



**SPEECH BY THE HON THE PRINCIPAL JUDGE**

**HON. JUSTICE YOROKAMU BAMWINE**

**DELIVERED AT THE SECOND CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION  
MOOT COURT COMPETITIONS ORGANISED BY THE JUDICIARY  
IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE PUBLIC INTEREST LAW CLINIC  
SCHOOL OF LAW MAKERERE UNIVERSITY  
HIGH COURT OF UGANDA AT KAMPALA**

**Thursday, April 3, 2016**

**My Lords, THE Judges of the High Court;**

**Your Worships;**

**The Principal, School of Law, Makerere University,**

**Our Students (Mooters)**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

It is with great pleasure that I address you this afternoon. Welcome you to the High Court, Kampala.

I am reliably informed that this is the second year running that the School of Law Makerere University is organizing the Moot Court Competitions for their Clinical Legal Education students and it is the second time the High Court is hosting the same. I must say, this is a great teaching innovation. Finding innovative ways of doing things is at the helm of development.

As a judiciary we are daily scratching our heads for new innovations of ensuring justice reaches the masses. On-going innovations include plea bargaining, sentencing guidelines, taking evidence by audio video link and promoting child friendly procedures in the

administration of justice. In addition the Judiciary is building strong relations with universities both within and outside Uganda with the view of building capacity in various areas of the law.

When I see the idea of Public Interest Law Clinic, I see innovation. There is no better way of providing a hands-on legal skills' training for students than through such engagements. The majority of us only got legal theories learnt in the lecture room. We were only met with practical situations after we left the Law Development Centre. It is here that we learnt that there was a big divide between the theory and the reality out there. I therefore applaud their Lordships for taking off time out of their busy schedules to preside over this session to enable the young learners an opportunity to glimpse into reality even while still in school, I say cheers to you, your Lordships, this mission to inculcate values such as the duty of lawyers to become involved in social justice issues of their society is a welcome initiative.

Just last Thursday, I had the honour of officiating at the launch of the '*Justice Needs in Uganda 2016 Report*', a research work by **HiiL Innovating Justice**, supported by the **Swedish Embassy**, the **Hague Institute for Global Justice** and **ACORD Uganda**. It was reported that **88%** of Ugandans experienced one or more serious difficulties to

resolve justice needs in the past four years. And in resolving the justice need, **28%** of them ran to the Local Council courts, **21%** ran to the police, only **5%** sought courts of law and **1%** sought a lawyer. The majority of us seated here today constitute that **6%**. If we are to talk about social justice, are we really in business? Are we using the law to transform society, if it was found that only **6%** of Ugandans actually access our services? That is food for thought for us all.

That notwithstanding I must underscore the efforts taken by School of Law and the Judiciary to cement the relationship between academia and the bench. Life is a learning process. Wise King Solomon wrote in Proverbs 12:1 that '***He that loves instruction loves knowledge***'. We at the bench most of the time interface with the law '*as was and is*' on the statute books..., while you at the law school (Ivory Tower) interface with the world knowledge as it evolves. We have a lot to learn from you, but cannot be readmitted for LLB 1. So, through such an engagement we too are exposed to social justice and the global developments that we may not meet easily while at the bench. I must therefore thank my brothers and sisters on the bench who have devoted their time and expertise on such short notice and amidst their tight schedule to contribute to growth in the academic field.

A purpose driven life should be the bedrock of your day to day behavior and this entails three critical ingredients -**hard work, self-improvement and integrity**. These three attributes will enable you stay ahead of the competition, which is in form of getting employed and then rising faster than your peers once at the work place.

Lastly let me thank the Chief Registrar and the Technical Advisor, Judiciary working with the School of law to organize this moot competition, it is My appeal to the Chief Registrar and the Technical Advisor that we explore this being part of the Judiciary Annual activities

I wish the young law students a great competition. May all teams win, for that is what social justice is about;

For God and my Country.