganda Law Society's Pro Bono Project, through members of the legal profession, has provided free legal services to hundreds of needy men, women and children in Uganda with the support of different development partners. The project is coordinated through Legal Aid field offices in Kampala, Jinja, Soroti, Gulu, Arua, Masindi, Kabarole, Mbarara, and Kabale.

1.5.1: Legal Representation through Pro Bono

In 2023, the Pro-bono project received support from the Netherlands Embassy in Kampala to provide free legal services to the indigent, vulnerable and marginalized persons across the country in the form of legal advice and counseling, representation in courts of law, and settling of disputes through ADR/mediation. A total of 1,115 people were assisted during the reporting period. Of these, 456 people were represented in Court, 305 were assisted through ADR/mediation, and 354 were provided legal advice and counseling.

1.5.2: National Pro Bono Day Celebrations

The ULS in a bid to enhance corporate social responsibility of the legal profession and enhance access to justice through its Pro Bono Project, held its fourteenth annual National Pro Bono day on 1st September 2023 which was organized under the theme *“Understanding Succession Processes as a Means to Protect Property Rights and End Family Conflicts”* with the view to raise awareness about the legal aspects surrounding succession. A total of 1,141 (M=741, F=400) advocates participated and 3,187 (M=1891, F=1296) clients attended and received legal support during the celebrations which took place at different venues in nine districts to wit Kabale, Mbarara, Soroti, Kabarole, Jinja, Kampala, Masindi, Arua and Gulu.

The pro bono day was preceded by the pro bono week that ran from 28th to 31st August 2023 where a number of activities like blood donations, prison and community sensitizations, games like playing football in Gulu, material donations in remand homes and children’s homes. Radio and television talk shows were also held and these were hosted on King FM, King FM in Gulu, Radio City in Arua, Kamuli Broadcasting Station, Baba FM in Jinja, Radio 7, Kings Radio in Masindi, Crooze FM, Radio Maria, Endigito FM, Radio West in Mbarara, KRC FM in Kabarole, Voice of Teso in Soroti, Voice of Kigezi in Kabale, Akaboozi Radio, Tob Radio, CBS Radio in Kampala, UBC television, TV West, NTV, NBS, Family Television, Top TV, Bukedde TV, Baba TV, BBS TV, NBS Tv, Bukedde Tv, KFM and Radio Simba. During the shows, the public was sensitized about administration of estates, the process of writing a will and protecting family property.

1.5.2: The Duty Counsel Scheme

Legal assistance was provided through duty counsel which is an arrangement where registered advocates are stationed at identified courts and police stations on a daily basis. They provide support in the form of legal advice and counseling, referral in instances where the matter at hand cannot be dealt with immediately, and representation for bail and bond. This duty counsel programme received financial support from the Netherlands Embassy and the Governance and Security Programme-Access to Justice Sub-Programme (formerly JLOS) during 2023.

A total of 990 (743M, 247F) people were served by the advocates at the different stations. Of these, 931 (698M, 233F) received on spot support in the form of legal advice and representation to get bail and police bond, while 56 (43M, 13F) were referred to LAP-ULS for further representation.

Table 3: Summary of Duty Counsel Stations and Number of Clients Served During 2023

Duty Counsel Stations	Male	Female	Total
Kasangati Court	22	23	45
Nabweru Court	15	3	18
KCCA Court	14	8	22
Makindye Court	76	24	100
Nakawa Court	86	22	108
Buganda Road Court	117	46	163
Kira RD Police	31	3	33
Wandegeya Police	21	11	32
Kawempe Police	93	30	123
Katwe Police	84	18	102
Kampala Central Police	124	35	159
Overall Total	743	247	990

1.5.3: Access to Justice Program with Support from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) through the pro bono project

The LAP-ULS through the Pro bono Project in partnership with LASPNET and with support from the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime has implemented a program titled “*Strengthening Crime Prevention and criminal Justice*” Program in the Districts of Kabale, Masindi, Iganga, Arua and Yumbe for a period of four months (September October, November and December 2023). The main objective of this project is to contribute to the strengthening of the rule of law through crime prevention and promotion of an effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice system in line with the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice and other relevant international instruments. The major areas of focus being strengthening mechanisms for court administration and case management by criminal justice institutions like police, prisons and others, increasing access to quality legal aid and legal information targeting vulnerable groups, enhancing efficiency in the criminal justice system and promoting alternatives to imprisonment among others.

During the reporting period, a total of 1,034 (900M, 134F) suspects and inmates were offered legal assistance among which 293 (248M, 45F) were represented at courts of law and 741 (652M, 89F) given legal advice and counseling at police stations and prisons. A total of 338 (285M, 53F) of these inmates and suspects had their cases concluded (162 at courts of law and 176 at police stations). The project conducted 20 sensitization sessions in the communities in project districts where 343 (157M, 186F) people in the community were sensitized about the criminal justice processes and 761 (712M, 49F) inmates were sensitized in the detention facilities on criminal trial processes in Uganda, rights of victims, suspects and accused persons. A total of 215 (188M, 27F) inmates were also identified and trained to self-represent during the visits to the detention facilities.

The LAP-ULS also through this project conducted capacity building training for 25 (17M, 8F) legal aid and pro bono advocates from the 5 districts of the project implementation on emerging trends in the criminal justice system like the applicability of the bail guidelines and the human rights

enforcement Act to enhance their skills in provision of holistic services to prisoners, ex-prisoners and communities in the criminal justice systems.

The project recruited 50 community-based paralegals in the 5 districts and trained on various topics and areas of interest which included the rights of suspects at the time of arrest, trial and detention and the trial processes to enable them to conduct public legal education and also offer legal advice to people in the communities.

LAP-ULS through this intervention supported by UNODC was also able to facilitate 5 DCC meetings attended by 94 (M=52, F=42) participants in the 5 districts of implementation, and the key areas of discussion during the meetings included the criminal justice processes, the roles of each of the actors and how they can work together and support each other in dispensing justice which were intended to influence reforms in systems and procedures to support access to justice.

Table 4: Summary of legal services and cases handled under UNODC project

Nature of service	Male	Female	Total
Representation at courts of law	248	45	293
Legal advice and counseling at police stations and prisons	652	89	741
Cases concluded for inmates and suspects	285	53	338
20 sensitization sessions conducted on criminal justice processes	157	186	343
Inmates sensitized in the detention facilities on criminal trial processes, rights of victims, suspects and accused persons	712	49	761
Inmates identified and trained to self-represent during the visits to the detention facilities	188	27	215
Capacity building for legal aid and pro bono advocates on emerging trends in the criminal justice system	17	8	25
Facilitate 5 DCC meetings with actors to discuss criminal justice processes, the roles of each of the actors and how they can work together and support in dispensing justice to influence reforms in systems and procedures to support access to justice.	52	42	94

1.3. Legal Assistance through Innovations and Toll-free lines

1.3.1: Puliida Wo

The Pullida Wo app is a web-based application which was designed and developed to facilitate instant access to an advocate using a hand held or mobile device. Through this application, people are connected to advocates to receive on spot legal advice as well as direction for further representation. During the reporting period, 4,874 people benefitted from the application.

1.3.2: Interactive Voice Response-IVR

Interactive Voice Response is a technology that allows humans to interact with a computer operated phone system to access information by giving them choices via a menu. The Interactive Voice Response system at ULS was designed to relay information on GBV and reporting avenues as well as how to apply for bail and police bond. The languages used include; English, Luganda, Lusoga, Lunyakitara, Ateso, Luo and Nyak- Karamojong. During the reporting period, 6,566 People benefitted from the services using their preferred language.

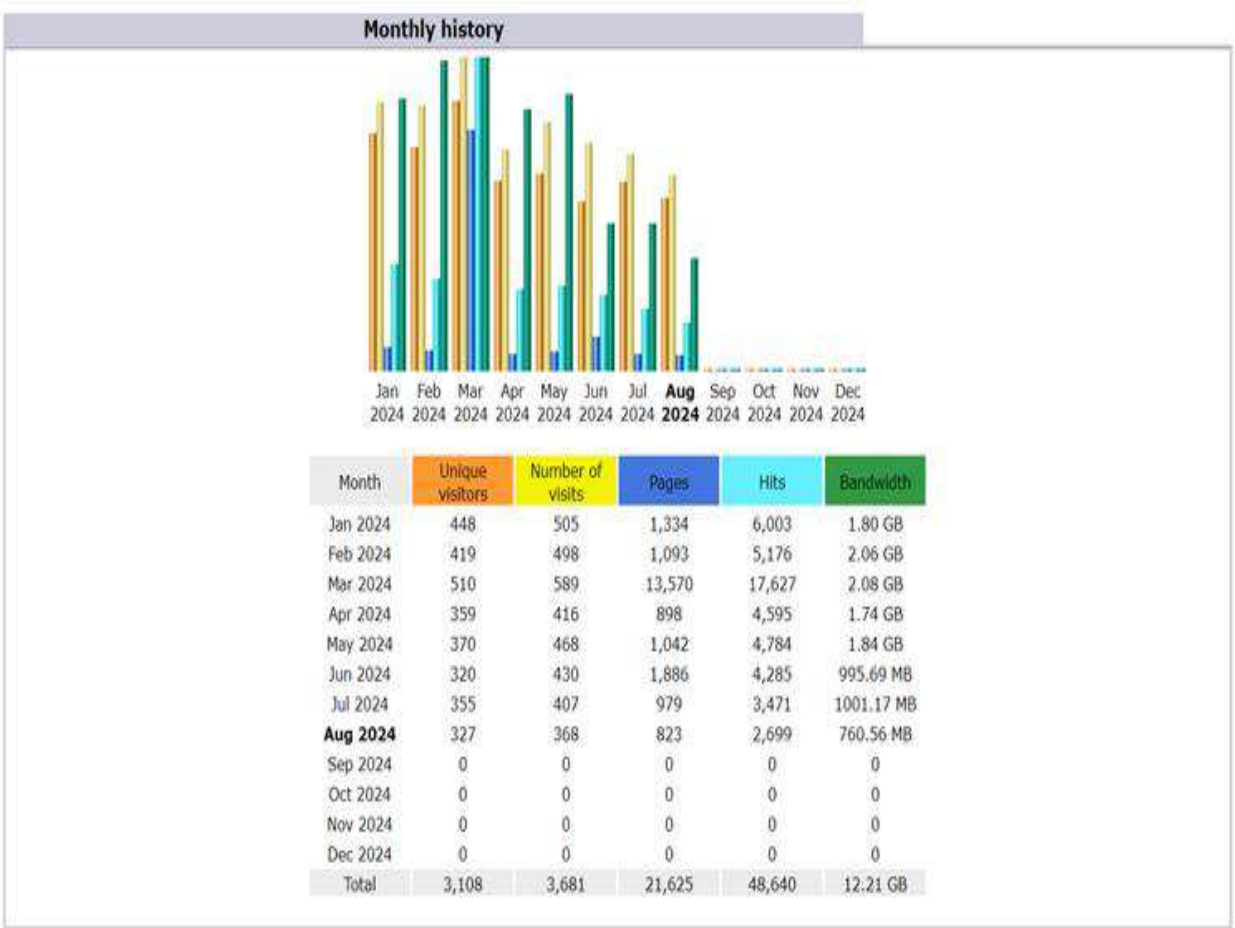
1.3.3: Electronic legal Aid Center

The Electronic Legal Aid Centre (ELAC) is a web-based application accessible through the Uganda Law Society website (www.uls.or.ug) and is designed to offer web-based access to legal assistance. Anybody with access to the internet can access and download free uploaded legal resources covering both the civil and criminal elements of the law. During the reporting period, 20,780 people were able to access legal assistance through the ELAC.

Figure 14: Summary Statistic of Electronic Legal Aid Centre January-August 2024

Statistics for:
elac.uls.or.ug

- Summary
- When:**
- Monthly history
- Days of month
- Days of week
- Hours
- Who:**
- Locales
- Full list
- Hosts
- Full list
- Last visit
- Unresolved IP Address
- Authenticated users
- Full list
- Last visit
- Robots/Spiders visitors
- Full list
- Last visit
- Navigation:**
- Visits duration
- File type
- Downloads
- Full list
- Viewed
- Full list
- Entry
- Exit
- Operating Systems
- Versions
- Unknown
- Browsers
- Versions
- Unknown
- Referrers:**
- Origin
- Referring search engines



1.3.4: Toll Free Lines

During the reporting period, LAP-ULS continued to provide legal assistance through the toll-free lines it operated with support from UN Women, and a total of 1,034 people were able to receive basic legal advice and guidance on how they can seek redress as well as referral to the rightful channel for support.

Strategic Outcome 2: Promotion of Respect for Human Rights and Rule of law in Uganda

2.1: Community Sensitizations and Media Campaigns

LAP-ULS conducted awareness sessions on basic human rights, the criminal justice system specifically focusing on rights of the accused persons, criminal trial processes, including bond and bail among others. The sensitizations in the communities also covered the changes in the Succession Laws, how to make valid Wills, powers of local council courts and how to handle cases at different levels, recognized forms of marriages in Uganda, domestic violence, family property rights, land rights and how to write clear and valid sale agreements. The above areas of sensitization were based on identification of the major challenges faced by members of the communities in the districts of operation. Overall, 29 radio talk shows, 10 Tv shows, 133 community sensitizations, and 176

outreaches in detention facilities were conducted and a total of 10,453 (7192M, 3261F) people benefitted.

As a result of the above sensitizations, communities were made aware of the existence of the Legal aid Project of Uganda Law Society and services offered like free legal representation for the indigent person hence an increase in the number of clients seeking our services. There was also increased knowledge of basic human, land and property rights and the various trial processes at different levels as well as increased capacity of the members of society to represent themselves in certain cases, draft valid wills and land sales agreements.

Over 89% of people interviewed during the outcome survey indicated that they were aware of their rights and benefited from awareness campaigns by gaining knowledge on; land rights and procedures, inheritance / succession laws, writing wills, children's rights and obligations, accused persons rights and trial processes, suspects rights and procedures of getting bond, Bail, and domestic violence among others. They have made use of the knowledge acquired by teaching other community members about the same, and implementing it through seeking redress from various fora like police and court among others.

2.4: Networking and Creation of Linkages

The Legal Aid Project continued to participate in numerous meetings and workshops with partners. Most of these meetings and workshops focused on the promotion of human rights, access to justice and the rule of law. Key stakeholders included legal aid service providers under their umbrella organizations LASPNET, Governance and Security Programme-Access to Justice Sub-Programme (JLOS), community-based organizations, the judiciary, police, prisons, local government institutions and the media. ULS continued to play an important role in the JLOS sector as a key member of the District Chain Linked Committees in all the regions where we operate and worked closely with local development partners.

The linkages created have enhanced the referral pathway ensuring that people's access to justice needs are met by the right duty bearers. Strong partnerships and joint collaboration on delivery of services have enriched the Legal Aid Project interventions.

Strategic Objective 3: Development and Strengthening of the LAP Management Systems

3.1: LAP Management Committee

The Management committee is tasked with implementation of the day-to-day running of the LAP-ULS. The committee is composed of Head LAP, Manager LAP, Manager Pro Bono, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Internal Auditor and the Human Resource manager.

3.2: Staff Capacity Building

LAP-ULS continued facilitating its Advocates and other staff to attend continuing legal education and capacity building training throughout the year. The trainings covered areas including; Trial Advocacy, ADR-Mediation and Arbitration, Emerging trends in Intellectual Property, Accountancy for Lawyers, Law Firm management, client data and information protection, Human rights and Environmental litigation, and Insurance Law among others. These trainings enhance the skills and capacity of the advocates to effectively provide legal assistance to the LAP-ULS clients as well as other people they interface with.

3.3: Monitoring and Evaluation

Throughout the reporting period, the LAP-ULS management team conducted monitoring and evaluation of the project through different approaches which included field monitoring visits, online and physical meetings with the implementing teams and other stakeholders, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual reports submitted by the teams, and surveys conducted to assess project performance. All these avenues provided information on performance of the different interventions under the LAP-ULS and adaptation for better service delivery.

SUCCESS STORIES

Story 1: Fair Property Distribution

A 71 years old client and married with children decided to distribute his property in 2021 among his family members. His wife and children got their shares and the client himself. The wife was not satisfied with the share she got and therefore decided to petition for divorce, so that she could use this avenue to get the exact property she needed from the client. The legal aid team in Mbarara represented the client in court and the matter was decided in his favor. Court maintained the distribution he made because it was a fair distribution.

