



L-R: Board Member, Mr. George Kagimu, Zambia Chief Justice, Dr. Mumba Malila, Uganda Chief Justice, Dr. Flavian Zeija, Former Chief Justice Alphonse Owinyi - Dollo, Registrar General, Ms. Mercy K. Kainobwiso and other members of URSB senior management in the Boardroom on Level 5.

Two Chief Justices, One Vision: URSB's Growing Voice in Africa's ADR Landscape

When the Chief Justice of Uganda, Justice Dr. Flavian Zeija, and the Chief Justice of Zambia, Justice Dr. Mumba Malila, walked into URSB's Kololo headquarters on a courtesy visit, they came to see, first-hand, how a registration institution had quietly built itself into one of Uganda's busiest dispute resolution hubs. They weren't just paying a social call.

The visit came on the heels of URSB's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) training for senior management and legal staff, but its significance stretched well beyond a single workshop.

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REGISTRAR GENERAL'S FOREWORD

Driving Transformation through Registration

The Financial Year 2025/2026 has been a defining chapter in the operations of the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB). Throughout the year, we strengthened our role as a strategic enabler of Uganda's socio-economic transformation by advancing reforms that promote business formalisation, innovation, transparency and institutional excellence. Our achievements are a testament to our collective commitment to delivering greater public value and building a stronger registration ecosystem that positions Uganda as the best destination for doing business.

Digital first services

Operating in a fully government-supported economic and regulatory environment, URSB remained focused on delivering efficient, accessible and citizen-centred services. Motivated by the understanding that effective registration systems are fundamental to investment, innovation and private sector growth, we continued to modernise our services while strengthening public confidence in Uganda's regulatory framework.



Growth in NTR

URSB registered notable achievements across its core mandates. We realised UGX 80.6 billion in Non-Tax Revenue (NTR), representing a 12.2 percent increase over the previous financial year. This performance was complemented by growth in business registrations, intellectual property filings, copyright registrations and Security Interests in Movable Property, reflecting increasing uptake of our services and continued expansion of the formal economy.

Unveiling the Non-Individual Register



A major milestone was the establishment and rollout of the Non-Individual Register (NIR), a transformative reform that creates a centralised repository for all non-individual entities operating in Uganda. Supported by extensive stakeholder consultations, this initiative strengthens transparency, improves governance, enhances regulatory coordination and contributes to domestic revenue mobilisation while modernising public administration, a priority for the government.

Promoting Entrepreneurial Sustainability

We expanded access to our services through seventy-two business registration clinics conducted across the country through the ground-breaking mass business initiative tagged 'Kiri Easy', formalising thousands of enterprises and supporting inclusive national economic growth. Meanwhile, the Business Rescue and Aftercare Programme (BRAP) continued to build enterprise resilience by equipping entrepreneurs with practical knowledge to sustain and grow their businesses. With trainings held across all major regions, the program has set ground for improved business sustainability, especially for the myriad of Uganda's Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Enhancing Creativity

Innovation remained central to our agenda. Through expanded intellectual property awareness programmes, the establishment of additional Technology and Innovation Support Centres, more so in secondary schools, strengthened international partnerships and increased engagement with research institutions, URSB reinforced intellectual property as a catalyst for industrialisation, creativity and national competitiveness.

Internally, we strengthened governance systems, enhanced quality management and accelerated digital transformation to improve operational efficiency and customer experience, across all our services.

Our Priorities going forward

As we begin the Financial Year 2026/2027, our priorities remain clear; fully operationalising the Non-Individual Register, deepening business formalisation, accelerating automation across all registries, strengthening public awareness and compliance, promoting innovation through enhanced intellectual property services and reinforcing business resilience. These priorities are aligned with Uganda's National Development Agenda and our aspiration to become a globally respected registration authority.

Our achievements are the result of collective effort. With so much gratitude, I thank the Board of Directors for their strategic leadership, the Honourable Minister and the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs for their continued guidance, our development partners and stakeholders for their collaboration, and the dedicated staff of URSB whose professionalism continues to drive our success.

As you read this edition, I invite you to celebrate the progress we have made and the opportunities ahead. Together, we will continue driving transformation through registration, fostering innovation and contributing to Uganda's sustainable socio-economic development.

Mercy K Kainobuwisho
Registrar General

EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Reader,

The fourth quarter of 2025/2026 has been nothing short of eventful, and this edition of The Registry captures the energy, effort, and commitment that defined it.

We open with a spotlight on one of the quarter's landmark moments: URSB's participation in the ADR Conference, which brought together key voices in alternative dispute resolution to explore how institutions like ours can better support accessible justice. The conversations were timely, and we are proud of the role URSB continues to play in shaping this space.

This quarter also saw us step beyond our institutional walls in a meaningful way. Our Corporate Social Responsibility visit to the Masaka School for the Deaf reiterated that the work we do is most powerful when it touches lives directly. It was a humbling and energising experience for the URSB family.

On the global stage, we marked World Intellectual Property Day under the theme IP and Sports, a fitting lens through which to examine how creativity, competition, and commerce intersect. Uganda's creative and sporting sectors are growing, and intellectual property remains at the centre of protecting and sustaining that growth.

Closer to the grassroots, our teams fanned out across the country for both the BRAP Regional Workshops and the



Non-Individual Register stakeholder engagement workshops. These sessions are a reminder that registration services are only as effective as the communities that understand and use them. Meeting people where they are, whether in Gulu, Mbarara, or Mbale, is not just outreach; it is the work.

As we close out this financial year and look ahead, this issue is evidence of a quarter well spent. To every URSB staff member who showed up, travelled, facilitated, and represented this institution, and to the stakeholders who partnered with us, interacted and shared feedback: this newsletter is yours.

Enjoy the read.

Denis Nabende
**Principal Communications
Officer**

Core values



TWO CHIEF JUSTICES, ONE VISION: URSB'S GROWING VOICE IN AFRICA'S ADR LANDSCAPE



Registrar General, Ms. Mercy K. Kainobwisho presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Chief Justice of Zambia, Dr Mumba Malila, while Chief Justice of Uganda, Dr Flavian Zeija and Board Member Mr, George Kagimu look on

When the Chief Justice of Uganda, Justice Dr. Flavian Zeija, and the Chief Justice of Zambia, Justice Dr. Mumba Malila, walked into URSB's Kololo headquarters on a courtesy visit, they came to see, first-hand, how a registration institution had quietly built itself into one of Uganda's busiest dispute resolution hubs. They weren't just paying a social call.

The visit came on the heels of URSB's Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) training for senior management and legal staff, but its significance stretched well beyond a single workshop. It placed URSB squarely within a continental conversation about how African institutions resolve disputes efficiently, affordably and without clogging the courts.

Justice Malila's trip to Kampala was no ordinary stop. He had just taken over leadership of the Africa Chief Justices'

Alternative Dispute Resolution Forum (ACJADRF) from Uganda's own Chief Justice Emeritus, Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny - Dollo, during a handover ceremony at the Supreme Court in Kampala. Choosing to visit URSB so soon after assuming that role sent a clear signal: the Bureau's quasi-judicial work is being watched, and admired, well beyond Uganda's borders.

Received by Mr. George Fred Kagimu on behalf of the Board Chairman, Rt. Hon. Amb. Francis K. Butagira, alongside Registrar General Ms. Mercy K. Kainobwisho and members of top management, the two Chief Justices got a candid look at how URSB's Registrars handle disputes daily, from company registration disagreements to intellectual property and insolvency matters.

Justice Malila didn't mince words



Chief Justice of Uganda, Dr Flavian Zeija shares his reflections with URSB's leadership and staff during the courtesy visit.

about why this matters. ADR, he told the gathering, offers faster and more cost-effective ways to settle disputes, while helping communities hold onto something the courts alone often cannot guarantee: harmony. It was less a technical seminar and more a reminder that dispute resolution isn't just a legal function, it's a social one.

Mr. Kagimu matched the moment with a pledge of his own, reaffirming URSB's commitment to growing its ADR capabilities and welcoming the idea of the proposed Africa Chief Justices' ADR Forum as a way to connect Uganda's efforts with the continent's Agenda 2063 aspirations for accessible justice.

