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ATTORNEY GENERAL'S CHAMBERS
P.O. BOX 7183
Kampala, Uganda

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

31st July, 2025

The Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Education and Sport
KAMPALA

The Director
Law Development Centre
KAMPALA

The Executive Director
National Council for Higher Education
KAMPALA

The Permanent Secretary/ Secretary to the Judiciary
Judiciary of Uganda
KAMPALA

The Director of Public Prosecution
Office of the Director of Public Prosecution
KAMPALA

The Chairperson
Law Council
KAMPALA

The Secretary
Law Council
KAMPALA

The President
Uganda Law Society
KAMPALA



The Principal, School of Law
Makerere University
KAMPALA

The Dean, School of Law
Kampala International University
KAMPALA

The Dean, School of Law
Nkumba University
ENTEBBE

The Dean, School of Law
Uganda Christian University
MUKONO

The Dean, Faculty of Law
Uganda Pentecostal University
FORT PORTAL

The Dean, Faculty of Law
Islamic University in Uganda
MBALE

The Dean, Faculty of Law
Bishop Stuart University
MBARARA

The Dean, School of Law & Management Sciences
King Ceasor University
KAMPALA

The Dean, Faculty of Law
Cavendish University
KAMPALA

The Dean, Faculty of Law
Gulu University
GULU

The Dean, Faculty of Law
International University of East Africa
KAMPALA

The Dean, Faculty of Law
Uganda Martyrs University
NKOZI

The Dean, Faculty of Law
Kabale University
KABALE

The Dean, School of Law
Metropolitan International University
KAMPALA

The Head of Department of Law
Victoria University
KAMPALA

The Dean, School of Law
Uganda Technology and Management University (UTAMU)
KAMPALA

The Dean, Faculty of Law
Ndejje University
LUWERO

THE NATIONAL LEGAL EXAMINATIONS BILL, 2025

Reference is made to the above matter.

The Law Development Centre has, in the recent past, faced capacity constraints leaving thousands of qualified law graduates unable to enroll in the Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice. The current centralised model, where the Law Development Centre serves as both the trainer and examiner, creates inefficiencies, limits access to legal practice training and slows down the entry of competent lawyers into Uganda's justice system.

We submitted Cabinet Memorandum CT (2025) 71 for the principles of the drafting of the National Legal Examinations Centre Bill, 2025 on 18th June, 2025. Cabinet at its meeting held on Monday 18th June, 2025, vide Cabinet Extract Minute 182 (CT 2025), approved the principles for the drafting of the National Legal Examinations Centre Bill, 2025.

We instructed the First Parliamentary Counsel to draft the National Legal Examinations Centre Bill, 2025 in accordance with the principles approved by Cabinet to provide for-

- (a) the National Legal Examinations Centre;
- (b) the functions of the National Legal Examinations Centre;
- (c) the National Legal Examinations Council and its functions, powers and committees;
- (d) the Director and the staff of the National Legal Examinations Centre;
- (e) the funds of the National Examinations Centre;
- (f) the offences and penalties;
- (g) the repeal of the Law Development Centre Act, Cap. 251;
- (h) transition and saving; and
- (i) related matters.

In line with the requirement under the Adequacy Check list for Review of Cabinet Submissions to consult relevant stakeholders, we forward to you the National Legal Examinations Centre Bill, 2025 for your scrutiny and comments.

The purpose of this letter is to request you to study and scrutinise the National Legal Examinations Centre Bill, 2025 and submit your comments on the Bill, if any, by Friday 18th August, 2025.



Charles Ouma
DEPUTY SOLICITOR GENERAL

Copy: Hon. Attorney General
Hon. Deputy Attorney General
Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs.
Solicitor General

THE NATIONAL LEGAL EXAMINATIONS CENTRE BILL, 2025

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A BILL for an Act
ENTITLED
THE NATIONAL LEGAL EXAMINATIONS CENTRE ACT, 2025

An Act to provide for the National Legal Examinations Centre; the functions for the National Legal Examinations Centre; to provide for the National Legal Examinations Council and for its the functions, powers and committees; to provide for the Director and staff of the National Legal Examinations Centre; to provide for funds of the National Legal Examinations Centre; to provide for offences and penalties; to repeal the Law Development Centre Act, Cap. 251; to provide for transition and saving; and for related matters.