Story 2: Freed from Shame

A 57 years old client approached LAP-Mbarara in 2019 with both civil and criminal cases filed against him by his former employer. The former employer accused him of stealing a Generator worth 30 million. The legal team in Mbarara represented him in both the civil and criminal matters and in regard to the criminal case No. 1767/2028 he was acquitted and discharged. In the civil matter, judgment was delivered in his favor. His employer decided to appeal against the judgment. The appeal was dismissed and the awards in the judgment maintained. He was so excited and appreciated the Legal Aid Project of the Uganda Law Society for having represented him.

Story 3: Orphaned children recover late father's Property

A client visited our Legal aid office in Kampala (Luzira) for Legal assistance. She stated that her father died intestate when she was still 9 years of age and that she later learnt from her relatives that the administrator of her late father's estate is her paternal uncle and that he has been benefiting from the estate over the years. That he did not even use the proceeds he got from the estate to provide basic necessities to them (beneficiaries). The children were so disappointed in their uncle and this caused them emotional stress.

A case was filed at the High of Uganda Family Division for an order of comprehensive and true statement of accounts of all the dealings with the estate and further an order to grant our client her share of the property. During the court intervention the matter was referred for mediation and the parties' consented and the uncle agreed to streamline the entire estate and give the client her share. This was further made through a locus visit to inspect and confirm the property which was successfully done and on 31-01-24 the consent judgment was entered by court. The client is thankful for the intervention of the legal aid project.

Story 4: Widow recovers late husband's land

A client reported that she was married in 1976 and God blessed them with four children, but unfortunately the husband was killed during the insurgency in Teso in 1987. For fear of losing her life, she was forced to seek refuge in Jinja up to 2004 when she decided to return to her matrimonial home in Teso. On return, she found that her brother-in-law was utilizing her late husband's land and blocked her from utilizing it claiming that she was now a stranger in the family. The client sought assistance from the legal aid clinic in Soroti. The advocate invited the client and the brother-in-law for a

mediation at the office during which she sensitized the parties about the law of succession, women and children rights. As a result of the information received and the discussions held during the mediation, our client's brother-in-law handed back the land measuring 13 acres to her, she is now settled and utilizing the land.

Story 5: Fair distribution of deceased's estate

A client approached the LAP Kampala clinic over a complaint that he and his siblings were given their late mother's share of their late grandfather's estate as lineal descendants but that the land given was in a swamp. The family members were invited for mediation and the meetings were held at the office including a visit to the locus where it was established that indeed the share is in the swamp. The family members apologized and agreed to give the client and his siblings another share which is not in the swamp from the remaining unshared part of the estate.

Story 6: Property recovered

A client reported to our office that one of her relatives fraudulently sold off her late father's estate yet and that the buyer had attempted to take over possession of the land. Mediation meetings were held with the parties and finally the client was compensated to a tune of 12,000,000/= to enable her purchase of an alternative piece of land.

PICTORIAL

Below (Pg 31 – 36): Photos taken during the pro bono week and Day celebrations across the country





NTV UGANDA @ntvuganda · 5m

On this pro bono day, lawyers around the country go out to offer free services. This ensures that lawyers are not just about money; we also want to serve the public. So, we invite the public to come and get free legal services. - Bernard Oundo, President, ULS. #MorningAtNTV.



1 2 8













Above: Photos taken during a market outreach in commemoration of the Pro-bono day



Photo taken during a Prison outreach in commemoration of the Pro-bono day



A photograph of the Legal officer/ pro-bono coordinator Arua conducting a locus-based mediation



The LAP Luzira team conducting a mediation at locus visit in Kanungu



A photograph of the LAP Luzira team during a prison outreach at Buwambo prison.



The Arua team conducting a prison outreach/sensitization during the pro bono week.



Luzira team conducting a community sensitisation at Nantabulirirwa Buwanyi Mukono district



Soroti clinic team at a community sensitization in Gweri and Awalwal sub-counties jointly sub county in Soroti district



Luweero LAP team conducting a sensitization at Luweero Seventh Day Adventist Church.

Table 5: Nature and Number of Cases Handled in the 3 Legal Aid Clinics Supported by the Embassy of Ireland in 2023

Nature of Case	Male	Female	Total
Land & Property	177	24	201
Divorce & Separation	0	1	1
Custody & Maintenance	4	22	26
Accident Claims	1	0	1
Administration of Estates	11	5	16
Debt Claims	9	3	12
Employment claims	8	2	10
Civil (Gen)	11	9	20
Criminal	817	75	892
TOTAL	1,038	141	1,179

Table 6: Legal Aid services offered by the 3 Legal Aid Clinics Supported by the Embassy of Ireland in 2023

Legal Aid Service	Male	Female	Total
Legal Representation	646	60	706
ADR	27	7	34
Legal Advice & Counseling	200	63	263
Self-Representation	4	1	5
Community and prison outreaches	477	51	528
Prison visits	132	7	139
Mobile Court sessions	103	2	105
TOTAL	1,589	191	1,780

Table 7: Nature and Number of Cases Handled in the 6 the Legal Aid Clinics Supported by IDLO in 2023

Nature of Case	GULU	KABALE	KAMPALA	MASINDI	JINJA	KABAROLE	Overall
Land & Property	233	380	222	201	574	295	1,905
Divorce & Separation	42	38	76	18	79	19	272
Custody & Maintenance	67	54	61	48	122	45	397
Accident claims	0		22	2	15		39
Administration of estates	83	85	112	53	176	95	604
Debt claims	6	29	9	8	48	7	107
Employment Claims	1	3	59	10	25	4	102
Civil (Gen)	28	82	95	47	77	65	394
Criminal	265	494	307	270	373	178	1,887
Total	725	1,165	963	657	1,489	708	5,707

Table 8: Legal aid Services that were offered in the 6 Legal Aid Clinics supported by IDLO in 2023

Intervention	GULU	KABALE	KAMPALA	MASINDI	JINJA	KABAROLE	Overall
Legal advice and counseling	301	290	346	297	398	200	1,832
ADR	104	97	203	48	85	81	618
Legal representation	230	738	244	222	862	317	2,613
Police Bond			38	3	65		106
Bail	30	16		8	25	1	80
Self-representation			17		17		34
Referrals	60	24	115	79	37	109	424
Total	725	1,165	963	657	1,489	708	5,707

Table 9: Nature and Number of Cases Handled by Community-based volunteers in the 9 Satellite Legal Aid Clinics Supported by UN Women in 2023

GBV case	Kitgum	Pader	Nakapiripirit	Abim	Gulu	Kaberamaido	Amuria	Amudat	Nabilatuk	Overall
Sexual violence	42	33	221	17	6	126	43	44	3	535
Harmful traditional practices	16	10	14	0	0	219	24	4	0	287
Economic violence	107	282	215	169	23	205	390	308	22	1,721
Emotional and psychological violence	62	9	11	67	1	0	14	151	0	315
Maintenance/child neglect/custody	69	27	109	78	3	95	37	74	8	500
Physical violence/domestic violence	120	59	44	115	13	0	28	81	4	464
Other related matters	79	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	1	101
TOTAL	495	420	614	446	46	645	536	683	38	3,923

Table 10: Nature and number of formal cases handled in the 9 Satellite Legal Aid Clinics Supported by UN Women in 2023

GBV case	Kitgum	Pader	Nakapiripirit	Abim	Gulu	Kaberamaido	Amuria	Amudat	Nabilatuk	Overall
Sexual violence	209	51	245	20	76	212	43	22	9	887
Harmful traditional practices	36	17	123	0	3	336	24	6	0	545
Economic violence	475	983	325	188	135	367	765	1135	288	4,661
Emotional and psychological violence	155	3	93	6	5	0	38	68	0	368
Maintenance/child neglect/custody	205	73	175	64	33	144	84	145	159	1,082
Physical violence/domestic violence	177	179	168	27	23	221	18	85	54	952
Other related matters	247	0	0	2	15	6	0	191	10	471
TOTAL	1,504	1,306	1,129	307	290	1,286	972	1,652	520	8,966

Table 11: Status of Progress of Cases Handled by Legal Aid Staff in the 9 satellite Clinics Supported by UN Women in 2023

Type of GBV case	Legal Aid Offices			Court			Referred cases	Total	Sex Disaggregation	
	Legal Advice in Office	Pending in Office	Mediation Concluded in Office	Pending Mediation in court	Pending cases in Court	Concluded cases in Court			F	M
Sexual violence	64	3	2	2	104	125	587	887	765	122
Harmful traditional practices	373	8	1	0	4	0	159	545	505	40
Economic violence	2,779	469	449	70	525	163	206	4,661	2,544	2,117
Emotional and psychological violence	239	4	29	0	1	0	95	368	285	83
Maintenance/child neglect/custody	583	118	174	14	42	31	120	1,082	957	125
Physical violence/domestic violence	273	34	93	0	34	43	475	952	782	170
Other related matters	257	19	39	1	45	66	44	471	217	254
TOTAL	4,568	655	787	87	755	428	1,686	8,966	6,055	2,911

THE LEGAL AID PROJECT OF UGANDA LAW SOCIETY (JAN-AUGUST 2024)

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HADS	Humanitarian Assistance and Development Services
IDLO	International Development Law Organization
LAP-ULS	Legal Aid Project of Uganda Law Society
PWDs	Persons with Disability
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

OVERVIEW OF PERFORMANCE OF THE LEGAL AID PROJECT IN 2024

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: Enhancing access to justice for indigent, vulnerable and marginalized persons

Outcome 1: Increased access to quality legal aid and advisory support services to the indigent, marginalized and vulnerable persons

1.1. Legal representation and advisory support services through Legal Aid Clinics

The LAP-ULS has so far in 2024 been in position to have a total of 8,216 people benefitting from services which include legal representation in court, use of ADR/mediation to settle disputes, offering legal advice and counseling, referral to other partners, mobile clinics, and visits to detention facilities.

Of the people that have been supported so far, 1,579 had their legal matters resolved through ADR/mediation and through Court (1082 ADR/mediation and 497 Court), 105 have their matters pending mediation, 1,180 have their cases pending in Court while 6,883 people were given legal advice and referred to other service providers.

Of the cases handled during the year, criminal cases were the most prevalent cases handled with a total of 6,063 cases accounting for 43.2%, followed by land & property at 4,702 (33.5%). GBV cases which included economic violence, sexual violence, physical violence and harmful traditional practices were at 1,333 (9.5%) custody and maintenance cases 506 (4%), and administration of estates cases 417 (3%). The other cases included divorce and separation, debt claims, employment claims and accident claim among others as provided in figure 1 and 2 below.

Figure 15: Nature of cases handled through the Legal Aid clinics

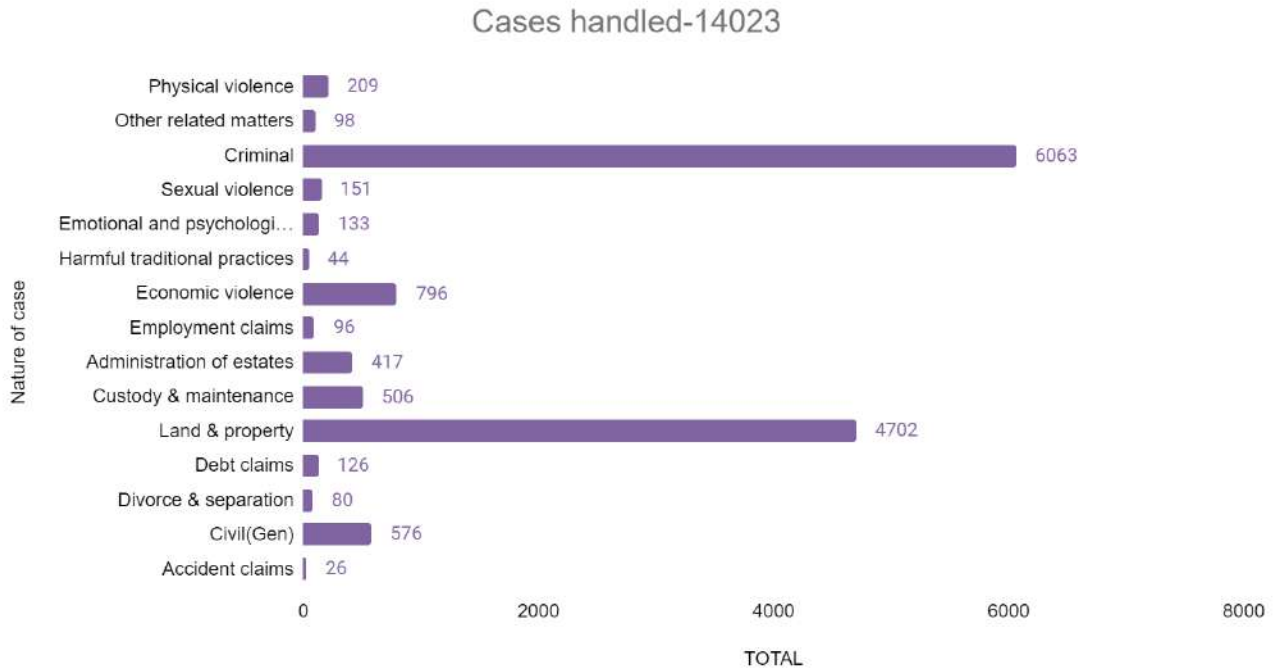
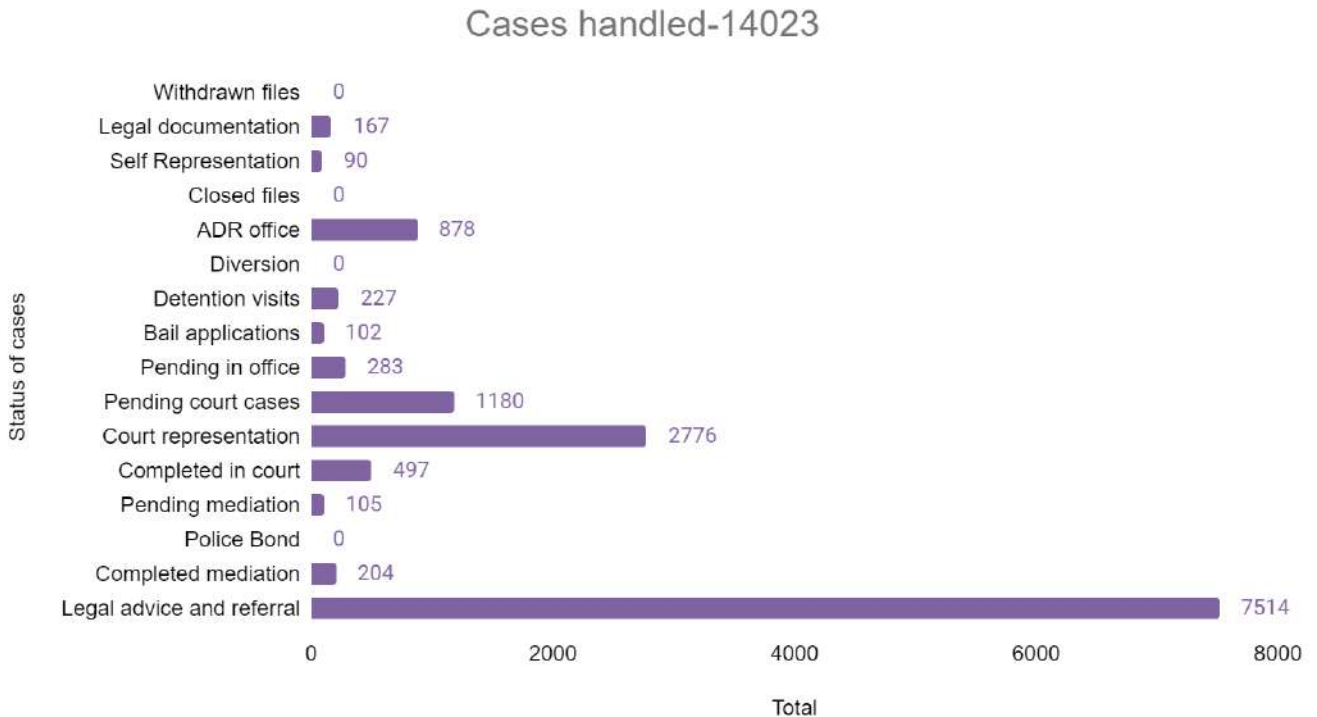


