

COMMONWEALTH MAGISTRATES AND JUDGES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

Background

Uganda will host the 16th Triennial Commonwealth Magistrates and Judges Association (CMJA) conference from 10th – 15th September 2012 at Speke Resort Munyonyo in Kampala.

The CMJA was founded in 1970 with the following objectives;

- To advance the administration of law by promoting the independence of Judiciary.
- To advance education in the law, the administration of justice, the treatment of offenders and the prevention of crime within the Commonwealth.
- To disseminate information and literature on all matters of interest concerning the legal process within the various countries comprising the Commonwealth.
- To facilitate training programs in the judiciaries in the Commonwealth and to identify judicial officers for recruitment to other Commonwealth countries that lack adequate judicial personnel.
- To publish the Commonwealth Judicial Journal and the CMJA Newsletter.

The CMJA is a membership based organization drawing membership from the 54 Commonwealth countries and the 10 Dependent Territories and individual membership is open to all judges, registrars and magistrates. However justices of peace are associate members of the CMJA. The Uganda Judicial Officers Association (UJOA) is affiliated to CMJA and therefore a full and active member of the Association.

The CMJA secretariat is housed at Uganda House 58-59 Trafalgar Square-London in United Kingdom.

The CMJA Triennial Conference

The Triennial conference is a three year event which is hosted in different regions of the Commonwealth. In the African region, the conference has been previously hosted at Victoria Falls-Zimbabwe (August 1984), Cape Town-South Africa (November 1997) and Mangochi-Malawi (August 2003).

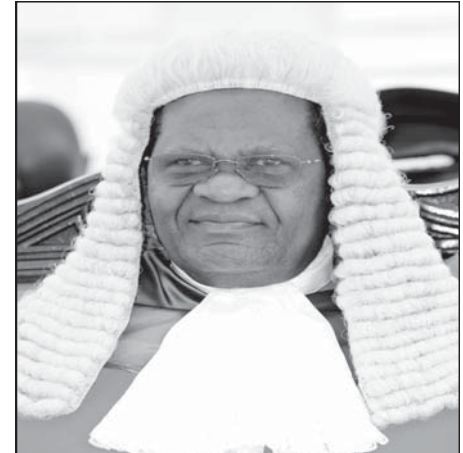
Uganda is privileged to host the 16th Triennial conference which will be officially opened on 11th September 2012 by His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni on the theme: **Justice for Everyone: Myth or Reality?**

The conference will address current topical issues facing judiciaries globally which include;

- Justice for everyone: Myth or Reality?
- Judicial independence is the Precursor to Justice for Everyone.
- Judges ought to be active referees and not mere spectators.
- Increasing productivity on the bench-do we need to work harder, or do we just need better court facilities and efficient administration.
- Are judges still dinosaurs? Keeping up with technology in the law.
- Post-genocide justice in Rwanda.
- Tackling the legacy of corruption.
- How can we improve the quality of justice?
- Why are there still gender issues in the legal profession, the court and the Judiciary?
- Justice for children in conflict areas.
- Breaking out of the Victorian Mentality-Reviewing the rules of evidence pertaining to children and young persons under 18.

The conference will be attended by over 20 Chief Justices and 300 judicial officers from the Commonwealth who will include Deputy Chief Justices, Principal Judges, Supreme Court Justices, Court of Appeal Justices, High Court Judges, Registrars and Magistrates.

The decision to host the conference in Uganda is in recognition of the role played by His Lordship Benjamin Odoki, the Hon. Chief Justice of Uganda for being very instrumental in developing the Bangalore Principles that have shaped the image of judicial systems in Commonwealth jurisdictions, and for promoting and protecting the principles of constitutionalism, the rule of law, independence of the judiciary and good governance in Uganda



Hon. B J Odoki,
Chief Justice of Uganda

The last CMJA Triennial conference was held in Turks and Caicos on 26th September – 3rd October 2009; where Uganda was nominated to host this year's conference and the CMJA regional conference held in July 2011 in Kuala Lumpur - Malaysia confirmed the decision for Uganda to host the conference.



Hon. Lady Justice A.E. N. Mpagi Bahigiane
Deputy Chief Justice of Uganda

Status of Preparations

The Hon. Chief Justice of Uganda has constituted a CMJA Local Organizing Committee (LOC) chaired by the Ag. Chief Registrar His Worship Henry Peter Adonyo. The committee is charged with the responsibility of successful hosting of the conference.



Hon. Justice Yorokamu Bamwine
Principal Judge



Mrs. Dorcas Okalany,
Secretary to the Judiciary



His Worship Henry P. Adonyo
Ag. Chief Registrar



Dr. Karren Brewer,
CMJA Secretary General

The CMJA-LOC has constituted itself into the following sub-committees namely; the Secretariat, Protocol and Security, Accommodation, Entertainment, Finance, Publicity and Spouses for efficient and effective organization of the conference.

The Judiciary is hosting this conference as one of the activities to celebrate 50 years of independence and it will be an opportunity to showcase Uganda's rich cultural heritage to the Commonwealth judicial family.

The Judiciary therefore calls upon all Ugandans to accord our visitors the usual hospitality.

Information regarding registration should be addressed to email; info@cmja.org or website: www.cmja.org Fax: (44) 20 7976 2394. Or office of the Chief Registrar Tel +256-414 341 067

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