



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

PRESENTATION TO THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

Hon. Chairperson and Hon. Colleagues, Parliamentary Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs

- 1.1 I take this opportunity to congratulate you upon being elected and designated to this important Committee.
- 1.2 The Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs has the following mandate, vision and mission;
- 1.3 **Mandate:** To provide legal advice and legal services as well as supporting the machinery that provides the legal framework for good governance”.
- 1.4 **Vision:** “A nation that upholds the rule of law, good governance and due process for all”.
- 1.5 **Mission:** “To promote an effective and efficient machinery capable of providing a legal framework for good governance and delivery of legal advice and services to the Government, its allied institutions and the general public.”

Vote Strategic Objectives

- 1.6 The Strategic objectives of the Ministry are to:
 - i) Strengthen compliance to regulatory best practice
 - ii) Enhance efficiency in the delivery of justice services;
 - iii) Enhance compliance with the Uganda Bill of Rights;
 - iv) Promote Uganda’s interests at regional and international legal frameworks;

- v) Strengthen institutional and coordination capacity.
- 1.7 The Ministry implements its core activities in line with the Governance and Security Program, but with interventions under Manufacturing, Sustainable Energy Development and Sustainable Extractives Industry Development Programmes, Implementation Action Plans (PIAPs) under the National Development Plan IV, and other relevant policies and legal frameworks.
- 1.8 The Ministry majorly contributes to the following NDPIV Governance and Security Programme objectives:

Objective 2: To Strengthen Public Policy analysis and Management;

Objective 3: To enhance efficiency in the delivery of justice, law and order services;

Objective 6: To enhance compliance with and implementation of the Uganda Bill of Rights;

Objective 7: To promote Uganda's interests at regional and international level

Objective 8: To enhance the national response for coordinating refugee protection and management

Objective 9: Strengthen the administrative, legal, institutional and coordination capacity for Governance and Security.

2.0 PROGRESS MADE ON THE EXECUTION OF THE MINISTRY'S MANDATE

Drafting and Reviewing of Legislations

- 2.1 Over the FY2022/23–FY2025/26 period, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs sustained strong performance in delivering its legislative mandate by drafting and reviewing a cumulative total of 157 Bills, 113 Acts, 484 Statutory Instruments, 89 Legal Notices, and 68 Ordinances, thereby supporting Government's legal and policy agenda. Although legislative outputs declined in FY2025/26 compared to the preceding year, the Ministry maintained a robust level of performance by processing 18 Bills, 19 Acts, 101 Statutory Instruments, 21 Legal Notices, and 16 Ordinances, demonstrating its continued commitment to providing timely legislative services and strengthening the country's legal and regulatory framework.

Administration of estates and family justice

- 2.2 Over the FY2021/22–FY2025/26 period, the Office of the Administrator General recorded sustained progress in the administration of estates and family justice by opening 23,909 new files, inspecting 1,466 estates, issuing 239 Certificates of Land Transfer, registering 54 trust causes, issuing 17,487 Certificates of No Objection, and resolving 2,728 family and succession disputes through mediation and arbitration. Notably, FY2025/26 registered the highest number of Certificates of No Objection (4,225) and family disputes resolved (1,258), reflecting improved access to succession services and increased use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

Civil Litigation

- 2.3 Over the five year period, a total of 19,616 cases were handled in courts of law, tribunals, and commissions, reflecting a substantial litigation workload. Government legal representation resulted in cumulative savings estimated at approximately UGX 19.236 trillion, against UGX 810.669 billion in liabilities, thereby demonstrating strong performance in safeguarding public resources and minimizing financial exposure.

- 2.4 Specifically, in current FY 2025/2026, the Directorate represented Government in the 1,818 cases in Courts of law, Tribunals, and Commissions. Of these, 491 cases were successfully concluded in favor of the Government, resulting in an estimated saving of approximately Ugx.14.447Tn and 73 cases were lost, with a financial implication of Ugx 64.769Bn.

Legal Advisory Services

- 2.5 In the five year period, a total of 30,421 contracts and 2,825 MOUS were reviewed and 3114 Legal Opinions were rendered bringing the combined total of legal instruments handled to 36,330, which underscores the Ministry's central role in ensuring legal compliance and facilitating Government transactions.

Decentralisation of Ministry and Attorney General's Chamber Service

- 2.6 In FY2025/26, the Ministry established additional Five (5) Regional Offices in Iganga, Masaka, Hoima, Kabale and Lira. These offices are currently in rented premises. All our Regional offices offer Administrator General Services, Legal Advisory Services and Representation of Government in Courts of Law Tribunals and Commissions and support drafting of Ordinances and bye laws.

INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

a) JLOS House Construction Project.

- 2.7 The Ministry is undertaking a key flagship multiyear JLOS House project at an estimated cost of UGX 256Bn in 4 phases. This is intended to improve institutional coordination and the working environment of the staff involved in the Access to Justice and reduce government expenditure of UGX 30Bn per year on rent.
- 2.8 Phase one (JLOS Tower) is complete and is currently occupied by the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Ministry of Internal Affairs (NGO Board), Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Uganda Law Reform Commission, Uganda

Human Rights Commission, Judicial Service Commission, and the Tax Appeals Tribunal.

