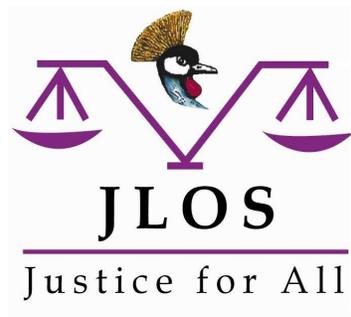


THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

JUSTICE LAW AND ORDER SECTOR



REMARKS BY

THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

**AT THE 18th ANNUAL JOINT GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA –
DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS REVIEW**

OCTOBER 8th, 2013

The Honourable, the Acting Chief Justice of Uganda

The Honourable the Principal Judge

Honourable Ministers Your Excellency, Chairperson of the JLOS
Development Partners Group

Honourable Members of Parliament,

Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps

My Lords, Justices of the Courts of Judicature

Heads of JLOS Institutions

Members of the Steering and Technical Committee

Invited Guests

Ladies and gentlemen

I warmly welcome you to this 18th Annual Joint Government of Uganda – Development Partners Review. Allow me on behalf of the Government of Uganda, to thank all our partners and stakeholders for their continued support and commitment to the Sector and the promotion of a strong justice system in Uganda.

This first year of the third Strategic Investment Plan (SIP III) has been one of re-birth for the Sector, where we have built on the ‘brick and mortar’ investments to strategies focusing on achieving results. As is expected in the first year, there have been challenges, but we look at these as teething

problems and will continuously review and modify our strategies to address these obstacles and strive forward in our goal to promote the rule of law.

SIPIII builds on the achievements of SIPI and II which focused on institutional stabilization and brick and mortar investments. SIPIII grows from there to deal with policy and legislative reforms, improved access, service delivery and heightened observance of human rights and accountability. SIPIII however, recognises the importance of improved physical access and deconcentration of services to reach all parts of the country and in particular increase access for the vulnerable and marginalized. The brick and mortar investments therefore remain a critical component of the reform programme, primarily to increase physical access through greater proximity to the communities we serve, restoring our physical presence in areas that have been marginalized due to historical imbalances or war and insecurity and providing customized user friendly facilities that meet the needs of our clients.

Infrastructure development is also crucial for the Sector as a means of rationalizing our resources and channeling available funds away from massive recurrent rental overheads to actual services and programmes that benefit the people of Uganda. In this spirit, we have adopted the theme “JLOS Infrastructure for Improved Service Delivery”. This highlights the intention of the Sector to focus on infrastructural development that promotes the key objectives of the Sector.

In the coming year, the Sector will accelerate the development of One-Stop JLOS service centres. As you will hear in the report, we have made advances in completing the chain of justice across the Country. It is our intention to achieve 60% coverage of districts by 2016. The One-Stop JLOS service centres will provide customized homes for the JLOs institutions, particularly Court, DPP and the Police, in the districts, as well

as integrated services that operate together to provide a complete chain of justice in the districts.

The Sector under SIPIII has undertaken to address issues of vulnerability and support for the marginalized. This is to be carried out through strategic investments that support the most vulnerable and marginalized members of society with equal access to the services that they need. The Sector will particularly focus on strategies that enhance the ability of women and children to take full effect of the JLOS services and through the provision of specialized services to address their needs.

The Sector has already commenced on the improvement of prisons, police stations and remand homes to cater for women and children. The Sector has also taken measures to ensure that all new buildings are designed to cater for the needs of those with physical disabilities. Old buildings continue to be refurbished to make them accessible to persons with disabilities. This programme will continue together with the programmes that improve service delivery to the disabled.

Our infrastructure development plans also continue to be an integral part of the Transitional Justice programme as we continue to restore and strengthen justice services in the post conflict region. This will entail the continued development of key JLOS infrastructure in regions affected by the war, to supplement the efforts that are being undertaken through the Transitional Justice Programme. We have also been able to reach further into the Karamoja region and with the new infrastructure in the area we can now follow this up with actual service delivery through the deployment of staff and extension of services.

The infrastructure development is intended to have the overall effect of greater effectiveness, cost efficiency and improved service delivery. The reduction in expense on rent is expected to release much needed funds to be channeled towards the actual delivery of service. We are particularly keen to commence on the construction of the JLOS office park for the Sector institution headquarters, to alleviate the massive expenditure on rent and enhance coordination and cooperation between the institutions for better performance. I am glad to inform you that we have officially received the land that will house the JLOS Office Park and are in advance stages of preparations for the construction of phase.

The infrastructure development is also expected to help us in our efforts to provide more transparent and accountable services by enabling us make structural changes that will support the attitude and human resources changes necessary to fight corruption. Customized buildings allow for designs that minimize opportunities for misconduct and allow for the development of automated services.

The investment in permanent homes for JLOS institutions throughout the country strengthens our presence and emphasizes the commitment of the Government to supporting the justice institutions and promoting the Rule of Law as a foundation for democracy and good governance. We however recognise that buildings alone do not deliver justice and that investment in the human resource is critical to the delivery of quality services and therefore the construction will go together with the continued efforts to build the capacity of our staff to deliver quantifiable results. Our focus on training and continued capacity building will continue.

As the Sector grows into its adolescence, we are working to consolidate our presence and secure the future of our institutions around the country.

This will provide the necessary foundation for us to reach further into our communities and provide the quality of services that our people need.

We look forward to your support in this endeavor and to your continued partnership as we move forward to ensure the safety and security of all persons and property in Uganda.

I thank you.

Major General (Rtd) Kahinda Otafiire

Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

October 8, 2013