

# ULS NEWSLETTER



**ULS President Ruth Sebatindira (middle) flanked by the head of the Legal Aid Department Aaron Besigye (left) and the head of the Policy, Advocacy and Research Department Irene Kwaga (right) at a Press Conference at the ULS Secretariat on 7<sup>th</sup> April to deliver a statement on the Administration of Justice in Uganda**

## UGANDA LAW SOCIETY



The Uganda Law Society (ULS) is a body corporate established by the Uganda Law Society Act (Cap 276) with statutory objectives among others to improve professional standards of its members, and promoting human rights and rule of law in Uganda.

# FOREWORD

Dear Colleagues,

In the month of April, we had fruitful meetings including one with the newly appointed Chief Registrar, His Worship Paul Gadenya. We pledged to work with and support his office so that we uphold the highest professional standards. We also discussed:

- a) The changes made at Nakawa Court with the transfer of the Deputy Registrar and a new one will take office immediately.
- b) Continuous absence of judicial officers, with many not working on Mondays and Fridays that this will soon stop.
- c) The challenges raised by members about the Family Court and KCCA Court will be addressed.
- d) Under staffing at the Execution Division; one Registrar will be posted at the division.
- e) Proper time keeping by Judicial officers; Court should start at 9am for 5 days a week;
- f) Increasing productivity of the Courts such as minimising numerous adjournments;
- g) Awarding excellent people for example at Njeru Court the Magistrate Grade 1 is timely and the Court and office are clean;
- h) Passing of the Judiciary Administration Bill which needs support and lobbying as well as an Ombudsman for the Courts;
- i) Introducing adhoc inspections to reduce on absenteeism in Courts;
- j) An updated database at the Chief Registrars office of lawyers with Practicing Certificates;
- k) To ensure that all Court decisions are compiled by the Court;
- l) Rationalising clerical staff in the Judiciary such as offering transfers after 2 years at the station; and
- m) Visiting locus as funds for this are included in the Magistrates and judges disbursements.



On another note, in line with protecting property rights, we met with the World Bank “Doing Business” team and Ministry of Lands to see what challenges the Ministry is facing which are hindering it from improving and turning around transactions quickly. The Ministry officials communicated that the computerisation exercise which is near completion still has some hindrance like the digitised information not being in sync with the physical files and this needs to be done first. The World Bank team pledged its support to lands by tracking progress and helping to deal with the challenges and that a monthly progress check would be made. It was noted that KCCA and Wakiso remain the most problematic registries and that all efforts were being made to make improvements there.

We also met with the Permanent Secretary Ministry of lands Mr. Gabindadde Musoke and Commissioner Land Registration Ms. Sarah Kulata together with our lands task force; Mr. Deo Tibeingana, Ms. Dorothy Kabugo and Mr. Moses Lwanyaga. The following challenges were considered: Lands Department has no funds for educating the public on how much progress the Lands Registration Department has made; the synchronisation of records is not complete at all registries; delays at all registries in registering transactions; poor work ethic of registrars; corruption; and lack of Client Care at various land registries.

As a way forward we agreed that:

- a) The ULS/Advocates should report unprofessional conduct of Registrars to the Permanent Secretary;
- b) The Lands Department would organize a demonstration of the system to the ULS membership once ULD advises on date and where;
- c) There is no need to interface with any Registrar in Jinja and Mbarara because the registries are working perfectly and that turn-around is 3 days;
- d) Wakiso district Registries will be fully digitised by July and KCCA by August;
- e) There is going to be use of accredited agents and advocates are among such agents;
- f) Advocates should indicate their names below their signatures when writing to the Lands Department;
- g) Since there are no funds for sensitization, the department uses only the Ministry website which members should visit regularly for updates; and
- h) It was agreed that ULS continues to engage Ministry of Lands so that more improvements are made in land registration process.

Turning to our Legal Aid Project, our partners from Norway visited and on April 30th, the ULS Legal Aid Project Committee met with the NBA/NORAD visitors who were here to conduct their annual monitoring and evaluating visit of the LAP Clinics. They visited the Arua, Gulu and Masindi Clinics out of the 10 clinics now run under the Legal Aid Project of the ULS. We continue to enjoy a truly rewarding relationship with Norad/NBA which we have enjoyed for twenty four years now.

As I conclude, I would like to remind you all of the resolution by the membership at the AGM 2014, that proposals on the ULS Election Regulations and increment of ULS Membership Subscription fees be considered and discussed at an EGM. We shall thus hold an EGM on May 31st, 2014 from 9:00am to 12:00pm at the Imperial Royale Hotel. I urge you all to come and attend.

