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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development P.O. Box 7136 Kampala.



14th August, 2020

This subject please quote No. LEI 74/286/05

Hon. Alex Ndeezi Chairperson Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development Parliament of Uganda Kampala

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CLAUSE 11 OF THE LABOUR DISPUTES (ARBITRATION AND SETTLEMENT) (AMENDMENT BILL) 2019

It has come to my attention that definition of judicial officers under the Administration of Judiciary Act, 2020 does not specifically mention Judges of the Industrial Court as judicial officers. This is contrary to the decision of the Constitutional Court in Constitutional Petition No. 33 of 2016, that the Judges of the Industrial Court are judicial officers.

The Constitutional Court further held in the said petition that Judges of the Industrial Court are Judges of the Courts of Judicature and may enjoy the tenure of office of Judicial officers at the level of High Court Judges as prescribed in article 144 of the Constitution.

Failure to specifically mention Judges of the Industrial Court as judicial officers in the definition of judicial officer under the Administration of the Judiciary Act, 2020, may create doubt on the right of the Judges of the Industrial Court to enjoy tenure of office of judicial officers at the level of high Court Judges as prescribed by Article 144 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

In view of the above I propose that the proposed amendment to \$.41 of the Labour (Disputes Arbitration and Settlement) Act under Clause 11 of the Bill should be amended to specifically mention that Judges of the Industrial Court should receive remuneration, emoluments and benefits similar to those payable to Judges of the High Court under the Administration of the Judiciary Act 2020. The text of the proposed amendment is attached hereto.

Hon. Mwesiawa Rukutana

Minister of State for Labour, Employment and Industrial Relations

Copy to: The Rt Hon Speaker

Minister - Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development Permanent Secretary–Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Dev't

Clerk to Parliament