



Opening Remarks by President- ULS at the launch of the 3rd Quarterly Rule of Law Report of 2020 on December 1, 2020 at the Golden Tulip hotel

- Representatives from Government
- Representatives from the Judiciary
- Representatives from Police
- Civil Society organizations
- Members of the Uganda Law Society
- Distinguished guests
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning to you all,

I bring you warm greetings from the Executive Council, Management and Membership of the Uganda Law Society. I thank you for honoring our invitation to this event wherever you are both physically and virtually as the case maybe.

Ronald Reagan stated, **“When we speak of peace, we should not mean just the absence of war. True peace rests on the pillars of individual freedom, human rights, national self-determination, and respect for the rule of law.”** The Uganda Law Society takes cognizance of the course of events prevailing in the country over the last three months let alone these past few weeks, has found it pertinent to act on its 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.

As Uganda Law Society, we are guided by its Strategic Plan (2017 - 2021) under Strategic Objective 3 which is *“to promote the rule of law and human rights protection”* to identify and bring to light Rule of Law issues for

possible action from the responsible state agencies. I hereby take this opportunity to present to you the 3rd edition of the Uganda Law Society (ULS) Quarterly Report on the State of the Rule of Law for the period October - December 2019. This edition of the report once again highlights the issues affecting the rule of law and offers recommendations that seek to improve the observance of the rule of law amongst stakeholders in the Country.

This quarter has been characterized by increased violation of the rights of children, the 48 hour constitutional rules by law enforcement and violation of Media rights and freedoms. We have witnessed outlandish law enforcement brutality as a result of the foregoing riots while people lost lives and property as a result. It is further no myth to the citizens and country at large that the same continues to prevail yet there are strict rules and codes of conduct that govern our institutional structures and conduct.

It is from this premise that the increased violations reveal that we, the various justice stakeholders still have a lot of work to do in order to eliminate this impunity and lawlessness. The purpose of this report is not to add on the one's already on the shelf, but to make a statement and commitment that besides bearing witness to the injustices that prevail, we pledge our support and aid to all that have suffered injustice at the hands of others be it law enforcement or otherwise.

I would like to thank the Rule of Law Advisory panel and cluster and the Rule of law Department for their immense efforts in putting together this quarterly report. Thank you for this tremendous job done in the compilation of this report.

As I conclude, **Edward Snowden** rightly stated that, **“The rule of law doesn't mean the police are in charge, but that we all answer to the same laws.”** I believe that this is something we can take with us today in ensuring that we see a Uganda governed by the rule of law.

**“To be a Proficient Bar Association in Fostering Access to Justice,
the Rule of Law and Good Governance in Uganda.”**

For God and my Country

PHEONA WALL

PRESIDENT