



LASPNET

The Secretariat
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LEGAL AID SERVICE PROVIDERS NETWORK

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACCESS TO JUSTICE CENTRAL TO UGANDA'S DEVELOPMENT

A Statement on the Consensus Building Conference by Legal Aid Service Providers on Access to Justice for All.

21st October 2015

Access to justice is a central tenet to Uganda's development process which if denied to citizens not only infringes on their rights but also contravenes the provisions of article 28 of the 1995 constitution of the Republic of Uganda, as well as international declarations that Uganda is a signatory to, such as; the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Lilongwe Declaration on Legal Aid in Africa.

With the 2016 general elections around the corner, government, parliament, electoral commission and all concerned state and non-state legal aid service providers must guarantee that due diligence is realized in ensuring access to justice for not only the poor but also those who are vulnerable to pre-election and election related injustices and ensuing political marginalisation.

According to Ms. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa, the Executive Director for LASPNET, the above issues will form part of the discussions at the consensus building conference on access to justice that will be held on Thursday 22nd October 2015 starting at 8:30am at Kampala Serena Hotel under the theme: **"Positioning LASPNET as a platform to drive the Rule of Law Agenda for Development"**.

Justice Remmy Kasule of the Constitutional Court and Chairperson Law Council will deliver the key note address at the conference that will be convened by Legal Aid Service Providers Network, a national member based non-governmental organisation that advocates for access to justice for the indigent and legal aid service provision in Uganda.

“I am glad that we as legal aid service providers are taking up our responsibility in the electoral process and not seeing it as a preserve of government. We must talk about the flaws and good things that come with such a process so that they are addressed. It is our mandate to not only speak for the voiceless but also support those at the fore front of ensuring a peaceful and meaningful electoral process”, said Mr. Herbert Nsubuga, the LASPNET Board Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer for the African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims (ACTV).

Key presenters/discussants at the conference will include; Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative Executive Director, Irene Ovonji Odida, the Uganda Association of Women Lawyers Executive Director, Jotham Taremwa, the Electoral Commission Spokesperson, and representatives from the Justice Law and Order Sector, among others.

The one day conference will be attended by state and non-state legal aid service providers, development partners, civil society, the judiciary and the media. It will be followed by LASPNET’s 6th Annual General Meeting on 23rd October 2015 at the same venue.

##Ends##

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