

**SOME INFORMATION  
ON  
THE UGANDA LAW DEVELOPMENT CENTRE**

Memorandum prepared by the Law Development  
Centre for the Government of Uganda

**Establishment and functions**

The Law Development Centre is the creation of the legislature and as such its activities are governed by the functions assigned to it by the Law Development Centre Act, 1970. These functions are spelled out in s. 2 of the Act in the following terms:

- 2(1) The Centre shall have the functions of,
- (a) organising and conducting courses of instruction for the acquisition of legal knowledge, professional skill and experience by persons intending to practice as attorneys—in subjects which shall have been determined by the Law Council under the provisions of any law in force;
  - (b) organising and conducting courses in legislative drafting;
  - (c) organising and conducting courses for magistrates and for persons provisionally selected for appointment as such;
  - (d) organising and conducting training courses for officers of the Government and members of the Armed Forces of Uganda with a view to promoting a better understanding of the law;
  - (e) organising and conducting courses for officers and personnel of courts with a view to improving their efficiency;
  - (f) assisting any Commissioner who may be appointed in the preparation and publication of a revised edition of the Laws of Uganda;
  - (g) assisting in the preparation of reprints of Acts of Parliament in accordance with any law for the time being in force;
  - (h) assisting the Law Reform Commission in the performance of its functions;
  - (i) undertaking research into any branch of the law;
  - (j) holding seminars and conferences on legal matters and problems;
  - (k) collecting, compiling, analysing and abstracting statistical information on legal and related matters;
  - (l) assisting in the provision of legal aid and advice to indigent litigants and accused persons in accordance with any law for the time being in force;
  - (m) compiling, editing and publishing law reports for Uganda;
  - (n) publishing periodicals, bulletins, digests or other written material concerned with legal and related matters;
  - (o) disseminating and promoting generally a better knowledge of the law.

(2) The Centre shall have such other functions as the Attorney-General may from time to time specify by Statutory Instrument.

2. As an efficient means of discharging these functions, the Management Committee has created five departments at the Centre. These are:

- (i) The Department of Administration and Finance,
- (ii) The Department of Applied Legal Research,
- (iii) The Department of Post-graduate Legal Studies,
- (iv) The Department of Law, and
- (v) The Department of LDC Publishers.

**General Administration**

3. The general administration of the Centre is carried out by the Office of the Director. This office is headed by the Director who is assisted by the Corporation Secretary.

4. There are a number of Committees through which decisions at the Centre are taken. The main Committee is the Management Committee which controls overall policy. There are subordinate sub-committees under the Management Committee set up to assist in the execution of policies laid down by the Management Committee.

5. The diagram attached gives the general picture of the Centre administration set up.

**Skeleton proposal for training programme at the Law Development Centre**

6. The Ministry of Justice has requested the Law Development Centre to expose its Training Programme with the aim of acquiring foreign aid in terms of finance to sponsor the said training programme. In view of the urgency and importance of the request and because the request is made at short notice it is proposed to give a skeleton sketch of the Centre's training needs. This is the aim of this brief. Hopefully details of the sketch will be given in due course when requested to do so by the Ministry.

7. In giving the skeleton proposal consideration was given to the following points.

8. Training requirements for each specialised Department of the Centre. There are four such Departments:

- (a) Department of Post Graduate Legal Studies
- (b) Department of Law

- (c) Department of Research Law Reform and Publications
- (d) Department of LDC Publishers (Press & Bookshop)

9. Training requirements for staff and students at the Centre by Experts from outside the Country.

10. Training requirements for staff under Exchange Programme with Institutions performing similar functions like the Centre special emphasis being given to the Bar Course and to Publication of Law Reports and Law Journals and to the Law Library.

11. Training requirements for acquisition of deeper knowledge of the Law through the Higher Degree Programme (LLM, JSD and Ph.D).