PART I- PRELIMINARY

1. Commencement

This Act shall come into force on a date appointed by the Attorney General by statutory instrument and different days may be appointed for the commencement of different provisions of this Act.

2. Object of Act

The object of this Act is to establish the National Legal Examinations Centre as an independent body responsible for assessing legal competence and standardising legal education in Uganda.

3. Interpretation

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

“accredited institution” means a public or private institution of higher education accredited by the National Council for Higher Education in consultation with the Law Council to offer legal education and training for the award of a Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice;

“accredited law school” means a university accredited by the National Council for Higher Education in consultation with the Law Council to offer legal education and training for the award of a Bachelor of Laws degree;

“Act” means the National Legal Examinations Centre Act;

“candidate” means a person registered to take an examination conducted by the Centre;

“Centre” means the National Legal Examinations Centre;

“Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Council;

“Council” means the National Legal Examinations Council;

“currency point” has the value assigned to it in Schedule 1 to this Act;

“Director” means the Director of the Centre appointed under section 17;

“examination centre” means a place registered by the Centre for the conduct of examinations under this Act;

“examination malpractice” means an act of wrongdoing carried out by a candidate, a group of candidates or any other person with the intention to cheat or gain an unfair advantage in an examination or to place a candidate at a disadvantage;

“examination material” means a question paper or any other material which is used in an examination;

“examination paper” means a question paper, examination instructions or braille instructions or in respect of an examination which has not been taken, the draft or copy of a question paper, examination instructions or braille instructions and includes the electronic form of a question paper, examination instructions or braille instructions or the draft or copy of a question paper, examination instructions or braille instructions;

“Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice programme” means a post graduate legal training programme conducted by an accredited institution, leading to the award of a Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice and designed to qualify a person for enrolment as an Advocate of the High Court of Uganda.

PART II- NATIONAL LEGAL EXAMINATIONS CENTRE

4. Establishment of Centre

- (1) There is established the National Legal Examinations Centre.

(2) The Centre shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession, have an official seal and may, for the discharge of its functions under this Act—

- (a) sue and be sued in its corporate name;
- (b) acquire, hold and dispose of any movable and immovable property; and
- (c) do, enjoy or suffer anything that may be done or suffered by a body corporate.

5. Seal and documents of Centre

- (1) The seal of the Centre shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Chairperson and the Director and shall be in the custody of the Director.
- (2) Every document purporting to be an instrument issued by the Centre which is sealed with the seal of the Centre authenticated in the manner provided under this section, shall be received and deemed to be such an instrument without further proof, unless the contrary is shown.

6. Functions of Centre

The functions of the Centre are —

- (a) to register candidates for pre-entry examinations for admission into the Bachelor of Laws degree programme conducted by an accredited law school;
- (b) to prepare, protect, conduct, supervise, mark and release results of pre-entry examinations for candidates registered in paragraph (a) for admission into an accredited law school for the Bachelor of Laws degree programme;
- (c) to award certificates to successful candidates of the pre-entry examinations conducted in paragraph (b);
- (d) to register candidates for pre-entry examinations for admission into the Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice programme conducted by an accredited institution;
- (e) to prepare, protect, conduct, supervise, mark and release results of pre-entry examinations for candidates registered in paragraph (d) for admission into an

accredited institution for the Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice programme;

- (f) to award certificates to successful candidates of the pre-entry examinations conducted in paragraph (e);
- (g) to issue a letter of verification where a certificate awarded in paragraphs (c) or (f) is lost or destroyed;
- (h) to register candidates for examinations for the Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice programme;
- (i) to prepare, protect, conduct, supervise, mark and release results of examinations for the Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice programme;
- (j) to award a Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice to candidates who successfully complete the Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice programme;
- (k) on request by any person, to determine the equivalence of a qualification awarded by another examining body with a corresponding qualification awarded by the Centre in consultation with that examining body;
- (l) to register any other place as an examination centre and keep a permanent record of information concerning that centre;
- (m) to undertake research on educational assessments and prepare and carry out other forms of legal educational assessments;
- (n) to publish research reports, past examinations papers or other similar documents;
- (o) to provide for the display of the register of students registered for examinations in a conspicuous place at the Centre and on the notice boards of the accredited law schools at which the candidates are registered, thirty days before the date of commencement of the examinations; and
- (p) to provide for reports of activities of the Centre.

PART III- NATIONAL LEGAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

7. National Legal Examinations Council

The governing body of the Centre is the Council which shall comprise of—

- (a) the Solicitor General or his or her representative;
- (b) a representative of public universities, who shall be the head of the department of law or faculty of law of a public university;
- (c) a representative of private universities, who shall be the head of the department of law or faculty of law of a private university;
- (d) a representative of tertiary institutions or other degree awarding institutions, who shall be the head of the department of law of a tertiary or other degree awarding institution;
- (e) a representative of the Uganda Law Society elected by the Uganda Law Society;
- (f) a representative of the Judiciary;
- (g) a representative of the National Council for Higher Education;
- (h) the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for education, or his or her representative;
- (i) a representative of the Law Council;
- (j) two persons appointed by the Attorney General who shall be persons qualified and having experience in the practice or administration of law; and
- (k) the Director who shall be the Secretary to the Council and shall not have the right to vote in any matter coming before the Council for decision.

8. Chairperson of Council

- (1) The Attorney General may, in writing, appoint any member of the Council other than the Director to be the Chairperson of the Council.
- (2) The Chairperson shall hold and vacate office in accordance with the terms and conditions of his or her appointment.

9. Functions of Council

- (1) The Council is responsible for the general direction and supervision of the Centre.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Council shall—

- (a) oversee the operations of the Centre;
- (b) review and approve business and operating plans, budgets, reports and audited financial statements of the Centre;
- (c) provide guidance to the Director and staff of the Centre;
- (d) formulate and review the policies of the Centre;
- (e) monitor and evaluate the performance and management of the Centre;
- (f) supervise the management of the property and business of the Centre; and
- (g) perform any other function conferred by this Act or which may be necessary for the proper implementation of this Act.

10. Powers of Council

- (1) In the performance of its functions, the Council shall have powers to do all things and to act in all ways necessary for, or incidental to the purpose for which the Centre is established.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Council shall have powers to—
 - (a) demand for any information, document or record in respect of an examination where an examination malpractice is alleged, reported or proven against an accredited law school, accredited institution, registered examination centre or person;
 - (b) conduct investigations as it may consider necessary and may, during the investigations withdraw or withhold the examination results of a candidate until the investigations are concluded;
 - (c) call for any information or the production of any documents or record the Council may require, within such period, in such place and from such person as the Council may determine, to assist in the investigations;
 - (d) demand for any information, document or record in respect of an examination centre from the person in charge;
 - (e) cancel—

- (i) an examination paper where it is proved that examination malpractice of a wide or national magnitude has occurred, with respect to that examination paper; or
- (ii) an examination or any part of an examination where it is satisfied that there has been an irregularity in the course of preparation, conduct or supervision of that examination;
- (f) institute or commission an inquiry or investigation into a case of alleged examination malpractice;
- (g) conduct a hearing in a case of an alleged examination malpractice;
- (h) summon any person the Council considers fit to assist as a witness in any inquiry or investigation into a case of alleged examination malpractice and where necessary, examine the witness;
- (i) suspend the registration of an examination centre from conducting examinations for a period determined by the Council where—
 - (i) the management of the examination centre acts contrary to the provisions of this Act or in a manner prejudicial to the conduct of examinations either before, during or after an examination; or
 - (ii) the facilities required for the conduct of examinations cease to satisfy the requirements prescribed by the Centre;
- (j) cancel the registration of an examination centre which is proved to have engaged in examination malpractice;
- (k) delay, withhold or cancel examination results for a reasonable cause;
- (l) recall the results of a candidate that are released in error;
- (m) appoint examiners, supervisors, invigilators, scouts, monitors and special needs education support personnel to assist in the conduct and supervision of examinations;
- (n) charge examination registration fees with the approval of the Attorney General and the Minister responsible for finance;
- (o) charge fees for the publications and services offered by the Centre on a commercial basis;

