



**SPEECH OF THE HON. THE CHIEF JUSTICE AT THE WELCOME AND FAREWELL
PARTY FOR MEMBERS OF THE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE AND OTHER
DIGNITARIES**

Serena Kampala Hotel - August 19, 2011

My Lords

Honourable Ministers

Your Excellences

Our Honored Guests

Members of the Leadership, Steering and Technical Committee

Your Worships

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I would like on my own behalf and that of the sector to welcome you to this farewell as well as welcome dinner for past and present members of the Leadership Committee and members of different JLOS structures.

I would like to thank past members of the Leadership Committee Hon. Ali Kirunda Kivejinja, Hon. Khiddu Makubuya, Hon. Matia Kasaijja, Justice S T Manyindo and Prof. J Kakooza.

I would like to thank the Retired Deputy Chief Justice Lady Justice Leticia Kikonyogo, the Retired Principal Judge Justice M Ogoola and other distinguished members of the sector, who left either to join politics or to pursue other careers. Your legacy still lives on as demonstrated by the dynamism the sector continues to enjoy because of your sacrifice, foresight and commitment to making justice a reality for all.

I cannot thank you enough, because the sector benefited from your leadership, wisdom, inspiration, and selflessness particularly when resources were scarce and we needed to allocate them sagaciously. You all spoke with one voice, often guided by the famous **3 Cs**- communications; coordination and cooperation to bridge gaps and strengthen the sector wide approach- which has seen JLOS grow from strength to strength.

I am reminded by the conversation between the former Prime Minister of Singapore - Lee Kuan Yew, and the former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Margaret Thatcher. Lee Kuan, after paying tribute to his host, said to Margaret Thatcher:

We have used to advantage what Britain left behind: the English language, the legal system, parliamentary government and impartial administration. However, we have studiously avoided the practice of a welfare state. We saw how great a people reduced themselves to mediocrity by leveling down.

Thatcher responded:

I like to think that once you learnt from Britain. And now we are relearning it from you.....Talent, initiative, adventure, endeavor, risk, confidence, vigour have made Singapore an example to other nations of success- an example whose clear message is that you can't enjoy the fruits of effort without first making the effort.

Likewise, we thank you for the spirit of unity, unity in diversity, hard work, values such as judicial independence and your unrelenting desire to uphold the rule of law. I assure you that we shall use these gifts resourcefully.

In the parable of the gold coins, **there was once a man of high rank who was going to a country far away to be made king, after which he planned to come back home. Before he left, he called his ten servants and gave them each a gold coin and told them, see what you can earn with this while I am gone. On his return, he ordered his servants to appear before him, in order to find out how much they had earned.**

The first one came and said, 'Sir' I have earned you ten gold coins with the one you gave me'. 'Well done, he said'; 'you are a good servant! since you were faithful in small matters, I will put you in charge of ten cities....another servant came and said, 'Sir, here is your gold coin; I kept it hidden in a handkerchief. I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take what is not yours and reap what you did not sow.

He said to him, 'You bad servant! I will use your own words to condemn you'.

My Lords, ladies and gentlemen unlike the bad servant, we promise to make you a great profit out of your legacy and build a very vibrant sector.

Let me take this opportunity to welcome new members of the Leadership Committee to the sector. Hon. Kahinda Otaffire- the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Hon. Peter Nyombi- the Attorney General, Hon. Hilary Onok the Minister of internal Affairs, Hon. Saida Bumba- the Minister of Gender Labour and Social Development, Hon. Baba – the Minister of State for Internal Affairs and the Chairperson of the Uganda Law Reform Commission. I also welcome Ms. Harriet Lwabi- the Chairperson of the Steering Committee.

You have joined the sector at very challenging times! Our economy like the world economy is not doing very well. We are not among the priority sectors in Government yet as the recent riots showed; no economy can grow without a strong legal and justice system. We still face huge delays in service delivery in the face of declining resources. We are also constrained by a high youthful population; threats of terrorism; poor welfare of the Police and Prisons and poor working conditions for all our staff and a host of other challenges.

The sector is therefore, looking on to you for solutions, renewed energy, commitment, vision and resourcefulness to overcome its challenges. In this regard, we call upon you at a cabinet level, to address issues from a sectoral approach because no individual institution in the sector, can survive without the other. A good police force can only be as good as a good court. Likewise, a good public bar can only be as good as the private bar and vice versa. The wellbeing of all institutions should therefore, be your threshold in approaching all matters in your schedule. Collective action rather than individual action should be the norm rather than the exception in approaching issues.

As a sector we urge you to work for the rule of law; respect for human rights; the construction of a JLOS house; a complete chain of justice; an effective public and private bar; performance management; improved service delivery and a sound legal framework which, is vital for growth and prosperity.

For God and My Country

B J Odoki

CHIEF JUSTICE AND CHAIR OF THE LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE