



## **JUSTICE LAW AND ORDER SECTOR**

**PROGRESS REPORT  
November 2005**

**Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs  
Ministry of Internal Affairs  
The Judiciary  
Uganda Prison Service  
Uganda Police Force  
The Directorate of Public Prosecutions  
The Judicial Service Commission  
The Uganda Law Reform Commission  
Ministry of Local Government - Local Council Courts  
Ministry of Gender Labor and Social Services - Probation Services**

## **1.0 Introduction**

This is a semi annual report of the Justice Law and Order sector for the period June-November 2005. It focuses on progress recorded in implementation of the JLOS Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) and the agreed undertaking during the June JLOS GOU/ Donor semi annual review.

The report is divided into six different parts, covering sector wide policy concerns, progress on agreed undertakings, and performance in the key result areas, budget outturn, performance indicators and institutional progress reports.

## **1.1 Background**

Uganda's Justice Law and Order Sector reform program is an innovation under the sector wide approach whose focus is to adopt a holistic approach to the administration of justice. It is a commitment by government to a coordinated sector wide reform policy and appropriateness in resource allocation and utilization.

JLOS comprises ten government institutions including Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Judiciary, Uganda Prison Services, Uganda police force, the directorate of public prosecutions, the judicial service commission, the Uganda law reform commission, ministry of local government-local council courts and ministry of Gender labour and social development-probation service.

The purpose of JLOS is to promote the rule of law, increase public confidence in criminal and commercial justice system and enhance the ability of the private sector to make and enforce commercial contracts.

In the medium term the policy objective of JLOS is to maintain law and order and increase access to justice for all persons through infrastructure reform, law reform, improved legal services and civic education.

The sector in the year 2000 developed a strategic investment plan that became operational in 2001. The SIP presented an assessment of the problems, challenges and probable solutions to the country's justice system. Necessary improvements to the systems were outlined including the financial investments required. The key components of the SIP are the criminal and commercial justice reform programmes and both focus on improved access to justice, increased efficiency and effectiveness and improved quality of justice.

### **Vision**

Enhance the quality of life and ensure that poverty in Uganda is eradicated.

### **Mission**

The improved safety of the person and security of property and access to justice that ensures a strong economic environment to encourage private sector development and benefit poor and vulnerable people.

## **1.2 SECTOR WIDE POLICY ISSUES**

### **1.2.1 Institutional Framework For Reform**

#### **a) The sector secretariat**

The sector secretariat remains grossly understaffed. This was made worse by the departure of the criminal justice resource person. The secretariat as stopgap measure has relied on secondment of staff from the JLOS institutions, however these staff have their own schedules and cannot be relied on wholly.

The sector has completed the process of recruiting a resource person and the officer is expected to join the secretariat before the end of 2005. At the same time the terms of reference developed in 2003 to guide the process of recruitment of the FMS have been reviewed. The Secretariat in liaison with the Ministry of Finance, planning and economic development and development partners will soon start on the process to fill the position of the FMS at the Secretariat. The FMS position is critical for the sector in implementation of the sector's reform programmes as it envisaged to provide support towards development of a clear fiduciary framework, the budgeting process, identifying weaknesses and developing a strategy for financial management compliant with the GOU-Donor accounting regulations and instructions.

#### **b) Policy and planning units**

Drawing from an undertaking arising out of the 9<sup>th</sup> Review, JLOS committed to undertake an assessment with a view to establishing the actual position regarding the status of the sector PPU's. This has been done and the secretariat is assessing data that was collected and a draft assessment report will be ready by end of November 2005 for consideration in December.

## **2.2 Development of the second sector strategic investment plan (SIP II)**

The development of the second SIP has presented an opportunity for JLOS to evaluate performance of what was hoped to be achieved, what was and was not achieved and what JLOS institutions would like to implement in the next 5 years thus providing continuity to reform programme.

Following the road map developed by the technical committee, the sector embarked on the development of SIP II. Due to the limited capacity of the sector secretariat this activity was outsourced and a consultancy firm-. The Nordic Consulting Group, is undertaking the assignment in liaison with the Sector Secretariat and the SIP II Task Force.

Several consultative meetings have been held with various stakeholders. A national, all consultative workshop was held on 31st October 2005, at the Grand Imperial Hotel, Kampala and agreed on priority programmes/activities for SIP II. A joint leadership/steering committee meeting was held in September where the following policy positions were agreed on.

- a) Objectives are increased from five to seven and ranked as below.
  1. Promote rule of law and due process
  2. Foster a human rights culture across all JLOS institutions
  3. Enhance access to justice for all especially the marginalized and the poor
  4. Reduce incidence of crime
  5. Enhance community involvement in JLOS
  6. Enhance Security of the person and property
  7. Promote Economic development.
- b) The draft sector wide indicators be adopted.
- c) Align SIP II planning period to MTEF, plan for 5 years but cost only 3 years to match timing and content with Budget Framework Paper (BFP).
- d) The programmes and activities be prioritised based on an agreed criteria. However, the process should be top down in as far as agreeing to strategic objectives and bottom-up in identifying priorities that have a direct impact on the objectives.
- e) Capacity of Sector Secretariat should be enhanced and the mandate, staffing numbers and skills, reporting structures should be clarified, while the institutional PPUs should coordinate with the Sector secretariat in monitoring and evaluation.
- f) The sector should increasingly look towards integration of parallel structures but however it was also noted that some programmes may have unique features that may be lost with integration so in this case there will be need to enhance linkages with the sector. Hence the sector should identify which sectors to link with and develop formal means of interaction at sector level in addition to the already existing institutional representations or interactions with other initiatives.
- g) JLOS should develop mechanisms of raising profile of J/LOS and active engagement with Cabinet and the legislature through cabinet memos and working papers by Solicitor General and after event meetings. The sector should also put up a united front and lobby MoFPED and Ministry of Public Service for Policy and Pay Reform across the sector
- h) SIP II should be launched at a high profile and publicly

### **1.2.3. Financial performance and management**

During the financial year 2004/2005 the budget outturn was at -----% a manifestation of the PAF protection accorded to the sector development fund. Institutional performance ranged from -----% and projections for this FY 19.5 billion shilling is expected. So far the sector has accessed -----% of the development funds reflecting an outturn of -----%

Audit for the FY 2004/2005 is due to start and sector has started receiving accountability from the institutions for the funds disbursed so far and as a new conditionality no institution will access further funding without presenting satisfactory accountability. JLOS institutions have been submitting financial reports and accountability to the secretariat as required. However, financial management at Secretariat level continues to be hampered by the absence of a financial management specialist.

The programme account for SWAP Development Fund in the Commercial Bank was closed and a new one opened and is operational in Bank of Uganda (in line with new Government Funds disbursement policy).

The challenge to the sector is whether the principle to roll over unspent balances from one financial to another as per the partnership principles will still be maintained. The sector is however, yet to receive firm assurances from the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

The second challenge for the sector is the inadequate funding. It is important to note that despite the contribution of law and order to the eradication of poverty the share of the JLOS budget in the overall national budget remains very small and is on a decline. There is therefore need to carry forward the policy of profiling JLOS in Cabinet.

Further more the late release of funds to the sector and therefore to the institutions compounds implementation of work plans. Most of the activities reported on were rolled over from the previous financial year. There is need, therefore, to ensure that funds to the sector/institutions are timely released to enable timely implementation of the planned activities.

### **1.2.4 Development of sector wide indicators**

The sector embarked on development and strengthening of sector wide indicators to enable JLOS better track progress towards the realization of its mission. The indicators have been developed and agreed upon at all levels within JLOS management structure. The indicators developed are critical in informing SIP II and the strategic direction to be taken by the sector over the next five years.

### **1.2.5 Legislative reform**

The sector in conjunction with the Uganda Law Reform Commission continues to spear head the implementation of the JLOS legislative reform strategy. It has effectively used various forums such as the Presidential Investor Round Table to push for the quick passage of various Bills. To this end the following Bills are now before Parliament

1. The Penal Code Act Amendment Bill- this will help reduce remand population by enabling Chief magistrates to handle defilement cases
2. The Domestic Relations Bill
3. Fines in criminal matters
4. Copyrights
5. Prisons Bill
6. Local Council Court

Cabinet is also now considering the following Bills

1. Sexual offences Bill
2. MCA and TID amendment Bills
3. Companies
4. Insolvency
5. Industrial properties
6. Trade and service marks
7. Geographical indications,
8. Plant variety protection
9. Consumer protection competition
10. E-commerce

There however remains little progress in terms of debating and passing the bills in Parliament. There is therefore urgent need to pressure Parliament and demand that it expedites the process of passing the bills, critical towards improvement of administration of justice.

### **1.2.6 Audit of court wards and compensations**

The process of auditing court awards and compensations to ascertain the magnitude and cause is in progress. The data base which is a key output of the consultancy is complete. The legal and financial audit is ongoing and at the verification stage to determine completeness of records. The process has delayed because the actual files found by Ernst and Young were higher than the estimates presented by MoJCA.

### **1.2.7 Non-tax revenue and efficiency savings**

The sector is making strong progress in as far as collection of NTR and efficiency gains is concerned. The sector is also focusing in areas of efficiency gains such as prison farm development, management information systems, vehicle fleet management to mention but a few.

Harvest from 1,212 acres of maize from the prison farms yielded 16,968 bags worth shs.848,400,000/= compared to Shs.278,577,861 used on inputs (excl cost of labour and depreciation of capital equipment) but including capital investment. In effect this resulted into over 500 million shillings as efficiency savings and contribution to NTR. Currently 1,400 acres are planted with maize are due for harvesting and it is anticipated that over 28,000 bags of maize shall be harvested (20 bags per acre)

As part of contribution to environmental conservation over 100 acres of trees of various species were planted, country wide, bringing the total so far planted to approximately 240acres. This is going to result into budget saving on wood fuel, environmental protection and reduction on land encroachment

The prison service is also engaged in industrial vocational training and has printed UPDF Flags, Kyambogo University Flags to generate Non-Tax Revenue, instill industrial skills in inmates and reduce recidivism rates.

The ULRC has so far collected over 80 million shillings from the sale of Revised laws. This is expected to increase with the delivery of the revised statutory instruments 1964-2000, by the end of the year 2005.

#### **1.2.8 Prioritisation of activities under the FY 2005/2006 work plan**

The sector aware of its key challenges especially the resource limitation adopted a strategy of prioritisation of key result areas. In the financial year 2005/2006 the key result areas were identified as improved administration of justice, improved civic and legal education, law reform, legal services reform and programme management.

Priority was given to improved administration of justice (taking 60%) of the budget, legal services reform 10%, improved civic and legal education 10%, law reform 5% and programme management 15%. Administration of justice which encompasses construction of offices, prisoner wards and police barracks, laboratories, procurement of basic communication equipment and computers, procurement of patrol pickups, staff training, and organisational development was given the highest priority because the JLOS institutions ought to be on the ground and have to take services nearer to the people. It also reinforces the earlier position of de-concentration of services.

## **2.0 PROGRESS AGAINST AGREED UNDERTAKINGS ARISING FROM NINTH JLOS SEMI ANNUAL REVIEW**

### **Critical Undertakings**

- 1. Following from the undertakings in November 2004 review, work will continue on finalizing the targets in criminal justice (remand) and commercial justice case backlog by June 2006.**

Data capture and entry into the data base following the prisons census is ongoing by PPU of the MoJCA. The prisons census, including data entry and analysis will be concluded by end of November 2005. The process has taken longer than expected because through the census will not only establish the remand population or the average length of stay on remand, but it will also establish all the cases in the criminal justice system and the stages at which they are at. This will show the work or case load at each point in the criminal justice system. By the 10<sup>th</sup> review it is intended that the average length of stay on remand and progress in reducing this against the base line would be established.

Following the endorsement of the concept paper on Case backlog (*circulated at the 9<sup>th</sup> review*) by the Commercial Court Users' Committee, the CJRP technical sub committee is to discuss and adopt the targets and time standards set by the commercial court before affirmation by the Steering Committee.