Figure 16: Status of progress of cases handled by the Legal Aid Clinics



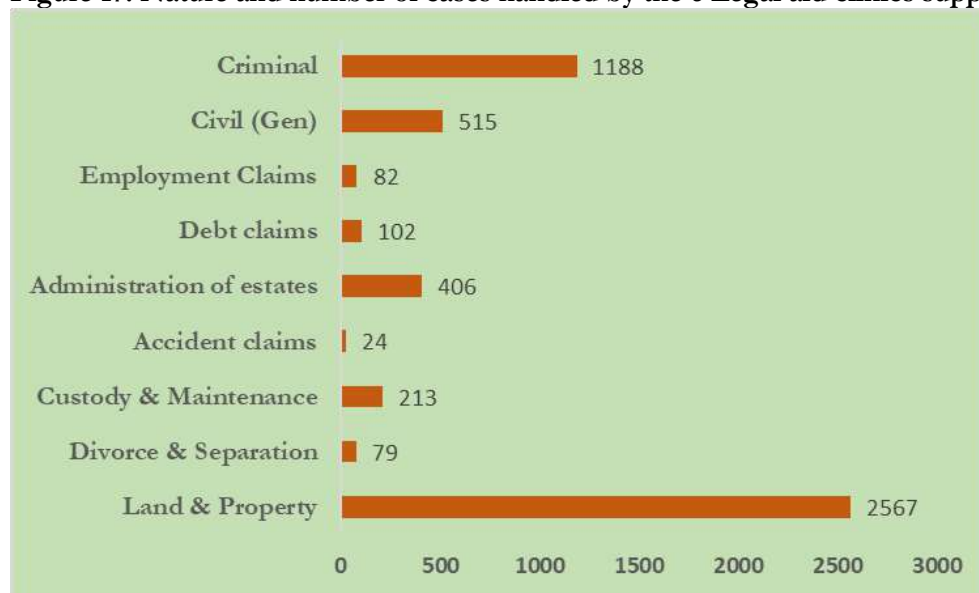
1.1.1. Legal representation and advisory support through the clinics supported by IDLO

During the reporting period, IDLO continued to support 6 Legal Aid Clinics of Kampala, Masindi, Gulu, Kabale, Kabarole, and Jinja. Because of the support, a total of 5,176 clients received legal assistance in the form of representation in Court, ADR/mediation, Legal Advice, and referral to other service providers. The Legal aid clinics offered legal representation to 1,857 (1335M, 522F) clients, facilitated mediation of

500 cases and offered legal advice to 2,714 persons during the reporting period with a total of 578 cases (384M, 194F) concluded.

Important to note is that the land and property cases were the highest number of cases handled, they were 2,567 accounting for 49%, followed by criminal cases which were 1,188, Administration of Estates which were 406 and custody and maintenance which were 213.

Figure 17: Nature and number of cases handled by the 6 Legal aid clinics supported by IDLO in 2024

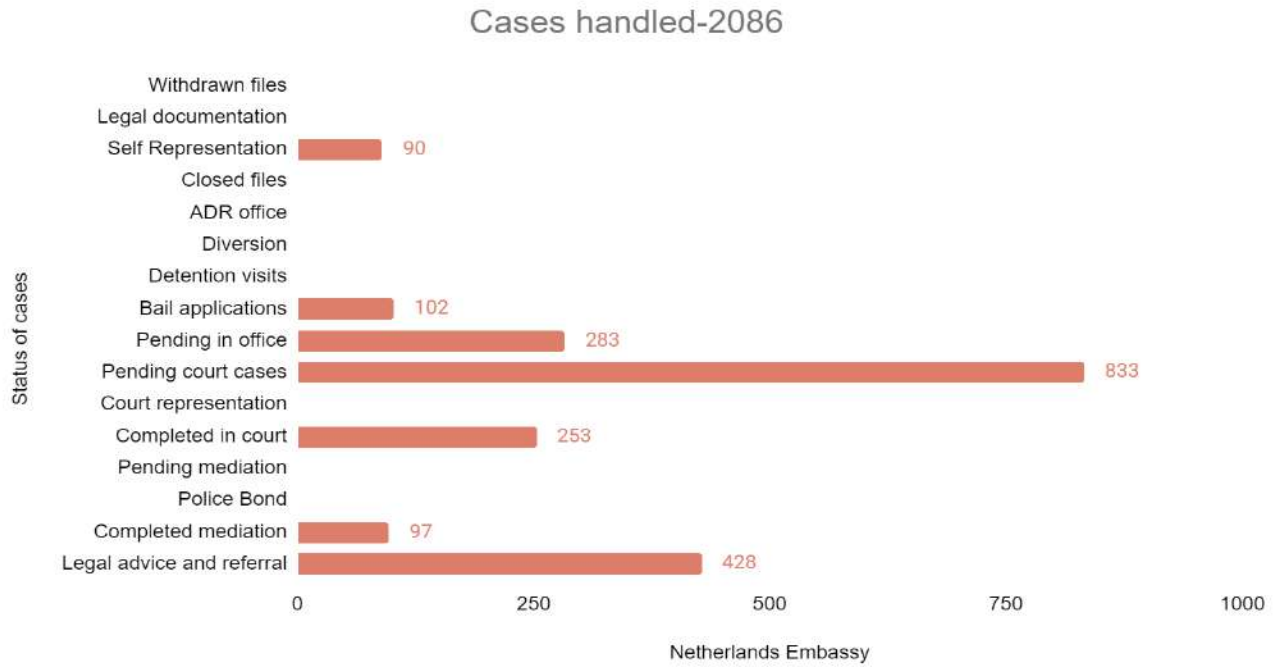


1.1.2. Legal representation and advisory support through the clinics supported by Netherlands Embassy

In the first month of 2024, the Netherlands Embassy’s support to the 4 Legal Aid clinics of Luzira, Luwero, Soroti and Mbarara which started in 2023 continued and came to an end at the end of January. The clinics nevertheless continued to provide support to the communities under scale and on a voluntary basis, and this ensured that 2,086 clients benefitted from legal aid services of legal representation, legal advice, use of ADR/mediation and referral to other service providers.

Of the 2,086 cases, 253 cases were completed in court and 97 were completed through mediation at the legal aid clinics. Furthermore, 382 clients were offered legal advice, 102 individuals were supported to get bail, and 90 clients were empowered to represent themselves in Court. A sum of 283 cases remained pending in office, 833 cases remained pending in court whereas 46 cases were referred to other service providers.

Figure 18: Status of cases handled by the 4 legal aid clinics supported by the Netherlands Embassy in 2024



1.1.3. Legal representation and advisory support through the clinics supported by UN Women

UN Women supports 9 satellite clinics of Gulu, Kitgum, Nakapiripirit, Nabilatuk, Amudat, Amuria, Abim, Kaberamaido and Pader to offer legal representation and advisory services to the indigent, vulnerable and marginalized persons especially women and girls.

During the reporting period, 2,479 (M 668, F 1811) persons benefited from the project. Among these, 1,666 (67%) received direct legal support from the project advocates whereas 813 (33%) clients were supported through informal justice systems involving cultural leaders and community-based volunteers trained by the project.

Among the clients served by the project’s legal aid staff, 796 reported cases of denial to economic resources, 235 had child neglect/maintenance cases, 209 with physical/domestic violence, 151 had sexual violence cases, 133 emotional and psychological violence, 44 reported cases of harmful traditional practices and 44 had other related GBV cases. As such, the legal aid staff offered Legal advice to 770 people, facilitated ADR/mediation of 327 cases, 201 of which were concluded and 126 remained pending, represented 333 cases in court of which 68 were concluded and 265 remained pending, and 236 cases were referred to other partners for appropriate support.

Figure 19: Number and nature of cases handled by Legal aid staff in the 9 satellite clinics supported by UN Women in 2024

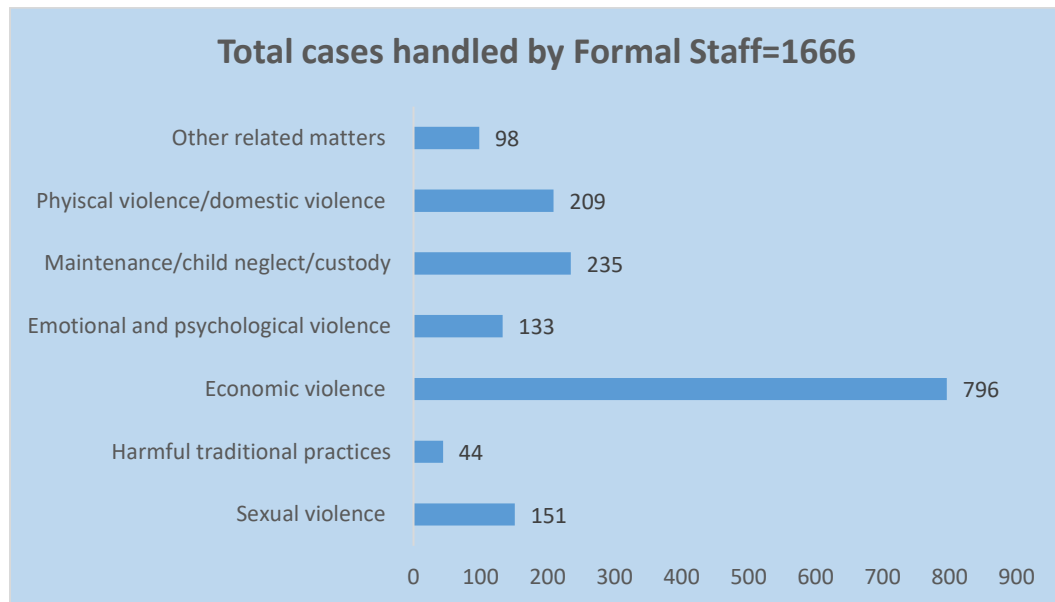
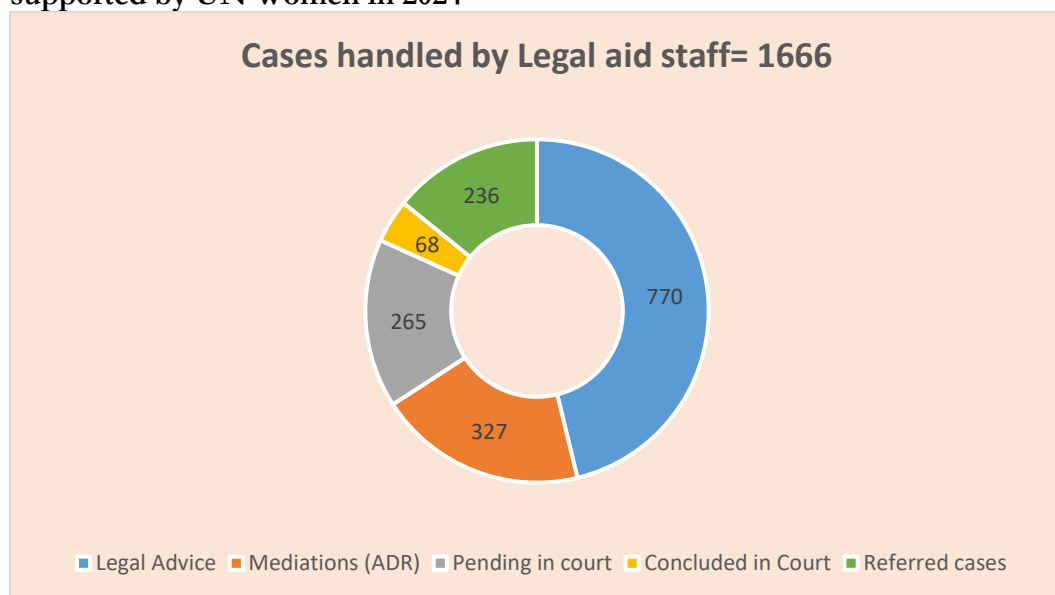


Figure 20: Status of progress of cases handled by Formal legal aid staff in the 9 satellite clinics supported by UN Women in 2024



1.1.4. Legal representation and advisory support through the clinics supported by the Embassy of Ireland in Uganda in 2024

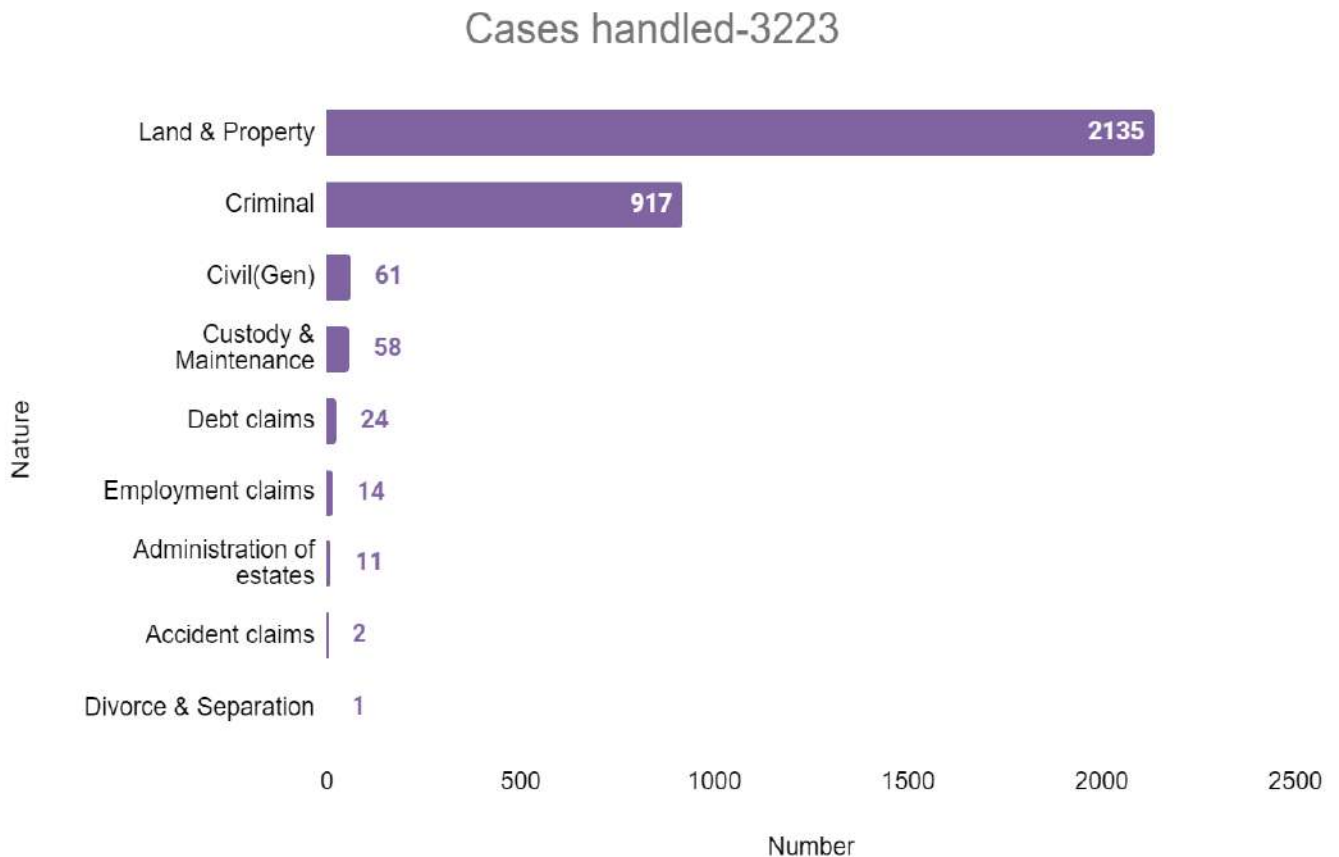
The LAP-ULS clinics that are supported by the Embassy of Ireland in Uganda that is Moroto, Kotido and Nakapiripirit have so far in 2024 provided legal representation to 421 (333M, 88F) people, facilitated mediation for 107 (71M, 36F) people, and offered legal advice to 2,064 (1613M, 451F) people.

Furthermore, 19 community outreaches have been conducted during which 2,341 (1418M, 923F) people benefitted from the information that was shared on legal and human rights. The legal aid clinics have also

trained 397 (147F, 250M) community-based paralegals and conducted 6 mobile court sessions during which 187 cases were handled with 115 being concluded.

