

## **Judiciary, UBOS and The World Bank agree on standardized statistical reporting framework for the JLOS sector**

**By Catherine Bekunda -Senior Information Officer-UBOS**

Three entities have agreed to work together to improve the quality of statistics in the Justice Law and Order Sector in the country. This was in a meeting held this morning the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August, 2019 at the Chief Justice's office in Kampala.

Chief Justice Bart Katureebe emphasized the need for reliable statistics in the execution of the work of judicial officers. He also noted the need for quality statistics to inform the third phase of the Plan for National Statistics Development (PNSD).



“I have been looking forward to having this kind of conversation. Quality statistics will help us tell our story and the contribution we are making in the development of this country,” said the Chief Justice.

The UBOS Executive Director, Dr. Chris Ndatira Mukiza noted the need for impartial and independent statistics that reflect what is on the ground. He informed the meeting that UBOS would work with all stakeholders to establish a statistical unit in the Judiciary, provide technical support and give overall data quality assurance.

“If you cannot measure it, then you cannot manage it,” retorted Dr. Mukiza.

Dr. Mukiza explained that with statistics, the judiciary would be able to measure some indicators such as the Case Disposal Rate, percentage of backlog cases in the system and the average time taken to dispose of cases.



Romain Galgani, a Development Impact Evaluation (DIME) official from the World Bank explained that they are working with the Judiciary to provide *options for improved technical and allocative efficiency to enable the sector contribute to economic development through improved access to justice.*

This would be achieved in three tiers namely; Economic analysis of the contribution of the Judiciary to Uganda's development goals; Expenditure and Institutional Review of the Judiciary and enhancing the use of data.

"We must work together to ensure that data informs decision making and helps us to communicate positively on the achievements made in the judiciary," explained Galgani.

Justice John Eudes Keitirima, Head of the Land Division tasked the statisticians to help the judiciary by calculating the cost or value of unresolved cases for instance in the commercial courts, family courts and land Division courts.

Justice Keitirima said valuing unresolved cases would help inform the economists in government to appreciate the importance of the justice system and timely resolution of cases.

Principal Judge Yorokamu Bamwine said he will interest his clerks and judicial officials into recording what they have achieved in a particular period so as to show a true picture of what is going on in the judiciary.

"We need to tell our story. We do so much but never record it in the system," decried the Principal Judge.

The meeting agreed that with the use of statistics, it will be easier for the judiciary to allocate resources in terms of personnel, funds and physical structures such as court rooms and office space.

Other judicial officers called for the establishment of a comprehensive data collection tool that can relate the judiciary infrastructure to the current district population.

The UBOS ED was accompanied by Pamela Kansiime, Legal Manager, John Mayende, Director Statistical Coordination Services, and other officials from the Communication and Public Relations Division.