- 2. The Financial Management Specialist will be recruited and the financial management reform strategy will commence by November 2005.**

The revised terms of reference for the FMS were approved by the Steering Committee on 25/10/05. Sourcing is to commence following discussion with the JLOS donor Group on modalities of recruitment. (*Note: The sector has not received response from MoFPED on the proposed payment arrangement to the FMS.*)

- 3. The independent financial and legal audit into court awards and compensations will be concluded and ready for follow up and action by November 2005.**

The data base which is a key output of the consultancy is complete. The legal and financial audit is ongoing and at the verification stage to determine completeness of records. The process has delayed because the actual files found by Ernst and Young were higher than the estimates presented by MoJCA.

- 4. Progress will be made in the recruitment and training of police personnel and absorption of 4000 auxiliary forces into the UPF in preparation for the 2006 elections by October 2005**

A recruitment drive was concluded in September 2005. The recruitment report is awaited. However, it is unlikely that all the required 4,000 personnel will be secured from the auxiliary forces.

#### **Process Undertakings**

- 5. JLOS will evaluate/assess the capacity of JLOS PPU's for follow up and action by October 2005.**

The secretariat is assessing data that was collected and a draft assessment report will be ready by end of November 2005 for consideration in December.

- 6. The URSB strategic business plan will be endorsed by the board for implementation and service delivery standards and performance targets developed by September 2005**

A draft business plan was presented to stakeholders in October 2005. The consultants are inputting comments from the stakeholders' workshop and a final report will be presented by October 31, 2005. The existing performance targets and time standards have not been reviewed.

- 7. JLOS will engage the MoWLE and other stakeholders of the LSSP over reforms in the land registry to input JLOS concerns in the reform process**

JLOS has formally and informally engaged with the MoWLE. Response is awaited from MoWLE to nominate an officer whom the JLOS can work with to identify ways on how JLOS concerns could be input into the reform process.

- 8. Formulation of SIP,II will continue - in which a strategy and concrete plan for improving presence and access to JLOS services in conflict and post conflict areas and strategies to strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations and the private sector is embedded - with draft document ready for discussion in the November 2005 JLOS Review**

Development of SIP, II is ongoing with the support of a consultancy firm - Nordic Consulting Group. A national consultative workshop will be held on October 31 to November 1, 2005 to present the policy and proposed priorities

of the sector for further discussion, input and enrichment. It is hoped that a draft SIP, II will be presented at the tenth review in November 2005.

### **3.0 PROGRESS IN THE KEY RESULT AREAS**

#### **3.1 Legal Services Reform**

##### **3.1.1. Local council courts development**

##### **3.1.2. National community service programme**

The national community service program has been rolled over to all the districts in Uganda and in the period under review 3010 orders were issued. This has led to decongestion of prisoners by the same magnitude and saving government over 1.35 billion shillings in anticipated costs of maintaining prisoners in prison. These offenders put in a total of 77,580 man-hours of community work valued at over 350 million shillings.

55 Districts were visited with the exception of Pader and 80% of sub- courts nationwide have been reached

Four regional offices were established in Eastern, Central, Northern and Western regions. This has eased coordination and improved flow of information from districts to Secretariat. Currently Community Service literature training materials and forms are easily accessible by districts.

The challenge however remains the limited budgetary provision for the program to undertake monitoring, and supervision of offenders.

##### **3.1.3. Chain linked initiative**

##### **3.1.4 Protection of rights of the vulnerable particularly children**

A Gender Mainstreaming Action Plan to ensure gender mainstreaming within the Sector has been developed.

The ULRC has commenced work on the review of the children's statute

##### **3.1.5 Prisoners' welfare**

Efforts have been placed towards addressing the welfare of prisoners. So far 16,800 meters of cloth enough to provide a pair of uniform for 4500 prisoners were procured and all females prisoners will be dressed in uniform. This will result into a reduction in violation of prisoners' right to clothes, and an improved image of Government

Generally, as earlier reflected in the baseline survey on conditions of detention, commissioned by Prisons funded by European Union under 8<sup>th</sup> EDF- Human Rights and Good Governance Programme, the prisons conditions of living for

both prisoners and prisons staff have not improved over the reporting period. It is also important to note that there exists in prisons -

- High levels of dilapidation of prison wards & staff barracks, country wide,
- Poor health environment- collapsed water & sanitation system, use of “Night Soil Buckets”, poor lighting system, lack of medical equipment, high incidences of Tuberculosis,
- High levels of congestion in prison wards- (**see appendix 1**)
- No safe, secure & Humane custody, High prevalence of TB,
- Lack of staff accommodation (over 2,400 staff not accommodated),

As the JLOS orients itself towards promotion of Human Rights & Good Governance, the above issues remain critical for the sector to be seen promoting prisoners’ rights, & cannot be addressed at current level of funding, hence require special funding programme.

