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**OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR,
LAND DIVISION
COURTS OF JUDICATURE
P.O. BOX 7085
KAMPALA – UGANDA**

IN ANY CORRESPONDENCE ON THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

THIS SUBJECT PLEASE QUOTE NO

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

6th December 2006

All Chief Magistrates

All Magistrates Grade I
In-charge stations

All Chairpersons
District Land Tribunals

PRACTICE DIRECTION NO. 1 OF 2006

Following the expiry of contracts of chairpersons and members of District Land Tribunals; Practice Direction No.1 of 2006 has been issued. A copy is herewith enclosed.

It is to address the vacuum in Land Justice until new chairpersons and members of tribunals are appointed or otherwise.

Secondly, Justice Law and Order Sector (J/LOS) is conducting a country-wide survey and study on Land Justice. One of the terms of reference is the viability of land tribunals in their present form.

The outcome of the study will be widely discussed by all stake-holders before a final position is taken. This is likely to go on up to March/April, 2007.

Thirdly, a write up has been made to the Honourable Minister of Justice/Attorney General about the status of land tribunals. A response from the Honourable Minister and possibly the cabinet, on the way forward is yet to be received.

It was in light of the above circumstances that the practice direction was issued to address the vacuum in Land Justice as an interim measure.

In the meantime, all pending judgments are to be written by chairpersons and members within a period of 15 days and handed over to the Chief Magistrate or Magistrate Grade. I for delivery.

The rest of the cases are to be handed over to Chief Magistrates and Magistrates Grade. I. Separate registers should be opened up for land cases in each Magistrates' station.

The chairpersons are to hand over all government property and equipment including motor vehicles to Chief Magistrates. The land tribunal staff will remain under the supervision of Magistrates' courts

Lawrence Gidudu

AG. CHIEF REGISTRAR

C.C. The Hon. The Deputy
Chief Justice

C.C. The Hon. The Principal
Judge

c. c. The Head, Land Division

c. c. The Secretary to the Judiciary

c.c. The Registrar, Land Division/Tribunals

c.c. The Registrar, Planning and Development

PRACTICE DIRECTION NO. 1 OF 2006

JURISDICTION OF MAGISTRATES' COURTS IN LAND MATTERS

In the exercise of the powers conferred upon the Chief Justice by Article 133 (1) (b) the Constitution of Uganda, this Practice Direction is hereby made in order to enable Magistrates' Courts to exercise jurisdiction over land matters until new Chairpersons and Members of District Land Tribunals are appointed or otherwise.

1. Following the expiry of contracts of Chairpersons and Members of the District Land Tribunals Magistrates' Courts presided over by Magistrates of the rank of Magistrate Grade I and above shall exercise jurisdiction over land matters in accordance with Section 95(7) of the Land Act which provides that in each district until a District Land Tribunal is established and commences to operate under the Act, Magistrates' Courts shall continue to have jurisdiction in Land matters as they had immediately before the commencement of the Act.
2. All the pending cases of District Land Tribunals shall be handed over by Chairpersons or Secretaries of the District Land Tribunals to Magistrates designated by the Chief Registrar of the Courts of Judicature, with appropriate hand over reports.
3. All staff of District Land tribunals shall remain in office and be supervised by Magistrates' Courts until directed otherwise by the Secretary to the Judiciary.
4. Magistrates' Courts shall apply the Land Tribunals (Procedure) Rules 2002 with necessary modifications.
5. This Practice Direction shall commence operation from 1st December 2006 and shall remain in force until otherwise revoked.

This Practice Direction is made this 1st day December of 2006.

BJ Odoki
CHIEF JUSTIC