



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

THE 26TH ANNUAL JUDGE'S CONFERENCE, 2025

3RD - 6TH FEBRUARY, 2025

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

The Judiciary will hold its 26th Annual Judges Conference under the theme "***Positioning Uganda's Judiciary to Contribute to the Country's Social and Economic Development***". This theme will help Justices and Judges develop better strategies for improving justice administration and adjudication in the coming year, highlighting the judiciary's role in supporting Uganda's socio-economic transformation through addressing the justice needs of citizens and optimisation of resources.

The judiciary plays a vital role in ensuring justice for all and upholding the rule of law in its court decisions, providing significant contributions that enhance the foundation of a fair and stable society in various ways, in line with the above theme. These contributions include: supporting both local and international investment by preventing crime and ensuring adequate compensation for victims of crime and civil wrongs; facilitating the swift resolution of commercial and criminal financial disputes to recover funds tied up in conflicts or misappropriated from the economy; addressing land disputes that have substantial social and economic implications for communities; and promptly resolving family conflicts to foster social order, community well-being, cohesion, and productivity.

Consequently, the dialogue during the conference on the above and other related socio-economic and legal aspects will help the judiciary achieve better its constitutional mandate, under Article 126(1)

of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995: *to exercise the administration of justice in the name of the people, in conformity with the law, norms, cultures, and their aspirations*; as well as aligning the judicial interventions with national development priorities under the National Development Plan IV (NDP IV).

General Objective:

The Conference aims to enable justices and judges execute the Judiciary's constitutional mandate better while aligning it with Uganda's socio-economic transformation priorities.

Specific Objectives:

- 1 To reflect on the Judiciary's performance, key achievements and challenges in calendar year 2024; identifying lessons learnt and best practices that can foster improved, effective, and efficient justice delivery.
- 2 To share the perspectives of other justice actors on the role of Uganda's Judiciary in socio-economic development.
- 3 To evaluate the Judiciary's contribution including innovations, and challenges faced in promoting access to justice.
- 4 To explore opportunities towards enhancement of access to justice in the context of social and economic development.
- 5 To develop better strategies aligned with the national development priorities for improved justice delivery that address the needs of citizens and optimisation of resources.

Expected Outcomes:

It is expected that at the end of the conference, the judges and justices will be able to: -

- 1 Apply lessons and best practices from the conference dialogue to foster improved, effective, and efficient justice delivery.
- 2 Appreciate the perspectives and gaps identified by sister justice actors regarding the role of Uganda's Judiciary in socio-economic development.
- 3 Rethink the Judiciary's contribution, including innovations, to promote better access to justice.
- 4 Dispense justice from the context, *interalia*, of social and economic development.

- 5 Implement meaningful and achievable policies, strategies and operational improvements that are aligned with the national development priorities for improved justice delivery that addresses the needs of citizens and optimisation of resources.

Conference Topics

During the conference, the topics for the judges and justices' dialogue will include:

- Presentations on the Performance of the Courts in 2024;
- Case and Performance Management in the Uganda Judiciary: Lessons Learnt from the Benchmarking Trip to the Judiciary of Tanzania;
- Asset Recovery and Forfeiture as a Tool for Fighting Corruption;
- Official Opening Ceremony;
- Physical Exercises for a Healthier and Happier Life;
- Mobilisation and Efficient Allocation of Resources: The Contribution of the Judiciary as a Catalyst for Social Economic Development;
- Unpacking Innovations for Effective Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Mechanisms;
- Ergonomics: Environment, Health and Safety in a Work Place;
- An Insight into Uganda's Insurance Industry and its Operations;
- Panel Discussion: Perspectives on Uganda Judiciary's Role in Socio and Economic Development;
- Mental Health Care for Judicial Officers; and
- Conference Resolutions and Recommendations

Conference Chief Guest

His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, **General Yoweri Kaguta Museveni**

Target Participants

The target of the conference are Justices of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal, High Court Judges, and all Registrars.

Conference Dates and Venue

The event will be hosted from 3rd to the 6th February 2025, at Méstil Hotel & Residences, Kampala

Conclusion

The 26th Annual Judges Conference offers a critical opportunity for the Judiciary to reflect and strategize on how best to deliver on its mandate in the context of Uganda's social and economic development.