



REMARKS BY THE JLOS SENIOR TECHNICAL ADVISOR DURING A WORKSHOP TO REVIEW THE INTEGRATED JUSTICE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM STUDY REPORT – October 25, 2011 AT IMPERIAL ROYALE HOTEL, KAMPALA

Members of the Technical Committee present

Heads of JLOS Policy and Planning Units

Members of the Integrated Justice Management Information System Taskforce

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning. Today we are honored by your presence to review the systems study report commissioned by the Justice, Law and Order Sector about Four (04) months ago in June 2011. The Integrated Justice Management Information System is premised on making the administration of justice more efficient, effective and less expensive for citizens and all justice players through the use of Information and Communication Technologies and process re-engineering in the sector.

Whereas Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS) reforms have been responsible for deepening access to justice and human rights, we still face a challenge of assuring access to justice for all and dealing with crime. The causes are many but key among them is the absence of an Integrated Justice Management Information System to manage cases and inform management of critical issues in dealing with delays in the administration of justice. The right to expeditious determination of disputes cannot therefore be over emphasized.

The justice sector in Uganda requires rapid access to information in order to function effectively. Institutions involved in the administration of Justice require real time information to operate efficiently and effectively in the dispensation of justice, if they are to execute their mandates and in the context of Uganda - empower the poor, who make about 70% of the population through equal protection of the law.

The absence of an automated sector-wide information system has made it difficult to track cases, suspects, allocate resources, equitably distribute and evaluate staff in addition to dealing with recidivism.

The most important reason for the introduction of information technology in JLOS lies in the fact that computerization will go a long way in ensuring that the quality of information required by justice administrators is of high quality and is easily accessible. One of the biggest challenges that exist in the current widely used manual record keeping systems

is the difficulty with which information is accessed and then retrieved. High quality and timely information will ultimately lead to improved decision making, informed policy analysis and formulation as well as increased system efficiency.

With the increasing need for justice administrators to collaborate and share information, JLOS finds itself with a task of creating platforms to make this possible. This strong necessity for collaboration and increased sharing of information makes irrelevant the idea of standalone and decentralized information repositories. In pursuance of the goals of criminal and civil justice, an integrated robust information system inter-linking various stakeholders is the perfect model that will facilitate real time information sharing and transfer of case details, quick retrieval of records and files that are electronically captured, efficient generation of statistics across the board, improved sector wide monitoring and evaluation of criminal justice services and programs.

With an Integrated Justice Management Information System, JLOS institutions will: process cases faster; process records faster; secure data; share data on criminals; track suspects faster; generate cause lists with ease; rationalize the allocation of staff vis a vis the workload; strengthen judicial independence through automated allocation of cases; strengthen performance management and last but not least strengthen monitoring and evaluation in JLOS.

In conclusion, an Integrated Justice Management Information System represents the very core ideals of the Justice, Law and Order Sector since it works toward fostering a “sector-wide” approach to the administration and access to justice in Uganda – in the spirit of the 3Cs of Communication, Cooperation and Coordination. In the sector, we believe in strong and meaningful partnerships between member institutions in our mission of improving the safety of the person, security of property and access to justice in order to encourage economic development and to benefit the poor and vulnerable people. We believe that an integrated approach to information management powered by technology will not only modernize and improve information flows in criminal and civil justice administration but will further consolidate the strong bond that exists between JLOS institutions enabling us to achieve our strategic goals and objectives.

Technology in itself is not a solution for information management problems but rather as a means of facilitating best practices and well engineered processes which ultimately provide a foundation for any credible information system. Today’s discussions will revolve around one of the key outputs of the systems study which was to generate baseline data on the current state of existing processes, workflows, people skills and current technology infrastructure in all JLOS institutions. I believe that this comprehensive assessment of JLOS business processes and existing technology infrastructure will set the stage for robust project planning and future implementation of the proposed Integrated Justice Management Information System capable of providing operational, tactical, decision and strategic support to the sector.

I wish you fruitful deliberations.