
**TERMINATION OF BEGGING RELATIONS WITH THE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AND
CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL RESISTANCE MOVEMENT**

WHEREAS, the Uganda Law Society (ULS), as the statutory body representing the legal profession in Uganda, has a solemn duty to uphold the rule of law, promote justice, and safeguard the independence of the Bar from undue influence, including financial inducements that compromise its autonomy;

WHEREAS, in December 2018, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni pledged Shs 5 billion towards the construction of the ULS House, a promise that remains unfulfilled to this day, serving as a stark reminder of the government's selective generosity and unkept commitments;

WHEREAS, this pledge stands in sharp contrast to the ever-ballooning State House budget, which has seen donations approaching Shs 1 trillion and classified expenditures escalating dramatically, with recent allocations including over Shs 342 billion for classified items and supplementary budgets adding tens of billions more for donations and secretive spending, underscoring a pattern of fiscal irresponsibility and prioritization of patronage over public welfare;

WHEREAS, the wastefulness displayed during the 2021 and 2026 general elections—marked by widespread allegations of fraud, violence, and irregularities—further exemplifies the misuse of public resources to entrench power, with excessive spending on security crackdowns, voter suppression, and electoral manipulation that undermined democratic processes;

WHEREAS, the independence of the Bar is paramount to the administration of justice and the protection of constitutional rights, and any reliance on governmental largesse risks eroding this independence, fostering perceptions of compromise, and diminishing the profession's role as a bulwark against executive overreach;

WHEREAS, the continuation of any begging posture is fundamentally incompatible with the ULS's duty to credibly challenge runaway budget corruption—otherwise known as portfolio corruption—particularly where such corruption is disguised as “donations” or corporate social responsibility (CSR) schemes, an existential threat to the integrity and sustainability of public finance in Uganda;

WHEREAS, the ULS House has now reached near completion, achieved not through governmental benevolence but through the unwavering contributions, sacrifices, and disciplined leadership of ULS members, exemplifying probity, self-reliance, and collective resolve that sets a powerful example for the legal profession and Ugandan society at large;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in the Uganda Law Society Governing Council under Sections 9 and 10 of the Uganda Law Society Act, and in furtherance of the Radical New Bar's commitment to ethical integrity, institutional autonomy, and genuine professional empowerment:

1. **Termination of Begging Relations:** All forms of supplication, solicitation, or dependency on financial pledges or donations from the President of the Republic of Uganda, in his capacity as Head of State or Chairperson of the National Resistance Movement, are hereby terminated forthwith. The ULS shall no longer pursue, acknowledge, or rely upon the unfulfilled 2018 pledge or any similar inducements that could imperil the Bar's independence.

2. **Denunciation of the Pledge:** The aforementioned Shs 5 billion pledge is hereby denounced as a hollow gesture, emblematic of a broader pattern of governmental profligacy and unaccountability. This denunciation serves to reaffirm the ULS's commitment to fiscal probity and to highlight the disparity between unkept promises to civil institutions and the unchecked expansion of State House expenditures on donations and classified items.

3. **Reaffirmation of Independence:** The ULS restates the imperative to safeguard the independence of the Bar, ensuring that the legal profession remains free from political patronage, financial coercion, or undue influence. This independence is essential for upholding the rule of law, advocating for justice, and holding power accountable, particularly in the face of electoral irregularities and fiscal excesses as witnessed in recent years.

4. **Celebration of Member-Led Achievements:** The near completion of the ULS House stands as a testament to the power of member-driven initiatives, characterized by voluntary contributions, personal sacrifices, transparent governance, and exemplary leadership. This milestone sets a precedent for self-sufficiency and ethical conduct within the profession, inspiring future generations of lawyers to prioritize integrity over dependency.

5. **Termination of Envoy Mandates:** All mandates previously issued to envoys, representatives, or delegates of the ULS for the purpose of soliciting, negotiating, or pursuing the aforementioned pledge or any related governmental funding are hereby revoked and terminated. No further engagements in this regard shall be authorized or undertaken.

6. **Directive on Sustainable Alternatives:** The ULS shall immediately redirect its institutional focus and advocacy resources toward the reform of the financial provisions of the Advocates Act, the Uganda Law Society Act, and relevant civil and criminal laws. These targeted reforms shall be designed to dramatically improve the earning capacity and legitimate earning methods of advocates and the Society itself. This reform agenda constitutes the true crux of the profession's financial vulnerability and is the only credible pathway to long-term independence, rendering any form of governmental begging obsolete and unnecessary.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately upon issuance and shall remain in force until such time as it is amended or rescinded by subsequent order.

Issued this **19th day of March**, 2026, at ULS House, Kololo, Kampala City.



Isaac K. Ssemakadde, S.C.
President, Uganda Law Society



Arthur Isiko
Treasurer, Uganda Law Society