Overall, 3,223 cases have been handled during the reporting period. Of these, 2,135 (66%) were land and property issues, 917 (28%) were criminal cases, while 58 cases were custody and child maintenance.

Figure 21: Number and nature of cases handled by the Legal Aid Clinics supported by the Embassy of Ireland in Uganda in 2024.



1.2. Legal Aid interventions for Refugees and Host communities

1.2.1. Legal representation and advisory support for the refugees and host communities in West Nile and in Kyaka II in Kyegegwa supported by International Rescue Committee (IRC)

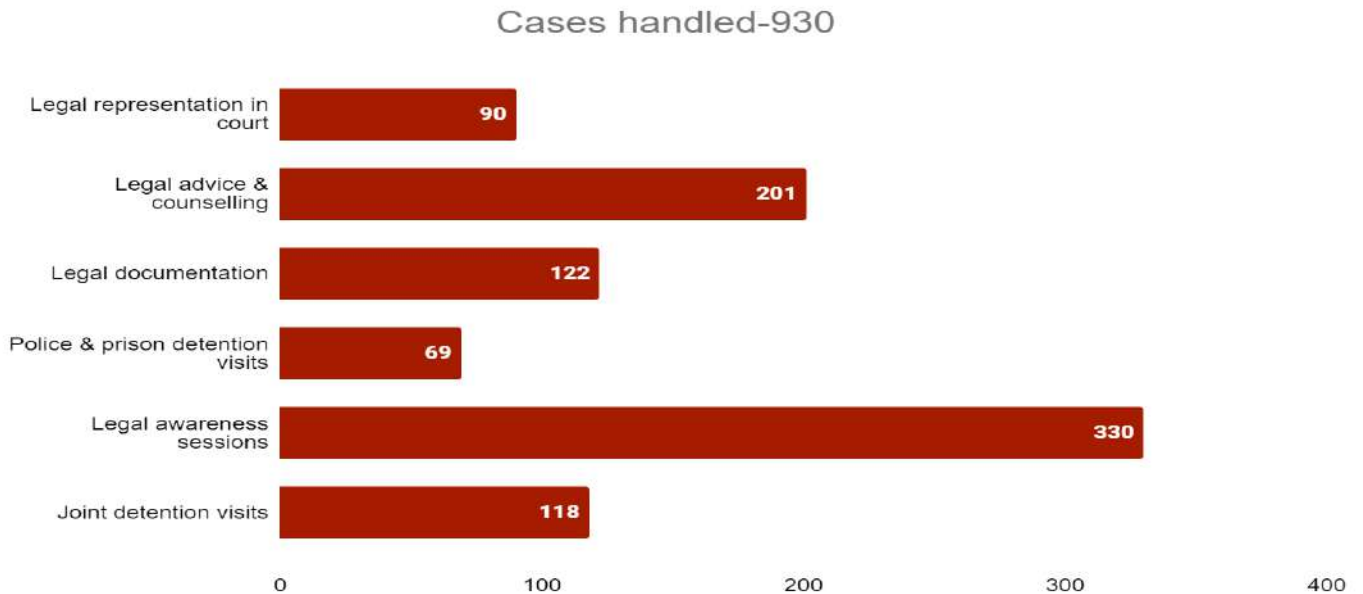
During the reporting period, a total of 269 (239M, 30F) persons were supported with legal aid services in Bidibidi Settlement in Yumbe and Kyaka II Settlement in Kyegegwa. Of these 269 people, 151 (138M, 13F) were represented in courts of law and through ADR/mediation, 85 (82M, 3F) were given legal advice during visits to detention facilities, whereas 11 (9M, 2F) were supported with legal documentation such as

statutory declarations and production warrants. 15 mobile legal aid clinics were held around the settlements, during which 21 (10M, 11F) persons we serve received legal advice and counseling.

1.2.2. Legal representation of Persons we Serve supported by Danish Refugee Council (DRC)

Through the LAP-ULS Clinic in Arua, 930 (621M, 309F) persons we serve received legal assistance in Rhino and Imvepi Settlements with support from DRC. Of these, 90 (89M, 01F) were represented in court; 201 (131M,70F) received legal advice and counseling at the clinic, 122 (72M,50F) were supported with legal documentation, and 69 (60M,9F) received legal advice during visits to police stations and prisons. 6 legal awareness sessions were facilitated during which 330 (163M,167F) people benefitted from the information shared on various legal and human rights issues. ULS also participated in joint detention monitoring visits with partners such as UNHCR, IRC, HADS during which issues of human rights compliance are assessed. The initiative continues to be a vital resource for refugees and host communities in the region, ensuring access to justice and legal protection.

Figure 22: Representation of Persons we Serve in Rhino and Imvepi Settlements supported by DRC in 2024



1.2.3. Legal representation and advisory services by Legal aid clinics supported by ALIGHT Uganda.

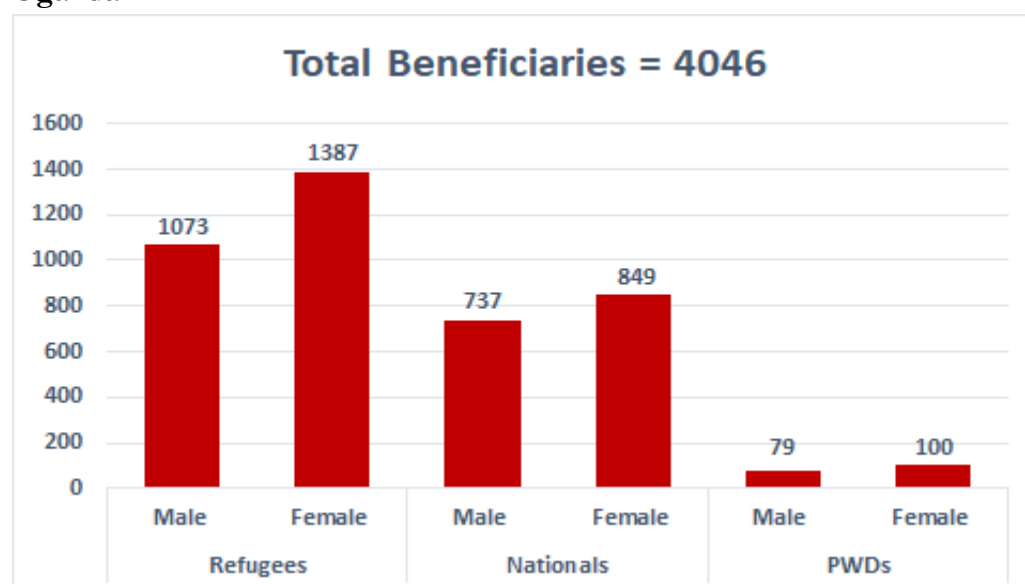
ALIGHT Uganda continued to support the LAP-ULS clinics of Kabarole and Mbarara to provide legal assistance to the refugees and host communities in their areas of operation. As such, a total of 251 (215M, 36F) Persons we Serve (PwS) were represented in courts of law. Additionally, 34 (23M, 11F) persons we serve were supported with legal documents such as statutory declarations.

The clinics also conducted a total of 40 detention monitoring visits and 21 legal awareness sessions during the reporting period.

1.2.4. Legal Aid services for refugees and host communities in West Nile supported by Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in 2024

With continued support from the NRC, the LAP-ULS offered legal aid services to refugees and host communities in Arua. During the reporting period (Jan 2024-July 2024), a total of 4,046 persons benefited from legal aid services, including GBV prevention information sessions, GBV counseling and awareness sessions on human rights relating to gender. Of the 4,046 people, 1,073 were Male Refugees (MR), 1,387 were Female refugees (FR), 737 were Male Nationals (MN), while 849 were Female Nationals (FN). Important to note is that 179 (100F, 79M) PWDs were also beneficiaries of the Legal Aid services offered by LAP with support from NRC during the reporting period.

Figure 23: Legal representation and advisory services by Legal aid clinics supported by ALIGHT Uganda



Furthermore, 974 (150MR, 216FR, 227MR, 201FR) persons attended the GBV information sessions which usually focused on the GBV case referral mechanisms. Additionally, a total of 75 people (28MR, 23FR, 15MN, 09FN) were supported with GBV counseling services offered by the Legal Aid clinics supported by NRC.

1.2.5. Access to Justice Program with Support from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Through the LAP-ULS pro bono coordination centers and with support from the UNODC, a total of 1,030 (795M, 235F) persons benefited from legal representation, legal advice and sensitization on human rights. Of the 1030 persons, 509 (323M, 186F) benefitted from the sensitization sessions on human rights issues, 364 (336M, 28F) received legal advice and counseling, whereas 157 (136M, 21F) were represented in courts of law.

To note, a total of 75 (63M, 12F) were concluded in courts of law while 82 (73M, 9F) are still pending in the courts.

Figure 24: Number of persons who received legal aid services with support from UNODC between Jan-June 2024

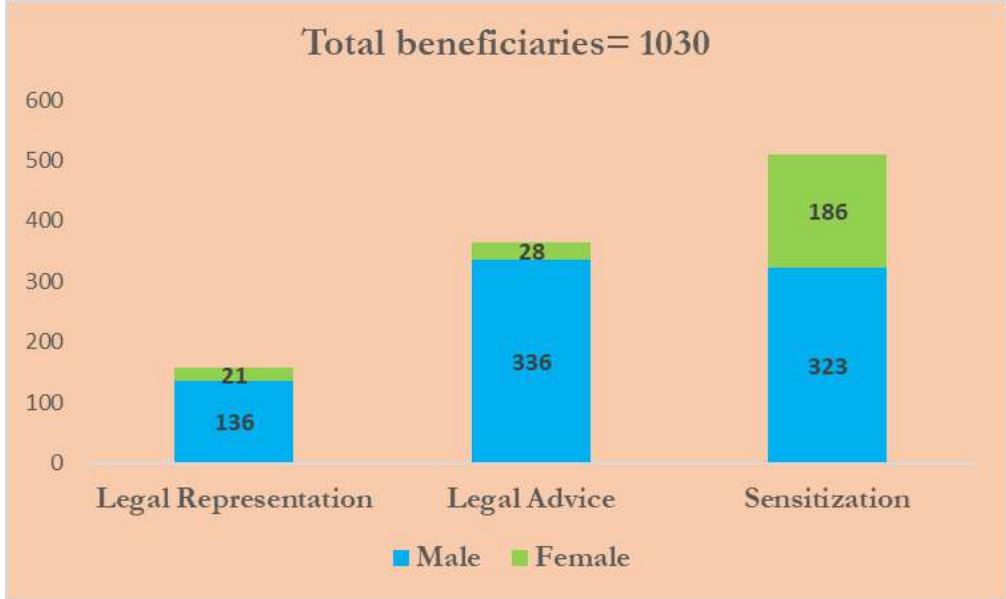
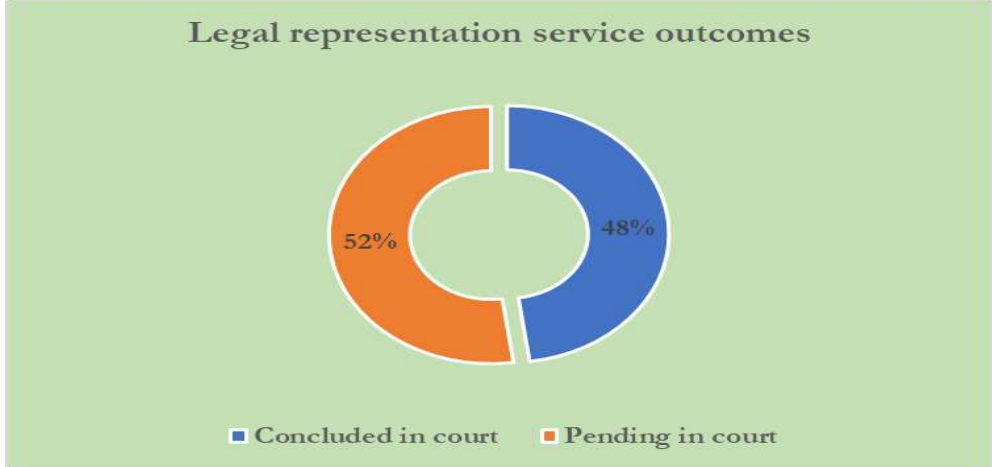


Figure 23: Status of cases handled with support from UNODC between Jan-June 2024



1.3. Legal representation through Innovations and Toll-free lines

1.3.1. Interactive Voice Response (IVR)

The IVR system at ULS was designed to relay information on GBV and reporting avenues as well as how to apply for bail and police bond. The languages used include; English, Luganda, Lusoga, Lunyakitara, Ateso, Luo and Nyak- Karamojong. So far in 2024, 543 People have benefitted from the services using their preferred language.

1.3.2. Electronic Legal Aid Center

The Electronic Legal Aid Centre (ELAC) is a web-based application accessible through the Uganda Law Society website (www.uls.or.ug) and is designed to offer web-based access to legal assistance. Anybody with access to the internet can access and download free uploaded legal resources covering both the civil

and criminal elements of the law. For the reporting period, **7200** people have been able to access legal assistance through the ELAC.

1.3.3. Toll Free lines

LAP-ULS has continued to provide legal assistance through the toll-free lines it operates with support from UN Women, and so far in 2024, a total of 290 (94M, 196F) people have received basic legal advice and guidance on how they can seek redress as well as referral to the rightful channel for support through the toll-free lines.

Outcome 2: Promotion of respect for human rights and Rule of law in Uganda.

2.1. Community sensitizations

In a bid to contribute to the increase in knowledge of their legal and human rights, thereby promoting the respect for human rights and the rule of law in Uganda, the LAP-ULS conducted sensitizations / legal awareness sessions in the communities as well as the detention facilities in the different districts where the legal aid clinics are established. The sensitizations / awareness sessions covered topics such as the rights of accused persons in detention, plea bargain, bail, bond, criminal trial processes, land rights, administration of estates, succession and inheritance, women's rights to property, and the legal implications of statutory declarations among others. A total of 51 sessions have been conducted in the communities and 20 in the detention facilities so far in 2024, with a total of 5,157 (3217M, 1940F) people benefitting from the information shared during the sessions 3,620 (2184M, 1436F) in the communities, and 1,537 (1033M, 504F) in detention facilities].

SUCCESS STORIES

Story 1: Hard Work Rewarded

“Okongo” was a Manager with Nadugent Sub County Livestock & Produce Farmers’ Cooperative Society Limited from 2011-2020, with over 6000 members. The cooperative was dealing in produce. It thrived and realized great income returns and interests. During this time, he was not paid a salary amounting to 12,000,000/=UGX (Twelve Million Shillings only) regardless of his dedication. In 2020, he was unfairly dismissed without pay. Disappointed, he reported the matter to the District Labour Officer (DLO) to no avail. Okongo heard about the project from and that it was supported by the Embassy of Ireland. He sought legal advice and assistance from the Moroto clinic. The Assistant Legal Officer began following up the matter with the DLO and the District Commercial Officer (DCO) and discovered that Okongo’s former employer had agreed to pay him 4,990,000/= UGX (Four Million Nine Hundred Ninety Thousand Shilling only) after deductions of losses that occurred in the course of his work. However, he was only given 1,200,000/=UGX (One Million Two Hundred Thousand Shillings only). Due to the commitment of the office in following up the matter, Okongo was eventually given the balance of 3,790,000/=UGX (Three Million Seven Hundred Ninety Thousand Shillings only). Additionally, in Okongo’s absence, the cooperative’s performance had gone down. The DLO assured the office that Okongo would be reinstated to his former position at the cooperative. Okongo is a happy man, he received justice and is very grateful to the clinic and Embassy of Ireland for the support rendered to him.



Mr. Okongo receiving his reward before the Assistant Legal Officer-Moroto Clinic.

Story 2: Children Reunited with their Mother

“Nakut”, a mother of 2 children separated with her husband. She left the children with him, remarried but later on he passed away. The children began staying with one of their step mothers, “Nakiru” who got them into forced labour, making them sell tobacco. Due to the hardship, they ran away to another step mother’s (Madelena) home where they found some comfort. Nakiru approached Madelena and started attacking her for taking away the children, her ‘labour and sources of income.’ Madelena heard about the project and went to the Nakapiripirit clinic and explained the challenge she was facing. The office located Nakut, convened a meeting at the clinic for the three women and the children were handed back to Nakut who said she was capable of taking care of them. The family went home excited about their future after the reunion.

