



OPENING REMARKS BY HON. CRISPIN KAHERU

CHAIRPERSON, EDITORIAL

AT THE

29TH UHRC ANNUAL REPORT CONSULTATIVE MEETING,

28TH AND 29TH SEPTEMBER 2026

ESELLA COUNTRY RESPORT KIRA, WAKISO DISTRICT.

**Members of Uganda Human Rights Commission present,
Representative from the Governance and Security
Program
Directors and Staff of the UHRC
Our Esteemed Facilitators
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Good Morning

I warmly welcome you this Consultative Meeting in preparation of the 29th Annual Report on the state of human rights and freedoms in Uganda in 2026. As we draw close to the end of 2026, it is timely that as a Commission mandated to document the human rights situation in the country, we join hands to take stock on the progress made, challenges faced and make recommendations for the continuous improvement of the human rights situation in the country. Hence the need for the consultative meeting with key state and non-state actors. Thank you for honoring our invitation. We believe that your perspectives will greatly enrich the report.

Our mandate to monitor the human rights situation in this country and to recommend to Parliament effective measures for promoting and protecting human rights and freedoms is provided for in article 52(2) of the Constitution. This is operationalized through the Directorate of Monitoring and Inspections which organizes these meetings every year, to provide an opportunity to stakeholders to avail information on various human rights issues, that can be used to enrich and enhance the Annual Report before it is submitted to Parliament.

Ladies and gentlemen this year UHRC has focused on various thematic areas including juvenile justice, right to health, rights of older persons, plight and human rights of private security guards in Uganda, air quality in Uganda, digital rights in Uganda, food safety in Uganda, business and human rights, rights of indigenous persons, and protection of wetlands without displacing rights among others. These thematic areas are informed by a wide range of considerations including UHRC monitoring activities, human rights concerns raised by various stakeholders including civil society.

UHRC will also focus on monitoring government's compliance with its treaty body obligations as well as its interventions in research education and documentation, monitoring and inspections and complaints management. As you can see ladies and gentlemen these thematic areas and institutional interventions reflect the Commission's continued commitment to its promoting, and protecting of human rights in Uganda.

I must appreciate the Directorate for convening this important meeting in a timely manner. The Uganda Human Rights Commission has never before held an Annual Report consultative meeting in September, and this therefore marks an important milestone for the Commission. UHRC greatly appreciates the Government of Uganda for its continued support in enabling the Commission to effectively fulfil its constitutional mandate and implement its core functions. Let us expeditiously undertake and conclude all the processes relating to the Annual Report, so that we are able to successfully launch the 29th Annual Report on the State of Human Rights in Uganda in January 2027.

To UHRC draft persons as we write our various chapters, we must be thorough and authentic in our research to ensure that the UHRC findings and reports are a true representation and reflection of the year. We look forward to hearing from the different presenters with their insights and knowledge and I call for your full and active participation in this meeting. We greatly value your contribution to this important process and look forward to fruitful discussions.

I now declare this meeting officially open and wish you fruitful deliberations.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY