

SPEECH OF THE MINISTER OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr. Chancellor Sir,

Distinguished guests,

Graduands,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good day to you all

We are gathered here at this 7th graduation ceremony to witness the graduation of those who pursued the Diploma in Legal Practice and the Diploma in Legislative Drafting programmes, respectively. It is indeed a humbling privilege for me to have this opportunity to address you today. Though we witness these graduations each year, it always feels fresh to see young, delighted men and women representing the vision of a future full of optimism and ambition.

Thank you all for this privilege of sharing this day with you and congratulations to the all the ILPD family for this achievement.

Permit me, at the outset to recognize the presence, in our midst of Dr. Denis Roumestan, Mr. George Muwanguzi, Ms. Vastina Nsanze, Mr. Nick Johnson and Mr. Havugiyaremye Aimable who, in succession, headed this institute. The transformation of ILPD from its previous life as CNFJ succeeded because of the leadership of each of these people. ILPD was a dream but these people did not dream only while deep in sleep, they woke up and implemented the dream. There is a good story about each of their tenures for which we are forever proud. Thank you for making time to attend this graduation and 10 year anniversary. You left ILPD but ILPD will forever stand tall on your giant shoulders

To you graduands, congratulations for finishing this phase. I know how hard you have all worked and the pressures you, your families and friends have endured. Today is a day therefore of relief and celebration. It is also a day for reflection and decision. Many of you will leave here and enter the world of the law.

I would like to share with you a few things that I have learned, so far through life as a lawyer. They are not detailed advice for specific situations but you could take them as a humble contribution to the journey through life and career.

- **Always be aware that there will be situations you have not mastered.**

Unwavering composure and practical judgment are important in managing one's work and managing other people working under you. However, do not be tempted to think that you have acquired all that there is there to know in the practice of law.

There is always something new to learn about law and practice. Therefore maintain an open mind and respect the work that you will embark on, because that is your next and probably best learning phase. All lawyers are required to do continuing legal education to a certain degree every year, in order to instill or refresh the knowledge in certain areas of law and to keep lawyers abreast with the evolution of the law. Do not let time pass you by.

- **Do not be conformist**

You will be advisors to individuals, businesses, governments, districts, and other entities. With the basic knowledge of the practice of law now imparted to you many will look up to you for advice. You will be held to a high standard of competence. You need as well to hold yourself to a fairly good standard of excellence in terms of competence. You should be able to reason quickly or, as some put it, to think on your feet. You should have a resourceful identity. Furthermore, you will not always give people the kind of advice that makes them happy. In every situation just provide the truth whether it is in line with the wishes of the one you are advising is immaterial. Truth is truth whether it is inconvenient or not.

For those of you who will become Judges, your decisions will obviously not appease all your litigants, but that will be fine as long as they are just and fair.

- **Stick to a set of values**

People are meant to do good deeds. An interesting question of ethics is, should we refrain from doing bad actions because we fear the consequences that would ensue from such actions or should we so refrain because we are just not the kind of people who would allow themselves to engage in these actions based on our values? The latter is the better view. Work out your values and abide by them. Your actions will automatically be sorted out. Those are my humble take aways for you.

I have no doubt that you have been fully equipped with all it requires. For, there is here a unique but well thought out curriculum that caters for the requirements, across the entire legal practice spectrum, i.e, becoming a Judge, a Prosecutor, a Lawyer, or any other legal advisor. You have also been equipped with what it takes for you to practice both within Common law and Civil law jurisdictions, and this is not by accident, it is out of choice. The ILPD was mandated to become a solution to those divisions, by bridging gaps and appreciating best practices in either of the legal practices.

I was told about concerns that some jurisdictions have been having especially in regard to whether our graduates are Common Law or Civil Law trained. The answer is that you are more than that, and you will easily fit in either. You have been prepared and equipped just for that. So, your world should be without Common law or Civil law barriers.

Permit me to congratulate ILPD which is also graduating to teenage! It is an interesting phase of life and, as you all know, it is very challenging when not properly managed. Even before we could get to the 10 Years of ILPD's existence that we are celebrating today, it had already ambitiously committed itself to walking the journey to the Institution's self-reliance by promising that after a certain number of years, it will cease to be a cost centre to the Government, but instead learn to generate and efficiently utilize resources and remain accountable to the Government.

I am glad to note that today above 80% of ILPD's budget is from internally generated revenues from its own activities and very soon, it will be 100%! So, we congratulate ILPD for its 10 years' anniversary, and we wish it all success!

I take this opportunity to thank all stakeholders that have contributed to this success. I cannot name each of you for fear of leaving someone out, but I am sincerely thankful.

Thank you!