

PUBLIC INFORMATION

UGANDA LAW SOCIETY COMMEMORATES RULE OF LAW DAY

7TH OCTOBER 2011.

1. What is the meaning of a Rule of Law Day?

The idea of annually commemorating a Rule of Law Day was conceived as a result of the events of 16th November, 2005 when the High Court was invaded by the Black Mambas - a direct interference by the Executive into the activities of the judiciary.

Aware of its mandate, the Governing Council of ULS found it necessary to have a special day set aside to recognize and commemorate the Rule of Law. This was done in order to avail members an opportunity to reflect and advise on the state of the rule of law in Uganda; to serve as a reminder to all Ugandans of their Constitutional obligation to respect, observe and uphold the rule of law at all times; and to call upon Government to account in instances where the Rule of Law had been violated.

2. What is the history of the ULS Rule of Law Day?

The inaugural Rule of Law Day was launched on 5th October 2006 at the ULS Secretariat under the theme “The role of the International Criminal Court in democratic governance”. The inaugural event was presided over by the then Principal Judge, Hon. Justice James Ogoola who delivered the poem that expressed displeasure at the events of 16th November, 2005. The theme of the second Annual Rule of Law Day was “The rule of law as a vehicle for Economic Social and Political Transformation” and followed His Excellency the President of Uganda’s prior personal request to be allowed to deliver a key note address for Chief Guest, during which presentation he commended ULS for having put in place this special day. He described the Rule of Law as “a critical and fundamental aspect of national transformation”. Following a break of 2 years, due to scheduling and funding constraints, the Rule of law day was revived again in 2010 under the theme “The rule of law in the era of East Africa cooperation and integration: Public accountability and good Governance, Are we compliant?”

The event has continued to be characterized by the coming together of stakeholders – led by the legal profession, to discuss and take stock of the state of rule of law in the country

3. How many Rule of Law Days has ULS held?

ULS has held 3 Rule of Law Days, and is organizing the 4th Annual Rule of Day under the theme, “Constitutional Rights and Freedoms in Post Election Uganda”

The intention of this is to take stock of Rule of Law Events that have taken place since the February 2011 elections. The week of events will enable us to make recommendations geared towards actively engaging in the enhancement of the rule of law and good governance in Uganda.

4. Who gives ULS the mandate to commemorate the Rule of Law Day events?

Through the implementation of its legal mandate to protect and assist the public in Uganda in all matters touching, ancillary or incidental to the law; and to assist the government and the courts in all matters affecting legislation and the administration and practice of law in Uganda, the Uganda Law Society has in effect contributed to the process of deepening democracy, rule of law and Good Governance in Uganda.

5. What activities will commemorate Rule of Law Day 2011?

In commemoration of the day, ULS will hold:-

- a. 4 regional radio talk shows that will discuss and debate topical rule of law issues in the country today. These will be held from the 3rd to the 4th of October;
- b. A high level stakeholders’ meeting that will bring together players in the Justice, Law and Order Sector to chart a way forward on problematic areas plaguing Uganda today. This meeting will be held on the 5th of October 2011; and;
- c. The 4th Annual Rule of Law Day Symposium to which all members are invited. This will be held on the 7th of October at the Golf Course hotel, Kampala, starting at 2:00pm. We will have an exciting presentation from Mr Andrew Mwenda which will be discussed by an eminent panel of discussants, and will be crowned with a grand cocktail. ULS Members who attend this event will be awarded 2 CLE points for attendance.

**BE SURE NOT TO MISS THE EVENT ON THE 7TH. WE PROMISE VIBRANT AND EXCITING DISCUSSIONS!
GO AHEAD AND BLOCK THE DATE IN YOUR CALENDAR!**