

UGANDA LAW SOCIETY 7TH ANNUAL RULE OF LAW DAY SYNOPSIS- OCTOBER 2014

For six years now, the ULS has commemorated an annual Rule of Law week in October each year with a series of activities; culminating in an Annual Rule of Law Symposium. These activities include radio talk shows in the four regions of the country on prevailing topical Rule of Law issues and consultative meetings with key relevant stakeholders (both State and non State actors) to take stock of the status of the Rule of Law in Uganda; and to proffer strategies and solutions to uphold the same.

This year, four radio talk shows were held in the districts of Mbarara, Soroti, Gulu and Kampala respectively sensitizing the public on labour rights and various aspects pertaining to the decent work agenda in Uganda and the region. These talk shows generated debate and there were a good number of call-ins appreciating the ULS for considering this discussion on the rights and plight of workers that has been long overdue.

On **October 3, 2014**, the ULS commemorated its 7th Annual Rule of Law Day by way of:-

- a) A High Level Stakeholders' Breakfast Meeting which as always was a closed to the public and the press to enable candid discussions among key stakeholders from relevant institutions on selected topical issues. This year deliberations were held and strategies laid on the following topics:
 - Progress of the Industrial Court;
 - Human Trafficking in Uganda;
 - The National ID System;
 - Critical electoral reforms ahead of 2016;
 - The Administration of Justice Bill (a follow-up from last year).

The high level meeting was very successful as participants shared critical information and implored the ULS to use its mandate and clout to advance the necessary reforms and actions proposed.



Figure 1: Participants at the ULS 2014 Rule of Law High Level Stakeholders Breakfast Meeting



Figure 2: Stakeholders listening to the Presentation by the Electoral Commission Chairman - Eng. Badru Kiggundu



Figure 3: Her Worship Harriet Ssali Lule of the International War Crimes Division of the High Court, delivering her presentation on Human Trafficking

- b) The 7th Annual Rule of Law Symposium at which the ULS membership, distinguished socio-economic and political actors, the Judiciary, relevant members from the academia, labour specialists, CSOs and workers unions; among others converged to dialogue on topics around the theme



Figure 4: Mr. Francis Atwoli delivering the keynote presentation at the 7th ULS Annual Rule of Law Symposium

“Labour Rights in Uganda: Making Decent Work a Reality”.

This event which was held in partnership with Konard Adenauer Stiftung’s Rule of Law Program for Sub Saharan Africa was held at the **Golf Course Hotel, Kampala**

featured a keynote address by **Mr. Francis**

Atwoli, the Secretary General - Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU) – Kenya; who also serves as President of the Pan African Labour

Movement - the Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU). There was also an interactive panel discussion by a selection of labour specialists from Government, the Civil Society and the Legal fraternity in Uganda and the EAC Region.

The panelists for the day were:

- **Mr. Usher Wilson Owere** – The Chairperson of the National Organisation of Trade Unions;
- **Ms. Harriet Luyima** – A former Commissioner in charge of Labour at the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development;
- **Mr. Wandera Daniel Ogalo** – a Managing Partner at Victoria Associates with over 3 decades legal practice experience with an extensive experience in EAC Integration matters; having served as a Member of the East African Legislative Assembly.
- **Mr. Martin Wandera** - a former workers representative in the 7th Parliament currently serves as the Executive Director at Centre for Labour Research and Studies. Mr. Wandera has extensive knowledge and expertise in Labour Market Research & Analysis, Strategies for Job-rich Growth, International Trade Agreements, International Labour Standards, Public Policy Formulation and Social Protection
- **Mr. Moses Segawa** - a Partner and a specialist in employment and employee benefits at Sebalu & Lule Advocates; a leading Ugandan business law firm.
- **Ms. Lilian Keene – Mugerwa** – who is the Executive Director of Platform for Labour Action; a recognized leading civil society actor in the promotion and protection of labour rights and the campaign for social protection and human rights in Uganda both by Government and the Civil Society.



Figure 5 : Members of the Discussion Panel



Figure 6: Participants at the 7th ULS Annual Rule of Law Symposium.

Resolutions from all the speakers of the day and the plenary were documented, some of which will be critical action items for the ULS moving forward.