



Remarks by the JLOS Senior Technical Advisor at the launch of the Justice for Children at Gulu on 3rd August 2011

Dear Participants

UNICEF officials

J4Children officials

Ladies and Gentlemen

All of us were children and most of us have children. Children are so sweet, innocent and bring so much joy to many homes across the world. Imagine for a moment that we did not have children! Life would be so plain and boring!

Children are therefore, so important that the law has to **has to create conditions to protect them from abuse and maximize for them opportunities to lead productive and happy lives.**

On behalf of the Justice Law and Order Sector, I would like to congratulate the Justice for Children project and UNICEF for successfully bringing to the front of the justice agenda juvenile justice issues.

We salute you because this is an important step in advancing the cause of children, who despite making up about 60% of the population, still remain

the most neglected in all spheres of national life including the justice system.

Our justice system remains ill equipped to handle children issues and our infrastructure hardly inspires joy in children who come across the law. A case in point is our remand homes, which are no more than warehouses than homes for keeping children in comfort.

As a country, we are obliged to treat children with respect, compassion and understanding particularly when they come into conflict or across the law.

JLOS is therefore, pleased to note that J4C is pioneering prioritization of children justice issues in DCCs to create a more humane justice system , whose core objective, will be to rehabilitate both the child victim and child offender.

Such an initiative will ensure that all the needs of the justice actors are met in addition to reducing re-offending, secondary trauma to child victims and greater acceptance by society of the victim and offender in addition to society.

I pledge the sectors continued support to justice for children issues.

For God and My Country

Gadenya Paul Wolimbwa

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