- (p) request the Uganda Communications Commission to control the use of any type of electronic communication for a specified duration, where it is suspected or proved that a malpractice is being committed using electronic communication;
- (q) cancel a certificate or diploma awarded to a candidate where it is proved—
 - (i) that the certificate or diploma was acquired fraudulently;
 - (ii) that the certificate or diploma was awarded in error; or
 - (iii) after the certificate or diploma is awarded, that the person to whom it is awarded committed an act of examination malpractice.
- (r) cancel the results of a candidate where the candidate—
 - (i) copies from the script or work of another candidate;
 - (ii) allows another candidate to copy from his or her script or work;
 - (iii) communicates with another candidate or another person with the intent to assist the candidate to answer an examination question;
 - (iv) without lawful authority, is found in possession of a textbook, electronic device or any other source from which he or she may obtain information or material while in a place designated as an examination room or area;
 - (v) without lawful authority copies obtains information from notes, a textbook, an electronic device or any other source;
 - (vi) without lawful authority, receives external assistance during an examination; or
 - (vii) is proven to have had prior knowledge of the contents of the examination paper;
- (s) cancel the registration of a candidate—
 - (i) where the Council is satisfied that the candidate who is registered to sit for an examination has colluded with another person to register for the same examination with the intention of having the latter person write the examination on his or her behalf; or
 - (ii) where a person registers as a candidate for examinations using forged results; and

(t) invite any person, as may be necessary, to jointly conduct with the Council, examinations and to award certificates or diplomas, as the case may be, to the successful candidates, jointly with the invited person.

11. Disqualification for membership of Council

A person shall not be appointed a member of the Council where the person —

- (a) is an undischarged bankrupt or has not made any assignment or arrangement with of his or her creditors;
- (b) is not resident in Uganda;
- (c) has been convicted of an offence under this Act or an offence involving dishonesty or fraud by a competent court in Uganda or outside Uganda; or
- (d) has been convicted of an offence and sentenced to imprisonment for a term of six months or more by a competent court in Uganda or outside Uganda without the option of a fine.

12. Tenure of Council members

A member of the Council shall hold office for a period of four years and is eligible for reappointment for one term only.

13. Vacancy in Council

Where a vacancy occurs on the Council by death, resignation or otherwise, the authority concerned shall appoint, nominate or elect another person in the place of that member to hold office until the expiry of the term of office of the member in whose place he or she was appointed, nominated or elected.

14. Removal from Council

- (1) The Attorney General may, at any time where he or she is satisfied, remove a member from the Council—
 - (a) where information which could have precluded his or her appointment, is brought to the attention of the Attorney General after his or her appointment;
 - (b) for incompetence;
 - (c) for bankruptcy or insolvency where the person has not made an arrangement with his or her creditors;

- (d) where the member is incapacitated by physical or mental illness;
- (e) for misbehaviour or misconduct;
- (f) for failure to disclose, at a Council meeting, a matter in which he or she has interest;
- (g) for inability to perform the functions of his or her office arising from infirmity of body or mind following the confirmation of a medical officer;
- (h) has been convicted of an offence under this Act or an offence involving dishonesty or fraud by a competent court in Uganda or outside Uganda;
- (i) has been convicted of an offence and sentenced to imprisonment for a term of six months or more by a competent court in Uganda or outside Uganda without the option of a fine;
- (j) for absence for more than four consecutive scheduled meetings of the Council, without reasonable excuse; or
- (k) for absence from Uganda for more than six months.

(2) Where it appears to the Attorney General that there is cause to remove from office a member of the Council under subsection (1), the Attorney General shall notify the member concerned, in writing and shall give the member an opportunity to submit his or her written explanation why he or she should not be removed from office.

15. Meetings of Council

The meetings of the Council shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure specified in Schedule 2 to this Act.

16. Committees of Council

- (1) The Council shall have the following committees—
 - (a) the Examinations Committee;
 - (b) the Finance and General Purposes Committee;
 - (c) the Human Resources Committee;
 - (d) the Disciplinary Committee; and

(e) the Examinations Security Committee.

(2) The Council may, on the advice of the Director, appoint other committees as it may consider necessary.

(3) Subject to any directions from the Council, a committee appointed under this section may adopt its own rules of procedure for its meetings.

PART IV- STAFF OF CENTRE

17. Director of Centre

(1) There shall be a Director of the Centre appointed by the Attorney General on recommendation of the Council on terms and conditions specified in the instrument of appointment.

(2) The Director shall be a person of high moral character and proven integrity, with the relevant qualifications, skills and experience related to the functions of the Centre.

18. Tenure of office of Director

(1) The Director shall be appointed for a period of five years and is eligible for reappointment for one more term.

(2) The Director may be removed from office—

(a) where information relating to the conduct of the Director which could have precluded his or her appointment, is brought to the attention of the Attorney General;

(b) for incompetence, neglect of duty or misconduct;

(c) for inability to perform the functions of his or her office arising from infirmity of body or mind following confirmation of the infirmity by a medical officer;

(d) where he or she has been convicted by a competent court of a crime involving dishonesty or moral turpitude; or

(e) where he or she is an undischarged bankrupt or has not made any assignment or arrangement with of his or her creditors.

19. Functions of Director

The Director shall be accountable to Council and shall—

- (a) be the chief executive and accounting officer of the Centre;
- (b) be responsible for the day to day administration and operations of the Centre; and
- (c) report to the Council on the performance of the Centre.

20. Other staff of Centre

- (1) The Council may appoint other staff of the Centre as it considers necessary for the efficient discharge of the functions of the Centre.
- (2) The Council may employ a professional person to advise the Centre on a matter in connection with the functions of the Centre.

21. Remuneration, allowances and gratuities of staff

- (1) The Council may pay to the staff of the Centre such remuneration and allowances as may be permitted by the Rules made under section 47.
- (2) The Council may grant gratuities to the staff of the Centre.

PART V- FUNDS OF CENTRE

22. Funds of Centre

The funds of the Centre shall consist of—

- (a) money appropriated by Parliament;
- (b) examination registration fees paid by the candidates;
- (c) loans, donations or grants received by the Centre, with the approval of the Minister responsible for finance; and
- (d) any other monies that may become payable to the Centre in the discharge of its functions under this Act.

23. Power to open and operate bank accounts

- (1) The Centre shall, with the approval of the Accountant General, open and maintain such bank accounts as are necessary for the performance of the functions of the Centre.
- (2) The Director shall ensure that all monies received by or on behalf of the Centre are banked as soon as practicable in the bank accounts of the Centre.
- (3) The Director shall ensure that no monies are withdrawn from or are paid out of any of the bank accounts of the Centre without his or her authorisation.
- (4) The Director shall, on a quarterly basis, notify the Council on the status of the bank accounts of the Centre and advise on their operation or closure.

24. Power to borrow

Subject to the Constitution and the Public Finance Management Act, the Centre may borrow money from any source as may be required for meeting its obligations or for the discharge of its functions under this Act.

25. Estimates

- (1) The Director shall, not later than four months before the end of each financial year, prepare and submit to the Council for its approval, estimates of income and expenditure of the Centre for the next financial year.
- (2) The Centre shall upon approval referred to under subsection (1) prepare and submit to the Attorney General, a budget containing the estimates of the income and expenditure of the Centre for the next financial year in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act.

26. Audit

The Auditor General or an auditor appointed by the Auditor General shall, in each financial year, audit the accounts of the Centre in accordance with the National Audit Act.

27. Report of activities of Centre

- (1) The Council shall, not later than three months following the end of each financial year, submit a report to the Attorney General on the activities of the Centre.
- (2) The Council may submit to the Attorney General such other reports within such time as the Attorney General may require.

28. Compliance with Public Finance Management Act

The Centre shall, at all times, comply with the Public Finance Management Act.

PART VI- OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

29. Transmission of examination paper or examination material

A person who transmits an examination paper or examination material physically or electronically commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one thousand currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or both.

30. Unauthorised possession of examination paper, material or information

- (1) A person who before or during an examination, has in his or her possession or under his or her control or attempts to gain possession of –
 - (a) an examination paper or part of an examination paper; or
 - (b) examination material or other material or information, which purports to relate to the contents of an examination paper or material or information for that examination,

commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one thousand currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or both.

- (2) A person who assists or causes any candidate to obtain or gain unauthorised possession of an examination paper, examination material, any other material or information or part of the examination paper, material or information,

commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding two thousand currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years, or both.

(3) Where the person convicted under subsection (2) is an examiner, supervisor, invigilator, scout, monitor or special needs education support personnel, he or she shall, in addition to any penalty imposed on him or her under subsection (2), be disciplined in accordance with the applicable laws regulating his or her profession, where applicable.

