



REMARKS BY PRESIDENT AT THE SIGNING OF A MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION BETWEEN ULS AND PSFU

All Protocol

A good afternoon to you all

I bring you warm greetings from the Executive Council and the Management of the Uganda Law Society. Thank you for your continuous active participation in our society's activities.

Uganda Law Society has mandate as an advisor to Government and the Public on all matters of law and those ancillary to it. It is from this Premise that ULS, in its new mission, is partnering with the Private Sector foundation Uganda in a bid to fulfill certain common goals. ULS is proud to be a founding member of the PSFU and would like to offer Public Interest Litigation, negotiation services regarding the role which the private sector will play in the Oil and Gas Sector in the economy as well as increasing awareness on the importance of legal compliance to business sustainability. We look towards a collaborative platform for co-operation for improvement, enhancement of the business community with a focus on good governance, sustainability and legal compliance.

The opportunities presented by this event are immense and I call upon our membership to utilize this chance as it presents itself. The reasons for this present themselves in the day to day distribution of legal capacity to the much needed business community. For instance the current ration of a lawyer to Ugandans stands at 1 lawyer: 13,000 Ugandans, with a majority of our membership clustered in the Kampala Business hub space.

With opportunities such as this ULS – PSFU cooperation, our understanding stems from the specific need to push legal services to the outskirts of the country which will help to cover the business community in that area. For instance; the development uproar of the Buliisa community presents not only a unique business opportunity, but also creates a legal services green pasture that can be exploited by professionals. I would also like to inform you that currently, the ULS is doing a Public Interest Litigation regarding extra licence fees on professional bodies under the amended taxation regime which we believe is a double taxation.

In partnering with PSFU, we look to set up four regional centres across the country which will in effect boost the business cycle, good governance and sustainable business acumen. In lieu of this, the

said centres are to become icons for research, development where business protocols and requirements can be interpreted for the business community to be competitive. This also presents a good opportunity for advising sectors of Local Government as well as provide Alternative Dispute Resolution centres within the centres for the businesses.

At the same time, we appreciate the diverse and increasing demand for legal capacity which is why with the increase in the number of universities churning out law graduates, there has also been a decentralization of the Barcourse studies which now are done in Mbarara and Lira in addition to the Kampala campus. This presents a need for our young lawyers to do research on various issues for instance the current e-filing trends that are developing, as well as business advisory capacities.

For 27 years, the ULS has done representation in both domestic, criminal and land law but we would like to increase our footprint by increasing awareness on the importance of the legal society in the private sector. Uganda is one of the most entrepreneur countries with over 1 million SMEs according to the Federation of SMEs, while also experiencing an increase in business development with the increasing numbers of migrants in trade. The main challenge that cuts across on the issue of business sustainability is good governance and legal compliance. I am confident that with this first step we are yet to see better future than that of today.

Thank you for listening to me.

For God and my Country.

Pheona Nabasa Wall

President