Perhaps the most telling figure of the day came from Ms. Kainobwiso herself. She shared that URSB has already disposed of 89 disputes in the current financial year alone, a number that speaks to just how embedded dispute resolution has become in the Bureau's everyday operations. Far from being a side function, it has quietly grown into one of URSB's most consequential mandates.

For an institution once known primarily for registering businesses and protecting intellectual property, the courtesy call was a moment of recognition. It affirmed that URSB's Registrars, in making determinations with real legal and commercial weight, are now part of a bigger regional story about access to justice.

As Uganda and Zambia's top judicial officers shook hands in Kololo, the message was unmistakable: ***URSB is helping shape how Africa resolves its disputes, not just administering laws.***



Dr. Mumba Malila signs the visitors' book during a courtesy visit to the Registrar General's office

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROJECT TO MASAKA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF



Elizabeth Agira
Communications Officer

A team of URSB staff consisting of Human Resource, Communications, Registrar General's Office, Finance and Administration travelled to Masaka on 19th June 2026 to donate foodstuffs and sanitary items to

children with hearing impairment at the Masaka School for the Deaf.

The children entertained guests with music and dance, singing with hand gestures while someone put sound to their words and actions. They also danced to the beat of music, feeling the vibrations of the base speakers on the ground to guide their movements.

There was a sign-name giving ceremony where the Registrar General mentioned her name, which one learner wrote on a blackboard and then the others suggested sign name based on the beginning letter of her first name, Mercy. One learner demonstrated

how to introduce herself using her sign name, which instructions she followed.

URSB staff distributed snacks and drinks to the children as excitement rippled through the gathering of inaudible sounds and signs.

The handover of items was preceded by a tour of the school with the outgoing head teacher showing the classrooms, dormitories and computer room.

Thereafter, staff were taken on a tour of the wider premises, which included a kraal, clinic, coffee plantation, serene gardens and the team was treated to lunch at



Registrar General, Ms. Mercy K. Kainobwishoy, hands over foodstuffs and sanitary items to representatives of the Masaka School for the Deaf on 19th June 2026



URSB staff members distribute snacks to learners at the Masaka School for the Deaf during the Bureau's Corporate Social Responsibility visit.

Mr. Francis Kamulegeya's home.

URSB's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy identifies three main areas of focus.

The first is education, which the Bureau considers foundational for nurturing the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs. Support under this area includes construction and rehabilitation of school facilities, provision of scholastic materials, and funding for extra-curricular activities.

The second is health. Given that many health innovations intersect with URSB's intellectual property mandate, the Bureau sees healthcare as a natural area of engagement. Activities

here include organising medical camps, building or rehabilitating health facilities, and providing equipment to persons with disabilities such as wheelchairs, spectacles, and braille materials.

The third is social welfare, rooted in the recognition that many Ugandan communities face significant hardship. Under this pillar, URSB supports the elderly, the poor, children's homes, and PWD care centres, and also contributes to community sanitation initiatives.

Together, these three pillars reflect URSB's commitment to giving back to the communities it serves, a responsibility the Bureau has taken seriously since it began CSR activities in 2014.

On 15th April 2026, Mr. Francis Kamulegeya, Founder of the Masaka School for the Deaf, submitted a formal request to the Registrar General seeking support for the institution.

The Masaka School for the Deaf visit speaks directly to all three focus areas of URSB's CSR policy, combining educational support, care for persons with disabilities, and broader social welfare in a single initiative.

The initiative also supports URSB's commitment to inclusive development, emphasising national efforts to serve persons with disabilities. In addition, it strengthens URSB's public trust, deepens community engagement in the Masaka region and directly



Ms. Kainobwisho learns a new language as she joins the children in dance and gesture, embracing the moment fully.

advances SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) under Uganda’s National Development Plan.

Masaka School for the Deaf, established in 2005, has for over 21 years provided primary education, numeracy and literacy instruction, and vocational skills training to deaf learners, many of whom come from vulnerable and underserved backgrounds.

Since its founding, the school has served over 1,000 deaf learners, 13 of whom have progressed to graduate from university. This track record speaks to the institution’s transformative role in the lives of children with special educational needs who would otherwise be excluded from learning and meaningful opportunity.

The school currently supports 122 learners aged between 4 and 22 years. For many of these children, the school is not only an educational institution but also a place of daily care and welfare.

The Registrar General, Ms. Mercy K. Kainobwisho, has called for greater support and inclusion of deaf children

in Uganda, encouraging them to pursue education, believe in their abilities and prepare to become leaders who will transform their communities.

Addressing the learners, Ms. Kainobwisho reminded them that being deaf should not limit their dreams or ambitions. “You are the leaders of today and tomorrow. Don’t let anyone make you feel undermined. It is the people with the ears that don’t listen,” she said.



“We don’t give out of showbiz, we give within our means,” Ms. Kainobwisho said, urging the learners to continue inspiring their teachers, the school and everyone working to build a better future for children with hearing disabilities

Giving in Their Language: URSB Visits the Masaka School for the Deaf

There is a particular kind of music that fills a room when children are happy. On 19th June 2026, that music took a different form at the Masaka School for the Deaf, expressed not in sound but in movement, in gesture, in the rhythmic sway of young bodies feeling bass vibrations through the floor. It was joyful, and it was unmistakable.

A delegation of URSB staff drawn from the Registrar General's Office, Communications, Human Resource, and Finance and Administration made the journey to Masaka to donate foodstuffs and sanitary items to the school's 122 learners, aged between 4 and 22 years. For many of these children, the school is a home, providing daily care and welfare to deaf learners, many from vulnerable and underserved backgrounds.

The visit opened with a performance

that set the tone for the afternoon. Learners sang with hand gestures as a companion gave voice to their words, and danced with a confidence that made the silence irrelevant. Then came a moment that lingered long after the delegation departed: a sign-name giving ceremony in which the Registrar General, Ms. Mercy K. Kainobwiso, offered her name to the group. A learner wrote it on a blackboard. Others deliberated and assigned her a sign name, drawn from the letter M, for Mercy, and one young learner then demonstrated how to introduce herself using the very name she had just received. Ms. Kainobwiso followed along, learning, in that brief exchange, to say her own name in a language she had never spoken.

The delegation was taken on a tour of the school's classrooms, dormitories and computer room before exploring the wider premises, a kraal, a clinic, a coffee plantation and serene gardens, capped by lunch at the home of the school's founder,



URSB staff pose with teachers and pupils of the Masaka School for the Deaf alongside the donated items.

Mr. Francis Kamulegeya, who formally requested URSB's support in April this year.

Established in 2005, the Masaka School for the Deaf has educated over 1,000 learners in its two decades of operation, 13 of whom have gone on to graduate from university. The numbers are significant. But it is the individual stories behind them, of children who arrived without a shared language and left with a future,

that give the institution its weight.

Addressing the learners, Ms. Kainobwiso was direct and warm. "You are the leaders of today and tomorrow," she told them. "Don't let anyone make you feel undermined. It is the people with the ears that don't listen." She also offered a word on the spirit of the donation itself: "We don't give out of showbiz, we give within our means."



Ms. Mercy K. Kainobwiso, the Registrar General, addresses learners, teachers and URSB staff during the sign-name giving ceremony at the Masaka School for the Deaf.



The Registrar General tours the premises of the Masaka School for the Deaf, guided by the school's founder, Mr. Francis Kamulegeya.



The visit supports all three pillars of URSB's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) policy, **education, health, and social welfare**, and advances SDG 4 and SDG 10 under Uganda's National Development Plan. But beyond policy, it was an afternoon that reminded a room full of people, hearing and deaf alike, that giving is most meaningful when it meets people exactly where they are.

BRAP EXPANSION TO UGANDA'S REGIONS; URSB'S COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHEN SMES



Nalubawa M. Birungi

**Senior Registration Officer -
Department of Insolvency &
Receivership**

Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) introduced the Business Rescue and Aftercare Program (BRAP) as a strategic initiative to strengthen the resilience and sustainability of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

Recognising that many businesses struggle with operational, financial, and governance challenges despite their vital contribution to Uganda's economy, URSB designed BRAP to provide practical business support and equip entrepreneurs with the knowledge and tools needed to build competitive and sustainable enterprises.



Since its introduction, BRAP has empowered numerous entrepreneurs through structured training in financial management, marketing and branding, strategic planning, corporate governance, and regulatory compliance.

