

# Annual Report 2015



Uganda Law Society



UGANDA LAW SOCIETY

**NOTICE OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the **UGANDA LAW SOCIETY (ULS)** will be held on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016** at the **Commonwealth Resort Munyonyo, Kampala** starting at **9:00am**. The AGM will be preceded by the ULS Annual Conference on **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016** under the theme **"Confronting Mindsets: Incorporating Alternative Dispute Resolution in Legal Business"** starting **9:00am**.

The purpose of the meeting is to transact the business set out below:

1. National anthem, EAC anthem and inter-denominational prayer.
2. To receive communication from the President of the ULS.
3. To present and consider for adoption the minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting.
4. To present for consideration and adoption the 2015 ULS Annual Report by the ULS Executive Council.
5. To present for consideration and adoption the Treasurer's Report on the Audited Accounts for 2015 and ULS Master Budget for 2016.
6. To conduct the election of the ULS Executive Council 2016 - 2017.
7. A.O.B. (For Notified Items Only).

DATED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 2016.

BY ORDER OF COUNCIL

Mr. Ahmad Mukasa Kaiule  
HON. SECRETARY - UGANDA LAW SOCIETY.

NB: 1). AGM Attendance is limited to only paid up Members for the year 2016.

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ADR:	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AGM:	Annual General Meeting
CBA:	Canadian Bar Association
CCEDU:	Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda
CLE:	Continuing Legal Education
DGF:	Democratic Governance Facility
EAC:	East African Community
EALS:	East Africa Law Society
EGM:	Extraordinary General Meeting
ESCRs:	Economic Social and Cultural Rights
IEC:	Information, Education and Communication
JLOS:	Justice, Law and Order Sector
LAP:	Legal Aid Project
LRC:	Legal Resource Centre
RACE:	Reinforced Actions toward Credible Elections
SAJCEA:	Access to Justice for Children and Youth Project
ULS:	Uganda Law Society
UNWG:	Uganda National Working Group
UN OHCHR:	United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights



## FOREWORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Dear Learned Colleagues,*

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the Annual Report for Uganda Law Society (ULS) for the year 2015. I hope you will find this report both informative and interesting and that it will give you a greater understanding of the work undertaken by our organization.

We are thrilled about our achievements and we are grateful to you all for your support and to our teams for the hard work in ensuring that we live up to the ULS

promise of promoting members' professional standards, promoting the rule of law and human rights in Uganda. From Patongo through to Kampala down to Kabale, you will see a high sense of dedication, passion and pride of our teams across the country.

Excellence is at the core of our service to our members. The Secretariat under the leadership of our new Executive Director Sam Olumo who previously served as Head Professional Development is committed to addressing members' needs. Sam understands what is most important to our members, and value for money is one of them. We obtain relevant information from and about members so that we can tailor our programs, products and services to meet members' needs. We are always improving how the Secretariat functions by hiring more professional personnel to attend to our members' needs and improving our communication and engagement, publishing relevant, timely and accurate information to help members practice effectively. We have also made some investment in technology to reach members and to improve how we listen.

We work to build pride in the profession, raising the profile of our members and enhancing the reputation of the profession. We have revamped the ULS website for our members to provide their brief profiles so that we promote our members and their brands and our referral service continues to help members to grow their practice. We continue to be at the forefront of identifying market trends that affect our members, helping them to prepare for the future and stay relevant in the legal market by providing high quality legal education and stakeholder engagements.

Nothing ever stands still at the ULS and this excites us. This is who we really are as the ULS. We campaign, speak, challenge and raise critical issues. We are the authoritative and knowledgeable voice of the legal profession. Throughout the year, we campaigned to promote the rule of law, human rights and to improve the administration of justice in our Country. We engaged those charged with shaping our legal system and we sought to ensure that we were listened to by the Government, Parliament and the Courts. Our participation at the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) steering and technical committees enabled us to contribute in many ways that should deliver the desired changes that we want to see in the different JLOS institutions, like the Police and the Prisons Service. Many challenges remain for us to address in this regard.

We brought you developments in the Courts, in Parliament and Government policies in real time. Our policy teams worked tirelessly to seek your views when we were to meet with Parliament to present the ULS position on different bills. Our voice has become stronger by raising our media profile to bring crucial justice and rule of law issues to the attention of the public and policymakers and by informing the public debate on law reform and legal policy. Our position papers and statements have been informed by members' views, stakeholders' input, views from legal service users and the public. We are indebted to our members who share their views with us, those who contribute to the ULS papers and those who come along with us to Parliament and to different stakeholder meetings.

We are successful in the communities because of key initiatives that underpin our strong focus on serving our world and these are: Legal Aid Project (LAP), Pro Bono, Duty Counsel, and Troops of Lawyers for Children (TLC). Our commitment to improving the lives of communities and removing barriers to access to justice is unwavering. We help communities by raising awareness of their legal remedies, provide free legal advice and representation to indigent persons, we remove unreasonable procedural hurdles and linguistic barriers to justice. We are grateful to all our members who participate in these initiatives, changing lives and bridging the justice inequality gap.

The Norwegian Government granted our request for further support for LAP following our visit to Oslo in May last year. We should keep in mind that this funding will not be in perpetuity. Our work to see that a National Legal Aid law is enacted and a structure is established will have to continue so that Government can provide resources to fund legal aid in our Country. All the support we receive from the Norwegian Government would not be possible without the enormous support from the Norwegian Bar Association (NBA) and not just when we visited the different Norwegian Government agencies, but all through the life of the project as we work to ensure the project runs according to plan and that there is proper accountability for all the funds. The work of LAP is detailed in the LAP Annual Report.

Our partnerships have become stronger. The Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) has provided to us additional support for setting up a legal aid clinic in Moroto which will serve the seven districts of Moroto, Nakapiripirit, Napak, Kaabong, Amudat, Abim and Kotido. We cannot forget the support we receive from DGF for our Pro Bono work; our members provide professional expertise and time while DGF meets all out of pocket expenses for all the cases that we handle under the Pro Bono Project. We now have a presence in Patongo because of our partnership with the Huddersfield Law Society. The Legal Aid Clinic in Patongo works to address children justice issues. Huddersfield Law Society has always supported our Legal Resource Centre with law books. JLOS supported the resource center as well with computers, shelves and a photocopier. JLOS has also supported all our Bar Bench interactions and mediation trainings for all our members country wide. Ford Foundation tremendously supported us as we held various stakeholder engagements and carried out trainings for members in electoral laws and held dialogues in preparation for the National Elections. All these partnerships make us a stronger Bar Association in the Region.

It gave us great joy to share our experiences with our sister Bar Associations who have asked us to help them with their legal aid programs. We hosted a delegation from the Burundi Bar Association who understudied and benchmarked with our Legal Aid Project to help them start a legal aid clinic model in Burundi. Similarly, we were invited to Accra by the Ghana Bar Association to exchange ideas on building a sustainable the Legal Aid Project.

The ULS building project is on course and we are grateful to JLOS for its contribution to the project which has enabled us to begin our preliminary phases. The building project is huge and its estimated cost is quite high. We will require about United States Dollars Six Million (USD 6m). The Investment Committee is faced with a decision on how funds will be raised and what financing model is ideal to deliver this project to completion in a timely fashion. A detailed account of the progress we have made on the building project is entailed in the report of the Investment Committee.

We have seen another year of a slight improvement in revenue growth and have made some progress towards our aim of delivering a step-change in both the level and sustainability of growth to support our projects. The slight increment in the number of new members paying subscriptions has brought a slight revenue growth.

We are proud of the strong financial management and governance practices, both ULS and LAP. For the third year, we have received recognition and have been awarded the Financial Reporting Awards by the Institute of Chartered Public Accountants of Uganda (ICPAU). LAP also received the EALS Social Development Lawyer Award for demonstrated excellence and commitment in legal empowerment of the poor and advancing social justice.

Looking ahead, the ULS will need a robust financial sustainability plan and a major investment in technology will be required for the ULS to become a Bar Association of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The ULS will also consider a strategy for eLearning courses to support our members who may not be able to travel to attend some of our trainings. Our work

to strengthen the courts must continue to reduce case backlog; we must work to improve our ethical standards, improve the quality of judicial processes, support innovations in case management and court automation as well as support the use of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. We must work even harder if we are to achieve a justice system that is free of corruption, that ensures due process of law and rights of the accused and eliminates long pre-trial detention.

My fellow leaders on the Executive Council have served with utmost commitment and dedication. We thank the Council Committees for supporting the work of the Executive Council and delivering high quality events, programs and publications. The enthusiasm of Management and Staff and all external stakeholders support and partnerships place us in good stead to continue our vision to ensure that we become a modern Bar Association.

We built our work on sound and solid foundations made by previous Executive Councils. It has been an honour for us and a great privilege to serve you as your Executive Council. We leave with a great sense of fulfillment based on our modest accomplishments which the succeeding Executive Council will leverage on.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Sebatindira', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Ruth Sebatindira**  
**PRESIDENT**  
**UGANDA LAW SOCIETY**

## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DESK



*Dear Colleagues:*

As the ULS prepares to celebrate 60 years in existence, we are extremely proud of what we have achieved and are even more excited about the prospect of an equally challenging but promising future focusing on adherence to the rule of law, respect for human rights, business and human rights as well as the independence and visibility of the legal profession.

The ULS has grown through the years, making great and steady strides toward becoming one of the leading Bar Associations in the region. In 2015, we recorded growth of the membership base to 2206 from 2088 in 2014; indicating a 5% growth.

During the reporting period, the ULS was engaged in a number of processes; key among which was the process of reviewing the ULS Elections legal framework which was successfully concluded. We also commenced the process of realigning the strategic focus of the ULS in a bid to develop a new Strategic Plan which will be our basis and compass in fulfilling the ULS mandate for the next five years.

For our membership, we continued to provide demand-based professional and

capacity development seminars and workshops to ensure that they remain relevant and competitive in the regional and global markets. The process of reviewing the Advocates Act, the ULS Act and the Remuneration and Taxation of Costs Rules with the support of the Law Council continued and is still underway. And as we liaise with our regional partners in the East African Community integration process, we encourage growth of a solid team in terms of specialized services as well as mergers in order to compete favourably for legal business locally and internationally.

Also high on our agenda were access to justice programmes focusing on land and child justice among others; as well as legislative and policy advocacy and reform. Substantial advocacy was conducted and gained during the year through generation and submission of several position papers, concepts and press releases; as well as participation in key consultative and advocacy meetings on electoral democracy and human rights.

During the year, the ULS established new and exciting working relations with new partners such as the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and with support from the Ford Foundation conducted a series of engagements with the ULS membership; as well as with key State and non State stakeholders in fostering citizen participation in the electoral process. The role of the legal fraternity in the election process/cycle was revisited as well as the rights based approach to this process.

The above undertakings and more would not have been possible without the steadfast support and policy guidance of the outgoing ULS Executive Council. I would be remiss not to express my deep gratitude to my colleagues at the ULS Secretariat and our twelve upcountry offices for their unwavering commitment to service; which is acknowledged and has changed lives in the localities that our services reach.

Finally, I thank our members, without whom the ULS would not exist. Thank you for your continued support to the ULS activities and programmes. Looking to the future, I call on you all to work toward ensuring the sustainability of our programmes in a bid to progressively lessen our reliance on donor funding for our core administrative and institutional programme costs.

This report details our various activities in the year that was, and we invite our members to get increasingly involved in technically supporting our operations as a Bar Association.