I wish you all a good month.

**For God and My Country**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "R. Sebatindira".

**RUTH SEBATINDIRA**  
**PRESIDENT- UGANDA LAW SOCIETY**

## PICTORIAL OF EVENTS IN THE PERIOD 2014



A cross-section of ULS Members who attended the Bar Bench Forum on Administration of Justice which was held on 4th April 2014 at the Golf Course Hotel in Kampala



Members listen to a presentation at the Media Law Training in Western Uganda held on 3rd April 2014 at the Lake View Resort Hotel in Mbarara



Some of the Uganda Law Society Members at the Media Law Training in Northern Uganda held on 31st March 2014 at Bomah Hotel in Gulu.



A cross section of Uganda Law Society Members at the Media Law Training in the Northern Region held on 26th March 2014 at Mbale Resort Hotel.



Members of the Uganda Law Society Secretariat Staff pose for a photograph with the delegation from our partners from the Norwegian Bar Association on 30th April 2014, during a Monitoring visit to ULS

# **EAC UPDATES**

## **East African Court of Justice 6th Quarter Sessions Resume**

The Arusha based Court on Monday, April 28th 2014 resumed its quarter sessions with the Taxation ruling of Alcon International Limited (Appellant) versus the Standard Chartered Bank Uganda and Others (Respondents) in which the Respondents are to pay to the Appellant \$22,884 as costs incurred during the hearing process of the Appeal.

The Ruling was delivered by the Deputy Registrar East African Court Of Justice, Her Worship Ms. Geraldine Umugwaneza.

During this quarter a total of 25 matters will be handled of which 6 are in the Appellate Division and 19 in the First Instance Division. The Appellate Division will have 1 taxation, 1 hearing, 2 scheduling conferences, and 2 Judgments while the First Instance Division will have 14 hearings, 4 scheduling conferences and 1 Judgment. All matters will be in open Court and will come before the Honourable Judges of both the Appellate and First Instance Divisions.

## **Rwanda Hosted 3rd EAC Aviation Symposium**

The East African Community Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA), in partnership with the EAC Partner States' Civil Aviation Authorities hosted the 2014 edition of the EAC Aviation Symposium on Friday 9th May 2014 at the Serena Hotel in Kigali, Rwanda.

This Symposium was hosted to look into sustainable development of civil aviation in the region under the theme: "Addressing today's Challenges: Aviation Safety and Security through Regional Integration, Regulatory Compliance and Stakeholder Participation". This Symposium also aimed at providing an updated picture of the new regulatory framework to be implemented for the aviation industry at large and as well to address the challenges posed for the sustainable development of civil aviation in relation to specific areas such as regional integration, regulatory compliance as well as stakeholder participation.

The Symposium brought together aviation sector regulators, air operators and service providers, trainee inspectors and security, air transport policy makers and academia among others.

It was expected that the outcome of the interactive symposium would be to provide valuable views from civil aviation stakeholders and aid in the implementation of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs), as provided for in the Chicago Convention and its 19 Annexes.

## **Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers Launches EAC Information Resource Center**

On Monday April 28, 2014 the Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers and Cabinet Secretary for East African Affairs, Commerce and Tourism in Kenya; Hon. Phyllis Kandie officially launched the EAC Information Resource Centre.

Development partners specifically the European Union were applauded for their technical and financial support to the Resource Centre and assured of the Council of Ministers' support to further develop the Centre.

It was affirmed that digitization of all EAC information resources would improve accessibility of EAC information, preserve it in a digital format and also improve information sharing with EAC Organs and Institutions, Partner States, consultants, researchers, development partners and the general public.

The EAC Secretary General reiterating Article 71 of the Treaty which establishes the mandate of the EAC Secretariat to promote and disseminate information on the Community to the stakeholders, general public and the international community noted that the Resource Centre was part of that initiative.

Various resources available at the Resource Centre include EAC documentation and publications, Partner States official publications, former EAC publications, general textbooks, publications on regional and international organizations, periodicals including professional journals, newspapers/articles, audio-visual collection and internet resources and databases.

## **Signing of a Cooperation Programme**

On May 7, 2014 the East African Community Secretariat signed a cooperation programme worth 2.3 million Euros with the European Union (EU) to improve Maritime Security and create a favourable environment for the economic development in the region.

The Maritime Security Programme (MASE) is part of a 37.5 Million euros package to support four regional organisations of Eastern and Southern Africa (EAC, COMESA, IGAD and IOC) which among others will strengthen the capacities of the four blocks in order to implement the Regional Strategy and Action Plan against Piracy and for Maritime Security adopted in 2010.

