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**CLOSING REMARKS**

**BY**

**RICHARD BUTEERA**

**DEPUTY CHIEF JUSTICE**

**AT**

**THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE 24TH ANNUAL JUDGES'  
CONFERENCE**

**HELD FROM**

**30TH JANUARY- 2 ND FEBRUARY, 2023**

**AT**

**MESTIL HOTEL, KAMPALA**

My Lord the Chief Justice,

My Lord the Principal Judge,

My Lords the Justices and Judges of the Courts of Judicature,

My Lord, the Deputy Chief Justice Emeritus,

My Lords the Retired Justices and Judges present,

Your Worship, The Chief Registrar,

The Secretary to the Judiciary,

Your Worships the Registrars,

Senior Administrators of the Judiciary,

Members of the press,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good afternoon.

I am honoured for having been invited to give closing remarks at this conference.

First, I wish to thank His Excellence the president in absentia for having spared time to come and grace the opening ceremony for this conference. I take this honour to thank the Hon. Chief Justice and the entire Judiciary administration for organizing a successful 24<sup>th</sup> annual judges conference, 2023.

I take the opportunity to thank His Lordship Justice Mike Chibita and Her Lordship Damalie Lwanga, the Chairperson Governing Council and the

Executive Director of Judicial Training Institute respectively plus the entire organizing committee for their tireless efforts in ensuring that this conference is successful.

I wish to express our gratitude to our foreign presenters; His Lordship Zondo, the Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa who gave the keynote address at the start of the conference and Lady Justice Angelina Mensah Homiah and Afia Serwah Asare-Botwe from the Judiciary service of Ghana who came and shared with us the Ghanaian experience on performance assessment, monitoring and mentoring of judicial officers.

As we mark the end of this four day conference, I wish to commend you all Your Lordships and Your Worshipships for having spared time to be here for this 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Judges Conference, 2023.

The theme of this conference has been ***“The Judiciary Transformation Agenda: Enhanced Access to Justice”***.

This theme is in line with the topics selected for presentation.

I am grateful to all the presenters for the well researched reports and presentations made at the conference. The presentations generated candid debate and enthusiastic discussions. The deliberations that have taken place over the last four days have demonstrated that we are committed and determined to be part of the transformation process. The concrete resolutions made today attest to your support for the transformation agenda which is intended to ensure Justice for all.

Performance of the Courts was discussed in detail. Great strides have been made in executing our constitutional mandate which is administration of justice to the people of Uganda.

We now know where we performed well and the areas where we still need to improve. I commend all the justices and judges who worked tirelessly

during the year 2022. We can do better in 2023. The continuous improvement in performance demonstrates your commitment, dedication and hardwork in delivering Justice to the people of Uganda.

Best practices have been shared throughout the conference both domestic and from other jurisdictions. We have been supported by the Executive and Parliament to have a legal regime conducive for our transformation agenda. The results are already visible. We have had a reasonable increase in our human and financial resources. We shall continue to engage government and other stakeholders to support our stride forward.

The objectives of our four days at this conference have been realized. We need to appreciate that each one of us has a role to play in the administration of justice. Justice for all is our cherished vision.

Lets undertake as individuals and as an institution to always do our best so that when we converge again for next years conference we can talk about more positive changes in the Judiciary: a Judiciary where justice is easily accessed and expeditiously administered.

Let us use the lessons learnt at this conference to be more efficient and effective in the way we execute our obligations.

My Lords and Your Worships our role is critical in the administration of Justice.

We are the administrators in the Judiciary. We shall take forward resolutions reached at this Conference for implementation. Consultations and engagement will always be done where necessary. Cooperation and Coordination will always be promoted as we do our work.

We should continue to work together to support the Hon. Chief Justice in a bid to realise the Judiciary Mission and Vision.

With increased resources and more resources expected in the short and medium terms, we should be in position to perform better than we have done before.

I encourage you my Lords and Worships to focus on improved performance and improved administration of the Courts; and put an end to vices such as perceived and actual corruption, absenteeism, delayed delivery of judgments, among others. Our close supervision and inspection of the people we supervise shall make a difference. The challenges that surround us notwithstanding, let us continue to do our part and do it well.

I am happy that most of the issues regarding our welfare and entitlements as insurance and transport have been clarified to us. I thank you the PS/SJ for this clarification.

I would like to once again thank the Hon. Chief Justice for the visionary leadership he is providing to the Judiciary.

I wish to specially thank your Lordship, Deputy Chief Justice Emeritus, Retired Justices and Judges for attending this Conference with us from start to end. Your attendance gives us the courage to move on. Thank you once again for being with us.

I thank you my lords for attending your Conference in such large numbers.

It is now my singular honour to declare the 24<sup>rd</sup> Annual Judges Conference officially closed.

Richard Buteera  
**DEPUTY CHIEF JUSTICE**