Yours in Service,

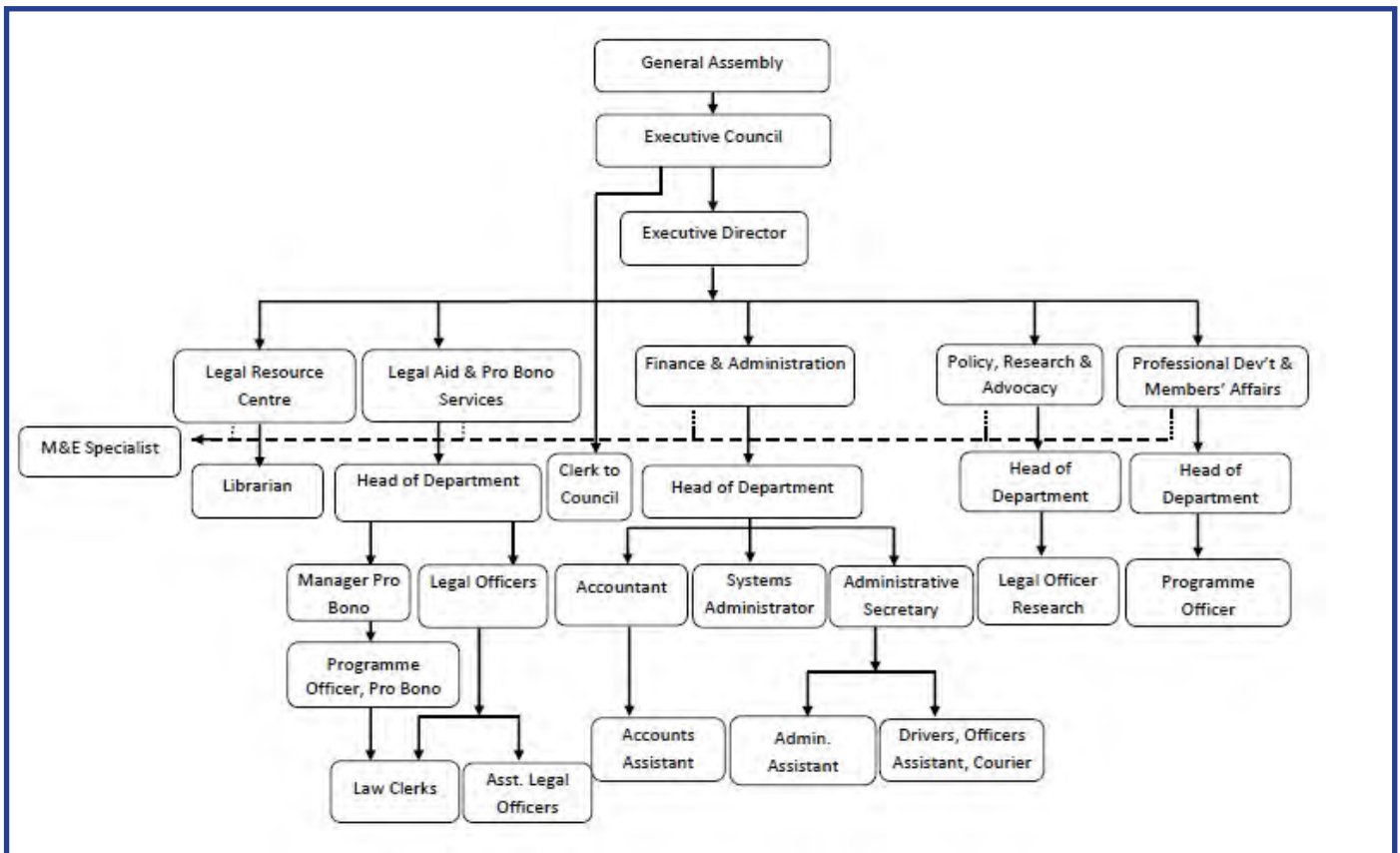
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Olumo', written over a faint blue line.

**SAMUEL OLUMO**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - UGANDA LAW SOCIETY**



# The Organisation Structure



## THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY

### About the Executive Council

The Executive Council of the Uganda Law Society (ULS) comprises ten members including the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, the Attorney General, the Solicitor General as well as four other regional Council Representatives. These members, other than the Attorney General and the Solicitor General, are elected annually by the General Assembly at an Annual General Meeting. Customarily, the immediate past President continues to attend meetings of the new Council for the first six months as an ex-officio member; to assist with its induction.

The ULS Executive Council offers policy oversight to operations of the ULS Secretariat and manages the affairs of the Society through its various committees namely: the Legal Aid and Pro Bono Services Committee, Professional Development and Training Committee, Finance and Administration Committee, Commercial Bar Committee, Female Lawyers Committee, Young Lawyers Committee, Bar-Bench Committee, Research and Publications Committee, Membership Welfare and Social Affairs Committee, Legislation Committee, Rule of Law Committee; and such ad hoc Committees that the Council may establish to cater to the Society's needs.

# The Honourable Executive Council Members



**Mr. Enoch Barata**  
Treasurer



**Mrs. Ruth Sebatindira**  
President



**Mr. Ernest K. Wiltshire**  
Vice President



**Mr. Barishaki B. Cheborion**  
Attorney General's Rep



**Mr. Ahmed Kalule Mukasa**  
Secretary



**Ms. Stella Nyandria –**  
Solicitor General's  
Representative



**Mr. Yusuf Mutembuli**  
Council Member  
- Eastern Region



**Mr. Tibayeita Kahungu**  
Council Member  
- Western Region



**Mrs. Alice Namuli - Blazevic**  
Council Member  
- Central Region



**Mr. Mike Abwang Otim**  
Council Member  
- Northern Region

# REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

## EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORT AND STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

### About the Law Society

The Uganda Law Society (ULS) is the national Bar Association of Uganda and is responsible for the improvement of professional standards of its members and promotion of respect for Human Rights, Access to Justice and ultimately the Rule of Law in Uganda.

Its statutory objectives include, among others: “to maintain and improve the standards of conduct and learning of the legal profession in Uganda; to protect and assist the public in Uganda in all matters touching, ancillary or incidental to the law, and; to assist the Government and the Courts in all matters affecting legislation and the administration and practice of law in Uganda”.

### The ULS Vision

To improve the professional standards of its members and to promote respect for Human Rights, the Rule of Law and Access to Justice.

### The ULS Mission

To excel as a professional body in the development of the legal profession and the promotion of justice in Uganda.

### ULS Strategic Framework (2011 - 2015)

The ULS is a unique institution, building on the legacy of improving professional standards of its members; promoting human rights; access to justice and rule of law in Uganda. It has genuinely translated its mandate into practical action and brought along some notable successes, alongside important lessons including; provision of legal aid and pro-bono services, providing continuous legal education to our membership, making continuous contributions to policy and law making processes in Uganda, developing our capacity and providing an enabling environment to work.

Our strategy to deliver our vision is intended to build on that experience through an ambitious programme of work; directed at successfully achieving our mandate as well as improving efficiency and effectiveness within the organisation.

In implementation of our strategy, the ULS works to ensure that its business focus meets financial goals, customer service, and internal goals. To enhance these initiatives, the ULS directly and in partnership continues to:

- Promote learning and growth by developing competences, knowledge, and continuous training to change corporate and individual work ethics. The overall net effect with time shall be an organization in which people are the main resource because of their knowledge and experience.
- Devise measures to guide managers in focusing on training where it is most needed or where the functions or tasks are priorities.
- Develop measures that are quantifiable for all internal business processes to allow managers know how well their business is running, and whether ULS products and services conform to stakeholder expectations.
- Focus on stakeholder service and satisfaction where quantifiable measures will be developed to ensure quality assurance and in determining red flags for the future.
- Pay attention to financial focus by monitoring the ULS as a system along with the other balanced scorecard perspectives. Additional financial-related data, such as risk assessment and cost-benefit data is considered.

In light of this broad direction stated above, ULS set itself out to attain the following strategic objectives:

- To promote access to justice
- To promote professional development and ethical conduct of members
- To strengthen institutional capacity of ULS to become a modern Bar Association
- To contribute to strengthening the policy and legal frameworks

## Shared values – the principles we uphold

The underlying principles to the ULS’ operations and success are the values we cherish; to wit: Integrity, Competence, Accountability, Independence and Professionalism

## How we are governed

The ULS is established by the Uganda Law Society Act of 1956, CAP 276 of the Laws of Uganda. It is governed by an Executive Council; which reports to the General Assembly of the ULS Membership.

Pursuant to Section 24 of the Uganda Law Society Act, the ULS Executive Council hereby presents the ULS Annual Report for the year 2015. This Report covers key activities undertaken by the Council and the Secretariat (acting under the supervision of the Council).

### A. Executive Council Meetings

During the reporting period the Council met to attend to the Society’s business and the attendance of Members in the said meetings is shown in the table below:

<b>UGANDA LAW SOCIETY EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETINGS ATTENDANCE FOR 2015</b>						
<b>No.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>No. of meetings held</b>	<b>No. of meetings attended</b>	<b>No. of meetings missed</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1.	Mrs. Ruth Sebatindira	President	5	4	1	80%
2.	Mr. Ernest Wiltshire Kalibbala	Vice President	5	4	1	80%
3.	Mr. Ahmed Kalule Mukasa	Honorary Secretary	5	4	1	80%
4.	Mr. Enoch Barata	Treasurer	5	5	0	
5.	Mrs. Alice Namuli - Blazevic	Council Member - Central Region	5	5	0	100%
6.	Mr. Tibayeita Kahungu	Council Member - Western Region	5	5	0	100%
7.	Mr. Mike Abwang Otim	Council Member - Northern Region	5	2	3	40%
8.	Mr. Yusuf Mutembuli	Council Member - Eastern Region	5	3	2	60%

9.	Mr. Barishaki Bonny Cheborion	Attorney General's Representative to Council	5	2	3	40% <sup>1</sup>
10.	Ms. Stella Nyandria	Solicitor General's Representative to Council	5	4	1	80%

## B. Management of the ULS

The ULS is run on a day-to-day basis by a team of professional staff headed by the Executive Director who is assisted by four departmental heads namely; the Head-Finance and Administration, the Head-Legal Aid & Pro Bono Services, the Head-Professional Development & Members' Affairs and the Head-Policy, Advocacy and Research. Other members of the management team include the Manager-Legal Resource Centre, the Manager-Pro Bono Services, the Human Resource Manager, the Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist and the Systems Administrator.

- i. **Professional Development & Members' Affairs Department:** The department is responsible for the development and enhancement of the ULS members' professional skills through arrangement of regular refresher and capacity building and awareness creation seminars throughout the year; to ensure that members are up to date with existing and relevant regional and global trends in legal practice. Members are also encouraged to participate as faculty by teaching topics they are conversant with.
- ii. **Legal Aid and Pro-Bono Services Department:** As the office operationalising the Legal Aid Project (LAP), the department offers legal aid advisory and support services to indigent, vulnerable and marginalised men, women and children. LAP operates in 13 clinics throughout the country. In 2015, at least 12,387 persons benefited from the project which offered both primary and secondary legal aid services throughout all its clinics. Through this Department the ULS ensures and promotes access to justice for the vulnerable, marginalised and less privileged in our society.
- iii. **Finance and Administration Department:** This department provides financial and administrative support to the Society's Financial and Human Resources. It also houses the **Information, Communication and Technology Unit** which deals with establishment and maintenance of the IT platform within the Society and provides IT related support to the Programmes of the Society.
- iv. **Policy, Research and Advocacy Department:** Through this Department, the ULS works to strengthen the policy and legal framework in Uganda. The Department undertakes periodic analysis of laws and policies in Uganda in order to generate policy briefs that inform policy and legislative reform. The ULS through this Department regularly issues position/press statements, provides input to legislation before Parliament and other publications on various issues ranging from matters of public interest to matters of law.

