

CELEBRATING SPEECH BY PRESIDENT ULS TO THE CHIEF JUSTICE

Our guest of honor, His Lordship The Honorable The Chief Justice

The Honorable Justices of the Supreme Court Present

The Honorable Justices of the Court of Appeal Present

The Honorable Justices of the High Court present

All Judicial officers present

Your worships, the Magistrates present

Senior Counsels Present

Members of the Bar present

Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen

It is an honour to bring you greetings from the Council of the Uganda Law Society. Apologies from the members of the ULS Council and myself, as there were many conflicting activities and some of us because of certain constraints we could not make it but we are very proud for to the appointment to the position of the Chief Justice. Your appointment my Lord shows the trust the people have in you. It is not every day the Deputy Chief Justice is promoted to the position of Chief Justice. It shows also that you have moved through the ranks and have the requisite experience for the office. It further filled us with confidence that government is indeed interested in institutional memory. My Lord Chief Justice you have been known for being innovative, pursuing partnerships with organizations like the Pepperdine University for the professional development of the members of the judiciary.

Your time in the Court of appeal has seen various innovations like the court of appeal sessions, we have seen you champion programs like the plea bargain, online e-filing, we also saw your leadership very present during the CoVID-19 pandemic and we thank you for all the rulings that were released that time. We have seen you increase the involvement of the ULS in having a say in what's happening in the judiciary. We thank you for your open doors policy and we want to thank you that when we approached you as Uganda Law Society and requested for an office, you were gracious enough to give us that office. We also thank you that when we applied to you to utilize the Courts for Pro-bono events and getting a free day for lawyers you obliged us. Thank you for participating in our first online bar-bench for ever and we thank you for gracing it and giving it the much needed credence it deserved. It set a very good precedence and now judicial

officers are willing to participate in our activities because of the example you have set.

With your kind of leadership, we expect a judiciary that is active and alive. We congratulate the judiciary on the passing of the Administration of the Justice Act. We have had your emphatic remarks on making sure that the judiciary grows under you to a positioned third arm of government that it is supposed to be and we are confident with your track record that this shall be achieved in your time. As the President of the Bar, I would like to commit that we the members of the Bar shall work hard at giving you a worthy bar to serve and we also commit to give you the breath of the performance of members so that we can get a worthy bench. We thank you for your hardwork. It is one of the reasons that the lawyers of the greater north are celebrating you. We thank you for being a people centric person and down to earth and for being approachable. We celebrate you because, a person of your character, integrity and humility being in office, it means that the Courts are going to take on a more humane face for the people of Uganda.

Therefore, as a former active member of the Uganda Law Society and as a person that provided a lot of pro-bono services, I as the President celebrate your ascension to this office because it shows that many of us can one day get there. We wish you well and I thank the members of the Uganda Law Society of the Northern Region thank you for your fortitude, your unity and teamwork. Thank you for your hard work and thank you for your votes. It means a lot to the council because you turned out in great numbers to make sure that your votes are counted. We thank you that you have been patient with us because it has been my understanding that the membership in West Nile has on many occasion felt left out by the Uganda Law Society, but we would like to pledge that this will be a society of everybody. This is why as we speak our Northern Region Council Representative Conrad Oroya is working on various programs specifically for the northern region. This is why we have CLEs that are planned for your region and that is why we undertook the membership survey so that we understand what you need. Our clinics in the North, since we're going to have a very small annual lawyers' Ball, we shall not be in position to have everybody taking cognizance of the fact that COVID-19 is real, not many lawyers can travel. We have instructed our Regional clinics to do goat roasting and we encourage you to attend when invited so as to celebrate the end of the year.

We want to celebrate you and thank you for your continued support and participation in ULS activities. We also want to inform you that there's an amnesty that is ending in November 2020, and I hope you have taken advantage of it. However, in case you haven't been able to utilize this period, we can give you up to 15 December 2020 to do the same through a

special extension. I would request that the ULS Council Representative Northern Region Conrad, takes charge of this.

We are also working on your member benefits and as we speak Uganda Airlines is giving you special tickets. We are also working on a medical insurance that can probably give you for 300,000 a year, medical cover all throughout the country. We would like to work with you in developing the member capacity so please work with us; We are open; Participate in the Bar - Bench Forum.

On the issues of Rule of Law, we have set up a taskforce with the rule of law strategic litigation team collecting evidence and cases. We have also set up a member hotline that is currently being shared across all platforms such that in case any of the members gets in trouble, you have access to the resources of the Uganda Law Society on any human rights infringements. On the issues to do with compensation for those that were harmed during the election violence, Uganda Law Society remains available to the people. As we go into the pro-bono week, I would encourage that all of you participate. As we move towards elections, if any of you are approached by our clinics to go on radio stations and speak about Civic education, we ask that you will respond positively because you shall be our ambassadors.

Thank you so much and God bless you.

Pheona Wall

President Uganda Law Society