31. Examination malpractice

A person who—

- (a) without lawful authority, before or during an examination, gives an examination paper, information or examination material or other material or equipment to a candidate or to another person;
- (b) without justification and with intent to fail or pass a candidate, alters the work, data, information, score or marks of a candidate;
- (c) without lawful authority, makes a change in the original answer script of a candidate;
- (d) substitutes the original answer script of a candidate;
- (e) alters the examination number, photograph or other identification of a candidate;
- (f) without lawful authority, alters the records of the Centre with regard to an examination or examination results of a particular candidate; or
- (g) while engaged as an examiner, supervisor, invigilator, scout, monitor or special needs education support personnel negligently allows or fails to stop unauthorised assistance from being given to a candidate,

commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one thousand currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or both.

32. Loss or misuse of examination paper, material or information

A person who, having in his or her possession or under his or her control any examination paper, examination material, other material or information relating to an examination—

- (a) wilfully or negligently loses the examination paper, examination material, any other material or information; or
- (b) uses the examination paper, examination material, any other material or information in a manner which is prejudicial to the proper and fair conduct of an examination,

commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one thousand currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or both.

33. Damage or destruction of examination paper, equipment, examination material, any other material, information or evidence

A person who willfully or maliciously damages an examination paper, equipment, examination material, any other material, information or evidence that may lead to conviction under this Act, commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one thousand currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or both.

34. Impersonation

A person who—

- (a) registers for an examination using a false name or identity or sells, buys, borrows, lends or steals a certificate or diploma issued by the Centre with intent to impersonate; or
- (b) is not registered to sit for an examination but who with intent to impersonate, presents or attempts to present himself or herself or another person, as a person registered as a candidate,

commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one thousand currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or both.

35. Possession of offensive materials and disturbances during examinations

(1) A person who is at, in or near a place designated as an examination room or examination area, with the intent to disrupt the conduct of an examination or to harm, intimidate, assault or obstruct a candidate or any person involved in the conduct or supervision of the examination—

- (a) has in their possession offensive material; or
- (b) acts or incites any person to act in a disorderly manner, commits an offence, and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one thousand currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or both.

(2) Where the person convicted under this section is a candidate, the Council shall, in addition to the penalty prescribed in subsection (1), nullify the registration or cancel the results of the candidate.

36. Trespass

A person who trespasses in a place designated as an examination room, examination area or a marking centre, during the course of an examination or during the course of marking examinations, respectively, commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding five hundred currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or both.

37. Misappropriation of examination registration fees

(1) A person who is authorised to collect examination registration fees from candidates to be registered for an examination, who fails, or neglects to remit to the Centre the examination registration fees collected, commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding two thousand currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years, or both.

(2) A person who purports to be authorised by the Centre to collect examination registration fees from candidates commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding two thousand currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years, or both.

(3) In addition to the penalty in subsection (1) and (2), the trial Court may order the convicted person to pay back the money collected from the concerned candidates or the sponsors of the candidates and compensate them accordingly as the case may be.

38. Charging fees not prescribed by Centre

(1) A person who is authorised to collect examination registration fees from students to be registered for examinations, who charges fees not prescribed by the Centre, commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding two thousand currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years, or both.

(2) A person who, without authorisation by the Centre to collect examination registration fees from candidates to be registered for examinations, charges fees not prescribed by the Centre, commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding two thousand currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years, or both.

(3) In addition to the penalty in subsection (1) and (2), the trial Court may order the convicted person to pay back the money collected from the concerned candidates or the sponsors of the candidates and compensate them accordingly as the case may be.

39. Non-disclosure of interest in examination

(1) A person who is engaged in the conduct of an examination or in performing work connected with an examination shall, as soon as practicable before the commencement of his or her duties in respect of the examination, disclose to the Council, any interest he or she has in the examination.

(2) A person who discloses an interest under subsection (1) shall continue to be engaged in the duties referred to in subsection (1) unless the Council otherwise directs.

(3) A person who contravenes this section shall be subject to such action as the Council may prescribe.