The Department coordinates the mobilization of resources through generation of concept notes or funding proposals to foster the mission and objectives of the ULS and also takes the lead in the compilation and production of annual reports, newsletters and magazines.

This Department also houses the ULS Legal Resource Centre which stores publications on various areas of law and also undertakes dissemination of up-to-date electronic and hard copies legal resource reference materials and relevant information to the ULS membership and the general public.

<sup>1</sup>Mr. Barishaki Bonny Cheborion served until April 2015

## C. ULS in numbers 2015



## **D. ULS Programmes & Activities**

### **i. Membership Services**

During the review period, the ULS Secretariat continued to interact with the ULS membership while offering services to wit; providing updates about various activities, services and events, Court rulings and developments in jurisprudence from our local courts and those in the EAC region, professional development and other membership programmes – either by the Secretariat or other relevant institutions. The Secretariat reached out to Members through email, phone calls, sms, letters, the ULS website, public notices, ULS monthly newsletters, ULS event reports and radio programmes. Additional services to the membership included: Continuing Legal Education seminars; Free access to the ULS Legal Resource Centre including online resources; Support with logistic preparations to enable participation at international and regional fora like Annual Conferences and General Meetings; References such as letters of good standing; Continued development and management of the Members’ Directory; Compilation of compliance reports; Issuance of members IDs; Sale of memorabilia like professional shirts, flaps and robes, ULS branded shirts, T-shirts, lapel pins, and pens; and planning and hosting of social events such as cocktails, dinners and sports.

### **ii. Access to Justice Services and other ULS Projects**

A number of programmes were undertaken to foster access to justice for the vulnerable, marginalised and less privileged in our country and these were as follows:-

#### **▪ The Legal Aid Project**

The Legal Aid Project (LAP) of the ULS as guided by the ULS 2011-2015 Strategic Plan continued to provide countrywide and diverse range of legal aid services to indigent, vulnerable and marginalized men, women and children. In 2015, the Department undertook a number of activities and offered services including; legal counsel and representation, legal awareness programmes, prison decongestion programmes, development and dissemination of simplified legal literature (IEC materials), media campaigns, networking meetings and workshops, institutional capacity building through proposal writing, monitoring and coordination of the 13 legal aid clinics as staff capacity building seminars. **A detail report on the same is documented in the 2015 LAP Annual Report.**

#### **▪ The Pro Bono Project**

Following amendment of the Advocates Act Cap 267 to include Section 15(A) which stipulates a mandatory requirement for all advocates to provide free legal services to the indigent; the ULS in partnership with the Law Council and with financial support from the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) (formerly the Legal Aid Basket Fund) launched the Pro Bono Project to ensure increased access to quality legal services by indigent, marginalized and vulnerable people in Uganda. The project is currently functional countrywide through the satellite ULS LAP Clinics. As at December 2015, the Project had enrolled over 1400 advocates in its Pro Bono Scheme. The Project also operates a Duty Counsel Scheme whereby walk-in indigents who have no legal representation receive free legal advice from advocates stationed at courts. This scheme is currently running at the Chief Magistrates courts at Nakawa, Makindye and Buganda Road.

#### **▪ Supporting Access to Justice for Children and Youth in East Africa**

The ULS continued to coordinate the Uganda Chapter of a programme on Access to Justice for Children and Youth Project (SAJCEA) funded by the Canadian Bar Association (CBA). This four year initiative is aimed at enhancing access to justice for children and youth in Eastern Africa, through stakeholder collaboration, institutional development and capacities sharing amongst the Justice Sector institutions. The Uganda Chapter is implemented by the Uganda National Working Group (UNWG) comprising: the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, the Ministry of

Gender Labour and Social Development, the Judiciary, Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, Legal Aid Service Providers Network, the Directorate of Public Prosecutions, Justice, Law and Order Sector Secretariat and the ULS as the coordinating agency.

During the reporting period, the UNWG hosted a Regional Advisory Conference at the Lake Victoria Serena Hotel; translated and printed IEC materials; developed a Training of Trainers manual on child justice; trained 78 Community volunteers/paralegals in Katakwi and Bundibugyo and conducted a Local Leaders Council training in Busia District.

### ▪ **USAID (SAFE) Project on Alternative Dispute Resolution**

In partnership with United States Agency for International Development - Supporting Access to Justice, Fostering Equity & Peace (USAID-SAFE), the ULS managed a project on promotion of ADR in land matters in the districts of Kiboga and Kibaale. The objective of this project was to increase public awareness about mediation and how this process could be employed to facilitate efficient and timely dispute resolution in land matters.

Sensitisation sessions and mobile clinics were conducted to provide legal advisory and mediation services. Accordingly, the Project registered great success owing to the effective community mobilisation undertaken by community paralegals who had been trained under the project. The community deeply appreciated this project and it is anticipated that the project efforts will contribute to a reduction of land disputes in the project areas. The Project was also wrapped up in the reporting year. The LAP will conduct follow-ups with the beneficiary areas to assess the Project outcomes/impact.

### **iii. Policy, Research and Advocacy**

Pursuant to Strategic Objective 4 of the ULS Strategic Plan 2011-2015 and in keeping with its mandate to advise Government and the public on matters of law; to assist the Courts in the administration of justice; as well as its mission to promote the Rule of Law in Uganda, the ULS issued various press statements, position papers and other publications on topical issues pertaining to the law and in the public's interest.

Additional undertakings were publication and dissemination of the ULS Law reports, monthly newsletters and the Lawyers Voice Magazine.

To facilitate access to learning resources for legal practitioners and scholars in Uganda, the ULS through its Legal Resource Centre stores publications on various areas of law and also undertakes dissemination of information to the ULS membership and the general public. During the reporting period, the Legal Resource Centre registered 458 users that physically visited the library throughout the year; majority of whom were ULS members, researchers and students from various universities. Up-to-date electronic and hard copy reference resources were availed to aid research.

To contribute to policy and advocacy issues, the ULS also participated at various local and foreign fora; sharing with other stakeholders about ULS interests, initiatives and activities and learning from others about various topical issues. This continued to increase stakeholder awareness about the ULS mandate and resulted in creation of useful linkages with likeminded institutions serving in the rule of law arena both locally and internationally.

### **iv. Fundraising**

In a bid to obtain support for various society programmes and initiatives, the ULS through the Policy, Research and Advocacy Department generated fundraising proposals including; The Concept Note for the ULS Annual Conference on ESCRs and the role of the legal profession in fostering these rights; Proposal on the ULS Child Justice Project; Proposal for Extension of the RACE Project; Concept Note for the 8<sup>th</sup> ULS Annual Rule of Law Week; Proposal to foster Prevention of Early Marriages and Teenage Pregnancy with Health Child; and the Concept Paper for a Strategic Forum to Foster Peaceful General Elections in 2016. Funding was obtained for most of these proposals which has and continues to enable the ULS to deliver its programmes.



## v. Public Awareness and Sensitization

In the reporting period, the ULS conducted various radio talk shows to discuss various topical rule of law issues. Key among these were the talk show Radio One Spectrum to discuss the status of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCRs) in Uganda while assessing Uganda's performance in observing, fostering and protecting these rights vis-à-vis the internationally recognized standards was done while pointing out the gaps and successes with practical examples as well as on the political economy of our human rights system. Listeners/members of the general public were sensitized on the policy and legal framework governing these rights and their enforcement in Uganda; as well as their rights as citizens and the obligations of the State to ensure observance, enjoyment and protection of these rights. The public was sensitized on the various aspects of these rights as well as the respective actors i.e. duty bearers and rights holders. Proposals were also proffered on ways to guarantee, observe and protect the ESCRs in Uganda.

Two radio talk shows were also conducted under the RACE Project on Radio One Spectrum programme to discuss the findings of the report on the State of the Electoral System in Uganda and on KFM radio in partnership with CCEDU on votability.

Regional talk shows were also conducted on the selected theme for the ULS annual Rule of Law week as part of the activities to commemorate this event. These talk shows were conducted by the ULS Council representatives and select ULS members together with Legal Officers at select ULS/LAP branch offices in these regions.

In addition to the above, various other talk shows on local regional radio stations were conducted by the LAP staff as part of their regular awareness creation/sensitization programmes on legal and human rights.

These talk shows served to edify members of the general public and to build consensus among the people on the required standards of service delivery by the state and on their respective role as citizens.

## vi. Other ULS Special Projects

### ▪ Amnesty Law Project

This is a project which was undertaken in 2013 as a multi-stakeholder drive to ensure domestic accountability for war crimes in post-conflict Uganda. The Project object is to develop a model amnesty law that will address the needs of victim communities, prosecute those most culpable for atrocious crimes, and provide immunity on a conditional basis.

During the review period, the ULS together with its project partners -- the Uganda Law Reform Commission (ULRC), the Law Development Centre (LDC) and the Justice and Reconciliation Project (JRP) continued to administer and implement the Project activities in consultation with other key State and non State actors. This was the third year of project implementation and activities undertaken included planning and consultative meetings on different aspects of the project, a field survey conducted by the ULRC across three regions of the country i.e. the Northern, Eastern and Western regions to inform reforms in the amnesty policy and legal regime. The districts visited were Pader, Gulu, Lira, Kasese, Bundibugyo Soroti and Kaberamaido. The districts were selected on the basis of their experiences with armed and prolonged conflict.

This project will supplement Government's ongoing efforts to develop a transitional justice policy and legal framework particularly on the amnesty component.

### ▪ Reinforced Actions towards Credible Elections (RACE)

With continued support from the Ford Foundation, the ULS continued to implement the second half of this Project's activities. This project which was named Towards Uganda 2016: **Reinforced Actions towards Credible Elections (RACE)** was intended to promote informed and effective citizen and institutional participation in

electoral processes. In pursuit of its vision to promote the Rule of Law among in Uganda, the ULS undertook a deliberate advisory and advocacy strategy to uphold the Constitution and to enhance electoral processes in Uganda. Specifically, this initiative was aimed at engaging with and supporting the Electoral Commission (EC) in the execution of its mandate; creating awareness on the existing electoral laws and practices; enhancing public awareness regarding electoral processes and standards; and providing support to the Judiciary by safeguarding its independence in adjudication of electoral disputes. During the year under review, a series of activities were conducted to wit;

**A Desk Review** conducted to assess the state of the electoral system in Uganda and the East African Community region. A report was generated and validated on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015 and later published for dissemination to State and non State actors in the electoral process as well as the general public.

**Stakeholder Meetings** (both consultative and networking) held with the Electoral Commission, the Citizens Coalition on Electoral Democracy (CCEDU) and the Judiciary. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss the elections roadmap; accreditation processes and voter education among other aspects-- ahead of the 2016 national elections.

Establishment of an Elections Watch Committee which is a multi-stakeholder consortium to offer policy guidance to the Project and form a think-tank on electoral democracy in Uganda.

**A Legal Practitioners' Conference** which was convened on 30th April 2015 to prepare the legal profession to identify and handle election related matters as well as enable them to sensitize their clients and the general public on their role and mandate as citizens in the electoral processes.