The programme has enhanced business management practices, improved entrepreneurs' capacity to navigate challenges, and reinforced URSB's commitment to supporting enterprise growth beyond its traditional registration mandate.

Building on the success of the programme, URSB has taken a significant step towards expanding BRAP's reach by rolling it out to Uganda's regions. The regional trainings commenced in the Eastern Region on 18th May 2026 and have since been successfully conducted in the South Western and Northern regions. With the Western Region next on the schedule, the programme has already equipped more than 500 entrepreneurs with practical business



Entrepreneurs from Eastern region follow a session on business recovery and sustainability during the BRAP training in Tororo

management skills. This expansion marks an important milestone in decentralising business support services, ensuring that entrepreneurs across the country have greater access to the knowledge, tools, and support needed to build resilient, competitive, and sustainable businesses.

Responding to Business Challenges

The BRAP initiative was conceived in response to the rising rate of business closures in Uganda between 2020 and 2023, which had far-reaching economic consequences. The increasing number of business failures resulted in job losses, reduced revenue generation, and heightened economic instability, underscoring the need for proactive interventions to support struggling enterprises and promote business sustainability. As the custodian of Uganda's business register, URSB recognised the need for proactive intervention to support the struggling enterprises. BRAP was resultantly fronted and endorsed by management as a suitable intervention to support the enterprises from the grassroots.

The BRAP programme was then launched in 2023 and implemented in Kampala. Between 2023 and 2025, four cohorts have completed the programme, benefiting more than 500 entrepreneurs.

Practical Support towards business transformation

The impact of the BRAP programme is best illustrated through the success stories of its participants. One notable beneficiary is Ms. Dorothy Awor, Chief Executive Officer of Malaika Sanitation Specialists Limited, who participated in the first cohort. Through the training, she acquired valuable skills in branding and business management, which inspired her to register her company's trademark. The trademark strengthened her brand identity, increased market visibility, and created new opportunities for business growth.

Such success stories underscored the value of the programme and inspired URSB to conduct a comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) exercise in 2026. The assessment sought to measure the effectiveness and overall impact of BRAP on the participating businesses.

The findings were overwhelmingly positive, with 94 per cent of respondents expressing satisfaction with the programme. Participants described BRAP as highly relevant, practical, and responsive to the evolving needs of MSMEs in Uganda's dynamic business environment.

Taking BRAP Closer to Regional Entrepreneurs

The positive feedback from the M&E exercise reinforced the need to make BRAP accessible to entrepreneurs beyond Kampala. In partnership with the International Development Law Organisation (IDLO), URSB expanded the programme to the regions, beginning with Mbale District in Eastern Uganda on 18th May 2026.

The training subsequently moved to Tororo from 21st – 23rd May and later to Jinja, reaching a total of 333 entrepreneurs across the Eastern Region. Participants expressed appreciation for URSB's efforts to bring the programme closer to their communities and called for continued engagement in the regions, to strengthen business growth and resilience.

In June 2026, BRAP was further extended to the Central and Western Regions, covering Masaka and Mbarara districts. More than 200 entrepreneurs benefited from these trainings, further broadening the programme's impact and reach. The programme is set to further reach Arua, Gulu Lira, Hoima and Fort Portal by August 2026.

Advancing Uganda's Development Agenda

BRAP serves as an important early-intervention mechanism for enterprises experiencing financial distress and management

challenges. Through interactive sessions led by experienced entrepreneurs and subject-matter experts, participants gain practical knowledge and tools that can be immediately applied to improve business performance.

The programme aligns closely with Uganda's National Development Plan (NDP) IV, which identifies private sector growth, business sustainability, and job creation as critical drivers of socio-economic transformation. By helping businesses remain resilient and

productive in the face of economic challenges, BRAP contributes directly to national efforts aimed at fostering economic growth and safeguarding employment.

The decentralisation of BRAP demonstrates URSB's commitment to ensuring that entrepreneurs across Uganda have access to the support and knowledge needed to build sustainable enterprises. It is a strategic investment in strengthening business recovery, promoting economic resilience, and enhancing long-term national prosperity.

Building Partnerships for Greater Impact

The success of BRAP is made possible through collaboration with development partners, consultants, and key government institutions. The programme draws expertise from facilitators such as Mr. Bulenzibuto James, as well as institutions including the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority (PPDA), Uganda Microfinance Support Centre, and



Ms. Carol T. Egesa, Commissioner Insolvency and Receivership (Centre), joins URSB staff, IDLO officials and entrepreneurs for a group photo at the BRAP regional engagement in Jinja

the District Commercial Officers.

These partnerships enrich the training experience by providing participants with practical insights, technical expertise, and access to valuable business support services.

Looking Ahead

As BRAP continues to expand across Uganda, it is positioning itself as a transformative force in strengthening enterprise resilience, fostering business recovery, and driving sustainable economic growth. By bringing practical business support closer to entrepreneurs in

every region, URSB is empowering Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to overcome challenges, seize new opportunities, and build businesses that can thrive in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

The continued rollout of BRAP reflects URSB's commitment to supporting businesses beyond registration by promoting sound business management, regulatory compliance, and long-term sustainability. As more entrepreneurs benefit from the programme, its

impact will extend beyond individual enterprises to create jobs, stimulate innovation, strengthen local economies, and contribute to Uganda's national development agenda.

Through BRAP, URSB is reaffirming its belief that resilient businesses are the foundation of a resilient economy. By investing in the growth and sustainability of entrepreneurs today, the Bureau is helping to shape a more prosperous, competitive, and inclusive Uganda for generations to come.



Participants pay close attention as a facilitator takes them through a session during the BRAP regional training in Jinja, part of URSB's continued rollout of business recovery and sustainability skills to entrepreneurs across the country.

TREAT YOUR CREATIVITY LIKE THE ASSET IT IS: A CONVERSATION WITH ISAIAH KATUMWA

For saxophonist **Isaiah Katumwa**, music is intellectual property. Following the recent registration of his catalog under Uganda's copyright framework, and the passage of the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights (Amendment) Bill, Katumwa reflects on what protection means for artists in a changing industry. He speaks about missed opportunities before protection, stronger royalty systems, and why creatives must treat their work as a lasting asset. **Peninah Nyangoma** spoke to him for **The Registry**.



Saxophonist Isaiah Katumwa receives formal recognition of his copyright registration from Ms. Miriam Nabatanzi, Commissioner Copyright and Neighbouring Rights.

1. You recently registered your musical works under Uganda's copyright framework. What motivated you to take that step?

As an artist, songwriter, performer, and producer, I have come to appreciate that music is not only creative expression but also intellectual property. Over the years, I have invested significant time, resources, and experience into building my catalog. Registering my works was a way of formally documenting ownership and protecting that investment. It also sends a message to younger artists that creativity has value and should be treated as an asset. As the industry becomes more digital and global, it is important that creators take ownership of their rights from the beginning.

2. For many artists, copyright registration

sounds important but often feels abstract. What does registration actually mean for you as a musician and rights holder?

For me, copyright registration turns ownership from something I know into something I can prove. It creates an official record of my rights and makes it easier to enforce those rights when my music is used commercially. Whether it is radio play, television broadcasts, digital platforms, licensing opportunities, or international royalty collections, registration provides a stronger foundation. It gives me confidence that my work is properly documented and protected for future generations.

3. Looking back, do you feel there were risks or missed opportunities before your works were formally registered?

Absolutely. Like many artists, I spent years focused primarily on creating and performing. Looking back, there were likely situations where stronger documentation and registration would have made it easier to track usage, resolve ownership questions, or pursue royalties. Fortunately, my career has allowed me to learn from those experiences. The lesson is that artists should not wait until they become successful to think about copyright. Protection should begin as early as possible because opportunities often arrive long after a song has been created.

4. Uganda has just passed the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights (Amendment) Bill. As a creative who has followed these discussions for years, what was your reaction when Parliament passed the Bill?



Isiah Katumwa formalises protection for a catalog built over decades as he poses with URSB staff in Kololo.

I welcomed it as a very positive step for Uganda's creative industry. For many years, artists have advocated for stronger protections, better royalty systems, and more effective enforcement against piracy. The passage of the Bill demonstrates recognition that the creative economy contributes significantly to our national development. It also aligns Uganda more closely with international standards, which is important for artists whose work reaches audiences beyond our borders. Of course, implementation will be key, but the direction is encouraging.