40. Disclosure of information of Centre

- (1) A staff of the Centre or a person engaged in the business of the Centre shall not disclose the information of the Centre except where the disclosure is in the course of his or her duties and is with the written consent of the Chairperson.
- (2) A person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one thousand currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years, or both.

41. Aiding, abetting, inducing or inciting to commit an offence

A person who aids, abets, induces or incites another person to do an act in a manner that facilitates the commission of an offence under this Act, commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one thousand currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years, or both.

42. Request for information

- (1) The Council may, at any time in writing, request any person or body who in the opinion of the Council is in possession of information relevant to the Council in the execution of its duties, to furnish the Council with information or to produce documents or records as the Council considers necessary and relevant for purposes of this Act.
- (2) A person who, without reasonable cause—
 - (a) withholds information, a document or record considered necessary and relevant, prejudicial or likely to be prejudicial to the proper functioning of the Centre; or
 - (b) in furnishing information to the Council, makes a statement which he or she knows to be false,commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding five hundred currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or both.

PART VII- MISCELLANEOUS

43. Right to appeal

- (1) A person who is aggrieved by an act or decision of the Centre under this Act may appeal to the Council within fifteen days from the date of the act or decision of the Centre.
- (2) A person who is aggrieved with the decision of the Council under subsection (1) may appeal to the High Court within thirty days of receipt of the decision of the Council.

44. Protection from personal liability

A member of staff of the Centre or a person authorised by the Centre shall not be held personally liable for an act or omission done in good faith in the execution of the functions or powers of the Centre.

45. Centre to keep information confidential

The Centre shall keep information acquired under this Act confidential and shall only disclose the information to the extent that the Centre considers necessary for purposes of this Act.

46. Oath of secrecy

- (1) The Centre shall require a person who is engaged in the preparation, conduct and supervision of an examination or the handling of an examination paper or examination material, to take an oath of secrecy, as may be prescribed by the Centre.
- (2) A person who takes the oath of secrecy prescribed in accordance with subsection (1) but does or omits to do, an act in contravention of the oath of secrecy, commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding five hundred currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or both.

47. Rules

- (1) The Council may, in consultation with the Attorney General, make Rules regulating the conduct of business of the Centre.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Rules shall regulate—
 - (a) the preparation, conduct, supervision and marking of examinations;
 - (b) the release of results of examinations;
 - (c) the appointment, discipline and dismissal of the staff of the Centre;
 - (d) the payment of remuneration, allowances and gratuities of staff;
 - (e) the requirements and standards for registration of examination centres;
 - (f) the qualifications of candidates for the pre-entry examination for the Bachelor of Laws degree programme; and
 - (g) the conduct of candidates during examinations.

48. Regulations

- (1) The Attorney General may, in consultation with the Council, make regulations generally for the better carrying into effect the provisions of this Act.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1), the Attorney General may make regulations for—
 - (a) fees for the services of the Centre; and
 - (b) prescribing anything to be prescribed under this Act.

49. Amendment of Schedules

- (1) The Attorney General may, with approval of Cabinet, by statutory instrument, amend Schedule 1 to this Act.
- (2) The Attorney General may, in consultation with the Council, by statutory instrument, amend Schedule 2 to this Act.

PART VIII- TRANSITION AND SAVINGS

50. Repeal of Cap. 251

At the commencement of this Act, the Law Development Centre Act shall stand repealed.

51. Vesting of assets and liabilities

At the commencement of this Act—

- (a) all property and assets vested in the Law Development Centre before the commencement of this Act shall be vested in the Centre, subject to all interests, liabilities, obligations and trusts affecting the property;
- (b) all records including student records of Law Development Centre shall be vested in the Centre and the Centre shall have power to authenticate, certify, issue, verify or deal with any record vested in it by this Act;
- (c) any money held by or on account of the Law Development Centre shall vest in the Centre;
- (d) all contracts, agreements and undertakings made by the Law Development Centre and all securities lawfully given to the Law Development Centre and in force immediately before the commencement of this Act shall effect as contracts, agreements and undertakings by the Centre accordingly; and
- (e) any proceedings commenced by or against the Law Development Centre may be continued by or against the Centre.