Story 3: Widow Regains Property

“Apalony” got married to her first husband, they had 2 children but unfortunately, he passed away. Her parents-in-law forced her to marry her late husband’s younger brother. They had 6 children and he also passed away, leaving her with 8 children and the pain of losing 2 husbands. After sometime, her father-in-laws ordered her to marry another of his sons who was over 9 years younger than her. She tried to rebel and told them she felt embarrassed about it but the family insisted. She refused to heed to them and was sent away from the home along with her children. With nowhere to go, she went back to her father’s home.

One day when listening to the radio, she heard the Kotido clinic staff on Etoil A Karamoja sponsored by the Embassy of Ireland. They were introducing the project to the listeners and that they provide free legal

services. Apalony wanted help for her orphaned children so they could study. She went to the clinic where a mediation was successfully held between Apalony and her in-laws. The clinic organized another session to sensitize the family on issues of succession, implications of a valid marriage, and the unconstitutionality of oppressive cultural practices of widow inheritance without consent. After the session, the father-in-law gave Apalony 3 acres of land and 5 heads of cattle to cater for herself and the children. Both parties left the office satisfied and contented. Apalony expressed great gratitude to the Embassy of Ireland and clinic helping her regain property and cattle that will help her earn income and cultivate food to care for her family's feeding needs and children's education.

Story 4: A Successful Self-Representation

“Merab”, was charged with Theft and taken to Kaabong Magistrate’s Court. She was a Manager at a guest house in Kaabong. One day a guest failed to pay an accumulated accommodation bill of 850,000/= UGX (Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Shillings Only) for a month. In a bid to evade payment, the guest dragged the Manager to police claiming that her property, particularly money and a laptop, had been stolen within the vicinity of the guest house. The Kotido clinic team met Merab in November 2023 and trained her to self-represent at court. In July 2024, the Magistrate Grade 1 acquitted her of the charges and set her free because the prosecution had failed to prove her guilt beyond reasonable doubt. Merab was excited and called the office to deliver the news. She said that without the support of the clinic and Embassy of Ireland, her fate would have been different. She did not know how to defend herself before the training and neither could she afford a private Lawyer for help.

Story 5: Orphaned children regain land

The Kabarole clinic handled a dispute where three children, being children born out of wedlock by their late father approached the office for assistance after they had been denied a share of the estate of their late father by their Step mother. Their father died intestate in 2015 and left an estate comprising approximately 6 acres of land. The matter was handled by local authorities including LC.1, LC.111 Rutete Sub-county and CDO but yielded nothing for our clients hence the chairperson LC.III referring the clients to Legal aid offices for more assistance. On 17/05/2024, mediation invitation letters were issued for both parties to come to office on the 23rd day of May 2023, and 23/05/2024 the mediation was convened which was partially successful but discovered the need for a further mediation at locus. A locus visit was scheduled and conducted at Kamigani B zone, Rwaihamba Parish, Rutete Sub-county, Kabarole District involving the family of the late, a few neighbors and the area LC. I Chairperson. There was mutual agreement between the parties and the three children who had approached the Kabarole clinic were allocated pieces of land as their shares and are utilizing the land for their sustenance.

Story 6: Liberty Regained

Kabarole Clinic represented a client who was incarcerated on charges of threatening violence and had been on remand for a long time without being heard in court. The clinic represented him in court, they were able to secure for him bail pending hearing, they also supported in seeing that the case was heard expeditiously, and on 7/5/2024 the client was acquitted of the charges and discharged. This support enabled the client to regain his liberty, go back to his family and continue to provide and support them as he was doing before his incarceration.

PICTORIAL



Photo taken of the team from the clinics supported by the Embassy of Ireland in Uganda together with the Secretariat team during a Reflective meeting in Moroto



Photo taken of the NakapiripiritClinic team and the team from the Secretariat during field monitoring visit



Photo taken of the LAP Kotido Clinic team together with other stakeholders at the Kotido Chief Magistrates Court after a DCC Meeting



Photos taken of participants during training of community-based paralegals in Moroto and Nakapiripirit respectively



Photo taken of the Moroto Clinic Legal team conducting a radio talk show on AKICA People's Voice FM



Photo taken of the Kotido Clinic Legal team and other partners conducting a radio talk show on Radio Karamoja



Photo taken of the Kampala clinic team with the local leaders of Nabuta village after the sensitization at Nabuta, Namilyango-Seeta in Mukono District



A Legal

Officer from the Kabarole Clinic facilitating a mediation at locus at Kagusu Cell, Gweri Ward, North Division, Fort Portal



Photo taken of the Senior Legal officer and Legal volunteer from Kabale Clinic at a radio talk show at Radio Maria, Kabale



Photo taken of the Senior Legal Officer Gulu Clinic during a radio talk show at Favour FM, Gulu



Photo taken of community members listening to the Legal Officer Gulu clinic during a mediation at locus / sensitization in Nwoya



Photo taken of Officers from Jinja clinic attending to clients during a legal aid open day in Kayunga



The ULS team and the Refugee block leaders facilitating a reintegration meeting of one of the people represented and released from prison



ULS Legal officers with DRC staffs participating on the celebration of world Refugee day held at Ofua 3 of Rhino Camp



One of the guests at the celebration of the World Refugee day in Arua inspecting ULS Stall



ULS Legal Officer facilitating a legal information session at Imvepi Settlement



ULS Legal officer facilitating a dialogue with the host community at Zone 3 Imvepi refugee settlement



ULS Legal officer interviewing a client during a mobile Clinic in Zone 1 village 7 in Bidibidi Settlement



ULS Legal officer speaking to participants of the Information Feedback Session Organized by IRC in Bidibidi Settlement Base Camp



Photo taken of participants attending the legal assistance /protection working Group Meeting at UNHCR SUB OFFICE YUMBE



Photo taken during mobile court session held at Zone 2, Village 3 and during which the ULS Legal Officer represented clients

Table 12: Status of progress of cases handled in the 4 Legal Aid Clinics supported by Netherlands Embassy Jan-June 2024

Status of Case	Luwero	Luzira	Mbarara	Soroti	TOTAL
Completed in Office	32	9	13	43	97
Pending in Office	47	28	90	118	283
Completed in Court	55	24	60	114	253
Pending in Court	195	68	395	175	833
Bail application	40	8	30	24	102
Given Legal Advice	216	34	115	17	382
Cases Referred	26	0	18	2	46
Self-representation	29	0	3	58	90
Total	635	171	724	551	2,086

Table 13: Nature and number of cases handled in the 6 Legal Aid Clinics supported by IDLO Jan-June 2024

Nature of Cases	Kampala	Kabale	Jinja	Masindi	Kabarole	Gulu	TOTAL
Land & Property	218	265	1,558	161	140	225	2,567
Divorce & Separation	42	11	10	5	8	3	79
Custody & Maintenance	65	47	26	41	10	24	213
Accident claims	12	0	8	2	0	2	24
Administration of estates	111	48	87	82	64	14	406
Debt claims	17	22	28	28	6	1	102
Employment Claims	30	8	10	9	0	25	82
Civil (Gen)	49	111	274	37	16	28	515
Criminal	179	441	276	26	62	204	1,188
Total	723	953	2,277	391	306	526	5,176

Table 14: Nature and number of cases handled by Legal Aid staff in the 9 satellite clinics supported by UN Women Jan-June 2024

Type of GBV case	Legal Aid Offices			Court			Referrals
	Legal Advice	Pending Mediations	Mediation Concluded	Pending Mediation	Pending in Court	Concluded in Court	
Sexual violence	22	0	0	0	37	33	59
Harmful traditional practices	24	1	5	0	2	0	12
Economic violence	378	87	83	8	178	21	41
Emotional and psychological violence	95	0	15	0	0	0	23

Maintenance/child neglect/custody	116	24	44	0	14	3	34
Physical violence/domestic violence	89	1	40	0	10	8	61
Other related matters	46	5	14	0	24	3	6
TOTAL	770	118	201	8	265	68	236

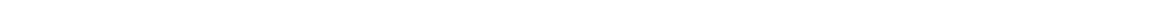
Table 15: Nature and number of cases handled by Cultural leaders and Community based Volunteers in the 9 satellite clinics supported by UN Women Jan-June 2024

Type of GBV case	Cultural Institutions			Community Legal Volunteers			Referrals	T
	Legal Advice	Pending Mediations	Mediation Concluded	Legal Advice	Pending Mediations	Mediation concluded		
Sexual violence	15	0	0	15	0	0	63	
Harmful traditional practices	12	0	1	15	0	1	13	
Economic violence	35	1	61	86	10	92	23	
Emotional and psychological violence	0	0	0	48	0	11	0	
Maintenance/child neglect/custody	27	0	9	38	10	32	19	
Physical violence/domestic violence	7	0	3	15	11	31	45	
Other related matters	7	0	5	29	4	15	4	
TOTAL	103	1	79	246	35	182	167	

Uganda Law Society

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**Uganda Law Society
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UGANDA LAW SOCIETY'S INFORMATION

ADDRESS

Block 216 Plot 610 Buye, Ntinda
Off Ntinda - Kisasi Road
P. O. Box 426
Kampala, Uganda
Fax: +256-414-342431
Website: www.uls.or.ug

BANKERS

Standard Chartered Bank Limited

Plot 5 Speke Road Branch
P.O. Box 7111
Kampala, Uganda

Development Finance Company of Uganda (DFCU) Bank Limited

Acacia Branch
Plot 24B Acacia Avenue, Kololo
P.O. Box 70
Kampala, Uganda

Stanbic Bank Uganda Limited

Forest Mall Branch
Plot 3A2/3A3 Sports Lane Lugogo
P.O. Box 7131
Kampala Uganda

Centenary Rural Development Bank Limited

Mapeera House
Plot 44-46
Kampala Road
P. O. Box 1892
Kampala, Uganda.

Absa Bank Uganda Limited

Acacia Mall Branch
Kampala, Uganda.

PostBank Uganda Limited

Plot 4, 6 Nkrumah Rd, Kampala

AUDITORS

TDS & CO.
Certified Public Accountants
UMA Show Ground, Lugogo, UCIL House
Kampala, Uganda
P. O. Box 538, Kampala
Tel: 0414 667502/+256702185817
Email: info@tds.co.ug

**Uganda Law Society
Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements
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REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

The Council presents their report together with the audited financial statements of Uganda Law Society (ULS) for the period ended 31 December 2023, which discloses the activities of ULS and the Council and the financial performance.

VISION

A proficient Bar Association in fostering access to Justice, the Rule of Law and good governance in Uganda

MISSION

To develop a skilled and empowered legal profession in execution of its statutory mandate

COUNCIL MEMBERS

The following members served as Council members during the year under review and up to the time of signing these financial statements.

Mr. Benard Oundo	: President
Mr. Martin Asingwire Baryaruha	: Vice President
Mr. Isaac Atukunda	: Honorary Secretary
Mr. Isaac Newton Kyagaba	: Treasurer
Mr. Allan Musasire	: Council Member Western Region
Mr. Obedo Deo Gracious	: Council Member Eastern Region
Ms. Fatuma Omar	: Council Member Central Region
Mr. Egaru Emmanuel Omiat	: Council Member Northern Region
Mr. John Bosco R. Suuza	: Representative of the Attorney General
Ms. Stella Nyandria	: Representative to Solicitor General

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the ULS are found in section 3 of the Uganda Law Society Act, Cap 305

RESULTS

The results for the year are set out in the Income and Expenditure Statement on page 7.

AUDITORS

The auditors, Messrs. TDS & Co., have signified their willingness to continue in office in accordance with Uganda Law Society Act, (CAP 305) until the end of their term unless renewed accordingly.

Date: 26 September 2024

By Order of the Council



PRESIDENT

**Uganda Law Society
Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements
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STATEMENT OF COUNCIL'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Uganda Law Society Act, (Cap 305) requires the Council to cause proper account of all its funds, property and assets of the society for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Uganda Law Society (ULS) as at the end of the financial year and of its financial performance. The Council is also required to ensure that ULS keeps proper accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the ULS.

The Council accepts responsibility for the financial statements, which have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and in compliance with the Uganda Law Society Act, (Cap 305).

The Council is of the opinion that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the financial affairs of ULS for the year ended 31 December 2023 in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) and in compliance with Uganda Law Society Act, (Cap 305).

The Council further accepts responsibility for the maintenance of accounting records that may be relied upon in the preparation of financial statements and for such internal controls as the Council determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Nothing has come to the attention of the Council to indicate that Uganda Law Society will not remain a going concern for at least twelve months from the date of these financial statements.

Approved by the Council on 26th September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



PRESIDENT



TREASURER



& CO

Certified Public Accountants

Reg. No. AF0276

UMA Show Ground Lugogo

UCIL House

P.O. Box 538, Kampala - Uganda

Tel: 0414 667502, 0702 185817

Email : info@tds.co.ug

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF UGANDA LAW SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **Uganda Law Society (ULS)** as set out on pages 7 to 36, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, Income and expenditure statement, statement of changes in members' funds, statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of ULS as at 31 December 2023, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of ULS in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Uganda, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

The Council is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Report of the Council and any other information but does not include the Financial Statements and auditors report thereon.

Our opinion on the Financial Statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information; we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period.

We have determined that there are no key audit matters to be communicated in our report.



& CO

Certified Public Accountants

Reg. No. AF0276

UMA Show Ground Lugogo

UCIL House

P.O. Box 538, Kampala - Uganda

Tel: 0414 667502, 0702 185817

Email : info@tds.co.ug

Responsibilities of the Council for the financial Statements

The Council is required to cause proper accounts of all funds, property and assets of ULS and ensure fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), and for such internal controls as Council determines necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In cause proper accounts of all funds, property and assets of ULS, the Council is responsible for assessing ULS's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to the going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

The Council is responsible for overseeing ULS' financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with International Standards On Auditing (ISAs), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the ULS' internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of secretariat's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on ULS's ability to continue as a going concern.



& CO

Certified Public Accountants

UMA Show Ground Lugogo
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Reg. No. AF0276

- If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause ULS to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within ULS to express an opinion on the financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of ULS's audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with Council regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

In carrying out our audit, we consider and report to you the following matters. We confirm that:

- i) We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit;
- ii) In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by ULS so far as appears from our examination of those books; and
- iii) The financial statements are in agreement with the books of account.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is CPA Titus Bamwagale PO408.