**A Round-table discussion** on electoral processes which was conducted in October 2015 under the theme *Electoral Democracy and Management in East Africa: Are We Moving Forward?* This dialogue rallied all stakeholders in the election process to urgently and actively get involved; as well as consider a human rights based approach to elections in their respective activities. Recommendations were offered which among other things called upon the government and the Electoral Commission to stop the growth and operations of several militia groups and the so called "crime preventers" that many felt were illegitimately recruited and trained to participate in the 2016 general elections.

During the reporting period, this year- long Project expired in June 2015 and was extended for another year to continue with provision of support to the above stakeholders before and post the 2016 Elections.

## **E. Regional Integration & International Relations**

In 2015, the ULS continued its networking relations with likeminded regional and international organizations. These relations have continued to flourish and to develop the ULS' capacity to effectively deliver on its mandate and participate in other regional processes.

### **During the reporting period, the ULS participated in the following:**

- **The East Africa Law Society Regional Dialogue on Electoral Reforms with the East African Community Partner States** which took place at the Ramada Resort Hotel in Dar es Salaam from 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2015. This dialogue which was held under the theme *Policy Developments on Electoral Management in East Africa* was held to:
  - ▶ Critically assess the ongoing constitutional developments within the EAC partner states and to ascertain whether they incorporate best practices in the management and administration of electoral processes;
  - ▶ Facilitate deliberation by legal professionals and national electoral bodies on the progress made in implementing the recommendations arising out of the 2013 EALS Regional Conference on Constitutionalism on electoral reforms in East Africa;

- ▶ Consider, validate and adopt the Model East Africa Law Society Election Observation Manual for Bar Associations in East Africa; and
  - ▶ Consider emerging issues from the electoral landscape in East Africa and to develop collective solutions.
- **Public Interest Litigation** where the EALS initiated and continued to follow up on a number of public interest cases at the East African Court of Justice. Four ULS Members participated on the EALS Litigation Team in the reporting period and they include; Prof. Frederick Ssempebwa, Mr. Francis Gimara, Mr. Samuel Olumo and Mr. Tito Byenkya. Some of the cases reviewed during this period were: **Reference No. 1 of 2014 (EALS vs. the Attorney General of Burundi & the Secretary General - EAC); Reference No. 7 of 2014 (EALS vs. the Secretary General - EAC) and Reference No. 3 of 2015 (Steven Denis vs. The Attorney General of the Republic of Burundi and Others).**
  - **Mutual Recognition Agreements** – Following a resolution of the EALS Annual Conference held in November 2014 in Kigali, the ULS undertook regional consultations with the ULS membership on the draft Mutual Recognition Agreement for lawyers in East Africa. At the Annual Conference, the ULS requested for additional time to consult with its members. The ULS then approached and requested the EALS Chief Executive Officer to facilitate these regional consultative meetings and the same were held from 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015 to the 8<sup>th</sup> February 2015 in the Western, Eastern, Northern and Central regions. Key observations and recommendations were made by the members on the draft MRA and the same were documented for consideration.

## F. ULS Events of the Year

### i. The ULS Annual Pro Bono Day

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Pro Bono day that was held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015 under the theme “Access to Justice for All Made a Reality” and concurrently commemorated at various locations around the country i.e. in Kampala, Fort Portal, Jinja, Arua, Gulu, Mbarara, Masindi, Kabale and Soroti. On this day, the ULS membership with the guidance of the LAP clinics set out to provide free legal services to members of the general public in a bid to promote equality in access to justice and to improve the standards and delivery of legal services through the pro bono scheme. Activities to mark the day included radio talk shows, spot adverts with different media houses, a march by ULS Members, staff and partners from designated points in the different towns to their respective commemoration venues, speeches from major State and non State partners and lastly legal aid service provision by Advocates





*Right: ULS Members interviewing clients at the Pro Bono Day Commemoration*



to members of the public. In Kampala, the event was officiated by the Hon. Justice Remmy Kasule and opening remarks were given by H.E. Alphons J.A.J.M.G. Hennekens the Ambassador of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The event was graced by various representatives from the different JLOS institutions. The project registered a record turn up of **999** Advocates and **1848** clients countrywide. This was a great improvement in terms of client outreach during the pro bono celebrations.

## **ii. ULS Annual Conference and General Meeting**

On 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015 the ULS Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at the Imperial Resort Beach Hotel, Entebbe. This even was preceded by the ULS Annual Conference held on **24<sup>th</sup> April 2015** under the theme “*Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: The Role of the Legal Profession*”. The conference served to draw the Bar’s attention to its role in the promotion of ESCRs. Representatives from sister Bar Associations in the East African region were in attendance.. The event was graced by the newly appointed Chief Justice of the Republic of Uganda, The Hon. Justice Bart M. Katureebe as the Chief Guest accompanied by the Hon. Principal Judge, Justice Yorokamu Bamwine



*From Left to Right: The Hon. Chief Justice, the Hon. Principal Judge and the Attorney General at the ULS Annual Conference in March 2015*



ULS Members at the AGM in March 2015

and the Attorney General, Hon. Frederick Ruhindi. 1415 advocates attended the Annual Conference and 1383 attended the AGM.

At the AGM, members resolved to maintain the sitting Executive Council in place for six months so as to harmonize the ULS (Elections) Regulations with the views expressed at the AGM.

### iii. The 5<sup>th</sup> ULS Rule of Law High Level Stakeholders Meeting

The ULS 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Rule of Law High Level Stakeholders Forum was held on **October 2, 2015** at the Sheraton Hotel in Kampala. This meeting was convened to deliberate on the following select topical issues affecting the Rule of Law in Uganda to with; *Election violence and threats to peace; Access to land; Fostering Equal Opportunities in Uganda; and Delayed justice due to delayed judgments.* This forum provided an avenue for sharing of firsthand information among stakeholders and served to inform ULS strategies with respect to its internal, bilateral and multilateral programmes and also provided an avenue for the institutions present to synchronize their internal ongoing initiatives to avoid duplication of efforts and to set out individual roles in bringing reforms in the areas discussed. Representatives from State and non State institutions including the Electoral Commission, the Civil and Criminal Divisions of the High Court, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, the Justice, Law and Order Sector, the United Nations Development Programme and the ULS were in attendance.

### iv. The 8<sup>th</sup> ULS Annual Rule of Law Symposium 2015

In keeping with its mission to *promote respect for human rights, the Rule of Law and Access to Justice in Uganda*, the ULS on 2<sup>nd</sup> **October 2015** commemorated its 8<sup>th</sup> annual Rule of Law day under the theme **“Rule of Law, the Right to Participate in Government and Electoral Democracy in Uganda”** with the aim of promoting a national discussion on the upcoming 2016 national elections with a special focus on the prevailing human rights issues impeding a free and fair election. The event featured a keynote presentation titled *Free, Fair and Violence Free Elections are Possible in Africa: Lessons from the recently concluded Presidential and Parliamentary Elections in Nigeria* prepared by Mr. Festus Okoye – the Executive Director of the Human Rights Monitor in Nigeria. It also featured an interactive panel discussion involving Ms. Lucy Ndungu (Peace and Development Advisor at United Nations Development Programme) Mr. Njonjo Mue (Senior Advisor - Kenyans for Peace with Truth and Justice), Prof. Sabiti Makara (Senior Lecturer, Political Science Makerere University) on a select topical issues relating to electoral democracy. This event attracted 735 participants comprising ULS members, political actors, the academia, CSOs and representatives from United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Key recommendations were proffered and resolutions made for ULS action.



*Left: Panelists at the 8<sup>th</sup> ULS Annual Rule of Law Symposium*



*Right: ULS Members at the 8<sup>th</sup> ULS Annual Rule of Law Symposium*

## **v. ULS Extra-Ordinary General Meetings**

In the reporting period, three Extra-Ordinary General Meetings were held by the ULS membership on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and 17<sup>th</sup> August 2015 and 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015 at the Golf Course Hotel Kampala. The meetings were held for purposes of presentation, discussion and approval of the revised ULS (Elections) Regulations following countrywide consultations with the ULS membership by the ULS Legislation Committee. The said Regulations were approved and adopted at the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. This meeting further extended the term of the sitting Executive Council until the next Annual General Meeting in 2016.



*ULS Members voting at an EGM in August 2015*

## vi. The East Africa Law Society Annual Conference and General Meeting

The 20th East Africa Law Society Annual Conference and General Meeting was held from 27<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at the Sea Cliff Resort & Spa in Zanzibar, under the theme **“The Legal Professional as a Vehicle for Trade and Investment in East Africa”**. The Conference was aimed at bringing together over 1000 legal practitioners drawn from across the region with an opportunity for lawyers to generate new networks and business. **214** ULS members participated at this conference.

*EALS Members at the 2015 EALS Annual Conference at the Sea Cliff Resort & Spa in Zanzibar*



## vii. Strategic Forum to Foster Peaceful General Elections in 2016 and Launch of Preliminary Report on the Role of Security Agencies

On 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015, the ULS and Human Rights Network -Uganda hosted the above event at the Golf Course Hotel, Kampala with support from the Democratic Governance Facility and the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The event was convened as one of the buildup activities in preparation for the International Human Rights Day on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2015. The overall aim of this meeting was to encourage constructive dialogue among and elicit commitment from the key actors on their respective roles in ensuring a free, fair and violence free general election. The event brought together key State and non State actors in the election process such as the Electoral Commission, Uganda Human Rights Commission, Judiciary, the legal fraternity, the police, the media and human rights bodies, among others. The meeting featured panel discussions by key actors in the electoral process on their respective roles, activities undertaken so far to ensure free, fair and violence free elections in 2016, their challenges and recommendations/expectations from other actors.

*Dr. Uchenna Emelonye - UN Country Representative of the OHCHR delivering his opening remarks at the Strategic Forum*





*Left & Below: Panelists at the Strategic Forum*



*Right: Participants at the Strategic Forum in December 2015*

### **viii. Members Sports Event/Fun day**

The ULS held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sports Day on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at the KCCA Football Grounds – Lugogo. Sports activities included Athletics-relays and 100m racing, volleyball, chess, cards and aerobics. The day was crowned by a football match between the ULS and the Uganda Revenue Authority in which the ULS emerged victorious with a 2 – 1 win. Other activities for the day included bouncing castles for members’ kids, a blood donation drive by the Uganda Blood Transfusion Service, a wellness desk that was set up by Jubilee Insurance and an information and sensitization desk set up by National Social Security Fund.





*ULS Football Team at Sports Day in March 2015*



### **ix. Annual Lawyers' Dinner**

The close of the year was celebrated with a dinner and dance at the Kampala Serena Hotel on 11th December 2015. This event was officiated by the Hon. Justice Fredrick Egonda-Ntende and was well attended by members of the Bar and the Bench as well as lawyers service in the civil service and other corporate entities. At this event the immediate past Executive Director of the ULS --Mrs. Grace Babihuga Nuwagaba was recognized for her the tremendous contribution to the growth of the ULS over her 4 years of service as CEO and prior to this as a member of the ULS Management team for 5 years. The guests were treated to a sumptuous meal, drinks and dancing till late.



*Cake cutting at the ULS Annual Dinner*



*Guests at the ULS Annual Dinner held in December 2015*

## **REPORTS FROM THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

### **1. Research and Publications Committee - Chaired by Mr. Karoli Ssemogerere**

This Committee is charged with undertaking periodic research, and advising on the policy briefs generated by the ULS and proposed legislation in Uganda. The Committee assists in preparation of ULS publications and operates in close cooperation with the Policy, Research and Advocacy Department at the ULS Secretariat. Other members of this Committee are: Moses Mwase, Victor Agaba, John Mugalula, Ivan Engoru, Timothy Atuheirwe, Kalule Brian, Frank Tumusiime and Christopher Mbazira.

