



OPENING REMARKS BY THE HON. THE DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL/MINISTER OF STATE FOR JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS - HON. FREDRICK RUHINDI (MP) AT THE CASE BACKLOG REVIEW CONFERENCE, MARCH 7TH 2011, AT IMPERIAL ROYALE HOTEL, KAMPALA.

My Lord the Chief Justice

My Lord the Deputy Chief Justice

The Third Deputy Prime Minister

The Attorney General /Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs

Justices and Judges of the Courts of Judicature

Heads of JLOS Institutions

Members of the Steering and Technical Committee

Development Partners

Invited Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great honour and pleasure to welcome you, My Lord the Chief Justice and all our distinguished guests to the Case Backlog Review Conference.

The Justice Law and Order Sector places the safety of the person and security of property at the core of its programmes, because the two imperatives define our role in

the National Development Plan, whose theme, is **Growth, Employment ,Prosperity for Social Economic Transformation**. We contribute to the theme of the National Development Plan through the timely disposal of disputes that come before the various JLOS institutions.

As a sector we have had challenges of dealing with case backlog at various points- pausing in the process serious challenges to the realization of the National Development Plan and in particular, empowering the population to get out of poverty. Delays in processing and adjudicating cases at various levels impact severely on Uganda's competitiveness, because it increases the cost of production and renders our goods and services uncompetitive in a world which is obsessed with buying goods and services at the least cost.

It is for these reasons that we crafted the JLOS Case Backlog Programme to interalia reduce delay in the justice system and find efficient methods of dealing with cases. The Case Backlog Programme, which has been in place for the last nine months, has registered several milestones as will be presented during the institutional reports. This Review Conference will therefore provide a platform for institutions to showcase their achievements, challenges and proposals for accelerating case backlog reduction through the timely disposal of disputes.

I have no doubt that among the proposals that will be presented at the Review Conference will be the need to continue the programme and run it as a project. Each institution, will through the Institutional Case Management Committee, oversee reduction of case backlog through the project mode to avoid doing business as usual. Institutions must clearly define the objectives of the programme, set standards and keep accurate records to assist in the timely monitoring and evaluation of the programme.

JLOS will continue to urge Government and Development Partners to support case backlog reduction efforts through increased funding to the sector, harnessing of

performance management and appropriate reforms of the law to expedite processing of cases.

JLOS will also invest resources in innovations because we believe as a sector that case backlog is challenge that can be turned into an opportunity through innovations. It goes without saying that **masters of (innovations) are molders of their destiny. They have mobile courage to meet the demands of every detour and obstacles hindering their way to high purpose and noble destinations....when one course of action is barred they choose a new strategy or a new goal.**

As a sector, we believe that the eleven years of our existence have taught us to innovate, and innovate for in innovation lies the ultimate strength in over powering a formidable enemy such as case backlog.

It is now my pleasure therefore, to invite the Hon. the Chief Justice to officially open the Case Backlog Review Conference.

Thank You.