In particular, support will be provided to investigative capacities as well as prisons/correctional services reform and capacity building offered to prosecutors and court staff. A key deliverable will include support to the operationalization of the EAC Regional Forensic Referral Centre.

Within this framework, the EAC will lead the efforts to strengthen legal, legislative and infrastructural capability for arrest, transfer, detention and prosecution of pirates, both at national and regional levels.

# **Success is no longer a train you board with a ticket**

**By Sunny Bindra**

Published on January 5, 2014 in *Sunday Nation*

*To succeed in the world to come, you won't be boarding trains with tickets; you'll be jumping off planes with parachutes.*

These are fast-changing, enormously disruptive times. Success is no longer about playing safe, being predictable, or following schedules. That's how it was when I was growing up. Children were told to pick safe subjects; get good grades; seek reputable universities; land jobs in esteemed firms; cultivate networks of connected people. The rest would follow.

In other words, success in life was a train that ran to a fixed schedule and on a fixed track. Those who boarded at the right time, and had the right ticket, could be pretty sure of arriving at the destination.

No more. There are too many disruptions afoot for anyone to believe in the train metaphor any more. Digital-mobile-social technology platforms have already laid waste to a whole range of industries and professions. There are no predictable trains running any more in media, music, communication, or publishing because the old rules have been overturned by the fact that more than a billion people now carry connected consumption devices in their pockets.

But that was just the beginning. Watch the heat being turned up in the months and years to come in education and healthcare; in banking and insurance; in retailing and payments; in transportation and manufacturing. The technologies that are about to come of age – cheap broadband, mobile wallets, driverless vehicles, home manufacturing, advanced robotics – will cause even more sweeping changes.

Watch professionals feel the heat, as easily used software and mobile hardware takes away a big chunk of what used to be their bread and butter. Doctors, lawyers, accountants will no longer be able to sell simple processing or basic procedures – they will have to elevate to higher-level advisory roles, or become irrelevant.

More waves waiting to land on a beach near you: in the next two decades, three billion people are expected to be added to the global middle class. That's great for consumption – many sales to be made – but a huge strain on limited resources like food, water and oil. Technological change will have to be even more rapid for the planet to cope with all those extra wallets, mouths and fingers. New forms of energy, synthetic foods and tighter environmental regulation are not just likely – they're a done deal.

So where will all of that leave you, if your safe and predictable career is in an industry or a skill that may just get left behind? What should you be telling your children about what is 'safe' in the future world of work?

The truth is, no one knows. There are no career trains any more, just aircraft of all sizes and shapes taking off in all directions. An influential parent or a solid subject choice does not give you a ticket to board these strange craft. Some of them may reach destinations worth getting to; others may go down in flames. Which is why you need parachutes.

What you, and certainly your children, need in this unpredictable world are the following: the ability to add true value, not just simple procedural inputs; the capacity to try things out that haven't been done before; and the appetite for risk and acceptance of trial-and-error as a career strategy.

It's scary stuff. If it's any consolation, I myself am in the same boat. Advising, writing, speaking or teaching for a living will get its own share of disruption and transformation. As I sit here and contemplate the future, I know that the heart of success is always to provide genuine, distinctive value to others. That doesn't change. What will undoubtedly change, however, is the form and format of delivery.

So think about my metaphor as you begin 2014. The ways you're used to may soon be defunct. It's about aircraft and parachutes, not trains and tickets.

# THE FUNNIES

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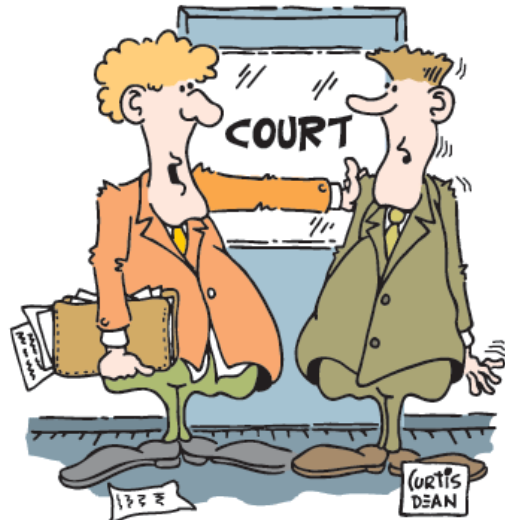
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**A lot of lawsuits can be avoided by a simple, heartfelt apology. That's why we don't let the parties talk.**