TDS & CO. Certified Public Accountants

26 September 2024
Kampala, Uganda

Uganda Law Society
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INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

	Note	2023 Ushs.	2022 Ushs.
Income			
Revenue	3	3,699,828,096	3,007,712,005
Grants	4	4,541,016,167	5,497,703,607
Other income	5	330,136,309	625,492,529
Total Income		8,570,980,572	9,130,908,141
Expenditure			
Employment expenses	6	3,911,169,456	3,902,449,406
Administration expenses	7	547,277,539	748,582,979
Depreciation/Amortisation	8	142,736,656	122,608,768
Operational expenses	9	3,480,338,789	3,796,575,397
Total Expenditure		8,081,522,440	8,570,216,550
Surplus for the year		489,458,132	560,691,591

The accounting policies and notes set out on pages 11 to 36 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Uganda Law Society
Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements
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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	Note	2023 Ushs.	2022 Ushs.
ASSETS			
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property and Equipment	10	5,419,379,355	4,313,573,989
Prepaid operating lease	11	10,105,392	20,210,253
		5,429,484,747	4,333,784,242
CURRENT ASSETS			
Trade & other receivables	12	462,206,816	395,975,612
Inventory	13	4,142,391	4,157,391
Cash and short-term deposits	14	2,240,136,440	855,023,785
		2,706,485,647	1,255,156,788
TOTAL ASSETS		8,135,970,394	5,588,941,030
FUNDS AND LIABILITIES			
FUNDS			
Benevolent Fund	15	1,138,180	1,609,680
Development Fund	16	-	12,979,500
Building Fund	17	5,232,595,270	4,126,087,219
Accumulated Fund (Page 9)		(109,156,661)	439,613,758
		5,124,576,789	4,580,290,157
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Capital grant	18	175,357,254	159,641,304
Deferred grants	19	2,195,320,956	307,915,043
Trade & other payables	20	640,715,395	541,094,526
		3,011,393,605	1,008,650,873
TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES		8,135,970,394	5,588,941,030

The accounting policies and notes set out on pages 11 to 36 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Council on 26 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



PRESIDENT



TREASURER

Uganda Law Society
Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements
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STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN MEMBERS' FUNDS

	Accumulated Fund	Benevolent Fund	Development Fund	Building Fund	Total Funds
	Ushs.	Ushs.	Ushs.	Ushs.	Ushs.
Balance at 1 January 2022	957,885,152	5,022,680	647,636,459	2,292,707,275	3,903,251,566
Surplus for the year	560,691,591	-	-	-	560,691,591
Transfers to the Development Fund	(1,078,962,985)	-	1,078,962,985	-	-
Donations to the Development Fund	-	-	119,760,000	-	119,760,000
Transfer of funds to the Building Fund	-	-	(1,833,379,944)	1,833,379,944	-
Released to income	-	(3,413,000)	-	-	(3,413,000)
Balance at 31 December 2022	439,613,758	1,609,680	12,979,500	4,126,087,219	4,580,290,157
Balance at 1 January 2023	439,613,758	1,609,680	12,979,500	4,126,087,219	4,580,290,157
Surplus for the year	489,458,132	-	-	-	489,458,132
Transfers to the Development Fund	(1,038,228,551)	-	1,038,228,551	-	-
Donations to the Development Fund	-	-	55,300,000	-	55,300,000
Transfer of funds to the Building Fund	-	-	(1,106,508,051)	1,106,508,051	-
Additions during the year	-	1,575,000	-	-	1,575,000
Released to income	-	(2,046,500)	-	-	(2,046,500)
Balance at 31 December 2023	(109,156,661)	1,138,180	-	5,232,595,270	5,124,576,789

The accounting policies and notes set out on pages 11 to 36 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Uganda Law Society
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STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

	2023 Ushs.	2022 Ushs.
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Surplus for the year	489,458,132	560,691,591
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation of property & equipment	132,631,795	112,503,907
Amortisation of Leasehold property	10,104,861	10,104,861
Decrease / (Increase) in Trade & other receivables	(66,231,204)	56,402,989
(Decrease)/Increase in Trade & other payables	99,620,869	304,965,469
Decrease / (Increase) in Inventory	15,000	3,913,448
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	665,599,453	1,048,582,265
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Purchase of property and equipment	(131,929,110)	(111,458,199)
Cost of building-work in progress	(1,106,508,051)	(1,833,379,944)
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(1,238,437,161)	(1,944,838,143)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Funds net in/(out) flows	54,828,500	116,347,000
Capital grants	15,715,950	(16,300,378)
Deferred grants	1,887,405,913	(627,040,107)
NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES	1,957,950,363	(526,993,485)
Net movement in cash and cash equivalents	1,385,112,655	(1,423,249,363)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January	855,023,785	2,278,273,148
Cash and Cash equivalents at 31 December	2,240,136,440	855,023,785
Represented by:		
Cash at Bank and short-term deposits	2,240,136,440	855,023,785

The accounting policies and notes set out on pages 11 to 36 form an integral part of these financial statements

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

1. STATUS OF THE ACCOUNTING ENTITY

The Uganda Law Society (ULS) is a statutory body established by the Uganda Law Society Act, Cap 305 with the perpetual succession and common seal.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

2.2 Revenue Recognition

Revenue represents the amount earned from ULS' activities during the period under review. Income is recognised on an accrual basis. Revenue is recognised to the extent that the economic benefits will flow to the company and the revenue can be reliably measured.

2.3 Grants

Grants are recognised at their fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all attracting conditions will be complied with. When the grant relates to an expense item, it is recognised as income over the period necessary to match the grant on a systematic basis to the costs that it is intended to compensate. Where the grant relates to an asset, the fair value is deferred and is released to the Statement of Comprehensive Income over the useful life of the relevant asset by equal instalments to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to ULS.

2.4 Translation of foreign currencies

Transactions in foreign currencies are converted into Uganda shillings at the rates ruling on the respective transaction dates. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Uganda shillings at the Statement of Financial Position date. All differences are taken to the Income and Expenditure Statement.

2.5 Property and Equipment

Items of property and equipment are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of assets less their residual values over their estimated useful lives, using the straight line method.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

The following annual rates are used for the depreciation of property and equipment:

Leasehold land & Building	Over the lease period
Office furniture and fittings	12.5% per annum
Motor vehicles/cycles & Generators	25% per annum
Computers and accessories	33.3% per annum
Office Equipment	12.5% per annum
Law Literature	25% per annum

2.6 Leases

Lease entered into by ULS is an operating lease. The total payments made under operating leases are charged to the Income and Expenditure Statement as per IFRS on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

2.7 Trade and other Receivables

Trade receivables, which generally have 90-day terms, are recognised and carried at original invoice amount less an allowance for any un-collectable amounts. Bad debts are written off when all reasonable steps to recover them have been taken without success.

2.8 Cash and Cash equivalents

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks.

2.9 Inventory

Inventories are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value. Cost comprises expenditure incurred in the normal course of business. Net realisable value is the price at which the inventory can be realised in the normal course of business after allowing for costs of the realisation.

2.10 Trade and Other Payables

Liabilities for trade and other payables are carried at cost, which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in the future for goods and services received

2.11 Employee Retirement Benefits

ULS contributes to a statutory pension scheme for its employees, National Social Security Fund (NSSF). This is a defined contribution scheme registered under the National Social Security Fund Act. ULS' obligations under the scheme are limited to 10% of the employees' gross salary.

The Society's contributions are charged to the Income and Expenditure Statement in the period to which they relate.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*continued*)

2.12 Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation in the current year.

2.13 Impairment of Non-Current Assets

At each reporting date, property and equipment are reviewed to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If there is an indication of possible impairment, the recoverable amount of any affected asset (or group of related assets) is estimated and compared with its carrying amount. If the estimated recoverable amount is lower, the carrying amount is reduced to its estimated recoverable amount, and an impairment loss is recognised immediately in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Similarly, at each reporting date, inventories are assessed for impairment by comparing the carrying amount of each item of inventory (or group of similar items) with its selling price less costs to complete and sell. If an item of inventory (or group of similar items) is impaired, its carrying amount is reduced to selling price less costs to complete and sell, and an impairment loss is recognised immediately in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

2.14 Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies

ULS' activities expose it to a variety of financial risks: credit risk and liquidity risk. ULS' overall risk management programme seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the ULS' financial performance. Risk management is carried out by management on behalf of the Council. ULS is exposed to credit risk primarily with respect to trade receivables.

ULS' principal financial liabilities comprise trade and other payables. ULS has various financial assets such as trade and other receivables and cash, which arise directly from its operations.

The main risks arising from the ULS' financial instruments are liquidity risk and credit risk. Council reviews and agrees on policies for managing each of these risks.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*continued*)

Credit Risk

ULS offers services only with recognised, credit-worthy third parties. It is the ULS' policy that all customers who wish to get services on credit terms are subject to credit verification procedures. In addition, receivable balances are monitored on an ongoing basis with the result that the ULS' exposure to bad debts is not significant.

With respect to credit risk arising from the other financial assets of the ULS, which comprise cash and cash equivalents, the ULS' exposure to credit risk arises from default of the counterpart, with a maximum exposure equal to the carrying amount of these instruments.

Liquidity Risk

ULS monitors its risk of a shortage of funds using a recurring liquidity planning tool. This tool considers the maturity of both its financial investments and financial assets (e.g. accounts receivables, other financial assets) and projected cash flows from operations.

ULS' objective is to maintain a balance between continuity of funding and flexibility.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*continued*)

3. REVENUE	2023 Ushs.	2022 Ushs.
Membership fees	2,427,620,000	2,280,605,000
Continuing Legal Education (CLE)	836,108,666	383,768,302
Annual Law conference	429,867,224	343,338,703
Subscription @50%	4,500,000	-
EALS Subscription	1,732,206	-
TOTAL (To page 7)	3,699,828,096	3,007,712,005

ULS had 4,784 (2022: 4,452) paid up members. Each member contributes an annual subscription of Ushs. 500,000. In 2023, 4,784 members contributed a total of Ushs 2,392,000,000 and a total of 71 members (2022: 109) paid up their arrears totalling to Ushs. 35,500,000 (2023: Ushs. 54,605,000). CLE's income arises from members' conferences/trainings held by ULS.

4. GRANTS		
Netherlands Embassy	1,219,129,399	-
International Development Law Organization (IDLO)	749,832,088	727,985,650
UN Women	655,276,672	813,048,545
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	429,807,302	882,842,296
Ireland Embassy	399,001,309	-
Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	356,136,306	144,325,583
United Nations Office On Drugs And Crime (UNODC)	295,167,443	101,010,672
Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS)	166,894,724	314,641,404
Canadian Bar Association/ Supporting Inclusive Resource Development	129,014,698	533,080,506
Deutsche Gesellschaft Fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)	55,195,652	122,195,663
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	50,668,299	-
ALIGHT	32,162,275	146,250
Legal Aid Service Providers' Network (LASPNET)	2,170,000	5,215,000
CAFOMI	560,000	4,440,000
Democratic Governance Facility (DGF)	-	1,611,919,238
MacArthur	-	236,852,800
TOTAL (To page 7)	4,541,016,167	5,497,703,607

Note: Grants amounts utilised during the year are matched to expenses incurred during the same period.

Uganda Law Society
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*Continued*)

5. OTHER INCOME		
Capital Grants-Release	85,766,560	73,762,577
Lawyers Dinner Collections	78,410,000	7,240,000
Identity cards & related incomes	66,451,342	27,965,342
ULS Activities/Events sponsorships	51,400,000	242,507,000
Project/Grant Administration Contribution	36,616,907	239,715,934
Nomination Fees	7,000,000	18,500,000
Benevolent Contributions	2,046,500	3,413,000
Bids	1,350,000	2,000,000
Legal Regalia Income	445,000	470,517
Legal Aid Basket Fund	350,000	1,880,000
Female Lawyers Collections	300,000	-
Fixed Deposit Income	-	8,038,159
TOTAL (To page 7)	330,136,309	625,492,529
6. EMPLOYMENT EXPENSES		
Salaries & wages	3,767,040,752	3,810,017,381
Staff meals	53,661,700	39,582,000
Staff Medical Insurance	53,361,286	36,840,025
Staff Benevolent	13,876,700	1,210,000
Staff Recruitment Costs	13,029,018	1,900,000
Volunteer Expenses	7,200,000	12,900,000
Workmanship Compensation	3,000,000	-
TOTAL (To page 7)	3,911,169,456	3,902,449,406

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

7. ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES

Professional & consultancy services	105,385,828	107,943,590
Printing and Stationery	76,763,215	137,716,535
General office expenses	74,010,508	112,822,897
Communication- Internet & social media	63,340,000	83,904,000
Communication- Telephone & Audio Equipment	57,437,239	36,347,344
Bank Charges	51,013,754	42,019,521
Council Meetings, regional retreats	35,269,000	34,977,500
Audit & taxation fees	22,000,000	16,000,000
Sectorial Committee Meetings	17,990,000	14,400,000
Utilities	17,923,485	21,186,592
Communication-Web-site hosting& renewal (Design of ULS website & Web storage increase)	8,646,600	7,310,000
Council honorarium	8,520,000	7,810,000
Hospitality	5,815,100	3,339,400
Communication - Postages	2,492,000	3,385,000
Foreign currency exchange loss	670,810	1,024,280
Branded diaries and Lapel pins for members	-	82,800,000
Development of members' data base	-	35,056,320
DSTV expenses	-	540,000
TOTAL (To page 7)	547,277,539	748,582,979

8. DEPRECIATION & AMORTISATION

Depreciation	132,631,795	112,503,907
Amortisation	10,104,861	10,104,861
TOTAL (To page 7)	142,736,656	122,608,768

Uganda Law Society
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*continued*)

9. OPERATING EXPENSES

Legal Aid Activities	654,550,712	1,292,293,655
CLE trainings	368,716,753	320,298,735
Annual Law Conference	346,744,194	197,648,521
Pre-AGM & AGM Conference	301,919,111	292,742,528
Fuel	288,147,886	306,923,622
Administration charges incurred on donors	269,428,016	175,964,018
International travel & Networking	192,859,427	159,014,161
Office Rent	162,626,000	153,350,000
Probono activities	104,468,595	35,995,500
Repairs & maintenance-Motor vehicles/cycles	96,328,000	89,709,920
EALS AGM	85,061,300	98,842,200
Travel within Uganda	77,462,150	22,412,500
Membership benevolent activities	64,716,160	8,520,000
Female Lawyers Activities	60,712,000	712,000
Corporate Social Responsibility	50,859,000	6,329,500
Security	45,930,000	70,370,000
Monitoring & Evaluation Activities	45,931,000	63,294,300
Capacity Building- Council Induction &Retreats	41,824,750	16,436,700
ULS Subscriptions	38,850,890	48,794,800
Rule of Law & Human Rights	38,415,395	141,976,100
Paralegal activities	34,852,500	61,679,200
Capacity Building- Staff Training	21,723,000	31,210,259
Lunch and Transport refund-disbursements	10,474,000	1,610,000
IT Section costs (Annual Google subscription, Call blasts, Upgrade of Electronic Legal Aid Assistance Centre, IMS Technical Support)	43,377,766	67,283,612
Repairs & Maintenance-Computer & Accessories	8,458,100	5,070,000
Insurance - Motor Vehicles/Cycles	8,305,184	635,600
Repairs & Maintenance- Building repairs	7,115,000	10,828,000
Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) related costs	5,191,400	1,360,000
Repairs & maintenance- Furniture & Equipment	2,991,500	850,000
Publications (Magazines & Annual Reports)	1,749,000	500,000
Mentoring Young & Senior Lawyers	550,000	-
Staff end of year planning & evaluation retreat	-	54,257,000
Information, Education, Communication (IEC) materials	-	32,937,900
ULS Elections	-	17,665,000
Property and Ground Rates	-	4,200,000
Law Resource Centre Expenses	-	2,548,966
Resource Mobilization	-	2,311,100

TOTAL (To page 7)	3,480,338,789	3,796,575,397
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*continued*)

10. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

10.1 Current Period

	<u>Building- WIP</u>	<u>Law Books</u>	<u>Motor Vehicles</u>	<u>Motor Cycle & Generator</u>	<u>Computers & Accessories</u>	<u>Furniture & Equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>
	Ushs	Ushs	Ushs	Ushs	Ushs	Ushs	Ushs
<u>COST:</u>							
At 1 January 2023	4,126,087,219	1,600,000	73,000,000	116,235,453	330,088,907	387,565,610	5,034,577,189
Additions	1,106,508,051	-	-	36,332,510	76,260,000	19,336,600	1,238,437,161
At 31 December 2023	5,232,595,270	1,600,000	73,000,000	152,567,963	406,348,907	406,902,210	6,273,014,350
<u>DEPRECIATION:</u>							
At 1 January 2023	-	1,599,000	72,999,000	110,331,452	263,647,888	272,425,860	721,003,200
Charge for the Year	-	-	-	14,986,129	66,782,890	50,862,776	132,631,795
At 31 December 2023	-	1,599,000	72,999,000	125,317,581	330,430,778	323,288,636	853,634,995
<u>NET BOOK VALUE:</u>							
At 31 December 2023	5,232,595,270	1,000	1,000	27,250,382	75,918,129	83,613,574	5,419,379,355

Note: Building work in progress relate to costs incurred in relation to construction works of ULS House. (Refer to note 17). ULS received assets from DGF as donation on closure of the project but these are not included in the financial statements pending valuation of the assets to ascertain their market values.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*continued*)

10.2 Previous Period

	<u>Building- WIP</u>	<u>Law Books</u>	<u>Motor Vehicles</u>	<u>Motor Cycle & Generator</u>	<u>Computers & Accessories</u>	<u>Furniture & Equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>
		Ushs	Ushs	Ushs	Ushs	Ushs	Ushs
<u>COST:</u>							
At 1 January 2022	2,292,707,275	1,600,000	73,000,000	116,235,453	255,208,908	350,987,410	3,089,739,046
Additions	1,833,379,944	-	-	-	74,879,999	36,578,200	1,944,838,143
At 31 December 2022	4,126,087,219	1,600,000	73,000,000	116,235,453	330,088,907	387,565,610	5,034,577,189
<u>DEPRECIATION:</u>							
At 1 January 2022	-	1,599,000	72,999,000	88,823,956	221,097,178	223,980,159	608,499,293
Charge for the Year	-	-	-	21,507,496	42,550,710	48,445,701	112,503,907
At 31 December 2022	-	1,599,000	72,999,000	110,331,452	263,647,888	272,425,860	721,003,200
<u>NET BOOK VALUE:</u>							
At 31 December 2022	4,126,087,219	1,000	1,000	5,904,001	66,441,019	115,139,750	4,313,573,989

Note: Building work in progress relate to costs incurred in relation to construction works of ULS House. (Refer to note 17)

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*continued*)

11. PREPAID OPERATING LEASE

	2023 Ushs.	2022 Ushs.
Cost		
At 1 January	155,111,000	155,111,000
Additions during the year	-	-
At 31 December	155,111,000	155,111,000
Amortisation		
Accumulated Amortisation	134,900,747	124,795,886
Charge for the year	10,104,861	10,104,861
At 31 December	145,005,608	134,900,747
Net Book Value		
31-Dec	10,105,392	20,210,253

Leasehold land is comprised of LRV 2978, Folio 25, Plot 5A1, Acacia Avenue, Kampala and is amortised over its tenure / period of 80 years and 6 months. The leasehold is set to expire in 2046.

12. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Trade Receivables	362,007,238	213,167,279
Receivable from development partners/funders	42,741,156	80,215,798
Prepayments- medical insurance	35,403,294	16,003,794
Prepayments-Fuel	16,134,222	51,082,849
Prepayment-Others	3,520,906	-
Staff salary advances	2,400,000	-
Staff working advance	-	3,031,587
Prepayments-Rent	-	32,400,000
Prepayments-Utilities	-	74,305
TOTAL (To page 8)	462,206,816	395,975,612

13. INVENTORY/STOCK

Lapel Pins	4,142,391	4,157,391
TOTAL (To page 8)	4,142,391	4,157,391

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

14. CASH AND SHORT-TERM DEPOSITS	2023 Ushs.	2022 Ushs.
Cash at Bank		
Standard Chartered Bank Uganda Limited		
Uganda Law Society - NRC-401	96,813,854	4,513,000
Uganda Law Society - ULS House-410	34,618,500	8,679,500
Uganda Law Society - Benevolent-402	1,138,180	1,609,680
Uganda Law Society - Operating-400	227,030,600	283,057,783
Uganda Law Society - DGF-405	22,053,558	(30,000)
Uganda Law Society - CBA-403	1,133,030,567	44,469,852
Legal Aid Project - McArthur-200	-	-
Uganda Law Society - IRC-409	3,553,463	2,242,443
Uganda Law Society - Kyaaka 2-411	2,879,152	623,212
Uganda Law Society - IDLO - 412	1,323,688	40,935,420
Uganda Law Society - Euro A/C	1,507,006	-
Stanbic Bank Uganda Limited		
Uganda Law Society/CLE-583	262,565,940	331,528,529
Legal Aid Project - Luweero-066	60,420	235,220
Legal Aid Project - Moyo-881	11,910	585,910
Legal Aid Project - Kotido-690	2,089,082	390,282
Legal Aid Project - Masindi-339	358,878	1,117,844
Legal Aid Project - Kabale-402	1,081	1,243,102
Legal Aid Project - Jinja-859	99,041	948,194
POST Bank Uganda		
Uganda Law Society	11,954,000	-
DFCU Bank Limited		
Continuing Legal Education/ULS-132	158,269,513	73,607,778
Uganda Law Society/JLOS-241	113,960,445	22,388,614
Legal Aid Project - Abim-843	69,760	27,260
Legal Aid Project - Pader-986	82,510	34,760
Centenary Bank Uganda Limited		
Legal Aid Project - Mbarara-007	858,042	1,012,712
Legal Aid Project - Moroto-099	1,562,956	955,106
Legal Aid Project - Soroti-691	1,482,111	518,014
Legal Aid Project - Arua-572	2,317,755	1,585,980
Legal Aid Project - Gulu-336	516,312	1,378,725
Legal Aid Project - Kabarole-038	28,301	927,586
Legal Aid Basket Fund	4,610,475	
ABSA Bank Uganda Limited		
Legal Aid Project - Clients	3,689,750	3,689,750
Uganda Law Society - USD	17,552,449	33,135
Airtel Merchant Codes		
ULS CLE 1212228-100101791	100,945,570	23,826,000
ULS BULK 1212202-100101787	1,600	1,600
MTN Momo Pay Codes		
CLE Momo Pay - 616741; 616739; Zenga	20,135,975	1,656,142
CLE MTN MM - 0776078314	1,840	162,595
ULS MTN MM - 0787013313	2,656	177,457
Petty Cash and Disbursements	12,959,500	890,600
TOTAL (To page 8)	2,240,136,440	855,023,785

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)

15. BENEVOLENT FUND

	2023	2022
	Ushs.	Ushs.
Balance at 1 January	1,609,680	5,022,680
Additional funds during the year	1,575,000	-
Released to income during the year	(2,046,500)	(3,413,000)
TOTAL (To page 8)	1,138,180	1,609,680

The balance on this account relates to funds earmarked for benevolent activities as determined by the Council. The amount released to income during the year relate to expenditures incurred in relating to benevolent activities.

16. DEVELOPMENT FUND

Balance at 1 January	12,979,500	647,636,459
Additions during the year (Members subscription)	1,038,228,551	1,078,962,985
Additions during the year (Donations)	55,300,000	119,760,000
Transfer to building fund during the year	(1,106,508,051)	(1,833,379,944)
TOTAL (To page 8)	-	12,979,500

Development funds relates to contributions towards construction of ULS House and other capital development. Transfer to building fund during the year relates to expenditure incurred in relating to construction of ULS House. Ushs. 150,000 of Member's subscription is allocated to the development fund.

17. BUILDING FUND

Balance at 1 January	4,126,087,219	2,292,707,275
Additions during the year	1,106,508,051	1,833,379,944
TOTAL (To page 8)	5,232,595,270	4,126,087,219

Building fund balance relates to expenses incurred to date to the construction of ULS House which is still under Work in Progress phase. The fund will be amortised to income in relation to the depreciation of the building when this is ready for use.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS *(continued)*

18. CAPITAL GRANTS

This relates to assets purchased using donor funds. The assets are capitalised under Property & Equipment and recognised in the Income and Expenditure statement as income to match the depreciation of the assets expensed during the year.

18.1	2023 Ushs.	2022 Ushs.
Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOs)		
Opening balance at 1 January	16,150,224	21,524,725
Additional grant during the year	44,150,000	-
Grant released to income	(18,069,251)	(5,374,501)
Balance at 31 December	42,230,973	16,150,224
The assets purchased in 2023 under JLOs grant include computers worth Ushs. 34,500,000 and Furniture & Fittings worth Ushs. 9,650,000.		
18.2 Canadian Bar Association/ Supporting Inclusive Resource Development (CBA/SIRD)		
Opening balance at 1 January	528,750	705,000
Grant released to income	(176,250)	(176,250)
Balance at 31 December	352,500	528,750
18.3 International Rescue Committee (IRC)		
Opening balance at 1 January	50,642,187	24,674,113
Additional grants during the year	-	44,602,199
Grant released to income	(18,634,125)	(18,634,125)
Balance at 31 December	32,008,062	50,642,187
18.4 UN WOMEN		
Opening balance at 1 January	39,006,173	69,646,094
Grant released to income	(15,248,026)	(30,639,921)
Balance at 31 December	23,758,147	39,006,173
18.5 Democratic Governance Facility (DGF)		
Opening balance at 1 January	25,081,320	26,340,125
Additional grants during the year	-	7,660,000
Grant released to income	(7,543,805)	(8,918,805)
Balance at 31 December	17,537,515	25,081,320

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*continued*)

	2023 Ushs.	2022 Ushs.
18.6 International Development Law Organisation (IDLO)		
Opening balance at 1 January	18,825,000	21,962,500
Grant released to income	(3,137,500)	(3,137,500)
Balance at 31 December	15,687,500	18,825,000
18.7 GIZ		
Opening balance at 1 January	5,939,250	11,089,125
Grant released to income	(5,149,875)	(5,149,875)
Balance at 31 December	789,375	5,939,250
18.8 DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL (DRC)		
Opening balance at 1 January	3,468,400	-
Additional grants during the year	36,332,510	5,200,000
Grant released to income	(10,814,728)	(1,731,600)
Balance at 31 December	28,986,182	3,468,400
The assets purchased in 2023 under DRC grant include two motorcycles worth Ushs. 36,332,510.		
18.9 IRELAND EMBASSY		
Opening balance at 1 January	-	-
Additional grants during the year	21,000,000	-
Grant released to income	(6,993,000)	-
Balance at 31 December	14,007,000	-
The assets purchased in 2023 under Ireland Embassy grant include computers worth Ushs. 21,000,000.		
TOTAL (To page 8)	175,357,254	159,641,304

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*continued*)

19. DEFERRED GRANTS	2023 Ushs.	2022 Ushs.
19.1 PATONGO		
Opening balance at 1 January	12,103,515	12,103,515
Additional grants during the year	-	-
Grant released to income	(12,103,515)	-
Balance at 31 December	-	12,103,515
Represented by		
Bank balance	-	12,103,515
19.2 Democratic Governance Facility (DGF)		
Opening balance at 1 January	(33,681,629)	196,502,074
Additional grants during the year	-	1,717,505,047
Transfer to capital grant	-	(7,660,000)
Refund to DGF	-	(328,109,512)
Grant released to income	33,681,629	(1,611,919,238)
Balance at 31 December	-	(33,681,629)
Represented by		
Bank balance	-	(30,000)
Prepayments-Fuel	-	9,220,248
Trade & other payables	-	(42,871,877)
Total	-	(33,681,629)
19.3 UN WOMEN		
Opening balance at 1 January	27,993,442	36,040,987
Additional grants during the year	1,019,350,738	805,001,000
Grant released to income	(655,276,672)	(813,048,545)
Balance at 31 December	392,067,508	27,993,442
Represented by		
Bank balance	391,487,457	55,967,584
Prepayments-Fuel & Insurance	580,051	198,285
Prepayments-Insurance	-	6,148,308
Trade & other payables	-	(34,320,735)
Total	392,067,508	27,993,442

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*continued*)

	2023 Ushs.	2022 Ushs.
19.4 Canadian Bar Association/ Supporting Inclusive Resource Development (CBA/SIRD)		
Opening balance at 1 January	23,914,617	77,450,591
Additional grants during the year	90,102,214	479,544,532
Grant released to income	(129,014,698)	(533,080,506)
Balance at 31 December	(14,997,867)	23,914,617
Represented by		
Bank balance	-	44,469,852
Trade & other payables	(14,997,867)	(20,555,235)
Total	(14,997,867)	23,914,617
19.5 MacArthur		
Opening balance at 1 January	1,409,153	238,261,953
Grant released to income	(1,409,153)	(236,852,800)
Balance at 31 December	-	1,409,153
Represented by		
Bank balance	-	1,409,153
Total	-	1,409,153
19.6 International Rescue Committee		
Opening balance at 1 January	(21,700,163)	(343,338)
Additional grants during the year	433,932,792	906,087,670
Transfer to capital grant	-	(44,602,199)
Grant released to income	(429,807,302)	(882,842,296)
Balance at 31 December	(17,574,673)	(21,700,163)
Represented by		
Bank balance	6,432,615	2,865,655
Pre-paid taxes	572,270	-
Prepayment- fuel	3,311,177	2,687,370
Prepayment- Insurance	-	4,986,655
Trade & other payables	(27,890,735)	(32,239,843)
Total	(17,574,673)	(21,700,163)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*continued*)

	2023 Ushs.	2022 Ushs.
19.7 Justice Law and order Sector (JLOS)		
Opening balance at 1 January	26,150,860	203,827,615
Additional grants during the year	509,629,737	136,964,649
Transfer to capital grant	(44,150,000)	-
Grant released to income	(166,894,724)	(314,641,404)
Balance at 31 December	324,735,873	26,150,860
Represented by		
Bank balance	319,898,627	22,388,614
Prepayment- fuel	4,837,246	3,762,246
Total	324,735,873	26,150,860
19.8 ALIGHT		
Opening balance at 1 January	300,523	747,296
Additional grants during the year	94,713,762	-
Refund to Alight	-	(300,523)
Grant released to income	(32,162,275)	(146,250)
Balance at 31 December	62,852,010	300,523
Represented by		
Bank balance	61,274,532	-
Prepayments-fuel advance	1,577,478	300,523
Total	62,852,010	300,523
19.9 Knowledge Management Fund (KMF)		
Opening balance at 1 January	5,397,877	5,397,877
Additional grants during the year	-	-
Grant released to income	(5,397,877)	-
Balance at 31 December	-	5,397,877
Represented by		
Bank balance	-	5,397,877
Total	-	5,397,877

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*continued*)

19.10 Danish Refugee Council (DRC)	2023 Ushs.	2022 Ushs.
Opening balance at 1 January	28,182,056	26,870,251
Additional grants during the year	439,443,492	150,837,388
Transfer to capital grant	(36,332,510)	(5,200,000)
Grant released to income	(356,136,306)	(144,325,583)
Balance at 31 December	75,156,732	28,182,056
Represented by		
Bank balance	74,386,324	43,233,743
Trade & other receivables	2,542,000	-
Prepayments-fuel advance	(3,664,761)	-
Prepayments-Insurance	1,893,169	469,000
Trade & other payables	-	(15,520,687)
Total	75,156,732	28,182,056
19.11 International Development Law Organization (IDLO)		
Opening balance at 1 January	31,838,059	75,300,071
Additional grants during the year	659,842,463	684,523,638
Grant released to income	(749,832,088)	(727,985,650)
Balance at 31 December	(58,151,566)	31,838,059
Represented by		
Bank balance	1,323,688	40,935,420
Prepayments-fuel advance	(10,123,528)	-
Prepayments-rent	4,903,902	8,700,000
Trade & other payables	(54,255,628)	(17,797,361)
Total	(58,151,566)	31,838,059
19.12 International Bar Association (IBA)		
Opening balance at 1 January	51,800,106	-
Additional grants during the year	-	51,800,106
Grant released to income	-	-
Balance at 31 December	51,800,106	51,800,106
Represented by		
Bank balance	51,800,106	51,800,106
Total	51,800,106	51,800,106

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*continued*)

	2023 Ushs.	2022 Ushs.
19.13 Deutsche Gesellschaft Fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)		
Opening balance at 1 January	46,797,999	10,963,352
Additional grants during the year	-	158,613,765
Transfer to capital grant	-	-
Refund to GIZ	-	(583,455)
Grant released to income	(55,195,652)	(122,195,663)
Balance at 31 December	(8,397,653)	46,797,999
Represented by		
Bank balance	-	46,797,999
Trade & other payables	(8,397,653)	-
Total	(8,397,653)	46,797,999
19.14 Legal Aid Service Providers' Network (LASPNET)		
Opening balance at 1 January	505,300	32,800
Additional grants during the year	31,740,000	5,687,500
Grant released to income	(2,170,000)	(5,215,000)
Balance at 31 December	30,075,300	505,300
Represented by		
MTN Momo pay Codes	7,290,286	-
Bank balance	22,785,014	505,300
Total	30,075,300	505,300
19.15 Care and Assistance for Forced Migrants (CAFOMI)		
Opening balance at 1 January	560,000	-
Additional grants during the year	-	5,000,000
Grant released to income	(560,000)	(4,440,000)
Balance at 31 December	-	560,000
Represented by		
Prepayments-fuel advance	-	560,000
Total	-	560,000

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*continued*)

	2023 Ushs.	2022 Ushs.
19.16 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)		
Opening balance at 1 January	106,343,328	-
Additional grants during the year	185,000,000	207,354,000
Grant released to income	(295,167,443)	(101,010,672)
Balance at 31 December	(3,824,115)	106,343,328
Represented by		
Bank balance	-	105,082,880
Prepayments-fuel advance	7,590,286	1,650,448
Trade & other payables	(11,414,401)	(390,000)
Total	(3,824,115)	106,343,328
19.17 Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)		
Opening balance at 1 January	-	-
Additional grants during the year	148,875,000	-
Grant released to income	(50,668,298)	-
Balance at 31 December	98,206,702	-
Represented by		
Bank balance	97,956,702	-
Prepayments-fuel advance	250,000	-
Total	98,206,702	-
19.18 Ireland Embassy		
Opening balance at 1 January	-	-
Additional grants during the year	1,564,000,000	-
Transfer to capital fund	(21,000,000)	-
Grant released to income	(399,001,309)	-
Balance at 31 December	1,143,998,691	-
Represented by		
Bank balance	1,133,030,567	-
Prepayments-fuel advance	10,968,124	-
Trade & other payables	-	-
Total	1,143,998,691	-

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*continued*)

	2023 Ushs.	2022 Ushs.
19.19 Netherlands		
Opening balance at 1 January	-	-
Additional grants during the year	1,338,503,307	-
Grant released to income	(1,219,129,399)	-
Balance at 31 December	119,373,908	-
Represented by		
Bank balance	115,930,637	-
Trade & other receivables	3,443,271	-
Total	119,373,908	-
GRAND TOTAL (To page 8)	2,195,320,956	307,915,043

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*continued*)

19.1 PATONGO

The Patongo grant relates to funds received to enhance access to justice and in particular to protect and promote the rights of children, especially children in conflict with the law. The grant is released to income to match the related expenses incurred during the year.

19.2 DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE FACILITY (DGF)

The DGF grant relates to funds received to enhance access to justice for the indigent vulnerable and marginalised persons and respect for human rights in Uganda. The grant is released to income to match the related expenses incurred during the year.

19.3 UNITED NATIONS (UN)-WOMEN

The UN-Women grant relates to funds received to enhance access to quality essential legal aid and referral services by women and girls who have experienced violence and promotion of sexual reproductive health rights. The grant is released to income to match the related expenses incurred during the year.

19.4 SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SIRD)

The SIRD grant relates to funds received to enhance access to justice for communities in the extractives sector with a particular focus in Buliisa. The grant is released to income to match the related expenses incurred during the year.

19.5 MACARTHUR

The MacArthur grant relates to funds received to develop a model amnesty law to help address the needs of victims in communities and prosecute those most culpable for atrocious crimes and providing immunity on a conditional basis. The grant is released to income to match the related expenses incurred during the year.

19.6 INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC)

The IRC grant relates to funds received to enhance access to justice for the refugees and host communities in West Nile and Kyaka in Kyegwegwa. The grant is released to income to match the related expenses incurred during the year.

19.7 JUSTICE LAW AND ORDER SECTOR (JLOS)

The JLOS grant relates to funds received to enhance access to Justice for children and promotion of rule of law. The grant is released to income to match the related expenses incurred during the year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*continued*)

19.8 ALIGHT

The ALIGHT grant relates to funds received to enhance access to Justice for indigent communities in Mbarara and Kabarole. The grant is released to income to match the related expenses incurred during the year.

19.9 KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT FUND (KMF)

The DRC grant relates to funds received to enhance access to Justice The grant is released to income to match the related expenses incurred during the year.

19.10 DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL (DRC)

The DRC grant relates to funds received to enhance access to Justice for children and the promotion of rule of law in West Nile. The grant is released to income to match the related expenses incurred during the year.

19.11 INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT LAW ORGANISATION (IDLO)

The IDLO grant relates to funds received to enhance access to justice for the indigent communities in Kabale, Kabarole, Gulu, Masindi, Jinja, and Kampala. This took over from the NORAD Donors. The grant is released to income to match the related expenses incurred during the year.

19.12 INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION (IBA)

The NORAD grant relates to funds received to enhance access to justice for the indigent communities in Kampala. The grant is released to income to match the related expenses incurred during the year.

19.13 DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FUER INTERNATIONALE ZUSAMMENARBEIT (GIZ)

The GIZ grant relates to funds received to enhance access to justice for the indigent communities in Kabale, Kabarole, Gulu, Masindi, Jinja, and Kampala. The grant is released to income to match the related expenses incurred during the year.

19.14 LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDERS' NETWORK (LASPNET)

The LAPSNET grant relates to funds received to enhance access to justice for the indigent communities in Kampala.

19.15 CARE AND ASSISTANCE FOR FORCED MIGRANTS (CAFOMI)

CAFOMI sub-grant relates to funds received to enhance access to Justice for indigent communities in Mbarara for a period of one year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (*continued*)

19.16 UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME (UNODC)

UNODC grant relates to funds received to enhance access to justice for the indigent communities in Kampala. The grant is released to income to match the related expenses incurred during the year.

19.17 NORWEGIAN REFUGEE COUNCIL (NRC)

NRC grant relates to funds received to contribute to a safe and protective environment for displaced affected population in Uganda. The grant is released to income to match the related expenses incurred during the year.

19.18 IRELAND EMBASSY

Ireland Embassy grant relates to funds received to enhance access to Justice to the vulnerable and marginalized persons in Karamoja. The grant is released to income to match the related expenses incurred during the year.

19.19 NETHERLANDS EMBASSY

The Netherlands grant relates to funds received to enhance access to Justice to the indigent, vulnerable and marginalized persons and promotion of Human rights in Uganda. The grant is released to income to match the related expenses incurred during the year.

20. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

Trade Payable	463,482,221	288,475,263
Prepaid membership subscription fees	92,292,060	49,210,000
Salaries	35,738,697	38,452,129
PAYE	19,175,646	69,371,689
Audit fees	18,000,000	16,000,000
NSSF	10,626,771	78,019,445
Local Service Tax	1,400,000	-
Provisions	-	1,566,000
TOTAL	640,715,395	541,094,526

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

21. TAXATION

Uganda Law Society is exempt from corporation tax by the Uganda Revenue Authority under Income Tax Act, as amended- Section 2 (b); (bb) (i) (D) subject to obtaining a written confirmation from the Commissioner.

22. POST BALANCE SHEET EVENTS

There were no events after the reporting period requiring amendments to the financial statements as at 31 December 2023.

23. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There were no claims pending against ULS as at 31 December 2023.

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APPENDIX: DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

	ULS	ALIGHT	CAFOMI	DRC	IDLO	IRC	IRELAND EMBASSY	JLOS	LASPNET	NETHERLANDS	NRC	SIRD/CBA	UN WOMEN	UNODC	GIZ	TOTAL
REVENUE																
Annual Membership Fees/Subscription	2,392,120,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,392,120,000
Annual Law Conference	429,867,224	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	429,867,224
CLE Collections	836,108,666	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	836,108,666
Annual Subscription @50%	4,500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,500,000
Arrears on Subscription	35,500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35,500,000
EALS Subscription	1,732,206	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,732,206
GRANTS																
Revenue Grants and Donations	-	32,162,275	560,000	356,136,306	749,832,088	429,807,302	399,001,309	166,894,724	2,170,000	1,219,129,399	50,668,299	129,014,698	655,276,672	295,167,443	55,195,652	4,541,016,167
OTHER INCOME																
Legal Aid Basket Fund	350,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	350,000
Bids	1,350,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,350,000
Identity cards	66,058,918	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	392,424	-	-	-	-	-	66,451,342
Legal Regalia Income	445,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	445,000
Nominations Fees	7,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,000,000
Benevolent Contribution-<5yrs	2,046,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,046,500
Female Lawyers Collections	300,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300,000
Lawyers' Dinner Collections	78,410,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	78,410,000
Capital Grants and Donations	85,766,560	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85,766,560
Sponsorships Income	51,400,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	51,400,000
Project Admin Contribution	36,616,907	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	36,616,907
Total Income	4,029,571,981	32,162,275	560,000	356,136,306	749,832,088	429,807,302	399,001,309	166,894,724	2,170,000	1,219,521,823	50,668,299	129,014,698	655,276,672	295,167,443	55,195,652	8,570,980,572

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	ULS	ALIGHT	CAFOMI	DRC	IDLO	IRC	IRELAND EMBASSY	JLOS	LASPNET	NETHERLANDS	NRC	SIRD/CBA	UN WOMEN	UNODC	GIZ	TOTAL
EXPENDITURE																
Employment Expenses																
Staff Recruitment Costs	13,029,018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,029,018
Staff Benevolent Workmanship Compensation	13,876,700	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,876,700
Volunteer Expenses	3,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,000,000
Staff Medical Insurance/ Reimbursement	7,200,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,200,000
Staff Meals	13,820,806	-	-	2,362,169	17,364,134	8,627,781	-	-	-	11,186,396	-	-	-	-	-	53,361,286
Salaries and Wages	53,661,700	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	53,661,700
Total Employment Expenses	975,747,274	8,074,000	-	218,675,000	461,213,000	321,666,424	319,374,000	9,990,000	-	807,235,000	37,290,000	11,220,000	517,761,054	78,795,000	-	3,767,040,752
Total Employment Expenses	1,080,335,498	8,074,000	-	221,037,169	478,577,134	330,294,205	319,374,000	9,990,000	-	818,421,396	37,290,000	11,220,000	517,761,054	78,795,000	-	3,911,169,456

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	ULS	ALIGHT	CAFOMI	DRC	IDLO	IRC	IRELAND EMBASSY	JLOS	LASPNET	NETHERLANDS	NRC	SIRD/CBA	UN WOMEN	UNODC	GIZ	TOTAL
Administration Expenses																
Professional Services	92,964,260	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,408,688	-	10,012,880	-	105,385,828
Hospitality	5,815,100	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,815,100
Audit Fees & Taxation Services	22,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,000,000
Bank Service Charges	29,391,953	305,230	-	-	4,974,692	2,731,654	1,371,018	2,319,896	-	8,348,187	1,159,899	411,225	-	-	-	51,013,754
Utilities (Water and Yaka)	10,381,548	800,000	-	360,000	1,792,500	1,080,000	846,037	-	-	1,363,400	-	-	1,300,000	-	-	17,923,485
General Office Expenses	22,850,542	467,600	-	1,982,000	13,472,000	4,830,000	6,656,000	-	-	9,843,500	390,000	-	11,257,000	2,261,866	-	74,010,508
Communication - Postage	1,815,000	-	-	-	475,000	20,000	77,000	-	-	105,000	-	-	-	-	-	2,492,000
Communication-Internet/Social	38,500,000	480,000	-	2,450,000	3,620,000	5,190,000	600,000	-	-	4,800,000	-	-	6,450,000	1,250,000	-	63,340,000
Communication - Telephone	7,727,239	5,520,000	-	7,480,000	3,130,000	1,600,000	6,650,000	7,600,000	-	9,900,000	-	-	6,830,000	1,000,000	-	57,437,239
Printing and Stationery	26,478,399	1,460,000	-	-	11,496,629	1,716,150	4,443,063	-	-	18,773,100	112,000	-	9,899,500	2,384,374	-	76,763,215
Exchange Gain or Loss	670,810	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	670,810
IT Section Costs	8,646,600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,646,600
Sectoral Committee Meetings	17,990,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,990,000
Council Honorary Council Meetings	8,520,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,520,000
&Regional Retreat	35,269,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	35,269,000
Total Administration Expenses	329,020,451	9,032,830	-	12,272,000	38,960,821	17,167,804	20,643,118	9,919,896	-	53,133,187	1,661,899	2,819,913	35,736,500	16,909,120	-	547,277,539

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	ULS	ALIGHT	CAFOMI	DRC	IDLO	IRC	IRELAND EMBASSY	JLOS	LASPNET	NETHERLANDS	NRC	SIRD/CBA	UN WOMEN	UNODC	GIZ	TOTAL
Depreciation/ Amortisation																
Depreciation	132,631,264	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	132,631,264
Amortisation	10,105,392	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,105,392
Total Depreciation/ Amortisation	142,736,656	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	142,736,656

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	ULS	ALIGHT	CAFOMI	DRC	IDLO	IRC	IRELAND EMBASSY	JLOS	LASPNET	NETHERLANDS	NRC	SIRD/CBA	UN WOMEN	UNODC	GIZ	TOTAL
Operating Expenses																
Annual Law Conference	346,744,194	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	346,744,194
Administration Charge to Donors/refund	-	-	-	83,887,257	71,678,634	23,224,800	-	-	-	-	-	15,476,273	-	19,965,400	55,195,652	269,428,016
Mentoring Young & Senior Lawyers	550,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	550,000
Corporate Social Responsibility	50,859,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,859,000
Insurance-Motor Vehicles/Cycles	1,163,600	-	-	-	50,000	-	125,000	-	-	74,000	-	-	6,892,584	-	-	8,305,184
Membership Benevolent	64,716,160	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	64,716,160
Publications	1,749,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,749,000
IBA Travels	55,477,683	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55,477,683
Local Travel	22,232,150	-	-	-	-	8,250,000	-	-	-	18,630,000	-	-	-	28,350,000	-	77,462,150
International Travels	137,381,744	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	137,381,744
Female Lawyers Activities	60,712,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	60,712,000
ULS Subscriptions	28,716,190	-	-	-	7,397,400	295,900	95,400	-	-	1,768,800	577,200	-	-	-	-	38,850,890
Repairs & Maintenance-F&E	2,239,000	-	-	-	345,000	-	407,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,991,500
Repairs & Maintenance-C&A	6,268,100	-	-	-	450,000	-	1,640,000	-	-	-	-	-	100,000	-	-	8,458,100
Repairs & Maintenance-Building	7,115,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,115,000
Repairs & Maintenance-MV/MC	62,390,000	-	-	405,000	17,231,500	-	2,359,380	-	-	9,270,620	-	-	4,671,500	-	-	96,328,000
Security Staff Capacity	17,580,000	-	-	600,000	6,200,000	-	6,000,000	1,000,000	-	13,450,000	-	-	1,100,000	-	-	45,930,000
Building	13,353,000	-	-	-	-	-	5,820,000	-	-	1,600,000	-	-	-	950,000	-	21,723,000
Monitoring & Evaluation Acts	-	4,600,000	-	-	10,800,000	-	7,350,000	-	-	14,810,000	-	-	8,371,000	-	-	45,931,000
Lunch & Transport-Disbursement	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,294,000	6,180,000	-	10,474,000
Office Rent	60,000,000	-	-	12,066,000	20,805,000	5,700,000	25,785,000	-	-	34,620,000	900,000	-	2,750,000	-	-	162,626,000
Fuel Costs	107,950,824	3,855,445	560,000	20,700,000	46,205,728	10,722,193	10,462,836	2,254,378	2,170,000	49,977,025	1,750,000	-	14,814,534	16,724,923	-	288,147,886

Uganda Law Society
Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 December 2023

APPENDIX: DETAILED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

Operating expenses (Continued)	ULS	ALIGHT	CAFOMI	DRC	IDLO	IRC	IRELAND EMBASSY	JLOS	LASPNET	NETHERLANDS	NRC	SIRD/CBA	UN WOMEN	UNODC	GIZ	TOTAL
Pro bono Activities	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	103,468,595	-	-	-	-	-	104,468,595
Rule of Law & Human Rights Acts Paralegal Activities	31,003,995	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,411,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	38,415,395
Paralegal Activities	-	-	-	-	28,864,000	-	200,000	-	-	935,000	-	-	4,853,500	-	-	34,852,500
CLE Trainings	368,386,753	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	330,000	-	-	-	-	-	368,716,753
Legal Aid Activities	63,058,524	6,600,000	-	5,168,880	22,266,871	34,152,400	(1,260,925)	136,841,000	-	99,033,200	8,489,200	99,498,512	53,932,000	127,293,000	-	654,550,712
Communication - Website Hosting	43,377,766	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	43,377,766
Council Induction & Retreat	41,824,750	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41,824,750
EGM Activities	5,191,400	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,191,400
EALS AGM Facilitation for EC AGM Conference/ Dinner	85,061,300	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	85,061,300
	301,919,111	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	301,919,111
Total Operating expenses	1,988,021,244	15,055,445	560,000	122,827,137	232,294,133	82,345,293	58,984,191	146,984,828	2,170,000	347,967,240	11,716,400	114,974,785	101,779,118	199,463,323	55,195,652	3,480,338,789
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3,540,113,849	32,162,275	560,000	356,136,306	749,832,088	429,807,302	399,001,309	166,894,724	2,170,000	1,219,521,823	50,668,299	129,014,698	655,276,672	295,167,443	55,195,652	8,081,522,440
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	489,458,132	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	489,458,132