5. Which provisions of the new law excite you the most, particularly regarding royalties, copyright enforcement, and protection against piracy?

Several provisions stand out. First, the stronger emphasis on royalty collection and accountability gives artists hope that they will receive fair compensation when their works are commercially

exploited. Second, the provisions allowing action against online infringement and unauthorised distribution are very important in today's digital environment. Third, the requirement for written and registered agreements helps protect creators from misunderstandings and unfair arrangements. I am also encouraged by the increased oversight of collecting societies because transparency and accountability are essential if artists are to trust the system.

6. The law seeks to ensure that artists continue earning from the commercial use of their work. Do you believe this could improve musicians' livelihoods in Uganda?

Yes I do. But only if artists, industry stakeholders, and regulators all play their part. The law creates opportunities for musicians to earn more consistently from their intellectual property rather than relying solely on performances. If royalties are properly collected and

distributed, artists can generate income long after a song is released. This can help create sustainable careers, encourage investment in quality productions, and inspire more young people to pursue music professionally. Ultimately, a healthy copyright system benefits not only artists but the entire creative ecosystem and the country's economy as a whole.

7. The amendment places greater emphasis on formal agreements and accountability in copyright transactions. Has this changed how you engage with producers, promoters, and broadcasters?

Yes, it has reinforced the importance of doing business professionally. As artists, we often build relationships based on trust, but the reality is that clarity protects everyone involved. The new framework encourages written agreements that clearly define ownership, royalties, usage rights, and responsibilities. For me, it has strengthened my commitment to ensuring that every collaboration whether with

producers, featured artists, promoters, broadcasters, or distributors is properly documented. Good relationships are important, but good agreements help preserve those relationships over time.

8. Piracy remains a major concern for creatives across Africa. Has piracy affected your career at any point, and how significant has the challenge been?

Like many African artists, I have experienced situations where my music was used, copied, distributed, or shared without authorisation. In the past, enforcement options were limited, and many artists simply accepted and encouraged piracy as part of the industry. The challenge is significant because piracy does not only affect income; it affects the entire value chain around music. It discourages investment and makes it harder for creators to earn a sustainable living from their work. While piracy may never disappear completely, stronger laws, digital monitoring tools, and public



Saxophonist Isaiiah Katumwa in discussion with the Registrar General, Ms. Mercy K. Kainobwisho, and staff from URSB's Copyright department during his visit to the Bureau

awareness can help reduce its impact and create a healthier environment for creators.

9. Beyond financial returns, how important is copyright protection in preserving an artist's legacy and ownership of their creative work?

Copyright is about much more than money. It is about identity, legacy, and recognition. As artists, we leave behind stories, ideas, and cultural contributions that become part of our nation's heritage. Copyright ensures that future generations know who created those works and that creators maintain control over how their work is used and represented. For me, protecting my music means protecting a lifetime of experiences, faith, culture, and artistic expression that I hope will continue to inspire people long after I am gone.

10. Some artists may still be hesitant to register their works. What would you tell them about the importance of protecting their intellectual property?

I would tell them that copyright registration is one of the smartest investments they can make in their careers. We insure our cars, our homes, and our businesses because we understand their value. Our songs are valuable assets too. Registration creates a clear record of ownership and makes it easier to claim royalties, resolve disputes, and enforce rights if necessary. My advice is simple: don't wait until a problem arises. Protect your work from the beginning and treat your creativity like the asset it truly is.

11. What advice would you give to emerging musicians who are just starting their careers?

First, focus on developing your craft and creating music that is authentic to who you are. Second, educate yourself about the business side of music. Learn about copyright, publishing, contracts, royalties, and digital distribution. Third, document everything. Keep records of your songs, collaborations, recordings, and agreements. Finally, think long-term. Success in music is often a marathon

rather than a sprint. Build relationships, maintain professionalism, and understand that your intellectual property can become one of your most valuable assets over time.

12. If this law is implemented, where do you see Uganda's creative industry five years from now?

I believe Uganda's creative industry has the potential to be one of the most vibrant and economically significant sectors in the country. If the law is effectively implemented, we could see a more professional industry where creators are fairly compensated, investors have greater confidence, and intellectual property is respected as a valuable economic asset.

I also see opportunities for stronger international partnerships, improved royalty collection systems, and greater export of Ugandan music, film, and creative content to global audiences. Most importantly, I see a future where young creatives can build sustainable careers from their talent without feeling that success depends solely on performances or sponsorships. A strong copyright system can help transform creativity into a genuine engine of economic growth and cultural influence for Uganda



Ms. Mercy K. Kainobwiso, the Registrar General, shares a light moment with Isaiah Katumwa



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BRINGING EVERY ENTITY UNDER ONE ROOF: UNDERSTANDING THE NON-INDIVIDUAL REGISTER



Joan H. Aluhaire

**Registration Officer – Non
Individual Register**

In 2025, the Ministry of Finance amended Section 4 of the Tax Procedure Code Act, paving the way for a new Non-Individual Register (NIR). Through this reform, every entity

admitted onto the Register now receives an Entity Registration Number (ERN).

The Non-Individual Register is Uganda's electronic data repository, offering a shared digital backbone that all Ministries, Departments and Agencies of government can plug into.

The reform is meant to bring order to how Non-Individual Entities are registered, pulling common data together into one place to make authentication and verification stronger and more reliable.

Simply put, a Non-Individual Register is a

single, centralised record of everyone that isn't an individual person, every entity that is registered, licensed, incorporated, given any form of authorisation, or doing business in Uganda.

What counts as a Non-Individual? Companies, collective investment schemes, partnerships, government departments, agencies, associations, and any other group of people, whether formally incorporated or not.

The Entity Registration Number is a one-of-a-kind identifier that the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) issues once an entity joins the Non-Individual Register.



Deputy Registrar General - Finance and Administration, Mr. Alex Anganya, addressing Non-Individual Register Stakeholders at Bomah Hotel in Gulu City in May 2026

It gives that entity its own legal identity and folds it into the formal economy and other government compliance systems.

Going forward, this number will be required for any Non-Individual Entity that wants government services, whether that's getting an operating licence or permit, renewing one, securing any other lawful authorisation, or simply proving its identity and legal standing for other purposes.

Worth noting: running an entity that isn't registered on the Centralised Non-Individual Register is

against the law. Equally, it's a criminal offence for one entity to use another's ERN.

Why does Uganda need this centralised register? For years, entities have had to register with multiple agencies separately, leaving data scattered, duplicated, and difficult to manage.

The Non-Individual Register solves this by bringing everything into one unified system, improving coordination between agencies, tightening compliance, making services easier to access, and giving government better tools

for planning and policy.

At the core of this effort is formalisation. Once entities are properly registered and identifiable, doors open, access to finance, government services, contracts, and new markets all become easier to reach.

Formalisation also builds credibility and trust, giving businesses and organisations the foundation they need to grow sustainably. A formalised entity is more attractive to investors, better positioned for partnerships, and legally protected and recognised



Stakeholders attending a Non-Individual Register popularisation engagement at Dreamland Hotel in Arua in May 2026



Mr. Alex Anganya, Deputy Registrar General - Finance and Administration, engages with stakeholders at Bomah Hotel in Gulu in May 2026

in every transaction it enters.

URSB remains committed to strengthening the systems that drive transparency, efficiency, and coordination between government and the private sector. The Non-Individual Register marks real progress in how entities across Uganda are identified, regulated, and supported.

Getting to a fully formalised and inclusive economy, though, isn't a job for one institution alone, it takes all of us working together to build a business environment that is transparent, efficient, and open to opportunity for everyone.

For its part, URSB will keep offering guidance, building capacity, and making sure the system stays accessible, efficient, and responsive to everyone's needs.



Government agencies, private sector players, civil society, development partners, and every other stakeholder have a part to play in making the Non-Individual Register a success. Spreading awareness, encouraging compliance, and driving adoption nationwide all depend on your involvement.

BRINGING GOVERNMENT CLOSER: HOW URSB STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS ARE TRANSFORMING SERVICE DELIVERY



Steven D. Baryevuga
**Senior Communications
Officer**

Across Uganda, a quiet but significant transformation is taking place, one driven not only by policy reforms but by meaningful conversations between Government and

the people it serves. For the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), stakeholder engagement has become a powerful tool for building trust, strengthening compliance and improving the acceptability of Government services.

This approach was demonstrated during a nationwide series of engagements on the Non-Individual Register (NIR) held in Kampala, Jinja, Mbale, Masaka, Mbarara, Gulu and Arua. The forums brought together Resident City Commissioners, Chief Administrative Officers, District Commercial

Officers, Community Development Officers, local council leaders, SACCO and cooperative leaders, business associations and members of the local business community.

Promoting Accountability

The engagements formed part of the implementation of the Tax Procedures Code (Amendment) Act, which establishes the Non-Individual Register (NIR) as Uganda's central repository for all non-individual entities. Managed by URSB, the Register consolidates information on entities such as cooperatives, associations, NGOs,



Stakeholder engagement, such as the ongoing Non Individual Register regional gatherings, has become a powerful tool for building trust, strengthening compliance and improving the acceptability of Government services

religious organisations, political organisations, cultural institutions, SACCOs, trusts and societies that were previously registered under different Government agencies.

The reform marks a major step towards improving transparency, accountability and coordination across Government while simplifying access to reliable information on legal entities operating in Uganda. It also strengthens domestic revenue mobilisation, enhances compliance and supports evidence-based planning and service delivery.

As Uganda's national registry authority, URSB continues to play a central role in formalising the economy by administering the registration of companies, business names, intellectual property rights, insolvency services, secured transactions and, now, the Non-Individual Register. By modernising and integrating registries, the Bureau is creating a more efficient regulatory environment that supports investment, business growth and good governance.

Easier Dialogue

Throughout the regional engagements, participants welcomed the opportunity to interact directly with URSB officials, seek clarification on the new legal framework and understand the practical implications of the reforms.

“For the first time, I clearly understand why this Register matters,” remarked Sarah Nambassa, a SACCO leader from Masaka. “It is not another layer of regulation. It is about ensuring our organisation is recognised within one coordinated Government system, making it easier to access services and demonstrate compliance.”

In Gulu, Alfred Ocen, a District Commercial Officer, observed that the engagements had strengthened collaboration between local governments and URSB. “When stakeholders understand the purpose behind reforms, implementation becomes much easier. These engagements have answered many of the questions our communities have been asking.”

Similarly, Grace Ayesiga, a representative of a business association in Mbarara, noted that the consultations had increased confidence in Government services. “People appreciate being consulted before implementation. It creates ownership and encourages voluntary compliance.”

Citizens first

Beyond raising awareness, the engagements demonstrated URSB's commitment to citizen-centred service delivery. By listening to stakeholder concerns, incorporating feedback and providing practical guidance, the Bureau is ensuring that implementation of the Non-Individual Register is collaborative rather than directive.

As URSB continues rolling out the Register nationwide, these engagements affirm an important lesson; sustainable reforms succeed when stakeholders are listened to, explained to and partnered with. Through dialogue, transparency and shared purpose, stakeholder engagement is not only transforming public perception of Government services, it is strengthening the foundations of a more formal, accountable and inclusive economy.



Mr. Alex Anganya, Deputy Registrar General - Finance and Administration at a stakeholder engagement on the Non Individual Register

URSB LOOKS BACK ON A YEAR WELL RUN, AND GEARS UP FOR THE NEXT ONE



Baker Ssebuddde

**Assistant Commissioner
Planning**

There's a particular kind of energy in a room full of people comparing notes on a year that actually went well, and that's exactly the mood that filled the staff presentation on 26th

June 2026, where URSB took stock of its first year implementing Strategic Plan IV (2025/26–2029/30). Fittingly themed “Closing Strong, Starting Smart,” the session was part victory lap, part strategy huddle, as staff looked back on the wins, sat with the lessons, and leaned forward into the year ahead.

And there was plenty to celebrate. URSB pulled in UGX 76.971 billion in Non-Tax Revenue as of 24th June 2026, a solid 7.19% jump, or UGX 5.161 billion more than the year before. A significant share of that growth was driven by mass business registration drive, which took registration clinics to communities nationwide. Sixty-five clinics later, 2,343 companies and 5,396 business names had been registered, adding UGX 4.147 billion to the Bureau's coffers.

Behind the scenes, one of the year's quieter but more significant achievements was the groundwork laid for the Non-Individual Register, Uganda's first centralised register for all non-individual entities. The system was built, stakeholders nationwide were brought up to speed, and everything is now primed for a phased rollout starting with the issuance of a unique Entity Registration Number (ERN).

URSB By The Numbers.



UGX 76.971 Billion

Non-tax revenue collected
up 7.19% year on year, UGX
5.161bn more than the prior
year



2,343

Companies registered
through mass business
registration clinics



**Technology Innovation
Support Centres
nationwide**

(4 new ones opened this year)



137

New staff recruited

The Bureau also maintained a strong public engagement drive. The Bureau's outreach machine ran at full tilt: 47 radio talk shows, 870 jingles, nearly 2,000 spot adverts, two dozen TV appearances, and well over 200 print and digital articles. There was heart in the mix too, with the CSR visit to the Masaka School for the Deaf standing out as a highlight, alongside a notable visit from WIPO Director General Mr. Daren Tang.

The year had its share of serious business as well, 12 compliance

inspections, 16 litigation cases concluded (8 in URSB's favour, 5 resolved amicably through ADR), and four new Technology Innovation Support Centres opened, bringing the national count to 41. On the global stage, URSB represented Uganda at WIPO's Sixty-Sixth Assemblies in Geneva, while back home the Bureau completed the amendment of the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights Act.

None of it would have happened without the people behind it, and the Bureau didn't forget

that. The year also saw 137 recruitments undertaken, fresh induction and leadership training, and a steady stream of graduate trainee and internship opportunities. Staff also had plenty to look forward to off the clock, monthly RG's Fireplace chats, the sports gala, the prayer breakfast, and the year-end party kept morale high. URSB capped it off by earning ISO 9001:2015 certification, officially launching Strategic Plan IV, and refreshing both its Service Delivery Standards and Client Charter.

With a strong year now in the books, attention has already shifted to FY 2026/27, and if the energy in the room was anything to go by, URSB staff are ready to keep that momentum going. Positioning Uganda as the best destination for doing business, indeed.



5,396

Business names registered
adding UGX 4.147bn to the
Bureau's coffers



65

Registration clinics
held nationwide



47

Radio talk shows aired
plus 870 jingles and
nearly 2,000 spot adverts



ISO 9001:2015

Certification achieved
alongside the launch of the
strategic Plan IV

WHAT'S THE SECRET TO URSB'S WINNING STREAK?

Elizabeth Agiro

Communications Officer

Ask any entrepreneur who's registered a business in Uganda lately, and chances are URSB has played a part in their story. Since its establishment, the Uganda Registration Services Bureau has quietly built a reputation as one of the country's most trusted institutions, handling business registration, intellectual property rights, the Security Interest in Movable Property Registry (SIMPO), and serving as Official Receiver in insolvency matters. But beyond the mandate, there's a bigger

story: how URSB keeps winning.

Much of that story traces back to leadership. Over the past five years, under the stewardship of Registrar General Ms. Mercy K. Kainobwiso, URSB has moved from an institution known mainly for paperwork to one recognised for reform, efficiency, and vision. Her tenure has been marked by a clear sense of direction: modernising services, deepening staff capacity, and positioning URSB as a genuine partner to Uganda's business community rather than just a gatekeeper of registration. That leadership shows up in the everyday wins.

Start with business registration, the Bureau's bread and butter. For many entrepreneurs, getting registered is the moment an idea becomes a real, legally recognised business, one that can open a bank account, apply for a loan, or sign a contract with confidence. In a country where start-ups often struggle to find solid footing, that legal recognition can make all the difference.

Then there's intellectual property. URSB's work in trademark registration gives businesses something just as valuable as capital: an identity worth protecting. A registered trademark means no one else can ride on the



Winning involves meeting the clients at their point of need. Here, URSB staff take to the streets in Jinja to encourage clients to register their businesses, Intellectual Property and engage with staff to resolve any outstanding queries

name or logo a business has worked hard to build, a point made vividly in the Coca-Cola versus Riham Cola dispute, which emphasised just how seriously Ugandan businesses are learning to guard their brands.

