



CLOSING REMARKS

BY
HON. JUSTICE ALFONSE CHIGAMOY OWINY – DOLLO
CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

DELIVERED AT THE CLOSING OF THE SOUTHERN AND
EASTERN AFRICA CHIEF JUSTICES' FORUM CONFERENCE

AT SPEKE RESORT, MUNYONYO – KAMPALA

ON 2nd OCTOBER, 2024.

A decorative horizontal band at the bottom of the page consisting of four stripes: black, yellow, red, and black.

The Rt. Hon. Anita Among, Speaker of Parliament of Uganda

The Hon. Justice Bheki Maphalala, Chief Justice of the Kingdom of Eswatini and Chairperson of the Southern and Eastern Africa Chief Justices Forum

The Hon. Lady Justice Martha Koome, Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya and Vice Chairperson of the SEACJF

The Hon. Chief Justices and Heads of Delegations

The President of the East African Court of Justice

The Hon. Deputy Chief Justices present

The Hon. Principal Judge of Uganda

The Hon. Justices and Judges of Courts of Judicature

Prof. Elisante Gabriel Laizer, Chairperson SEAJAA and the respective Court Administrators, present

The Chief Registrar, Courts of Judicature

The Secretary to the Judiciary

The Coordinator SEACJF Secretariat and your distinguished team

Members of the Fourth Estate

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I take this great honour and privilege to welcome the Right Hon. Speaker of Parliament of Uganda to the closing ceremony of this auspicious Conference. Your personal attendance at the Judiciary functions is not taken for granted. It is a sign of collaboration and love that we highly cherish and undertake to replenish. Please thank you so much for coming.

Allow me to congratulate My Lords, the Hon. The Chief Justices, the heads of delegations and esteemed participants from the Southern and Eastern African Judiciaries for successfully participating at the 8th SEACJF Conference here at Kampala, in the Pearl of Africa.

When we embarked on this errand, two or three days ago, *enroute* Kampala, we came reflecting on two obscure phrases, '**Access to Justice**' and '**Judicial Reforms.**' I would love to hear you return home singing a better song, such as: ADR, Small Claims Courts, specialized Courts and so on, depending on what you have shopped for your country.

My Lords, you all agree with me that, back home, we are exposed to a variety of challenges, depending on the socio-economic standing of our societies and the prevailing political climate. During the Conference we have had candid conversations on the various reforms that we can incorporate in our Judicial workings.

Let us begin implementing what we can, going forward. We remain ready to assist each other achieve the resolutions we have come to at this conference. Let us keep our communication channels open and our annual meetings on schedule. Let us intensify collaboration amongst the judicial bodies across the region in order to continuously develop and share our best practices.

Allow me to specially appreciate the Hon. Chief Justices from non-member states who were able to honour the invitation. I am hopeful that you have received orientation into the objectives, activities and operations of the SEAJCF and you now have sufficient knowledge to choose to become a full member. Always remember the wise words of Martin Luther King, thus: *"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."* We gladly await your full membership and we are ready to answer your questions should you have any.

Allow me to also pay tribute to those of you who have shouldered specific tasks as keynote speaker, presenters and session moderators, as well as those of you who have made direct contributions to the discussions during the conference. We are proud of you, for you have contributed much to our learning and have given meaning to the conference.

My Lords, as you return home, convey our eternal gratitude to your respective Heads of States and our distinguished brothers

and sisters with whom you run the judiciaries. We love them and we appreciate them.

My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen, you must have noted that today is not the last activity on our program. You are much invited to the Gala Dinner tonight and for the excursions tomorrow morning. The last activity shall be the Chief Justices' meeting on Friday. Please don't miss the same.

I appreciate the SEACJF Chairperson, the Secretariat and the local organizing team, for the work well executed. God bless you.

I once again thank you all, my Lords and esteemed participants, for coming to the Republic of Uganda; and I wish you a memorable stay in Kampala.

I now take the pleasure to invite The Rt. Hon. Anita Among, Speaker of Parliament of Uganda to officially close the Conference.

For God and My Country.

Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny – Dollo
CHIEF JUSTICE OF UGANDA