During the reporting period the Committee took on compilation of proposals on the amendment of the 1995 Constitution of Uganda. In June 2015, the Committee was invited by Parliament's Committee on Legal Affairs to present proposals on amendment of the Constitution on behalf of the Society. The Committee's views touched various articles that received most attention including; a review of the membership and election of special groups to Parliament; a review of the size of Parliament; term limits; tenure of judges and the role of the Electoral Commission. The following proposals were eventually carried in the amendment of the Constitution; retention of the retirement age for Judges and change of the name of the Electoral Commission to the Independent Electoral Commission while other proposals referred to in the Committee's proposal were deferred for handling by a future Constitution Review Commission.

### **2. Legislation Committee - Chaired by Ms. Florence Nakachwa Dollo**

The Legislation Committee is mandated to scrutinize bills pending before Parliament or any other legislative body, reconcile any differences in the proposed legislation with a view of preparing and submitting opinions on the same. Other members of this Committee are: Brenda Apiny, Florence Ocago, Edgar Agaba, Naboth Muhairwe, Irene Lugayizi, Patience Kabijje, Florence Nakazibwe, Dickens Kagarura and Peruth Nshemereirwe.

During the reporting period, following a resolution by the ULS Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in April 2015 to extend the term of the current Executive Council by six months, so as to review and harmonize the ULS (Election)

Regulations, the ULS Legislation Committee led by Mrs. Florence Nakachwa Dollo (Chairperson) was assigned by the Executive Council to conduct regional consultations on these Regulations.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015, the ULS Legislation Committee held its first Special Assignment meeting. This meeting was held to discuss the terms of reference relating to review and revision of the ULS Election Regulations and devised a way forward to carry this special assignment to fruition. Subsequently, the Committee undertook 4 regional consultative meetings with the ULS Membership to obtain their views on the ULS Election Regulations. These meetings were held in the Western, Eastern Northern regions and lastly in the Central region in June 2015.

Following these meetings, the Legislation Committee held a meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015 and reviewed members' views derived from the 4 regional consultations on the Regulations, consolidated and generated an overall regional report and incorporated additional proposals from individual members who submitted their proposals separately. The Committee worked closely with the Departments of Professional Development & Members Affairs and Policy, Research & Advocacy to coordinate the regional meetings and to compile the respective regional reports on the members' proposals. The overall report was presented to the Executive Council for consideration and subsequently to the Members meeting convened on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2015 for approval.

### **3. The Professional Development and Training Committee - Chaired by Mr. Mohmed Mbabazi**

This Committee oversees and provides policy guidance on the implementation of the Continuing Legal Education Programme of the Law Council with day to day technical support being offered by the ULS Secretariat. Other Committee members include: Pamela Tibihikira- Kalyegira, Chris Engola, Dorothy Kabugo, Ivan Engoru, Ronald Tusingwire, Grace Atuheirwe, Francis Gimara and Bernard Olok.

During the period under review, the Committee held three meetings in which it among others considered members (young lawyers') training needs, assigned its members to moderate at all CLE training seminars to generate feedback for the Committee through a duty Rota, discussed and approved training areas for 2016 CLE Calendar and drafted proposals on the amendment of The Advocates (Continuing Legal Education) Regulations, SI 78 of 2004 and generally offered policy guidance to the Program.

A total of sixty one [61] training programs in various areas of law were conducted in a bid to enhance and sharpen the legal knowledge and skills of advocates to ensure that they remain relevant and competitive in the regional and global market.

### **4. Welfare and Social Affairs Committee - Chaired by Mr. Simon Peter Kinobe**

This Committee works closely with the Professional Development and Members Affairs Department at the Secretariat and generally offers policy guidance on members' welfare and social needs. Other members of this Committee are: Lillian Drabo, Ernest W. Kalibbala, Fredrick Mbaziira, Barbara Daisy Nabuweke, Lillian Kiiza, Daniel Walyemera Masumba, Dorothy Amuron, Diana Ninsiima Kibuuka.

During the period under review, the committee held three (5) meetings which focused on planning, organization and successful conduct of key events which included:

1. Annual Conference and General Meeting;
2. Members Sports event/Fun day;
3. Annual Rule of Law Day Symposium;
4. Annual Lawyers Ball.

On a sad note, the Society lost the following members and legal personalities:

1. George Mugengyi Kawaluza
2. Joan Kagezi
3. Wilfred Murumba
4. David Kulumba Kiingi
5. Patrick Mbangiire
6. Prossy Nalwoga Jjingo
7. Stephen Musisi
8. Justin Odokonyero
9. Paul Byaruhanga
10. Gerald Ssensuwa
11. Juliet Angwech Opoka
12. John Ochepa Arutu

May their souls rest in eternal peace.

## **5. Investment Committee - Chaired by Mrs. Ruth Sebatindira**

The Investment Committee is chaired by Mrs. Ruth Sebatindira and other Committee members include Mr. Edgar Agaba, Mr. Enoch Barata, Mr. James Mukasa Sebugenyi, Ms. Harriet Magala, Mr. Cephas Birungyi, Mr. Cheborion Barishaki, Mr. Musa Mudoj, Ms. Caroline Bonabana and Mr. Kamy Titus.

Given the nature of the task which this Committee was assigned to undertake, the ULS Council at its meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015 approved the expansion of the Committee to include technical people in fields of Structural Engineering, Architecture, Quantity Surveying and Financial Analysis. The following persons have since their appointment attended the meetings and guided the proceedings: Ms Christine Kakeeto - Structural Engineer, Mr. Erias J. Kakuru - Quantity Surveyor, Mr. Peter Okello Owinyi - Civil Engineer.

During the review period, the ULS Council upon recommendation from the Committee procured the services of the consultant to design the ULS House. By the end of the year the Committee had a feasibility study report and a draft of the ULS House design report which was adopted by the Committee and recommended for approval by the ULS Executive Council and the same was endorsed on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

Additionally, an application was submitted to the Kampala Capital City Authority requesting to change the users of the lease from residential to commercial use. This is a condition precedent prior to approval of the plans/ design. As such the application was granted with an initial term of 10 years and a premium of UGX 84 million.

The Committee faced financial constraints which fettered the smooth commencement of the ULS House project. Previous efforts to solicit funding such as increase of ULS Membership subscription have been futile thereby slowing the processes involved in the pre-construction stages.

Moving forward, the Committee recommends that the ULS through its leadership devises different proposals such as all Lawyers contributing a prescribed fee towards the ULS House for a period of for instance 5years; that the ULS seeks bankable proposals in order to secure funds for the building or that ULS ventures into partnership with financial institutions in order to embark of construction. The Committee convened nine times in the year 2015.

## 6. Finance Planning and Administration Committee Report 2015 - Chaired by Mr. Enoch Barata

The Committee was chaired by Mr. Enoch Barata and other committee members were: Mrs. Ruth Sebatindira, Mr. Cephas Birungyi, Mr. Titus Kanya, Ms. Harriet Magala, Ms. Caroline Bonabana and Mr. Fetsus Akunobera. The Finance and Administration Committee oversees the finance, administration and human resource matters.

In relation to the ULS Strategic Plan 2011-2015, the committee strives to achieve targets under strategic objective 4 (S4): Strengthen Institutional Capacity of ULS to become a modern Bar Association.

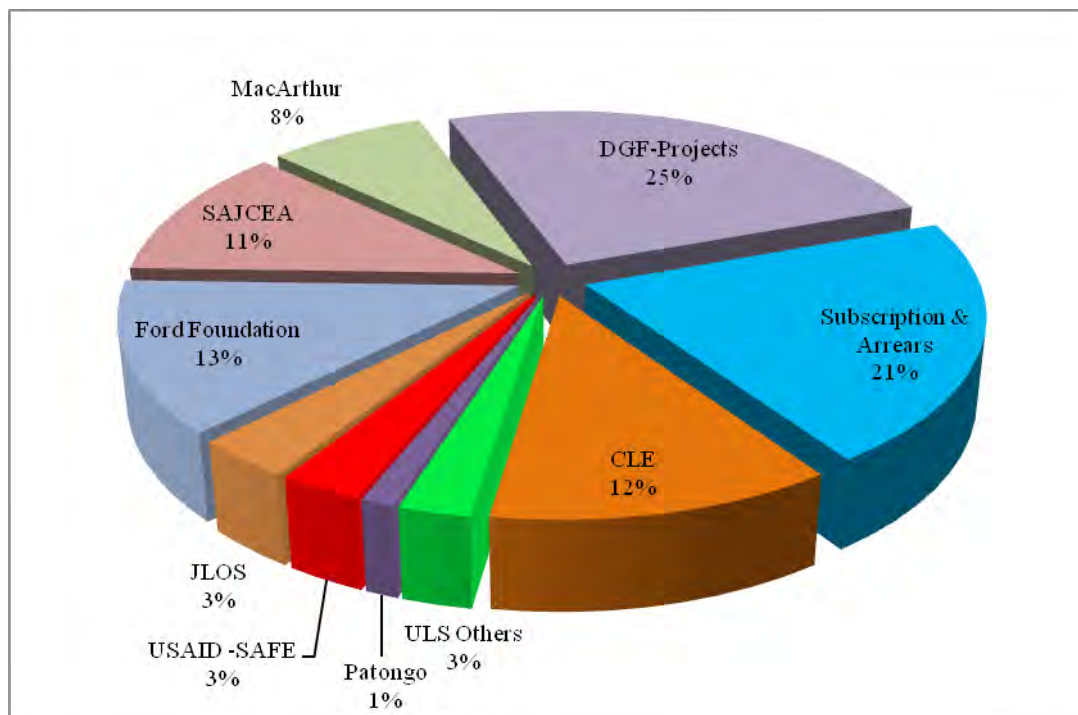
The period under review the following were the key performance indicators.

### Finances

One of the outputs was to ensure the availability of sufficient financial resources and liquidity to the Society throughout the year and have these resources reach all departments for the implementation of activities in a timely manner. However, as we to continue to grow we should take note that our main source of income is subscription which is still low and cannot sustain all the ULS programs. A total number of Two Thousand Two Hundred and Six members subscribed.

Below is a graphical view for the revenues received in the year 2015 **exclusive of LAP**

### ULS SOURCE OF REVENUE IN THE YEAR 2015



### Human Resources

During the reporting period, 7 staff left and 19 staff joined the organization.

ULS continued to offer capacity building trainings and medical insurance to the staff body as a motivator.

## Procurement

During the period under review, we received fixed assets for Moroto clinic from DGF (Assets received; 2Computers, 2 Laptops, Photocopier, generator, tables and office chairs), Patongo;- laptops, chairs, tables, motorcycle, Head Office- 2 computers, Kitchen unit and a book bank for the Resource Centre.

## Transport

All clinics have vehicles except for Moroto and Patongo. For the Moroto clinic processes of procuring a vehicle are under way by DGF

## Challenges

Delayed and decreasing funding from NORAD. This led to a big setback in LAP as some activities didn't take place as compared to the work plan.

Repetitive breakdowns of the motor vehicles pose a threat of increasing the vehicle repairs and maintenance costs.

## Recommendation

The Executive Council together with management to source for more funding in order to sustain the LAP activities as funds received from NORAD are insufficient.

Increment of membership Subscription.

## Highlight of the Year

Uganda Law Society scooped the ICPAU Financial Reporting Awards of the year 2015 under.