Technology has been another game-changer, and one closely tied to the RG's push for modernisation. With online registration now in place, entrepreneurs no longer need to queue for hours or make repeat trips to URSB offices. It takes a few clicks and they're on their way. It's a small shift with a big ripple effect: faster service, more registrations, and a new generation of young entrepreneurs discovering that starting

a business doesn't have to be complicated.

URSB has also kept an eye on the other side of the equation, consumers. Through public education on consumer rights and how to report unfair practices, the Bureau has helped build a marketplace where people can shop with confidence. And confident consumers, it turns out, are good for business too.

So what's actually behind the winning streak? Four things, really: leadership, commitment, adaptability, and support. Under Ms. Kainobwiso's guidance, URSB's staff have grown into an institution that genuinely understands

the everyday struggles of entrepreneurs, and that shows in how they work. The Bureau has kept pace with a fast-changing world, embracing technology rather than resisting it. And through workshops, training sessions, and partnerships with other organisations, URSB has worked to build not just registered businesses, but a stronger business community overall.

It adds up to an institution that has reshaped how Ugandans start, protect, and grow their businesses, one registration, one trademark, one click at a time. And with five years of steady leadership behind it, URSB's winning streak still has plenty of road ahead.



Leadership shows up in the every day internal meetings held to strategise, plan and iron out details about how to serve the clients better

NEW STAFF PERSPECTIVE: MIRIAM AHUMUZA ON FINDING HER PLACE AT URSB

*Two months into her role as Project Officer under the Taxpayer Register Expansion Program (TREP), **Miriam Ahumuza**, known to colleagues as **Mimi**, reflects on joining URSB's JLOS Towers pioneer team, the values guiding her work, and what keeps her motivated in public service.*



1. Please tell us about yourself and your current role at the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB).

My name is Miriam Ahumuza commonly known as Mimi by my peers, and I currently serve as a Project Officer in the Business Registration Department at the Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), based at JLOS Towers Branch. I am committed to supporting URSB's mission by delivering efficient, professional, and customer-focused services. In my role, I interact with clients directly, guiding them on how to register business names, different types of companies and building societies. I also engage in guiding them on continuous filing and compliance related issues, all of which promote an effective business registration system while working collaboratively with

colleagues to achieve the Bureau's strategic objectives.

2. When did you join URSB as a Project Officer, and how has your experience been so far?

Well, I am only 2 months old in the Bureau, I joined URSB on 4th May 2026 as a Project Officer-TREP. Maybe I should tell you a little more about TREP. TREP is the Taxpayer Register Expansion Program, a collaborative initiative between The Uganda Registration Services Bureau, (URSB), The Ministry of Local Government, Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) and Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) to support the citizens involved in generating income, formalise their business ventures as required by the laws of Uganda thus expanding the taxpayer base and collection of taxes.

Although my time at the Bureau has been relatively short, it has been an enriching and rewarding experience. I have had the opportunity to learn from experienced colleagues, understand the Bureau's operations, and contribute to a team that is committed to delivering quality services to the public.

3. What attracted you to this role at URSB?

I was attracted to URSB because of its vital role in promoting business formalisation and supporting Uganda's economic growth. The opportunity to work in the Business Registration Department appealed to me because it allows me to contribute to creating an environment where businesses can register efficiently and operate with confidence. I was also impressed by URSB's reputation for professionalism, innovation, and excellent

public service and the fact I can grow my career along the way.

4. How do you plan to contribute to URSB's mandate and strategic objectives?

I plan to contribute by providing timely, accurate, and customer-focused services, embracing innovation, and continuously improving my professional skills. I will work collaboratively with colleagues, support initiatives that enhance service delivery, and contribute ideas that improve efficiency and strengthen public confidence in URSB's services.

5. What professional goals do you hope to achieve during your tenure as a Project Officer?

During my tenure, I aim to deepen my knowledge of business registration processes, strengthen my project management and leadership skills, and become a reliable resource within the department. I also hope to contribute to projects that improve service delivery and support URSB's strategic objectives while pursuing continuous professional development.

6. What has your overall experience working at URSB been like so far, particularly in terms of culture and collaboration?

My experience has been very positive from the onset. The working environment is professional, supportive, and collaborative. At this point I want to applaud the Human Resource Department for the intentional induction we had as new staff for 2 weeks at the Head Office. My colleagues and I, got an overview of all departments, representatives from different divisions came and gave us in-depth information of what they do; and that widened my scope and understanding of what happens and the mandate of URSB. Regarding work, my colleagues have been welcoming and willing to share their knowledge, making it easier to adapt to the work environment and the systems we use to deliver services. The culture of teamwork and continuous learning has

encouraged me to grow both personally and professionally.

7. Can you share a recent project, initiative, or accomplishment that you are particularly proud of since joining URSB?

Since joining URSB, I am proud of how quickly I have adapted to the Business Registration Department and become an active member of the team. Whereas I have not worked on an individual project yet, I joined the great pioneer team at the new JLOS branch and together we have been able to make the branch known and we continue to do so. This experience has strengthened my confidence and reinforced my commitment to delivering quality service.

8. What is one aspect of URSB's work or operations that has had the greatest impact on you personally or professionally?

The Bureau's commitment to customer-centred service delivery has had the greatest impact on me. Seeing how teams worked together day and night to seamlessly roll out the Non-Individual Register, upgrading the user portal OBRS to E-Registry was phenomenal. Personally this stirred up more admiration for teamwork and professionally it has exposed me to the power of synergy within public service institutions.

9. How do you stay motivated and productive in a demanding role such as this?

I stay motivated by remembering that my work contributes to helping entrepreneurs and businesses succeed. I remain organised, prioritise my responsibilities, collaborate with colleagues, and continuously seek opportunities to learn and improve. Maintaining a positive attitude and focusing on delivering quality results helps me remain productive and relevant, but also having something to wake up to every morning, a community to belong to and something going into my account every end of month hahaha.

10. What leadership values or principles guide your approach to work and decision-making?

The values that guide me are integrity, accountability, professionalism, teamwork, respect, and continuous improvement. I believe in making fair and informed decisions, taking responsibility for my work, communicating openly, and always acting in the best interests of the organisation and the public.

11. What advice would you give to new staff or professionals aspiring to leadership roles within public service?

I would encourage them to be eager to learn, remain humble, uphold integrity, and embrace teamwork. Leadership begins

with consistently performing your duties well, serving others with professionalism, and being willing to learn from every experience. Building trust through reliability and accountability creates opportunities for future leadership.

12. Where do you see yourself professionally in the next five years?

In the next five years, I see myself as a knowledgeable and dependable professional within URSB, taking on greater responsibilities and contributing to strategic initiatives that improve service delivery. I also hope to have developed strong leadership skills, mentored junior colleagues, and played a meaningful role in advancing URSB's mission of delivering efficient and accessible registration services.



Ms. Miriam Ahumuza (Right), attends to a walk-in client at URSB's branch office at JLOS Towers in Naguru



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FUTURE OF IP ADVOCACY: UCU WINS INAUGURAL URSB INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY MOOT COMPETITION



Participants and judges of the inaugural URSB Intellectual Property Moot Court Competition 2026 pose at the Uganda Business Facilitation Centre auditorium.

Uganda Christian University (UCU) emerged winner of the inaugural Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) Intellectual Property Moot Court Competition 2026, after defeating the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) in a competitive final that brought together some of the country's leading law schools to test their understanding of intellectual property law.

The final, held on Friday, 24th April 2026, at the Uganda Business Facilitation Centre in Kololo, was part of activities to commemorate World Intellectual Property Day 2026 under the theme "IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate."

The competition was introduced to create a platform for law students to explore emerging intellectual property issues, sharpen their legal research and advocacy skills, and understand how intellectual property contributes to the growth of industries such as sports, entertainment, and innovation.



The moot court competition was designed around the growing importance of **intellectual property in sports**, including areas such as branding, image rights, sponsorship agreements, broadcasting rights, and commercialisation of talent.

Through the competition, students were challenged to examine how legal systems can protect creativity and ensure that innovators and creators benefit from their work.