12. Training requirements for acquisition of practical skills from local resources by Professional members of staff (training as Magistrates and/or training as a pupil in the Ministry of Justice or with an experienced Advocate).

13. Training requirements for acquisition of practical skills from local resources by students (appointment of Professional Advisors from practising Advocates, Judges, Magistrates and State Attorneys to conduct lectures, seminars and as Guest Speakers to students).

14. Requirements to enable the Centre to publish legal materials not only for teaching purposes but for the Legal Profession and for public consumption generally.

15. In view of the consideration given above the Centre expects financial and material assistance according to the requirements given here below:

(i) Five experts to impart knowledge to the following:

- (a) An Expert on Bar Associations on Law Societies to impart knowledge and publish materials to the Bar Course for aspiring Advocates and for continuing legal education for Advocates.
- (b) An expert on Legal Aid to establish clinical legal education and to make proposals for a general aid scheme for Uganda.
- (c) An expert on Legal Research Methodology to act as a Research Fellow in the Department of Research Law Reform & Publications.
- (d) An expert on Law Reporting and Editing of Law Journals to establish a proper system of publication of Uganda's Law Reports and Law Journals published by the Centre.
- (e) An expert on Law Librarianship to develop the Centre's Law Library.

(ii) Inservice training through exchange programme whereby a staff of the Centre is exchanged with a staff of an Institution performing similar functions. The training should take six to nine months, preferably one academic year. Proposed Institutions to exchange with are the following:

- (a) Nigeria Law School
- (b) Ghana Law School
- (c) Ontario Post-graduate pre-admission Programme in Canada
- (d) Osgoode Hall Law School in Britain
- (e) Post-Final Courses at the Inns of Court Law School in London
- (f) Trinity College Oxford for training in editing and Law Reporting with African Law Reports section
- (g) Law Library in any Commonwealth country or even in U.S.A. (preferably with one of the Inns of Court in Britain).

(iii) Training for Higher Professional Degrees for staff as this is an Institution of Higher learning and of high academic status.

- (a) 3 to 4 scholarships every year to meet the needs of the professional departments of the Centre.
- (b) One scholarship per year for personnel in Department of Administration and Finance.
- (c) One scholarship per year for personnel in the Department of LDC Publishers (Press and Bookshop).

(iv) Training using local resources—Exchange Programme within Uganda where staff of the Centre acquire practical skills from Courts Practising Advocates and from the Ministry of Justice and where both staff and students of the Centre benefit from experienced lawyers from the Courts Practising Advocates and from Ministry of Justice.

- (a) Financial assistance required to pay for extra inducement so as to support the programme.
- (b) Financial assistance required to collect and publish precedents and materials acquired during this period of training.

(v) Acquisition of knowledge through reading legal materials—need to build up a store of local legal materials through collection of data information and publishing the same.

- (a) Financial assistance for equipment for research and collection of data.
- (b) Financial assistance for equipment to publish information collected.
- (c) Financial assistance to establish a proper system making information so collected and published reach the lawyers and public through a good sales staff and equipment.

16. It is hoped that the skeleton information given above will prove of great assistance to those who wish to know the training requirements of the Law Development Centre. Given a change each of the above requirements can be justified to its minute detail. However what is perhaps of more importance now is to realise that great need for training at the Centre and to appreciate this great need. Once this is done what will be left is to establish a source of assistance to be given to the Centre's training needs and eventually once that source is established the

magnitude and importance of the requirements will determine what share of that assistance the Centre will get to achieve its training objectives and expectations especially if this Institution is to contribute effectively to the development of the profession as required by the Law Development Centre Act.

**Areas requiring urgent assistance**

17. The Law Development Centre like many Institutions in Uganda has suffered greatly from the eight years of fascism generally and from the adverse effects of the war specifically. The effects of the war can for example be considered under the following headings:

- (a) Disruption of Centre Activities;
- (b) Physical damage caused to Centre buildings;
- (c) Looting of Centre property including books; and
- (d) Other general effects.

