



JUSTICE LAW AND ORDER SECTOR

WELCOME REMARKS

**BY HON. DR. E. KHIDDU MAKUBUYA, MP
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTER OF
JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS**

**Opening of the Third National Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS)
Forum at the Imperial Resort Beach Hotel, Entebbe on July 31, 2008**

The Honourable, the Chief Justice of the Republic of Uganda,
The Right Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda
Honourable Ministers present
Your Excellencies, Members of the Diplomatic Corps,
My Lords, Justices, Courts of Judicature,
Honourable Members of Parliament,
Heads of JLOS Institutions,
Members of the Private Sector,
Members of Civil Society Organisations,
Distinguished participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS) and on my own behalf, I welcome you to the third National JLOS Forum.
2. The National JLOS Forum is one of the key management processes of the sector. It brings together all stakeholders in the justice system and key stakeholders particularly from up-country as well as from the public. This Forum unlike the ones held before, begun yesterday with a public march through Kampala during which we were able to demonstrate our commitment to promoting peace in Uganda especially after the several years of conflict in the north of Uganda. The forum will take another two

days starting today until tomorrow during which we hope that we can meaningfully discuss transitional justice issues.

3. The JLOS has since 2000 emphasized interventions aimed at addressing the supply side of justice by enhancing the presence of institutions and strengthening them to improve on service delivery. We have also given attention to enhancing the demand side of justice so that the public is able to seek for and demand their rights. However, the pace of the JLOS interventions has been slow in the areas that were affected by conflict in the north and east of Uganda.
4. In recognition of this, the JLOS committed to enhance its presence and to improve its service delivery in those areas. The JLOS has gone beyond allocating over 30% of its development budget to achieve this. We also proposed interventions that now constitute the reconstruction and development of northern Uganda. The JLOS vision is to even go deeper into identifying approaches that will enhance access to justice to meet the people directly affected by the conflict at their point of need. The agreement and annexure to the agreement on Agenda Item 3 on accountability and reconciliation between Government of Uganda and the Lords Resistance Army/Movement provided the Sector an opportunity to further this vision.

5. The JLOS has recently established a working group on transitional justice to spearhead the process of proposing practical approaches for an effective integrated transitional justice system for Uganda. This team under the leadership of the Honorable Principal Judge will propose an integrated framework for criminal jurisdiction for war crimes and complementary alternative justice mechanisms that promote accountability and reconciliation. This will enable the JLOS to have a shared and common approach while implementing the transitional justice system. It is right for us therefore to involve you as our valuable partners and stakeholders right from the beginning of this challenging but exciting process.

6. At this forum, we will therefore dialogue and discuss how the JLOS can remain even more relevant and responsive to the people of the north by tailoring our reforms to meet the needs of the communities while also contributing to peace in Uganda through appropriate accountability and reconciliation mechanisms. That is why we chose the theme for the Forum as ***Developing and managing an effective transitional justice system for Uganda***. We hope that through your frank and valuable participation, we shall achieve our objectives.

7. The Forum provides another platform for the JLOS to share information on topical issues with you. The topics that will be discussed over the next two days will give insights from carefully selected presenters and discussants who will provide useful information that will form the basis for discussion. We therefore thank all the presenters and discussants for accepting our invitation.
8. During the discussion, we shall also be able to share our views on how we think a transitional justice system should function and to raise the challenges that we foresee in the development and management of this system. Through this I hope that we can collectively reflect on how best the JLOS can take this forward in view of all the stakeholders' expectations.
9. At the end of the Forum the sector would have captured your views and recommendations for an integrated, coherent and robust transitional justice system for Uganda. The Working Group that the JLOS has established will incorporate the ideas from this forum into its work. We are also committed to consulting you more in future and we will provide you with regular feedback on the progress of developing this framework.
10. May I once again welcome you and thank you all for honouring our invitation to this Forum.

11. It is now my pleasure to invite the Minister of Internal Affairs and a member of the JLOS Leadership Committee to make a few remarks on the Juba peace process which provides the context within which Agenda Item 3 was discussed.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY!

**Hon. (Dr.) E. Khiddu Makubuya, MP
The Attorney General and Minister of Justice and Constitutional
Affairs**

July 31, 2008