About 200 prisoners were linked to different social actors Prisons Social workers in conjunction with UNAFRI, for their rehabilitation and reintegration into societies. This will result into acceptability of offenders by community, hence reduced recidivism, promotion of restorative justice and community participation in rehabilitation of offenders

### **3.1.6. Results Oriented Management**

Prisoners census was started and work is in progress. This is intended to establish number of backlog of cases, that will inform SIP II work load, provide an Early Warning System on growth of backlog, inform evidence based decision making, check level of compliance with constitutional requirements in treatment of offenders, and provide the basis for evaluation of programmes such as Case-Back-Log, Chain-linked Initiative, community Service, etc

Linking remand prisoners to outside World by prisons social workers has been encouraged and over 1,000 cases have been resolved through the mediation process. This has lead to reduction in remand prisoners population hence decongestion of prisons, compliance with constitutional standards on length of stay on remand, and increase in prisoners accessing bail and efficiency savings on food budget by the same proportion of numbers diverted from prisons

### **3.1.7 Case Backlog clearance:**

Ten Sessions involving 350 cases are on going in the following High Court Circuits: Jinja, Mbale, Soroti, Tororo, Mukono, Luwero, Mbarara, Masindi, Gulu, and Kampala. Three Chief Magistrate Sessions, involving 120 cases are on going in the Mageisterial areas (Nakawa, Masaka, Lira, and Bushenyi).

Two computers were procured for the Open Registry. This has improved the process of data capture and processing. The Judiciary also procured one vehicle

was procured for supervision of the Courts to ensure Backlog cases are handled/reduced as planned and that returns are filed in time.

Case backlog funds recently received by the Uganda Police Force has been earmarked for procurement of a pickup, Records management course, complete inquiries of capital offenses, summon witnesses to High Court and maintenance of the project vehicle.

Prisoners continue to be delivered to various courts countrywide while the Upper Prisons wards planed to be converted into condemn section have been redesigned aimed at increasing their capacity from 60 to 514 prisoners.

**Court Performance/Work July 2004-March 2005)**

| Name of Court          | Cases B/forward  | Filed         | Disposed      | Pending       | Performance % |
|------------------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Supreme Court          | N/A <sup>1</sup> |               |               |               |               |
| Court of Appeal        | N/A              |               |               |               |               |
| High Court             | 4,804            | 1,720         | 1,419         | 5,105         | 22            |
| Chief Magistrate Court | 31,526           | 19,820        | 19,831        | 31,5151       | 37            |
| Magistrate GI Courts   | 7,099            | 10,372        | 9,317         | 8,154         | 53            |
| Magistrates GII Courts | 6,326            | 13,577        | 13,163        | 6,740         | 66            |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>49,755</b>    | <b>45,489</b> | <b>43,730</b> | <b>51,514</b> | <b>46</b>     |

### 3.2 Improved Administration of Justice:

#### 3.2.1. Infrastructure development

Construction/ Renovation of prisons in Rukungiri and Apac Prisons is in progress. When completed this will result into an increase in capacity from 77 prisoners to 475, hence reduced congestion, a reduction in cost of transferring prisoners to Mbarara and Lira for security and decongestion Mbarara and Lira Prisons. It will also promote prisoners' rights to humane custody. In the long run morbidity and mortality rates shall reduce and conditions of detention will improve

Construction of low cost staff houses is in progress (*where and how many?*). This is intended to improve conditions of service and reduce attrition rates

Remodeling of the Forensic Laboratory in Bugolobi that involves strengthening the same through erection of pillars and replacement of the roof is on going and

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<sup>1</sup> Data-Not Available

has contributed to the safety of staff and a changed attitude towards work due to better working environment.

