



OPENING REMARKS OF THE HON. THE CHIEF JUSTICE AT THE JLOS MINISTERIAL RETREAT AT KAMPALA SERENA HOTEL ON AUGUST 19TH 2011

My Lords

Honourable Ministers

Members of the Leadership Committee

Your Excellences

Heads of JLOS Institutions

Members of the Steering Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like on behalf of the Justice Law and Order Sector and on my own behalf, to welcome all the new ministers and heads of JLOS institutions to the sector.

You have come to a sector which is united, focused and results oriented in its pursuit of efficiency and effectiveness in the administration of justice, maintenance of law and human rights.

I implore you to join us on a journey which has taken us eleven years, to reform the sector and make it one of the most vibrant sectors in government despite the fact that we are not well facilitated.

Let me also welcome our colleagues, the development partners who have consistently supported the sector and remain part of the transformative process in the sector. I would like to thank the Netherlands Government, the Irish Government and other countries for extending support to the sector. The sector will use the resources to observe the rule of law and improve service delivery across the chain of justice.

This retreat has been organized to induct new ministers and other members of the Leadership and Steering Committee into JLOS.

The objectives of the retreat are:

- Explain to the new members the role of JLOS and sector wide approach;
- Discuss the roles of the Leadership Committee;
- Expound on the role of development assistance in JLOS, and;
- Share and discuss JLOS priorities for the next five years

But most importantly, this retreat has been organized for all of us to get to know one another because no partnership can succeed without partners knowing the strength and weaknesses of the other.

I have no doubt that as friends and partners, this retreat will be the beginning of a great journey in strengthening and making the sector relevant to the country.

JLOS was set up eleven years ago to improve the administration of justice and maintenance of law order by bringing together all institutions involved in the administration of justice and maintenance of law order in one forum because each institutions performed inter connected mandates, which had a direct bearing on the performance of the other. It was hoped that through common planning, budgeting and execution of programs, these inter connected institutions would perform strongly in ensuring justice for all.

JLOS has grown from a small project into a fully blown sector which is respected for its achievements, organization and challenges it has generated over the last eleven years.

The sector has managed to forge unity in diversity despite being composed of justice agencies, law and order agencies and lately, the Uganda Human Rights Commission. We may have many tongues but speak one language !

Our strength lies in celebrating our unity in diversity and in appreciating that we all play a crucial role in securing the rule of law and ensuring that all who live in our borders have the equal protection of the law.

Over the years, we have mastered innovation, communication, coordination and cooperation, intelligence and imagination to use scarce resources to improve service delivery in all sector institutions especially the criminal justice agencies.

JLOS has presence in all districts and remains a vital public good for accelerated development.

Yet ,despite all the achievements, the sector is faced with a multiplicity of challenges, such as-

Delays in processes in all agencies reflected in backlog; absence of institutionalized performance management; complaints of perceived and real corruption; poor welfare of

the men and women in the Uganda Police Force and Uganda Prison Services; poor infrastructure for most of the agencies; lack of appropriate affirmative action for the vulnerable and disadvantaged and a host of other constraints.

The success of the sector in the next five years will depend on how we confront the constraints and our continued exploration of our ties through greater use of communication, coordination and cooperation as well as synergies as we pursue and compete for national resources- matched with innovation and well informed investment of scarce resources.

Secondly, we should rebrand and reposition the sector among the priority sectors because we substantially contribute to wealth creation and sustaining confidence in Uganda as an investment destination.

Thirdly, we must improve infrastructure both at national and district level to reduce physical distances to JLOS services and improve the working environment for all our staff. Construction of a JLOS house must therefore, be pursued with renewed vigor at all levels especially at cabinet level.

Fourthly, performance management must be the norm rather the exception at all JLOS points. Thus compliance with constitutional, statutory and service delivery standards must remain our enduring preoccupation in the next five years.

Last but not least we should expedite the conclusion of the third sector investment plan together with institutional investment plans for sustainable growth of the sector and its institution.

I wish you fruitful deliberations.

B J Odoki

CHIEF JUSTICE/CHAIRPERSON OF THE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE