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PRESS RELEASE

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS RECEIVES ICT EQUIPMENT FROM UN WOMEN AND THE AUSTRIAN EMBASSY/AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY TO STRENGTHEN THE PROSECUTION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE CASES

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) has today received computers and printers from UN Women and the Austrian Embassy/Austrian Development Agency (ADA), to support the prosecution of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases. This support was provided under the *Justice4Her* Programme, an initiative aimed at strengthening access to justice for survivors of GBV through enhanced institutional capacity and coordination among justice actors.

In her remarks, UN Women Country Representative Dr. Paulina Chiwangu appreciated the ODPP's continued leadership in strengthening accountability for GBV offences through gender-responsive prosecution and access to justice for women and girls. She highlighted achievements under the partnership, noting that under the Justice for Her Project, 427 justice actors have been trained in gender-responsive prosecution, including 365 in 2026 alone. Between February and June 2026, 589 GBV cases were heard across nine courts, contributing to a reduction in the case backlog.

Dr. Chiwangu further highlighted that community outreach initiatives have reached more than 10,700 people with information on GBV prevention, rights, and access to legal services. Strengthened legal aid and psychosocial support have also improved outcomes for survivors. She also emphasized the importance of strengthening data systems, evidence generation, and results-based management to inform justice sector decision-making and resource allocation.

Speaking at the handover ceremony, H.E. Dr. Katja Kerschbaumer, Head of the Austrian Embassy/Development Cooperation in Uganda, emphasized that GBV remains a significant barrier to national development and social cohesion. She noted that investing in the protection and empowerment of women is both a human rights imperative and a strategic development priority.

Dr. Kerschbaumer underscored the central role of prosecutors in delivering justice, saying that professional, survivor-centered prosecution is essential for ensuring accountability and restoring public confidence in the justice system. She added that providing ICT equipment will enhance case management, improve evidence handling, and strengthen coordination among justice institutions, ultimately reducing delays in disposing of GBV cases.

She stated, “By equipping prosecutors with better tools, we are helping them work more efficiently and effectively so that justice can move faster and more reliably.”

The Assistant Director of Public Prosecutions and Head of Gender, Children and Sexual Offences, Ms. Samali Wakooli, presented a report on activities supported by UN Women, with support from the ADA, and their impact. She expressed appreciation for the continued financial and technical support, noting that it has enhanced prosecutors' skills and capacity, facilitated the development of key GBV knowledge tools, and supported the timely hearing and disposal of GBV cases, thereby improving survivors' access to justice.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr. Lino Anguzu, appreciated the partnership between ODPP and the Austrian Embassy/ADA and UN Women, which had resulted in all the achievements. He welcomed the ICT support and reaffirmed the ODPP's commitment to strengthening the prosecution of GBV cases through professional, efficient, and victim-sensitive approaches.

“Timely and effective prosecution is critical to protecting survivors from re-traumatisation and ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable,” he stated.

The handover reflects a shared commitment to strengthening Uganda's justice system and ensuring that survivors of gender-based violence receive the protection, dignity, and justice they deserve.

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