



National Legal Aid Conference

THEME: Legal Aid- A Constitutional Right

October 26th -28th, 2011

Speke Resort and Country Club -Munyonyo

Speech by the Hon Kahinda Otafiire, Minister of Justice and
Constitutional Affairs

My Lords

Hon Ministers

Your Excellences

Members of the Leadership, Steering and Technical Committees

Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good morning.

I'm delighted to welcome you to Speke Resort Munyonyo and to the 2011 National Legal Aid Conference.

This year's event marks the 1st time that such a conference has been organized in this Country. As a Sector, we are working hard to ensure Justice for all. There cannot be a better time than now, to start a discussion around the issue of Legal Aid for many people in Uganda, that would otherwise be better off even economically, but for lack of legal aid services. This Conference is intended to bring together the key players and stake holders in the Legal Aid field. It is meant to be a forum for sharing experiences, engaging each other forming a common vision for the future of legal aid in Uganda. It is about bringing legal Aid at the forefront of the pursuit of Justice.

This being the first time the Sector Conference, it is important that through the interactions with the various players, our eyes are opened to the reality on the ground. But even more, the conference is designed to keep you informed of the developments in the field and to give you the opportunity to share emerging challenges and best practices. There have always been many emerging issues to highlight, but until now, the opportunity had not arisen for us to dialogue on how to move together to ensure enhanced access to justice.

Perhaps the most notable reality on the ground is the number of legal aid service providers vis a vis the need for legal aid. They are insufficient to help the multitudes in need of legal aid. On the positive side, the service is already existing, how do we enhance it to reach all that need it?

Without preempting the discussions, allow me to invite my Lord the Honourable the Chief Justice to Officially open the Conference.

Thank you very much!