

## **DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS**



### **PRESS RELEASE**

**23.1.2014**

### **PLEA BARGAINING**

The Directorate today held a half day training workshop on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2014 at Protea Hotel Kololo to introduce participants to the workings and benefits of the process and identify ways of formally introducing plea bargaining in the criminal justice system in Uganda. It was attended by members of the Judiciary, IGGs office and staff of the Directorate.

Plea bargaining is a process where a person charged with a criminal offense agrees to plead guilty to a lesser charge (or fewer charges) therefore serving a lesser sentence than would have been issued after a full trial on the initially preferred charges. It is also a tool which the prosecutor can use in cases where the evidence of one accused person may be required as against any other co accused persons.

Plea negotiations take place between the prosecutors and the accused persons and the courts are then informed of the negotiated plea and recommended sentence. This is presented to the court which then has the mandate to reject / approve and enforce the settlement.

#### **The benefits of this process are as follows:**

It saves valuable court time and the cost of lengthy trials, enables the accused, victim and the prosecutor to reach an amicable settlement, and facilitates the reduction of backlog. The victims of crime will be involved in the entire process.

More convictions are attained, scarce resources are saved, there's faster case disposal, reduced crowding in prisons and remand homes, rights of all parties to quick justice is observed and the offender takes responsibility for the crime.

The DPP has already employed Plea bargaining in a total of **125** cases in 1 adult criminal session in Fort Portal, 5 juvenile sessions in Kampala, Mbale and Masindi. The offence categories were murder/ manslaughter, rape, defilement and robbery. In these cases there was an **89%** conviction rate attained through plea bargaining.

## **Way forward**

As we wait for the formal guidelines or law on plea bargaining, the Directorate will continue to promote plea bargaining and engage all stakeholders (including the public) in sensitization drives.

## DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS



### PRESS RELEASE

12.3.2014

#### CREATION OF REGIONAL OFFICES

The Directorate of Public Prosecutions established 11 Regional offices on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2014, during a top Management retreat held at Serena Lake Victoria Hotel.

Principal State Attorneys have been assigned the responsibility of heading these Stations.

The Regional offices and assigned officers are as follows:

	<b>Regional office</b>	<b>Name of officer</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Tel contact</b>
1	Kampala	Alice Komuhangi Khaukha	PSA	0794 332088
2	Nakawa	Carol Nabaasa	PSA	0794 332121
3	Mbale	Ndamurani David	PSA	0794 332125
4	Mbarara	John Baptiste Asiimwe	PSA	0794 332109
5	Masindi	Badru Mulindwa	PSA	0794 332145
6	Soroti	William Byansi	PSA	0794 332107
7	Masaka	Simon Semalemba	PSA	0794 332155
8	Kabale	Charles Kaamuli	PSA	0794 332116
9	Fort Portal	Alex Ojok	PSA	0794 332
10	Gulu	Andrew Odiit	PSA	0794 332090

11	Arua	Sam Oola	PSA	0794 332017
12	Jinja	Margaret Nakigudde	PSA	0794 332140

The creation of these offices has been necessitated by several factors aimed at streamlining the operations of the Directorate and ensuring efficiency, expeditious handling of cases and complaints and effective supervision of upcountry stations.

- The need to align DPP structures with those of the Judiciary and police and to raise the DPP designations at Resident Judge and Regional CIID offices. The 11 regional offices are created where there are High Court Circuits headed by Resident Judges.
- The increase in staff numbers and staffing of field offices calls for efficient and effective management and supervision. The Directorate has over 200 lawyers, 100 State Prosecutors and an entire establishment of more than 500 staff members. There are 109 field stations countrywide in 84 Districts, translating into 75% district coverage.
- The need to improve the output of officers in field stations through mentoring and coaching from senior lawyers.
- The need to decrease delays at the headquarters in processing files submitted from field stations for perusal or complaints handling.
- The need to improve coordination and communication flows between the headquarters and field stations.
- The need to expedite the submission of monthly returns by officers and improving the quality of the data collected (for preparation of timely and accurate DPP performance reports).

### **Terms of reference for the Regional Officers**

Peruse files received at Headquarters from their regions

Supervise Resident State Attorneys and Prosecutors in their regions

Monitor and enforce work ethic and integrity

Inspect stations in their regions from time to time and provide guidance to staff

Ensure smooth working relationships with other stakeholders

**NB: The appointments took immediate effect. Regional officers will in the meantime operate from the Headquarters pending the establishment of structures on the ground.**

## DIRECTORATE OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS



### PRESS RELEASE

12.3.2014

#### **DPP ON WORKING VISIT OF DPP STATIONS IN NORTHERN UGANDA**

The Director of Public Prosecutions will next week, **17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> March 2014** be on an official working visit to the DPP Regional offices of Gulu (includes Lira) and Arua and all other stations falling under these three High Court Circuits.

He will be accompanied by the Asst. DPP (International Affairs & Field Operations) Mr. Charles Elem Ogwal and the two Regional officers in charge of the Gulu and Arua regional offices, (Odiit Andrew and Sam Oola respectively).

The visit is intended to familiarize the DPP who assumed office in October 2013 with the stations upcountry, the staff and their working conditions, their achievements, strengths and challenges. The team will be meeting all State Attorneys and prosecutors from **Gulu, Amuru, Kitgum, Pader, Lira, Apac, Amolatar, Dokolo, Otuke, Arua, Moyo, Adjumani, Nebbi, Koboko, Paidha, Yumbe and Patongo.**

There are also scheduled meetings with other stakeholders / players in the administration of criminal justice, e.g. the Judiciary, Police, Prisons, District leaders, Lawyers and members of the public on matters pertaining to the handling of criminal cases in the region.

The information gathered from the visit will inform planning and management for improved performance and service delivery.