



THE JUDICIARY

THE 20TH ANNUAL JUDGES' CONFERENCE

21st - 25th JANUARY, 2018

COMMONWEALTH RESORT HOTEL, MUNYONYO,

CONFERENCE THEME:

'AN INCLUSIVE JUDICIARY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT'

WELCOME REMARKS BY HON. JUSTICE DR. HENRY PETER ADONYO, THE

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JUDICIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE

22ND JANUARY, 2018

Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda,

My Lord the Hon. The Chief Justice of Uganda,

My Lord the Hon. The Deputy Chief Justice of Uganda,

Hon. Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs,

The Hon. Principal Judge of the High Court of Uganda,

My Lords, Justices and Judges present,

Your Excellencies the Ambassadors and High Commissioners,

The Heads of Constitutional Bodies and JLOS Institutions present,

Your Worship the Chief Registrar and All Registrars of the Courts of Judicature present,

The Permanent Secretary of the Judiciary and all Permanent Secretaries present,

Distinguished delegates and participants

Ladies and gentlemen,

First and foremost, I wish you all a belated Happy and prosperous New Year, 2018.

It is indeed my pleasure to welcome you all especially His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda who has once more graced the Annual Judges Conference with his personal presence. Your Excellency your continued

coming to interact with the Judges signifies your boundless interest on the subject which relates concerning the administration of justice in the country.

And to all our invited guests and conference participants, I am gratified that you were able to find time from your busy schedules to come here and participate in this year's Annual Judges Conference.

You are all most welcome to this three days engaging conference during which the Uganda Judiciary together with its partners will evaluate the Judiciary's performance over the last year and also to discuss pertinent issues which are relevant to the Administration of Justice in Uganda.

The theme of this year's conference is;

“AN INCLUSIVE JUDICIARY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT “.

This theme which was carefully selected to be in tandem with Goal 16 of Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions under of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which is indeed reflected in Uganda's National Development Plan and Development Agenda 2040.

The Judiciary is aware of the concern of the citizens of this country that the Judiciary is slow and inefficient which perception is borne out of the enduring levels of case backlog compounded by uncertainties and indeed the delay which

is occasioned in disposing of cases for indeed the National Court Census Report did reveal that 25.14% of the cases in the court system were backlogged.

This report read in consonance with the HiiL Report , 2017 on the state of the judiciary and the Annual Report of the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) clearly identified Criminal, Family and Land cases as the most affected by backlog.

Consequently this troubling scenario has to be addressed systematically through carefully designed reforms for if not done so the end result can have far reaching consequences on the individual, the community and the country at large.

This fora is, therefore, one of the avenue for addressing those concerns calling for the Judiciary to be innovative through obligatory reforms which I believe if coupled with the appropriate legal regime and sufficient resources then the negative view of the public as to the judicial system would be a thing of the past making the Judiciary a trusted institution.

To that end the general objective of this Conference is to take stock of what the Judiciary achieved in the year 2017 and devise means of placing the Judiciary at the epicenter of Sustainable Development for at the end of it all this Annual Judges Conference is intended to come up with clearly articulated and pointed

Recommendations and Resolutions which are designed to shape what must be done during the year 2018.

Furthermore, it should be a concern to all of us that the reforms in the legal circles which are taking within and outside the Judiciary should be able to promote to high levels the occurrence of justice so that we can all together unlock an effective and efficient justice system in Uganda candidly through all stakeholders engagement.

The Judicial Training Institute which was established by the Hon. the Chief Justice through the Office Instruction No. 2 of 2017 is one such opportunity which is at the forefront of this revolution for over the past year it has sought to strengthen its capacity by engaging with other stakeholders so that its mandate which is to elevate performance through paradigm shift change would thus eventually unpackage that need even though it still faces daunting challenges and hindrances such as lack effective tools and an appropriate environment to deliver effectively.

Enough of all that but please at this juncture allow me to take the opportunity to thank each and every one of you for turning up for this Annual Judges Conference.

My Special thanks goes to the team put together by EVOLVE UK lead by a renowned judge of the Royal Courts of Justice of the United Kingdom and a member of the UK Sentencing Guidelines Committee Mrs. Justice Maura McGowan who are here with us who through the kind assistance of DFID and ROLE (UK) have managed to come here and share their experiences and research on appropriate sentencing regime. The Organizing Committee of this conference thank you abundantly for coming. Please enjoy your stay in Uganda, the Pearl of Africa.

Finally and after having said all the nice and stiff things it is my pleasure to wish you all fruitful deliberations during these four days of this Annual Judges Conference 2018. I thank you all very much for listening to me.

Hon. Justice Dr. Henry Peter Adonyo.

Executive Director

Judicial Training Institute