- 2.9 The second phase of the Project is the construction of the Police Headquarters Building which started in October 2023 and is currently at 78% complete.
- 2.10 The third phase is the construction of the High Court Tower, and is planned to commence in FY2026/27.
- 2.11 The fourth phase is the construction of the parking deck and is currently at 40% complete and it has 3 levels.



b) The construction of Soroti Regional Office,

- 2.12 The Ministry in its bid to extend legal services to Government in addition to provide access to justice especially for vulnerable groups such as orphans and widows in the Eastern Region, commissioned the construction of Soroti Regional Office, currently 89% complete. Upon completion, this office will offer Administrator General Services, Legal Advisory Services and Representation of Government in Courts of Law Tribunals and Commissions.



3.0 MOJCA KEY PLANNED INTERVENTIONS ALIGNED TO NDP IV FOR FY2026/27

Hon. Chair, part of the linkage is indicated in the introduction and the other areas of linkage include but not limited to:

NDP IV Objective	Intervention	Planned activity	Budget (UGX 'Bn)
To Strengthen Public Policy analysis and Management	Strengthen coordination of the policy and legislative-making processes	40 Bills reviewed and or drafted; 130 Statutory Instruments reviewed and drafted; 12 Ordinance reviewed; 12 Bye laws reviewed	6.662
To promote Uganda's interests at regional and international level	Ensure adherence to regional and international laws and commitments	Negotiate 30 regional and International Agreements, Treaties and Protocols Render 1700 legal opinions on the regional and International Agreements, MOUs and Treaties	43.457
	Strengthen the rule of law and governance service delivery systems	Defend 4,964 cases filed against Government (including 4 International Arbitration cases)	

NDP IV Objective	Intervention	Planned activity	Budget (UGX 'Bn)
To enhance efficiency in the delivery of justice, law and order services;		Review 13,000 contracts, MoUs, Agreements and render legal advice	
	Enhance capacity and coverage of rule of law institutions for social economic transformation	4,000 certificates of No objection Issued; 60 land transfers effected;	5.246
	Strengthen the rule of law and governance service delivery systems	Inspect 1,450 and issue applicants meeting requirements for law chambers Licenses, with certificates of approval; Inspect 14 Universities teaching law (that meet the requirements) with certificates of approval; Conclude atleast 40 disciplinary cases against lawyers	2.610
		Regulation of Arbitrators	1.82

NDP IV Objective	Intervention	Planned activity	Budget (UGX 'Bn)
Strengthen the administrative, legal, institutional and coordination capacity for Governance and Security	Strengthen programme institutions for effective and efficient service delivery	Attend 73 International meetings where Government is a party Transfers made to respective JLOS institutions for implementation of planned activities; Construction of Phase 2-4 of the JLOS House; Retooling of MoJCA with 2 vehicles and office equipment Vehicles and Assets maintained; BFP and MPS prepared and submitted on time; Salary, Pension and Gratuity paid by 28th of the month; Arrears paid to intended beneficiaries;	104.991
Total			164.786

4.0 Challenges

- i. **Complete construction of Phase II (Police Head Quarters) & IV (Parking Deck) of the JLOS House:** The JLOS House Project is being implemented in four phases, with the first phase was completed and occupied by the Ministry and other JLOS institutions. The parking issue therefore needs to be addressed urgently as occupation of the JLOS House takes effect. This phase IV coupled with Phase II require a total of **UGX 34Bn.**
- ii. **Motor vehicles:** We need transport equipment of at least 48 motor vehicles over the next 2 Financial Years to support operations of Regional offices in court attendance and supporting the function of the Administration of Estates of deceased people and the inspection function of the Law Council. The current fleet of vehicles is insufficient, old and unreliable to traverse long distances to various courts with high maintenance costs of UGX 0.781Bn annually; and the Auditor General has already raised a query on the use of old vehicles that should have been disposed of. Procurement of first bunch of 24 vehicles requires **UGX 7.2Bn.**
- iii. **Construction of offices for the African Humanitarian Agency (AfHA):** The Government of Uganda won the bid to host the secretariat for the African Humanitarian Agency on condition that the hosting Country constructs offices and residence in two years' time. Hon. MoFPED signed the commitment on behalf of Government. This included providing temporally facilities for and construction of permanent office space and residential accommodation. This altogether requires a total UGX 360Bn; over two years. However, for the first year we require **UGX 200Bn.** The African Humanitarian Agency presents the opportunity of employment for some citizens, demand for local services like accommodation to visitors of AfHA, advertising the country

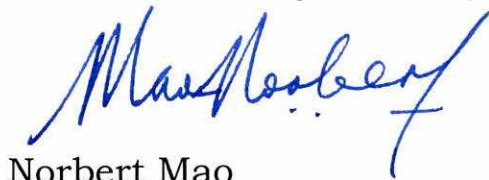
as an investment destination and above all promoting the good image of the country abroad.

- iv. Lack of funds to construct five office buildings for regional offices established in FY2025/26, if we are to achieve this projected in our Strategic Development Plan, we require at least 15Bn in each of the next three Financial Years
- v. Limited budget to cater for Domestic Arrears; whereas the outstanding bill is UGX 37Bn, we have an allocation of UGX 15Bn.
- vi. Enhancement of salaries for state attorneys under Attorney General Chambers' to be at the same level with their counterparts in ODPP and Judiciary, whose salaries are currently tax exempt while those of Attorney General Chambers' are not.
- vii. Inadequate funding to the Ministry in areas of International Arbitration, International and Regional Courts representations and Negotiations.

5.0 Conclusion

I wish to take this opportunity to register my appreciation to the Parliamentary Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs for continued cooperation and support rendered to the Ministry to deliver its mandate of providing **Justice for all**. We look forward to working with you.

For God and my Country



Norbert Mao

MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS