



PRE-ENACTMENT ADVOCACY ON THE COMPETITION BILL

CONCEPT PAPER

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1.0 Introduction

The Uganda Law Reform Commission with support from the Government of Uganda (GoU) is undertaking a pre-enactment advocacy program on the Competition Bill. The purpose of this advocacy program is to enhance the understanding of the Committee on Trade, Tourism, and Industry, and other duty bearers about the Competition Bill to ease the work of Parliament for quick enactment of the bill into law. The advocacy is also intended to ultimately, increase awareness of Competition law.

2.0 Background and Context

The Uganda Law Commission Act¹ gives the Commission the power to encourage and promote public participation in the process of law-making and educate and sensitize the public on the law-making process through seminars, publications, and mass media. Advocacy is therefore a key activity of the Commission. In this particular case, pre-enactment advocacy on the Competition Bill for quick enactment into law.

The purpose of a Competition law is to provide for the following-

- a) prohibits agreements or practices that restrict free trade and competition between businesses;
- b) bans anti-competitive agreements between firms such as agreements to fix prices or to carve up markets;
- c) makes it illegal for businesses to abuse a dominant market position; and
- d) prohibits discrimination between customers, for example charging different prices or imposing different terms where there is no difference in the circumstances of supply.

¹ Section 11(f) of the Uganda Law Reform Commission Act, Cap. 25

3.0 Justification for Pre-enactment advocacy on the Competition Bill

The justification for the pre-enactment advocacy on the Competition Bill is to create awareness with a view to enhancing the understanding of the Committee on Trade, Tourism, and Industry, and other duty bearers about the Competition Bill, to justify the need for the Competition law legislation, and advocate for the quick tabling of the bill before parliament.

4.0 Objectives of the pre-enactment advocacy

The overall objective of the pre-enactment advocacy program is to create awareness and sensitise members of Parliament about the importance of the Competition law.

The specific objectives of the pre-enactment advocacy are *interalia* intended to:

- a) to enlighten members of Parliament about the Competition Bill;
- b) to provide information to members of Parliament on the purpose of the bill and the mischief the law is intended to solve;
- c) to enable the Committee on Trade, Tourism, and Industry to note all concerns with the bill and make comments to facilitate effective implementation when the bill is enacted into law; and
- d) to increase awareness of the bill, especially among members of parliament for quick enactment.

5.0 Methodology

The project on pre-enactment advocacy and sensitization on the Competition Bill shall be conducted through the following activities: -

- a) preparation of concept notes, work plan, and budget.
- b) preparation and publication of advocacy materials and updating the bill;
- c) peer review meeting to consider advocacy materials;
- d) a five-day workshop with members of the parliamentary Committee on Trade, Tourism, and Industry; and
- e) Advocacy report writing.

5.1 Preparation of advocacy materials

The Commission shall prepare advocacy materials for the workshop in the form of an updated Competition Bill by simplifying the bill's clauses for easy understanding by the Committee of Parliament on Trade, Tourism, and Industry.

5.2 Workshop with Committee of Parliament on Trade, Tourism, and Industry

The Commission will hold a five-day advocacy workshop with members of parliament. The workshop will enable the members of the Committee on Trade, Tourism, and Industry to understand all the proposed clauses of the bill. The objectives of the five-day workshop are, among others, to create awareness of the Competition Bill and to eventually enable quick enactment of the bill into law.

6.0 Targeted groups for the advocacy program

The project on advocacy for Competition Bill is intended to target the following stakeholders-

- a) First Parliamentary Council of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs;
- b) The Committee of Parliament on Trade, Tourism, and Industry;
- c) Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Cooperatives; and
- d) The Uganda Law Reform Commission.

Each of the selected participants or target groups for the advocacy is justified based on the intended purpose of this process, which is to train, educate or sensitize and create awareness of the Competition Bill in Uganda.

Inputs for the project

- a) Internet bundle.
- b) Airtime.
- c) The Competition Bill.
- d) Stationary.
- e) Allowances.

- f) Venue.
- g) Vehicles,
- h) Fuel.
- i) Drivers.

Expected out puts

1) Advocacy materials prepared.
2) Peer review meeting held.
3) Updated Competition Bill.
4) Meetings held with the task force held.
5) Workshops held with members of Parliament.
6) Final advocacy report finalised and submitted.

7.0 Conclusion

The pre-enactment advocacy program will enable the sensitization and creation of awareness of the Competition Bill by the Committee on Trade, Tourism, and Industry which will result in quick enactment of the bill. The pre-enactment advocacy program will further increase knowledge and easy understanding of the Competition Bill.