### Auditors/Accounts

During the year under consideration, the Uganda Law Society Auditors were;  
PKF Uganda  
Certified Public Accountants of Uganda  
Kalamu House  
Plot 1B, Kira Road  
P.O Box 24544,  
Kampala Uganda

Strict Financial controls were emphasized and adhered to during the year under review.

With the above procedures, the ULS membership as well as our development partners have enough assurance that Uganda Law Society is in position to deliver on its objectives and able to realize its Vision and Mission as an organization.

## 7. Rule of Law Committee - Chaired by Dr. Christopher Mbazira

This Committee which doubles as the Human Rights and Governance Committee was set up among others to periodically evaluate the human rights and governance situation in Uganda, and to advise the Executive Council on the appropriate position the ULS should adopt. Other members of this Committee are: Rwakafuuzi Kiiza Ladislaus, Norah Matovu, Kabumba Busingye, Ruth Sekindi, John Francis Onyango, Frank Rusa

During the reporting period, the Committee in collaboration with the Policy, Research and Advocacy Department undertook planning, coordination and conduct of the Annual Rule of Law day symposium held on 2nd October 2015 under the theme “Rule of Law, the Right to Participate in Government and Electoral Democracy in Uganda” and the High Level Stakeholders’ Breakfast meeting. This Committee was instrumental in providing input to the Rule of Law day concept note which was used as a fundraising tool for the event. The Committee thereafter aided the completion of the 8th Annual Rule of Law Symposium report. The Chairperson of this Committee together with some of its members participated in a number of radio talk shows to discuss various topical Rule of Law issues with a view to generate public awareness of trending issues and the policy and legal framework guiding the same.

## **8. Female Lawyers Committee - Chaired by Alice Namuli Blazevic**

The Female Lawyers Committee is tasked to design and undertake responsive professional development training seminars for female lawyers; that reflect the emerging national, regional and global professional development trends. Other members of this Committee are; Ms. Joyce Ngaiza, Ms. Deborah Gasana, Ms. Dorothy Amuron, Ms. Diana Ninsiima Kibuuka, Ms. Assumpta Kemigisha, Ms. Celia Nagawa Kaala, Mr. Ernest Kalibbala Wiltshire, Sylvia Mbabazi and Dorothy Ochola.

During the reporting period the Committee held 5 meetings. The Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015 through the ULS organized a breakfast meeting themed; “Are you worth your pay?” at Serena Hotel. This training was aimed at assisting young female lawyers to self-assess their value or contribution at the workplace, identify their strengths and weaknesses and to devise ways of improving their career performance.

# **REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UGANDA LAW SOCIETY TO VARIOUS STATUTORY BODIES**

## **1. Representative to Mildmay Uganda - Mr. John Mugalula**

Mildmay Uganda is a programme that was established in 1998 to provide quality HIV/AIDS care, treatment, training and education. During the period under review, Mr. John Mugalula attended two General Meetings held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015 and 4<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Consequent of this engagement Mr. Mugalula embarked on the process of reviewing the HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Act 2014.

Mr. Mugalula recommended that emphasis be laid on the implication of some provisions under the HIV and AIDS Prevention and Control Act to the right to health and on whether some of the provisions run contrary to Objectives 1(1), xiv(b) xx vii (b), Articles 33(2) and (3), 20(1), and (2), 22(1) and (2), 24, 34(1), 44(a), 287, 8A and 45 of the 1995 Constitution of Uganda.

## **2. Representative on the Board of Trustees of Makerere University Retirement Benefits Scheme - Ms. Miriam Magala**

During the reporting period, 16 Audit Committee and 12 Board of Trustees meetings were held. Resultantly, the Scheme’s Trust Deed and Rules were amended to incorporate recommendations from the University Council; the Scheme Financial Management Manual was revised in line with Uganda Retirement Benefits Regulatory Authority (URBRA) Act and adopted by the Board of Trustees for implementation; a full time Principal Pension Officer was appointed by the Scheme while a new Chairperson for the Audit Committee was appointed effective 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015.

There are ongoing efforts to develop an online platform where members can access e-statements as well as ongoing efforts to revamp the Scheme's Office premises as well as to improve on its branding. The Board of Trustees of Makerere University Retirement Benefits Scheme operates within the existing URBRA regulations.

### **3. Representative to the Continuing Legal Education and Training Committee of the Law Council (CLET) - Dr. Daniel Ronald Ruhweza**

During the reporting period the Committee held seven (7) meetings covering issues relating to continuing legal education (CLE) compliance; recognition of law degrees obtained at universities in other countries; approval of chambers and consideration of the Bar course pre-entry examination. The Committee also met with universities that wish to offer the LLB programme. Other activities that the Committee undertook were:

- Ensuring annual compliance of the requisite 20 CLE points by ULS members to enable renewal of practicing certificates and considering appeals for waiver of the requisite points and extension of the same by applicants.
- Analysis of law degrees obtained out of Uganda to ensure their compliance with the legal regime in Uganda. As a result, most applicants were advised to join universities in Uganda and sit for supplementary courses mainly in the procedural subjects like criminal procedure, civil procedure or the law of evidence. The Committee continues to advise the Law Council to harmonise our legal training with that of other members of the EALS.
- Participated in supporting the ULS in visiting lawyers' chambers to verify whether they are fit and proper to conduct of legal practice business in Uganda.
- Met with representatives of universities that wish to offer the LLB programme including representatives from Gulu, Ndejje and Cavendish Universities and the International University of East Africa. The purpose of this meeting was to inform the Universities about the legal requirements necessary for teaching law.
- The Committee considered a draft Memorandum of Understanding as proposed by the National Council for Higher Education which was aimed at creating harmony with professional bodies like the Uganda Law Council.
- Considered the Bar Course Pre Entry Examination for the year 2015/16 as well as the proposal by the LDC to have an evening Bar course programme. A proposed Bar course curriculum review and appeals from the pre entry Bar course examination were also considered.



## **a) Auditors/Accounts**

**During the year under consideration, the ULS Auditors were as follows:**

### **For the Uganda Law Society & For the Legal Aid Project**

PKF Uganda  
Certified Public Accountants  
Kalamu House  
Plot 1B Kira Road  
P.O. Box 24544  
Kampala, Uganda



Accountants &  
business advisers

UGANDA LAW SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL  
STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

**PKF Uganda**  
Certified Public Accountants  
A member firm of PKF International

UGANDA LAW SOCIETY  
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**SOCIETY'S INFORMATION**

**PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS  
& REGISTERED OFFICE:**

Uganda Law Society Secretariat  
Plot 5A Acacia Avenue  
P.O. Box 426  
Kampala, Uganda  
Telephone: +256-414-342424  
Fax: +256-414-342431  
Website: [www.uls.or.ug](http://www.uls.or.ug)

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL:**

Mrs. Ruth Sebatindira	- President
Mr Ernest Wiltshire Kalibala	- Vice President
Mr Enoch Barata	- Treasurer
Mr Kalule Ahmed	- Honorary Secretary
Ms Alice Namuli	- Member Central Region
Mr Kahungu Tibayelta	- Member Western Region
Mr Mutembuli Yusuf	- Member Eastern Region
Mr Mike Abwang Otim	- Member Northern Region
Mr Barishaki Bonny Cheborion	- Representative office of the Attorney General
Ms Stella Nyandira	- Representative to solicitor General

**BANKERS:**

Standard Chartered Bank Ltd  
Plot 5, Speke Road Branch  
P. O. Box 7111  
Kampala, Uganda

DFCU  
Acacia Branch,  
Plot 24B Acacia Avenue, Kololo  
P.O.Box 70  
Kampala, Uganda

Stanbic Bank Limited  
Forest Mall Branch  
Plot 3A2/3A3 Sports Lane Lugogo  
P.O. Box 7131  
Kampala Uganda

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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS:**

PKF Uganda,  
Certified Public Accountants,  
Kalamu House  
Plot 1B, Kira Road  
P. O. Box 24544,  
Kampala, Uganda.

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**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

**1.1 Background**

The Uganda Law Society (ULS) is a corporate body established by the Uganda Law Society Act [Cap.276] with perpetual succession and a common seal. Uganda Law Society is considered among the Leading Bar Associations in East and Central Africa. The Society currently has a registered membership of Two Thousand Two Hundred and Six (2,206) advocates.

**1.2 Vision, Mission and Goal**

**Vision**

To excel as a professional body in the development of the legal profession and the promotion of justice in Uganda.

**Mission**

To improve the professional standards of members of the Legal Profession, and to promote Human Rights, and the Rule of Law in Uganda by assisting the Government and the Judiciary in the Administration and practice of Law for the benefit of Ugandans.

**Goal**

To contribute towards a public well served by a competent, ethical, honourable and independent Legal Profession.

**1.3 Objectives of the Society**

**(a) Statutory Objectives**

- To maintain and improve the standards of conduct and learning of the legal profession in Uganda.
- To facilitate the acquisition of legal knowledge by members of the legal profession in Uganda as regards conditions of practice and otherwise.
- To represent, protect and assist members of the legal profession in Uganda as regards conditions of practice and otherwise.
- To protect and assist the public in Uganda in matters touching, ancillary or incidental to the law.
- To assist the Government and the courts in all matters affecting legislation and the administration and practice of the law in Uganda.

**(b) Corporate Objectives**

- To maintain and improve the standards of conduct and learning of the legal profession in Uganda.
- To protect and assist the public in Uganda in matters touching, ancillary or incidental to the law.

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- ◆ To strengthen collaboration with the Government of Uganda, the Judiciary and the Legislature on all matters affecting Legislation, Human Rights, Rule of Law, Good Governance and the Administration and Practice of law in Uganda.
- ◆ To promote networking, collaboration of local and international stakeholders and legal fraternities by building linkages and exchange of expertise in the legal profession

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**2.0 REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015**

The Executive Council Members present their annual report together with the audited Financial Statements of the Society for the year ended 31 December 2015, which discloses the state of the affairs of Uganda Law Society.

**PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES**

The principal activity of the Society is to maintain and improve the standards of conduct and learning of the legal profession.

**ACCOUNTING STANDARDS**

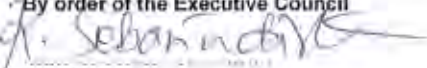
International Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium- sized have been adopted and are in use.

**RESULTS**

The operating results for the year ended 31 December 2015 are given on page 11.

**AUDITORS**

The Uganda Law Society appoints auditors at their Annual General Meeting. PKF Uganda have expressed their willingness to continue in office.

By order of the Executive Council  


**PRESIDENT**

**Date** .....



### 3.0 STATEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

The Uganda Law Society Act [CAP.276] requires that the Council prepares Financial Statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Uganda Law Society as at the end of the financial year and of its profit / (loss) and other comprehensive income for that year. It also requires the Executive Council to ensure that the Society maintains proper accounting records that disclose, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the society. The Executive Council is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Society.

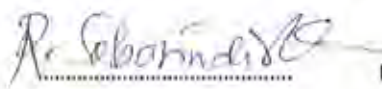


The Executive Council accepts responsibility for the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements whether due to fraud or error. They also accept responsibility for:

- i. Designing, implementing and maintaining such internal controls as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
- ii. Selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies;
- iii. Making accounting estimates and judgements that are responsible in the circumstances;

The Executive Council members are of the opinion that the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Society's as at 31 December 2015 and of the society's financial performance and cash flows for the year ended in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of Uganda Law Society Act

Nothing has come to the attention of the Executive Council to indicate that the society will not remain a going concern for at least twelve months from the date of this statement.