The journey to the final began with a national call by URSB inviting universities accredited to teach law to participate in



Uganda's next generation of IP lawyers, gowned up and ready to argue their case.

the first World Intellectual Property Day Moot Court Competition. Participating teams were required to prepare written legal arguments, known as memorials, for both the applicant and respondent sides based on a moot problem developed around intellectual property issues.

A total of eleven universities submitted their written arguments, demonstrating the growing interest among law

students in intellectual property law. After evaluation of the memorials, four universities advanced to the oral rounds.

The semi-final stage saw Uganda Technology and Management University (UTAMU) face Uganda Christian University (UCU), while Makerere University competed against the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU). The oral rounds tested students' ability to present legal arguments, respond to questions from judges, and demonstrate practical courtroom skills.

UCU and IUIU eventually secured places in the final, where the two teams went head-to-head in a battle of legal reasoning, research, and advocacy. UCU's team impressed the judges with strong arguments, confidence in presentation, and a clear understanding of the intellectual property issues at the centre of the case.



Mr. Denis Birungi, a Senior Registration Officer in the Department of Intellectual Property was on the panel of judges.

Intellectual property is increasingly becoming an important driver of economic growth, especially in areas where talent and creativity are major assets. In sports, for example, athletes, clubs, and organisations can use intellectual property protection to build valuable brands, secure partnerships, and create sustainable income streams.

The moot competition complemented URSB's wider World IP Day activities, which comprised government officials, innovators, students, sports stakeholders, and other partners to discuss the role of intellectual property in protecting ideas and cracking economic opportunities.

The moot court offered universities an

opportunity to experience real courtroom procedures, develop persuasive communication skills, and engage with a specialised area of law thus nurturing a new generation of lawyers equipped to handle emerging legal challenges.



The success of the first URSB Intellectual Property Moot Court Competition has set the stage for future editions, with hopes that more universities and students will participate in promoting awareness and understanding of intellectual property law.



The judging panel presides over the final round of the URSB Intellectual Property Moot Court Competition between UCU and UIIU.



Students follow proceedings keenly at the Moot Competition held to mark World Intellectual Property (IP) Day at URSB.



The Moot Competition brought together students from Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU), Uganda Christian University (UCU), Uganda Technology and Management University (UTAMU), and Makerere University.

MUKISA AND GWANYI: WINNERS AT URSB MOOT COURT COMPETITION



Phanella Ainebyona
Intern

Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) hosted its first Moot Court Competition in April 2026 to celebrate World Intellectual Property Day. The competition was centred on intellectual property rights in sports

under the theme, IP and Sports: Ready, Set, Innovate. The Bureau is proud to celebrate the outstanding achievement of two graduate interns from this competition.

During an interview with URSB, Asyncritus Mukisa and Jordan Andrew Gwanyi share how the competition was an opportunity to put their academic knowledge into practice. Mukisa shared that for much of his early life, he envisioned himself as a lawyer due to the embodiment of success and wealth that he saw in the professionals as he was growing up.

However, Gwanyi aspired to be a pilot but as he grew up, his career path shifted to law because of the admiration towards the profession as well. They later on joined Islamic University in Uganda, Kampala Campus (IUIU-KC) and fortunately became friends in their first year of university. Their friendship prompted them to team up and be each other's teammate in every moot competition.

Mukisa revealed that he got to know about the competition through a friend and mentioned it to Gwanyi but he didn't want to participate because he had done multiple moots and wanted to give chance to other students. After more thought, he accepted and they submitted the required memorials and successfully emerged in third place.



Mr. Asyncritus Mukisa and Mr. Andrew Jordan Gwanyi of the Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) pose with colleagues in the IP department.

They agreed that their biggest takeaways were that they appreciated the fact that the theme related IP law to sports since the curriculum does not focus on that. Additionally, they both gained exposure to other areas in law that are not frequently talked about such as image rights and ambush marketing which is not a specific law in Uganda and overall gained valuable experience from all the

Their resilience led them to become the first runners up and enabled Gwanyi to be the best oralist in the moot competition. Both Mukisa and Gwanyi commend URSB for giving them this internship offer as part of the reward and are ready to gain more experience in their legal journey. Additionally, they commend URSB for having an active legal department that believes in giving young lawyers an opportunity to gain mentorship and proper hands-on experience.

Both Mukisa and Gwanyi have dreams of pursuing a Master's in IP Law due to the need to expose more Ugandans on the value of laws that protect their creations and innovations overall.



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URSB HIGHLIGHTS THE POWER OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY IN GROWING UGANDA'S SPORTS INDUSTRY



Deputy Registrar General - Registries, Mr. Mustapher Ntale, addresses guests during the World IP Day celebrations in Kololo.

The Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) marked World Intellectual Property Day 2026 with a call for athletes, creatives, and sports organisations to embrace intellectual property as a key tool for protecting talent, building brands, and unlocking new economic opportunities.

The celebrations, held at the Uganda Business Facilitation Centre in Kololo, Kampala, on Friday, 24th April 2026 comprised government officials, innovators, students, broadcasters, sports leaders, and other stakeholders to digest the role of intellectual property (IP) in shaping the future of Uganda's sports sector.

This year's global theme, "IP and Sports: Set, Ready, Innovate," focused on how intellectual property can transform sports from a talent-driven activity into a sustainable industry through areas such as broadcasting rights, sponsorships, merchandising, branding, and protection of athletes' image rights.

As Uganda's sporting activities continue to gain local and international attention,

stakeholders noted that protecting ideas, brands, and creative works is essential for athletes and organisations to benefit from their efforts.



Chief Guest and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Education and Sports, **Dr Kedrace Turyagyenda**, emphasised the government's commitment to transforming education through a **competence-based curriculum**.

"Government is steadily transitioning to a competence-based curriculum across all levels of education to foster practical, skills-based learning. This shift moves us away from purely theoretical knowledge and directly supports initiatives such as IP in schools, which nurture creativity and innovation from an early stage," she noted.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Mr. Robert Kasande, reiterated the chief guest's message and praised URSB for its continued efforts in strengthening Uganda's intellectual property systems.

"A strong legal framework is essential for innovation, and through URSB, the Ministry is ensuring intellectual property systems effectively support Uganda's economic growth," Mr. Kasande expounded.

The URSB Board Chairman Rt. Hon. Amb. Francis K. Butagira reaffirmed the Bureau's commitment to supporting national development by promoting the protection and commercialisation of innovation.

"As Uganda advances toward middle-income status, URSB remains committed to strengthening intellectual property systems, empowering creators, and ensuring that innovation translates into sustainable economic growth," he said.

The Registrar General, Ms. Mercy K. Kainobwisho, said talent alone cannot guarantee success unless it is protected and converted into economic value.

She explained that intellectual property

gives athletes, clubs, and creatives the opportunity to safeguard their identities, ideas, and innovations while creating avenues for commercial growth.

"In sports, talent alone is not enough, intellectual property is what turns talent into value. URSB is committed to ensuring athletes, clubs, and creatives can protect, commercialise, and fully benefit from their brands, innovations, and ideas," Ms. Kainobwisho said.

Ahead of the main celebrations, URSB conducted a series of engagements with sports federations, students, legal professionals, and media practitioners to increase awareness about intellectual property rights and their role in commercialising talent.

On 20th April 2026, URSB hosted sports journalists, federations, and associations at the Uganda Business Facilitation Centre Auditorium to discuss the growing connection between sports and intellectual property.

During the sports journalists' breakfast meeting, URSB highlighted the media's role in making intellectual property knowledge accessible to the public.

The Deputy Registrar General – Registries,



Members of the judging panel oversee proceedings during the final round of the URSB Intellectual Property Moot Court Competition, contested between UCU and UIIU.

Mr. Mustapher Ntale, told journalists that the media remains a powerful partner in educating the public and changing perceptions about intellectual property.

“The media plays a powerful role in shaping public understanding. You are educators, storytellers, and agenda setters. Through your platforms, intellectual property can move from being a technical legal concept to something practical, relatable

and impactful,” he said.

As Uganda’s sports industry expands, intellectual property is increasingly becoming a foundation for building stronger sports brands. National teams, athletes, and local leagues can use trademarks, image rights, and other IP tools to attract sponsorships, secure broadcasting opportunities, and create new revenue streams.



Government officials, sports leaders, innovators and other stakeholders attend World Intellectual Property Day 2026 celebrations at the Uganda Business Facilitation Centre, held under the theme “IP and Sports: Set, Ready, Innovate.”