52. Continuation of employment of employees of Law Development Centre

- (1) The Centre may, on the effective day of its operations, accept into its employment a person who was, immediately before that date, an employee of the Law Development Centre and whose contract had not yet expired, and who has been given an opportunity to serve by the Centre and has opted to serve as an employee of the Centre.
- (2) The terms and conditions, including the salary, to which a person referred to in subsection (1) was employed immediately before the commencement of this

Act, shall be no less favourable than those that apply to that person's office immediately before the commencement of this Act.

(3) A person employed by the Law Development Centre whose contract expires before the date of commencement of this Act, or who is not offered or does not accept an offer of employment by the Centre, shall be paid all terminal benefits, gratuities, payments and entitlements due to that person in accordance with the terms and conditions of service applicable to that person.

53. Transition of students of Law Development Centre

(1) A person who, immediately before the commencement of this Act, was registered as a student of the Law Development Centre and has not more than two pending supplementary examinations, shall within two years of the commencement of this Act, sit the supplementary examination set by the Centre.

(2) A person who, immediately before the commencement of this Act, was registered as a student of the Law Development Centre and has failed three or more examinations shall enroll to study the Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice programme at an accredited institution.

(3) A person who fails a supplementary examination in subsection (1) shall apply to study the Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice programme at an accredited institution.

SCHEDULES

Schedule 1

Sections 3, 49(1)

Currency Point

A currency point is equivalent to twenty thousand shillings.

Schedule 2

Sections 15, 49(2)

Meetings of Council

1. Meetings of Council

- (1) The Chairperson shall convene a meeting of the Council at a time and place as the Council may determine, and the Council shall meet for the discharge of business at least once in every three months.
- (2) The Chairperson may, at any time, convene a special meeting of the Council and shall also call a meeting within fourteen days, if requested to do so in writing by at least five members of the Council.
- (3) Notice of a Council meeting shall be given in writing to each member at least fourteen working days before the day of the meeting and in case of a special meeting not less than fortyeight hours before the meeting shall be given, but the accidental omission to serve notice on any member of the Council shall not affect the validity of any meeting.
- (4) The Chairperson shall preside at every meeting of the Council and in the absence of the Chairperson, the members present shall appoint a member from among themselves to preside at the meeting.

2. Quorum

- (1) The quorum for a meeting of the Council is six members including the Chairperson.
- (2) All decisions at a meeting of the Council shall be by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting and in the case of an equality of votes, the person presiding at the meeting shall have a casting vote in addition to his or her deliberative vote.

3. Minutes of meetings

- (1) The Secretary to the Council shall cause to be recorded and kept, minutes of all meetings of the Council in a form approved by the Council.
- (2) The minutes recorded under this paragraph shall be submitted to the Council for confirmation at its next meeting following the meeting to which the minutes relate and when confirmed, the minutes shall be signed by the Chairperson, in the presence of the members present at the latter meeting.

4. Power to co-opt

- (1) The Council may invite any person who, in the opinion of the Council, has expert knowledge concerning the functions of the Council, to attend and take part in the proceedings of the Council.
- (2) A person attending a meeting of the Council under subparagraph (1) may take part in any discussion at the meeting on which his or her advice is required but shall not have any right to vote.

5. Validity of proceedings not affected by vacancy

The validity of any proceedings of the Council shall not be affected by a vacancy in its membership or by any defect in the appointment or qualification of a member or by reason that a person not entitled, took part in its proceedings.

6. Disclosure of interest of member

- (1) A member of the Council who is in any way directly or indirectly interested in a contract made or proposed to be made by the Council, or in any other matter which falls to be considered by the Council, shall disclose the nature of his or her interest at a meeting of the Council.
- (2) A disclosure made under subparagraph (1) shall be recorded in the minutes of that meeting.
- (3) A member who makes a disclosure under subparagraph (1) shall not—
 - (a) be present during any deliberation of the Council with respect to that matter; or
 - (b) take part in any decision of the Council with respect to that matter.

(4) For purposes of determining whether there is a quorum, a member withdrawing from a meeting or who is not taking part in a meeting under subparagraph (3) shall be treated as being present.

7. Council may regulate its procedure

Subject to this Act, the Council may regulate its own procedure or any other matter relating to its meetings.

Cross References

Advocates Act, Cap. 295

Constitution of Uganda

Law Development Centre, Cap. 251

National Audit Act, Cap. 170

Public Finance Management Act, Cap. 171

Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act, Cap. 262