Approved by the Executive Council on 23/MAR/2016 2016 signed on its behalf by:

PRESIDENT		Date: <u>23/03/2016</u>
TREASURER		Date: <u>23/03/2016</u>
COUNCIL MEMBER		Date: <u>23/03/2016</u>

#### 4.0 REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF UGANDA LAW SOCIETY

##### Report on the financial statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Uganda Law Society on pages 11 to 25 which comprises the Society's statement of financial position as at 31 December 2015 and the statement of profit and other comprehensive income, the society's statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

##### Executive Council's Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Executive Council Members are responsible for the preparation of Financial Statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards for small and medium size entities and the Uganda Law Society's Act [Cap.276] and for such internal controls as the Executive Council Members determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

##### Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an independent opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with international standards on auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal controls relevant to the society's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the society's internal controls.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the Financial Statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

##### Opinion

In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept and the accompanying financial statements which are in agreement therewith, give a true and fair view of the state of the financial affairs of Uganda Law Society as at 31 December 2015 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended, comply with International Financial Reporting Standards and Uganda Law Society Act [Cap.276]

**Report on other legal and regulatory requirements**

As required by the Uganda Law society Act [Cap. 276], we report to you that;

- i) We have obtained all the information and explanations which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purposes of our audit.
- ii) In our opinion proper books of account have been kept by Uganda Law Society, so far it appears from our examination of those books
- iii) Uganda Law Society Statement of financial Position and Statement of Profit or Loss other Comprehensive Incomes are in agreement with the books of account.

*PKF Uganda*  
Certified Public Accountants  
Kampala, Uganda.

Date..... *25<sup>th</sup> March 2016*

Ref: FK/U019/3155/16

**UGANDA LAW SOCIETY  
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015**

**5.0 STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

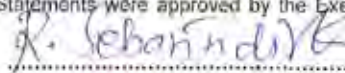
	Notes	2015 UGX	2014 UGX
<b>INCOME:</b>			
Revenue	<b>9.1.10a</b>	1,442,382,480	1,214,726,874
Grants & Donations	<b>9.1.11b</b>	2,340,342,029	1,925,369,667
Other Income	<b>9.1.12c</b>	95,597,425	134,183,919
		<b>3,878,321,934</b>	<b>3,274,280,560</b>
<b>Operating and Other Expenditure</b>			
Administrative Costs		964,220,919	842,430,745
Other Operating Costs	<b>9.1.13b</b>	2,811,954,827	2,530,514,094
		<b>3,776,175,746</b>	<b>3,372,944,839</b>
<b>Total Operating and Other Expenditure</b>			
		<b>3,776,175,746</b>	<b>3,372,944,839</b>
<b>Operating Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year</b>		<b>102,146,188</b>	<b>(98,664,279)</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Income</b>		<b>102,146,188</b>	<b>(98,664,279)</b>

UGANDA LAW SOCIETY  
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6.0 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2015

ASSETS	Notes	2015 UGX	2014 UGX
<b>Non-Current Assets:</b>			
Property, Plant and Equipment	9.1	322,292,971	339,889,566
<b>Current Assets:</b>			
Inventory	9.2	14,967,219	15,681,039
Prepayments	9.3	7,064,756	8,799,364
Receivables	9.4	131,880,100	41,057,100
Project Advances	9.5	235,777,553	136,606,275
Cash and Bank	9.6	1,989,749,459	1,243,500,726
		<b>2,379,439,087</b>	<b>1,445,644,504</b>
<b>Total Assets:</b>		<b>2,701,732,058</b>	<b>1,785,534,070</b>
<b>FUNDS AND LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Funds:</b>			
General Fund	7.0	986,931,237	813,399,014
Capital Fund	7.0	322,292,972	339,889,566
Benevolent Fund	7.0	52,557,691	40,493,891
Development Fund	7.0	219,750,178	295,603,420
		<b>1,591,532,078</b>	<b>1,489,386,891</b>
<b>Current Liabilities:</b>			
Payables	9.7	23,550,490	55,101,860
Deferred Income	9.8	1,079,683,414	224,114,400
Accruals	9.9	6,966,076	8,593,323
Related Party Payable	9.10	-	8,338,596
		<b>1,110,199,980</b>	<b>296,148,179</b>
<b>Total Funds and Liabilities:</b>		<b>2,701,732,058</b>	<b>1,785,534,070</b>

The Financial Statements were approved by the Executive Council on 23/03/2016 and signed on its behalf by

 PRESIDENT

 TREASURER

**UGANDA LAW SOCIETY  
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**7.0 STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUNDS**

	General fund UGX	Capital Fund UGX	Benevolent Fund UGX	Development Fund UGX	Total Funds UGX
<b>Year ended 31 December 2015</b>					
Balance at 01 January	873,399,014	339,889,566	40,493,891	295,603,420	1,489,385,891
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	102,146,188	-	-	-	102,146,188
Transfers from General fund	(12,063,800)	-	12,063,800	-	-
Transfers from/to Development fund	75,853,242	-	-	(75,853,242)	-
Change in operating & donor fund	17,596,593	-	-	-	17,596,593
Additions of Property, Plant & Equipment	-	16,140,400	-	-	16,140,400
Depreciation charge	-	(33,736,994)	-	-	(33,736,994)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2015</b>	<b>986,931,237</b>	<b>322,292,972</b>	<b>52,557,691</b>	<b>219,750,178</b>	<b>1,591,532,078</b>

**UGANDA LAW SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUNDS**

	General fund UGX	Capital Fund UGX	Benevolent Fund UGX	Development fund UGX	Total Funds UGX
<b>Year ended 31 December 2014</b>					
Balance at 01 January	1,038,925,562	363,460,769	7,535,491	178,127,327	1,588,050,169
Surplus/(deficit) for the year:	(98,664,279)	-	-	-	(98,664,279)
Transfers from General fund	(32,957,400)	-	32,957,400	-	-
Transfers from/to Development fund	(117,476,093)	-	-	117,476,093	-
Change in operating & donor fund	23,571,224	-	-	-	23,571,224
Additions of Property, plant & equipment:	-	9,400,000	-	-	9,400,000
Depreciation charge	-	(32,971,223)	-	-	(32,971,223)
<b>Balance at 31 December 2014</b>	<b>813,399,014</b>	<b>339,889,566</b>	<b>40,493,891</b>	<b>295,603,420</b>	<b>1,489,385,891</b>

UGANDA LAW SOCIETY  
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8.0. STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	Note	2015 UGX	2014 UGX
<b>CASHFLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Surplus / (deficit) for the year		102,146,188	(98,664,279)
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation on Assets	9.1.1	33,736,994	32,971,223
Interest income		(9,638,508)	(3,841,764)
Changes in working capital:			
Decrease/(increase) in Prepayments		1,734,608	(5,093,577)
Increase in receivables		(90,823,000)	(15,875,000)
Increase in project advances		(99,171,278)	(131,563,369)
Decrease/(increase) in inventory		713,820	2,458,822
(Decrease)/ Increase in payables		822,390,397	259,816,773
Decrease in related party payables		(8,338,596)	(21,747,232)
<b>Net Cash from Operating activities</b>		<b>752,750,625</b>	<b>18,461,597</b>
<b>CASHFLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>			
Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment	9.1.1	(10,140,400)	(9,400,000)
Interest received		9,638,508	3,841,764
<b>Net Cash Used in Investing Activities:</b>		<b>(6,501,892)</b>	<b>(5,558,236)</b>
<b>Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		<b>746,248,733</b>	<b>12,903,361</b>
<b>Movement in Cash and Cash Equivalent</b>			
Balance as at 1 January	9.1.6	1,243,600,726	1,230,697,365
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalent	9.1.6	746,248,733	12,903,361
<b>Balance as at 31 December</b>		<b>1,989,749,459</b>	<b>1,243,500,726</b>



**UGANDA LAW SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015**

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**9.0 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

**General Information**

The Society is a corporate body established by the Uganda Law Society Act [Cap.276] with perpetual succession and common seal. Uganda Law Society is considered among the Leading Bar Associations in East and Central Africa. The society currently has Two Thousand Two Hundred and Six (2,206) registered advocates.

**Basis of Preparation**

The financial statements are prepared using the modified accrual basis of accounting and in compliance with international Financial Reporting Standards for Small and Medium – sized Entities.

The financial statements are presented in the functional and reporting currency, Uganda Shillings (UGX).

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS for SMEs requires the use of estimates and assumptions. It also requires management to exercise its judgment in the process of applying the society's accounting policies.

**(i) Financial Instruments**

Financial instruments include investments in fixed deposits and securities. These are recognized at fair value. After initial recognition, they are subsequently reported at fair value every reporting date in accordance with IFRS 9.

**(ii) Property, Plant and Equipment**

Property, Plant and Equipment are valued at their acquisition price less the cumulative depreciations. The depreciation will be calculated as a percentage of the acquisition price according to the Straight line method on the basis of the economic life span, taking the residual value, if any, into account.

The depreciation rates applied are as follows:

Leasehold Land	over the remaining period of the lease.
Building	4%
Law Books	25%
Computers and Accessories	33.3%
Furniture and Fittings	12.5%
Office Equipment	12.5%
Motor Vehicles	25%
Generator	25%

Gains and losses from disposal of tangible assets are determined by reference to their carrying Value

UGANDA LAW SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**(iii) FUNDS**

**General Fund:**

The General fund is made up of accumulated reserves also described as retained Earnings.

**Capital Fund:**

The Capital Fund represents the carrying Amounts of property & equipment as at 31 December 2015.

**Benevolent Fund**

This fund is made up of funds set aside to meet benevolent expenses as management may decide.

**Development Fund**

This fund represents members' contributions towards future development projects.

**(v) Project commitments**

Project commitments represent projects where contracts have been duly signed with the respective implementing partners, but third party disbursements have not been actually made. These have simply been disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

**Operating and Donor Funds**

**(iv) Revenue Recognition**

Incomes represent amounts received or receivable from members' subscriptions, donors and sale of inventory on a pre-determined basis, recognised in the period to which they relate.

**(vi) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

For purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents comprise of cash in hand, deposit held at call with banks, and financial assets with maturities of less than 91 days, net of bank overdrafts, money market line and restricted cash balances.

Restricted cash balances are those balances that the society cannot use for working capital purposes as they have been placed as a lien to secure borrowings.

In the statement of financial position, bank overdrafts are included within borrowings in the current liabilities.

**(vi) Receivables**

Receivables are recognised as benefits that arise from economic events that would result in the inflow of resources to the entity.

**UGANDA LAW SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**(vii) Payables**

Payables are recognised as obligations that arise from past economic events the settlement of which will result in an outflow of resources from the Society.

**(viii) Comparatives**

Where necessary, comparative figures have been adjusted to confirm with changes in presentation in the current year.

**(ix) Staff Benefits (NSSF)**

Uganda Law Society and employees contribute to a statutory pension scheme, National Social Security Fund (NSSF). This is a defined contribution scheme registered under the National social security Fund act. Uganda Law Society's obligations under the scheme are limited to specific contributions legislated from time to time and are currently 10% of the employees' gross salary.