Panellists engage in a discussion on the importance of intellectual property in sport during the World IP Day celebrations at UBFC in Kololo



Chief Guest and Permanent Secretary Ministry of Education and Sports, Ms. Kedrace Turyagyenda, poses for a photo with URSB Board Members, Ms. Tereza Namwach, Ms. Jackie Kemigisha, Deputy Registrar General - Registries, Mr. Mustapher Ntale and other guests



Ms. Kedrace Turyagyenda, tours the URSB offices alongside Registrar General, Ms. Kainobwisho and Board Member Ms. Namwach



Registrar General, Ms. Mercy K. Kainobwisho, shares a moment with Board Member Ms. Tereza Namwach and law students at the World IP Day 2026 celebrations, united in celebrating Uganda's creative and sporting talent.



Ms. Kedrace Turyagyenda, tours the URSB offices alongside Registrar General, Ms. Kainobwisho and Board Member Ms. Namwach

BISHOP STUART UNIVERSITY OPENS NEW INNOVATION GATEWAY AS UGANDA PUSHES RESEARCH FROM LABORATORIES TO MARKETS



URSB Board Chairman, Amb. Francis K. Butagira, cuts ribbon to officially launch the Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) at Bishop Stuart University while Registrar General Ms. Mercy K. Kainobwiso and other delegates look on

For years, many research ideas generated in universities have struggled to move beyond classrooms, laboratories and academic journals. But a new innovation drive in Uganda is changing that story, giving researchers the tools to protect their ideas, improve their inventions and transform knowledge into solutions that can reach communities and markets.

On 14th May 2026, Bishop Stuart University (BSU), in partnership with Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), officially launched a Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) at its main campus in Mbarara.

The centre became Uganda's 41st TISC, strengthening a national network designed to support researchers and

innovators with technology information, intellectual property services and pathways for commercialising ideas.

The official launch ceremony comprised university leadership, Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), researchers, innovators and students.



Rt. Hon. Amb. Canon Francis K. Butagira, Chairman of the URSB Board and BSU Legal Advisor, who served as chief guest, said universities must become engines of innovation where ideas are not only created but also protected and transformed into solutions.



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Mugisha (3rd from left), URSB Board Chairman, Amb. Francis Butagira, Registrar General Ms. Mercy K. Kainobwisho, together with URSB and Bishop Stuart University staff, pose for a group photo after the launch of the TISC in Mbarara.

“Universities must become places where ideas are nurtured, protected and transformed into solutions that improve lives and strengthen economies,” he said.

He praised BSU’s ongoing innovation efforts and noted that establishing a TISC at the university was part of a wider national effort to build stronger innovation systems.

The Vice-Chancellor of Bishop Stuart University, Prof. John F. Mugisha, welcomed the partnership with URSB, saying the centre would strengthen the university’s ability to support researchers and innovators.

He thanked URSB for training university staff in innovation and technology management, noting that the TISC would provide researchers with access to valuable intellectual property resources and support systems that can help move research from academic spaces into communities and industries.

The Registrar General Ms. Mercy Kainobwisho emphasised universities’ role in solving Uganda and Africa’s challenges through research and education.

She challenged lecturers and researchers



Registrar General Ms. Mercy K. Kainobwisho hands over a URSB corporate gift hamper to the Vice Chancellor of Bishop Stuart University, Prof. John F. Mugisha, as a token of appreciation for the partnership.

to go beyond producing academic papers and focus on developing solutions that can become useful products, services and technologies.

Across Uganda, the TISC network is becoming an important bridge between scientific knowledge and economic development.

Established under the framework of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), TISCs help innovators access global patent information, scientific databases and intellectual property guidance. The aim is to help researchers understand what already exists, improve their inventions and protect ideas with commercial potential.

This support addresses one of the major challenges facing research globally, the gap between discovery and application.

Research often fails to create meaningful

impact when ideas remain unpublished beyond academic circles, when inventors do not understand intellectual property protection, when institutions duplicate existing work, or when there are weak connections between researchers, industry and markets.

The TISC model responds by helping researchers search existing technologies, identify opportunities, develop stronger innovations and explore commercial pathways.

The growth of Uganda's TISC network is creating a platform where different institutions contribute unique strengths to the country's innovation journey. At the Uganda Virus Research Institute, the centre is expected to support the transformation of scientific discoveries into protected health technologies by strengthening patent searches, intellectual property strategies and commercialisation pathways.



URSB Board Chairman Amb. Francis K. Butagira (centre) hands over a Certificate of Enrolment to Prof. Kenneth Kagame, Chairperson of the Bishop Stuart University Council, following the launch of a Technology and Innovation Support Centre (TISC) in Mbarara

REGIONAL OFFICE CONTACT NUMBERS

This is to formally inform the public and all stakeholders of the updated official contact numbers for the URSB Regional Offices.

Kindly take note of the details below for all inquiries, communications, and official engagements.

Gulu

0326 338 021 / 0200 404 721

Masaka

0326 338 022 / 0200 404 722

Mbale

0326 338 023 / 0200 404 723

Mbarara

0326 338 024 / 0200 404 724

Arua

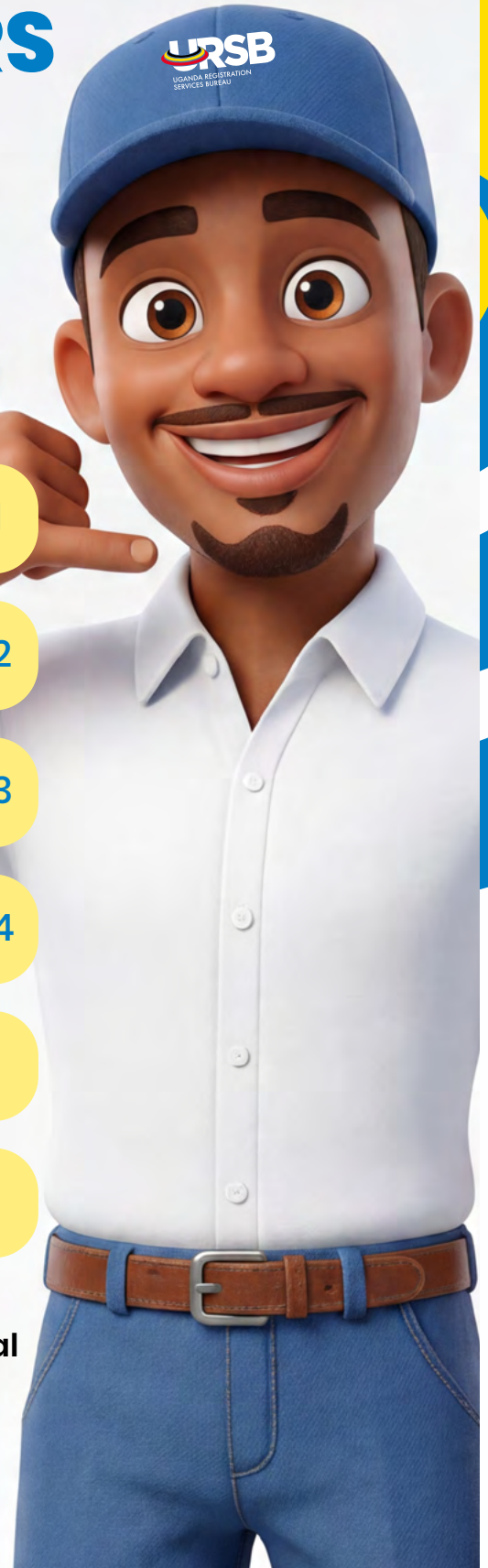
0326 338 025

Hoima

0326 338 026

We encourage the public to use the above official contact numbers for prompt assistance and continued engagement with URSB services.

MANAGEMENT





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P.O.Box 6848 Kampala Uganda

Regional offices:

- ▶ Arua – Plot 42/44 Pakwach road
- ▶ Mbale - Plot 3, Park Crescent.
- ▶ Mbarara- Plot 1, Kamukuzi Hill
- ▶ Mbarara- Plot 1, Kamukuzi Hill
- ▶ Kasingo District Headquarters,
Hoima Service Uganda Centre
- ▶ Gulu – Plot 6B Princess Road
- ▶ Masaka -Plot 28, Edward Avenue,
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