

PRESS STATEMENT

**AT THE SWEARING AND INAUGURATION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND MEMBERS OF
THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION**

5TH FEBRUARY 2016

SALUTATIONS:

.....
.....
.....

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Lordship the Chief Justice, of the Republic of Uganda, it gives me much pleasure to welcome you to this important occasion which is going to go down in the history of our country. Today I and four of my Members have been sworn in as Chairperson and the Members of the Equal Opportunities Commission. The ceremony is significant with the task that I and my team are beginning to hold today which is to redress societal imbalances and ensure equal opportunities for all. The Ugandans whom I am holding their trust demanded for establishment of this Commission during the Constitutional Review process way back in the 1990s.

The Commission is in fulfillment of Article 32 (3) and other relevant provisions and functions of the Constitution; to give effect to the state's constitutional mandate to eliminate discrimination and inequalities against any individual or group of persons on the grounds of race, sex, age, ethnic origin, tribe, birth, creed or region, health status, social or economic standing, political opinion or disability, and take

affirmative action in favor of marginalized groups on the basis of gender, age, disability or any other reason created by history, tradition, or custom for the purpose of redressing imbalances which exist against them; and provide for other related matters.

To this end I wish to thank His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, firstly for fulfilling this important constitutional provision of ensuring that Article 32 of the 1995 Constitution is fully given effect and for again recognizing the importance of the Equal Opportunities Commission by adding it yet another important function under the Public Finance Management Act 2015 (PFMA) which mandates the EOC under section 9 (6) (a); Section 13 (11) e (i) and (ii) to ensure that Ministerial policy Statements and Budget Framework papers of Ministries, Departments, Agencies (MDAs) and Local Governments (LGs) specify measures taken to ensure equalization of opportunities for men, women, PWDs and other marginalised groups. MDAs and LGs under this mandate are obliged to comply so as to be issued with the Certificate of Gender and Equity which is to be issued by the Minister responsible for Finance in consultation with the Equal Opportunities Commission.

I and my team are going to diligently steer this Commission for the next 5 years which are commencing today on this historical occasion.

My tenure of trust by the marginalised Ugandans has indeed began today on this 5th day of February 2015 up to 30th day of December, 2021.

The aspirations of Ugandans for a just and fair society are spelt out in the EOC Act 2007 which establishes this Commission. These indeed have informed the strategic Vision and Mission of this constitutional institution, which envisions to a just and fair society wherein all persons have equal opportunity to participate and benefit in all

spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life”. This calls for fairness and justice in the distribution and access to services and development in an all-inclusive manner in our country’s programmes and activities.

The cardinal responsibility of my tenure will be in fulfillment of these aspiration as I do pledge.

In conclusion:

The journey to ensuring equal opportunities has just begun; the challenges are immense; more effort and commitment are needed to overcome the challenges of today and those ahead.

As we move forward, I call upon the commitment of all Ugandans to this cause. Informational, time and financial resources are necessary to bring about the end to the discriminatory injustices that have threatened to tear our society apart.

Lastly, let me urge and interest all of us to pool together our efforts and ideas for this protracted cause!

For God and My Country

Sylvia Muwebwa Ntambi Nabatanzi

Chairperson