The Uganda Law Society contributions are charged to the statement of comprehensive income in the period to which they relate.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

9.1 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Leasehold Land		Buildings		Law Books		Motor Vehicles		Generator & Motor Cycles		Computers		Furniture & Equipment		Total	
	UGX		UGX		UGX		UGX		UGX		UGX		UGX		UGX	
<b>COST:</b>																
At 01 January 2015	71,111,000		308,632,121		1,600,000		73,000,000		30,205,488		83,800,778		131,986,412		700,315,779	
Additions	-		-		-		-		-		4,686,000		11,454,400		16,140,400	
<b>At 31 Dec 2015</b>	<b>71,111,000</b>		<b>308,632,121</b>		<b>1,600,000</b>		<b>73,000,000</b>		<b>30,205,488</b>		<b>88,486,778</b>		<b>143,420,812</b>		<b>716,456,179</b>	

**DEPRECIATION / AMORTISATION:**

At 01 January 2015	20,543,175	98,628,671	1,600,000	35,875,000	26,705,468	75,508,456	101,565,444	360,426,213
Charge for the Year	1,580,245	12,345,285	-	12,375,000	875,000	2,761,343	3,800,121	33,736,984
<b>At 31 Dec 2015</b>	<b>22,123,420</b>	<b>110,973,956</b>	<b>1,600,000</b>	<b>48,250,000</b>	<b>27,580,468</b>	<b>78,269,799</b>	<b>105,365,565</b>	<b>394,163,208</b>

**NBV:**

At 31 Dec 2015	48,987,580	197,558,165	-	24,750,000	2,625,000	10,216,979	38,055,247	322,292,971
At 31 Dec 2014	50,567,825	210,003,450	-	37,125,000	3,500,000	8,292,322	30,400,968	339,889,566

**UGANDA LAW SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>UGX</b>	<b>UGX</b>
<b>9.2. INVENTORY</b>		
Professional gowns	247,800	550,000
T-Shirts	341,904	341,904
Car Tyre covers	45,000	45,000
Law reports	7,250,000	7,400,000
Professional Shirts	74,000	444,000
Corporate Shirts	1,596,000	1,095,040
Lapel Pins	5,412,515	5,805,095
	<b>14,967,219</b>	<b>15,681,039</b>
<b>9.3. PREPAYMENTS</b>		
Insurance	3,929,755	4,999,374
Data Base Hosting	-	2,565,000
Web Site Hosting	400,000	400,000
Property Rates	-	834,990
National Water and Sewerage Corporation	200,001	-
Kampala Capital City Authority	2,135,000	-
Africel Uganda Limited (Internet)	400,000	-
	<b>7,064,756</b>	<b>8,799,364</b>
<b>9.4. RECIEVABLES</b>		
Buddu Broadcasting Services Ltd	-	5,500,000
DGF Project	11,817,300	8,400,000
Annual Lawyer's Dinner	-	3,600,000
MacArthur project Recievables	-	3,375,000
Uganda Law Reform Commission	100,000,000	-
Wambi Tom Shisa	13,374,800	20,182,100
Uganda National Roads Authority	6,688,000	-
	<b>131,880,100</b>	<b>41,057,100</b>

**UGANDA LAW SOCIETY  
ANNUAL REPORT AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED**

	<b>2015</b>	<b>2014</b>
	<b>UGX</b>	<b>UGX</b>
<b>9.5 Project Advances</b>		
Legal Aid Project (LAP) Receivables	<u>235,777,553</u>	<u>136,606,275</u>
Legal Aid Project (LAP) Payables	<u>-</u>	<u>8,338,596</u>

Project advance transactions are balances receivable and payable with no fixed payment period and are interest free.

**9.6 CASH AND BANK BALANCES**

Stanbic Bank- Continuing Legal Education/ULS	51,529,548	20,323,561
Standard Chartered Bank - Operating account	84,612,786	41,488,325
Standard Chartered Bank - Building Fund account	219,750,178	295,603,420
Standard Chartered Bank - Benevolent Fund account	52,557,691	40,493,891
Standard Chartered Bank - DGF account	369,699,038	85,704,824
Standard Chartered Bank - CBA	61,282,636	11,855,958
Standard Chartered Bank - McArthur Project	359,178,327	125,484,591
Standard Chartered Bank - USAID - SAFE Project	-	13,176,300
Standard Chartered Bank - Ford Foundation Project	350,821,840	197,948,400
DFCU Bank - Continuing Legal Education /ULS	159,184,865	77,798,096
DFCU Bank - ULS/JLOS	280,282,550	330,623,260
Cash at Hand	1,050,000	-
	<u><b>1,989,749,459</b></u>	<u><b>1,243,500,726</b></u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED**

	<b>2015 UGX</b>	<b>2014 UGX</b>
<b>9.7 PAYABLES</b>		
Kaddu Faluku	2,770,000	1,921,860
Prepaid membership IDs	-	2,860,000
Justice Centers Uganda	850,000	850,000
Kampala Capital City Authority	6,623,000	8,243,000
National Water and Sewerage Corporation	283,760	-
Kyambogo University	3,553,000	-
Continuing Legal Education	1,140,000	-
Uganda Registration Services Bureau	100,000	-
Civil Aviation Authority	280,000	-
Office of the Auditor General	-	900,000
Smart Media Ltd	-	2,832,000
Kampala Serena Hotel	-	31,330,000
MarkHill Motor Garage Limited	1,665,580	-
Uganda Revenue Authority	400,000	-
Bank of Uganda	5,685,150	6,165,000
	<b>23,550,490</b>	<b>55,101,860</b>
<b>9.8 DEFERRED INCOME</b>		
Prepaid Membership Fees	10,800,000	20,000,000
Ford Foundation	350,519,840	197,948,400
Ireland Development Cooperation	-	6,166,000
DGF Moroto Project	252,504,748	-
DGF LAP & Probono Project	29,016,366	-
MacArthur Project (Legal Aid Project)	332,093,181	-
SAJCEA Project	50,325,858	-
Patongo Project	54,423,421	-
	<b>1,079,683,414</b>	<b>224,114,400</b>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS CONTINUED

	2015 UGX	2014 UGX
<b>9.9 ACCRUALS</b>		
Uganda Telecom	859,576	144,981
Audit Fees	5,841,000	5,841,000
National water and sewerage	-	254,342
Mulicare Services Ltd	265,500	265,500
Dmark Company Ltd	-	1,522,500
Sendegeya Catering Services	-	565,000
	<b>6,966,076</b>	<b>8,593,323</b>



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**NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

	Actual - 2015.	Budget - 2015.	Actual 2014
	UGX	UGX	UGX
<b>9.10a. Revenue</b>			
Subscriptions	882,400,000	946,000,000	840,000,000
Subscription Arrears	25,800,000	-	12,100,000
Legal Ragalia Income	3,648,180	3,000,000	2,687,379
Continuing Legal Education Trainings	521,858,300	694,000,000	284,601,000
ULS Reports Vol I & II	210,000	2,000,000	2,170,000
Sponsorships	8,666,000	50,000,000	73,166,595
	<b>1,442,382,480</b>	<b>1,695,000,000</b>	<b>1,214,726,974</b>
<b>9.11b. Grants &amp; Donations</b>			
USAID – SAFE Project Grant	125,590,500	108,005,500	134,409,500
Legal Aid Projects - McArthur Project	221,908,819	244,999,991	-
Avocates San Frontier	-	-	251,882,824
JLOS – Grants	148,830,000	300,000,000	169,939,500
Ford Foundation Project Grant	191,659,700	191,513,000	53,013,950
DGF Projects – DANIDA	1,112,181,889	1,039,670,614	1,030,492,176
Palengo Project	40,421,579	50,477,537	-
Canadian Bar Association & Sajja	499,751,542	138,692,692	285,631,717
	<b>2,340,342,029</b>	<b>2,073,559,334</b>	<b>1,925,369,667</b>
<b>9.12c. Other Income</b>			
Investment Incomes	-	5,000,000	-
Sundry Incomes	1,706,617	-	683,100
Female Lawyer's Dinner	-	30,000,000	43,610,000
Annual Lawyer's Ball	54,250,000	37,500,000	39,750,000
Miscellaneous Income	527,300	-	277,700
Consultancy jobs/ services	-	3,000,000	5,812,500
Bank Interest Receivable	9,638,508	10,000,000	3,841,764
Nomination Fees	6,500,000	-	-
Exhibition Fees	5,000,000	-	-
Other incomes	17,975,000	-	40,208,855
	<b>95,697,425</b>	<b>85,500,000</b>	<b>134,183,919</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>3,878,321,934</b>	<b>3,854,059,334</b>	<b>3,274,280,560</b>

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NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME CONTINUED

	Actual - 2015.	Budget - 2015.	Actual - 2014.
	UGX	UGX	UGX
9.1.13a. Administrative Costs:			
Salaries and Wages	309,373,489	315,676,728	282,869,101
10% NSSF Contribution	30,877,365	31,567,673	27,463,485
Staff Welfare	79,931,200	85,930,000	73,936,341
Printing and Stationery	15,632,700	14,000,000	16,351,620
Telephone, Internet and Postage	29,068,499	28,600,000	14,450,710
Automobile & Local Travel	27,089,500	23,340,000	22,156,709
Conferences & Annual General Meeting	168,549,525	168,182,000	141,796,900
Promotion, Advertising and Publicity	23,612,200	23,050,000	10,120,000
Audit Fees	5,841,000	6,000,000	5,841,000
Bank Charges	7,985,134	9,000,000	7,091,421
Benevolent & Social Responsibility	11,729,242	2,000,000	-
Property Recurrent, Insurance & Security	19,259,799	18,800,000	13,688,610
Organizational Subscriptions	11,728,700	12,000,000	6,811,600
Planning & Monitoring	23,792,500	23,002,834	17,804,795
Social Events(Open day and Dinner)	54,404,020	49,500,000	116,828,570
Utilities	8,579,214	7,000,000	3,904,546
Repairs and Maintenance	29,170,427	21,000,000	13,937,237
Office Supplies	6,810,785	8,600,000	4,132,825
Hospitality	1,928,000	2,000,000	561,400
Travel & Networking	79,069,620	87,110,050	49,403,375
Publications(Magazines and Annual reports, DSTv )	19,788,000	19,820,000	13,280,500
Sub Total	964,220,919	956,179,285	842,430,745

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NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
CONTINUED

	Actual - 2015. UGX	Budget - 2015. UGX	Actual - 2014. UGX
<b>9.13b Other Operating Costs:</b>			
Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Trainings	318,102,833	280,000,000	293,638,195
Case 321 of 2013	23,042,970	23,042,970	-
Resource Centre Expenses	1,508,000	1,400,000	1,591,000
Consultancy	-	6,000,000	4,650,000
Legal Aid Projects - McArthur Project	221,906,819	323,399,404	290,634,169
JLOS Activities/ Expenses	198,782,660	178,830,000	172,096,790
Avocates San Frontiers	-	-	281,821,674
DGF Projects(LAP, Probono and Kigula)	1,112,181,889	1,097,465,989	988,397,915
Ford Foundation Project Expenses	191,659,700	291,659,700	53,013,950
Strategic Planning	-	30,000,000	-
Canadian Bar Association/ SAJEA Expenses	499,751,542	498,445,172	275,751,477
Capacity Building	12,000,000	12,000,000	6,227,000
Information Acquisition & Dissemination	685,000	950,000	2,200,000
Palongo Project	40,421,579	70,580,000	-
IT Section Costs	19,431,541	19,500,000	26,187,500
USAID – SAFE Project Expenses	138,743,300	138,772,300	121,333,200
Depreciation Expense	33,736,984	-	32,971,224
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b><u>2,811,954,927</u></b>	<b><u>2,972,025,535</u></b>	<b><u>2,530,514,094</u></b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>3,776,175,746</u></b>	<b><u>3,928,204,820</u></b>	<b><u>3,372,944,839</u></b>



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