18. In conformity with the Government policy of reconstruction and rehabilitation, the Centre too set out its priority programmes for the said purpose. In the process of this programme it is realised, however, that not much can be done without external assistance from developed countries both at Governmental and Inter-governmental levels. For this reason a special appeal is accordingly made for the required

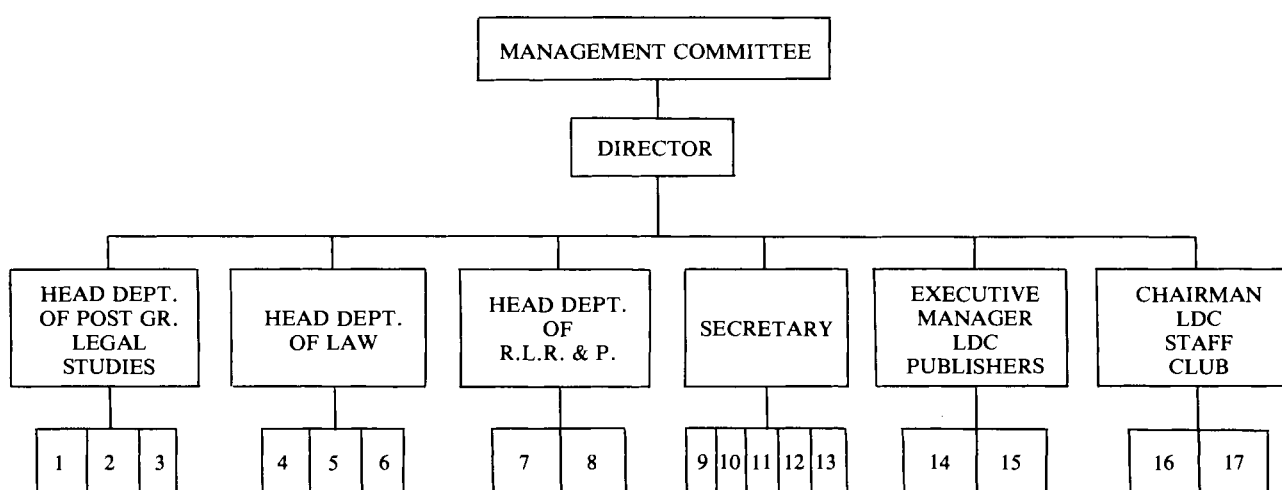
assistance so that the Centre can also achieve its objectives of reconstruction and rehabilitation.

19. Some of the areas in which urgent assistance is required by the Law Development Centre include the following:

- (a) Staff Development Programme—details given above.
- (b) Capital Development—necessity to put up new buildings to cope up with the expanding requirements of the Centre. Most required are Lecture Rooms, offices for staff and hostels for students.
- (c) Provision of legal materials—need for basic textbooks and money to produce local legal material for Advocates and those intending to be so.
- (d) Applied Legal Research and Legal Publications—need for necessary tools for applied legal research and raw materials plus machines to print legal materials like Law Reports, journals and other legal publications.
- (e) Sponsorships and fellowships to International conferences and seminars on matters relating to law and social policy.

20. Further details on the above subject can be obtained from The Director, Law Development Centre, Makerere Hill, P.O. Box 7117, Kampala, Uganda.

**LAW DEVELOPMENT CENTRE  
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE CHART**



- 1. Practice Commentaries Section
- 2. Legal Aid Section
- 3. Continuing Legal Education Section
- 4. Magistrates Section
- 5. Public Officers Section
- 6. Law for Public Section

- 7. Research and Reform Section
- 8. Publication and Sales Section
- 9. Accounts Section
- 10. Establishment and Registry Section
- 11. Catering & Accommodation Section
- 12. Estates Sections

- 13. Library Section
- 14. Press Section
- 15. Bookshop Section
- 16. Club Section
- 17. Canteen Section