



UGANDA LAW SOCIETY STATEMENT ON THE ATTACK OF A STATE ATTORNEY

Uganda Law Society has learnt of the unfortunate event that occurred at and around the premises of the Buganda Road Chief Magistrates Court on 20th September 2016.

From information gathered, the State Attorney Mr. Peter Mugisha survived being lynched by an angry mob in Court, after the Buganda Road Grade 1 Magistrate Joan Aciro denied bail to five Democratic Party (DP) youth activists. The accused include former DP youth leader Moses Bigirwa, Allan Kitonsa, Juma Kayondo, Harunah Nsibuka and Hakim Kizza Saula

We are deeply concerned by reports about the chaos that erupted at the Chief Magistrates Court. The angry mob was apparently protesting bail denial against the accused persons. However aggrieved they may have been, the lack of respect of a court decision has no place in a decent society. Court decisions must be obeyed at all times even when those decisions may not reflect your preferred position. Lack of respect for court process and court decisions can only lead to lawlessness and anarchy.

We strongly condemn the unwarranted reaction by the mob and reiterate that an attack on any member of the legal profession is an attack on all of us. The Courts are the custodians of Law and of Justice and for this reason, the rule of law depends both on the proper performance of their mandate and on the public's acceptance, compliance and support of the said mandate. The weight of their office inevitably demands a high level of respect and dignity.

We encourage and call upon all persons in Uganda to respect all court premises and decisions as well as exhibit tolerance and respect differing views and opinions. Any person dissatisfied with a court order should utilize the mechanisms under our legal framework to address their dissatisfaction.

Uganda Law Society is consulting the leadership of the Judiciary to ensure that such situations are dealt with decisively in future should they recur.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

ALICE NAMULI - BLAZEVIC

VICE PRESIDENT – UGANDA LAW SOCIETY

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