A number of offices at the Government Analytical Laboratories have been remodeled and refurnished leading to an improvement of working environment.

Construction of the CM Court in Mukono has now been completed and already been handed over to the Judiciary. The new Court will officially be opened later in the year.

### **3.2.2 Machinery and equipment**

The DNA Genetic Analyser has been delivered. DNA laboratory has been remodeled and refurbished to required specifications and standards. Installation and preliminary training are on going.

The GC/MC equipment has been delivered, installed and two officers trained in its regular maintenance. With analysis of many samples at ago, the rate at which cases are analysed has increased. More concrete evidence is obtained.

Transport equipment procurement of patrol pickups,

A pick up was procured for prisons to assist in escort of prisoners to court and has resulted into early delivery of prisoners to courts and improved

### **3.2.3 Recruitment and training,**

Capacity building program under the Netherlands Programme for Strengthening Prisons and Police Training has started and is likely to result into strengthening of the Prisons Training School through curriculum development, training the trainers, standardizing training methods, materials and evaluation techniques, evolving norms and themes for short-term refresher courses and long-term distance education training and provision of equipment, reading materials

The Six month training of 658 warders/wardresses recruited in March 2005, was completed in September 2005. This has reduced staff prisoner ratio from 1:7 to 1:6 and is likely to result into observance of staff rights on hours of work (from more than 12hrs per day to 8hours), and a reduction in escape rate.

A Prisons Senior Command course for 58 middle level managers was conducted at the Prisons training School to improve service delivery, ensure ongoing reforms are easily adopted and implemented, improved policies on prisons management, and compliance with administration of sentences.

The post of the Commissioner CSP was advertised, short-listing to take place on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2005.

Under the CSP, 19 registrars, 54 district Chairpersons, 100 police officers, 23 magistrates, 400 students at LDC and 56 Chief Administrative Officers were sensitised on implementation and integration of Community Service Orders in their respective activities

Public Service Commission advertised the vacant posts of immigration officers. Proposed staff for the PPU has been submitted to Ministry of Public Service.

Public Service Commission also advertised for 21 State Attorneys while posts for the Mbale regional office is yet to be advertised pending clearance from the Ministry of Public Service. One post of Principal State Attorney however has been filled. The Ministry is also filing posts through promotion.

The DPP: Nine support staffs were appointed; interviews for 7 data entry clerks and one Senior Estates officer were conducted while one post of Librarian and 15 posts for State Attorneys were advertised were advertised. Recruitment of the identified staff is envisaged to lead to improved performance in the Directorate.

700 warders recently recruited started in March 2005 and will be passed out in August 2005. This will reduce staff prisoner ratio from 1:9 to 1:6 and as well lead to improvement in service delivery. The target, however, is to have a ration of 1:3.

#### **3.2.4. Career Development Program and Specialized Training**

The ULRC continues with support from the sector to train and develop staff. Currently four members of staff are undertaking advanced degree training in specialized areas such as legislative drafting, commercial law, and criminology and development studies.

The DPP held three workshops (Annual Planning workshop, Performance Appraisal workshop and State Prosecutors workshop) aimed at improving management skills for staff.

Three members of staff of the ULRC have completed advanced degree training in legislative drafting criminology and commercial law in the UK. These have helped improve the resource base and reduced the need to hire consultants in these particular fields. At the same time the head of the policy planning unit attended the ESAMI Policy formulation and management training held in September in Mombasa. This has helped improve skill base in policy formulation within the commission. One member of staff is also undertaking advanced degree training with support form the Netherlands government.

#### **3.2.5. Organisational development**

Consultancy to draw management plan for unification of prisons system and cost implication was commissioned. This is intended to demonstrate financial implication in terms of wage, non-wage, and development budget, draw the management plan and inform JLOS SIPII

The prisons service strategic plan was reviewed  
The NCSP has developed a 5- year Strategic Work Plan.

The Judiciary conducted Strategic Planning Review Workshops for Registrars, Magistrates and Members of the Planning Team to update the existing plan and chart the way forward for Judiciary Strategic Plan/SIP II.

The ULRC has finalized the development of a 4-year strategic plan for the period 2005-2008. This has redefined the strategic direction of the commission. However there is need to realign this with sector SIP II that is being developed now.

### **3.3 Improved Civic and Legal Education:**

The Judicial Service Commission has continued to focus on publicity work outside JLOS institutions with a view to disseminating information about JLOS and its functions to District leaders/politicians and the public with the following outputs:

- ✓ Five district civic education workshops were conducted in Mpigi and Wakiso.
- ✓ Two public complaints systems were also launched in the two districts.
- ✓ Provided support to the National Justice Forum through Newspaper supplements and TV/radio talk shows.

The ULRC with support from the sector hosted in September 2005 a 5-day international conference of the Association of Law Reform Agencies in Eastern and Southern Africa (ALRAESA) with a theme *“Fusion of legal systems and concepts in Africa”*. The conference was attended by law reform agencies of South Africa, Mozambique, Namibia, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Zanzibar, Botswana ,Lesotho, Mauritius, Rwanda, England, Australia and Seychelles.

The objective of the conference was to provide opportunity to the law reform agencies in Eastern and Southern Africa to share experiences in law reform and explore opportunities for using different legal systems in their respective jurisdiction.

The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs conducted a sensitization workshop in Mbale for Government officials from Eastern and North Eastern Uganda. A key recommendation is for more of such workshops.

A total of 132 State Attorneys and Prosecutors were trained on community service orders. At the same time, 77 institutional supervisors from Hoima, Mubende, Adjuman 44 court clerks from Kampala, Wakiso, Kayunga, Busia, Mayuge, Kabale & Mbarara were also trained

Supplements were run in both New Vision and Monitor newspapers Radio slots were aired on KFM to create public awareness and sensitise the public about the programme.

The workshop attended by 37 Chief Administrative Officers, 34 District Committee Chairpersons and 48 District Probation officers was held and some districts have as result integrated Community Service activities into their work plans and budgets.

The National Community Service Programme carried out radio spots on Radio Uganda, Kiira FM, Radio West, CBS, Mega FM, Radio Star, Top Radio, Radio Wa, Voice of Teso and NBC Radio to create awareness and sensitizing the public about the Community Service Programme.

The Uganda Police Force -Fire and rescue Services Unit conducted fire prevention and suppression courses for 120 participants from The New Vision, ABB Consulting, Parombo Cotton Ginnery, Rhino camp Ginnery, Pakwach Ginnery, World Food Program and the Red Cross.

The ULRC under its Community Law Reform Program held a feedback, consensus building and strategy design workshop with representative from various district local government with emphasis on developing strategies for greater community involvement in the law making process and education about the law in action and the law making process.

### **3.4 Criminal Law Reform:**

The Directorate of First Parliamentary Council, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs submitted/published the following Bills, Acts and Instruments:

The ULRC continues to spear head the implementation of the JLOS legislative reform strategy. It has effectively used various forums such as the Presidential investor round table to push for the quick passage of various Bills.

To this end the following Bills are now before parliament

1. The Penal Code Act Amendment Bill- this will help reduce remand population by enabling Chief magistrates to handle defilement cases
2. The Domestic Relations Bill
3. Fines in criminal matters
4. Copyrights

Cabinet is now considering the following Bills

1. Sexual offences Bill
2. MCA and TID amendment Bills
3. Companies
4. Insolvency
5. Industrial properties
6. Trade and service marks
7. Geographical indications,
8. Plant variety protection
9. Consumer protection competition
10. E-commerce

The Commission with the assistance from the Royal Danish Embassy and JLOS is undertaking an advocacy program on the Domestic Relations Bill (DRB). The purpose of the advocacy program is to create awareness and solicit support for the DRB among key stakeholders and the public to ensure its enactment into law. The commission embarked on a media campaign. Spot messages were run in eight (8) FM radio stations countrywide, with two (2) in Kampala and three retreats were organized for the MPs, civil society and Muslims. In addition, the Ministry of Justice together with the commission has scheduled further consultations with members of the public in a national conference that was to take place before the end of the year .