

**ON THE OCCASION OF THE ‘BEYOND JUBA PROJECT’ LAUNCH TO  
THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA HELD ON TUESDAY, 4 DECEMBER  
2007.**

The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister / Leader of Government Business in Parliament,  
The Hon. Leader of Opposition,  
Hon. Ministers,  
Hon. Members of Parliament,  
Development Partners,  
Representatives and members of civil society,  
The media,  
Distinguished invited guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this historic launch of a transitional justice project in Parliament.

The “Beyond Juba Transitional Justice Project” is timely as it comes at a time when Ugandans are seeking an end to war and conflict and looking forward to lasting peace. The project therefore creates a solid foundation from which to support the on-going Juba Peace Talks and to come with durable solutions that aim at national reconciliation in the country.

We in Parliament are more than ready to support this project which is geared towards creating a common platform for national reconciliation and unity in this country. It is also worth noting that the Parliament guided by the spirit of national reconciliation passed into law the Peace Recovery Development Programme

(PRDP) for Northern Uganda which is the launch pad for reconstruction in the war-ravaged northern Uganda.

The Uganda Chapter of the AMANI Forum is another initiative by Members of Parliament which is helping to contribute towards peaceful solutions in Uganda. I therefore urge AMANI Forum to be the ambassador of the Beyond Juba Project in Parliament and at all times.

Parliament strongly supports the efforts made by civil society organisations to contribute towards building sustainable peace in Uganda. On behalf of the 8<sup>th</sup> Parliament, I welcome the Beyond Juba initiative in facilitating and driving forward this process and pledge total parliamentary support in terms of providing the necessary policy oversight, as well as promoting pro-national reconciliation policies and any necessary legislative reforms. As Speaker of Parliament, I will see to it that any bill in future that focuses on issues of national unity, national reconciliation and justice shall be given due attention.

I therefore call on other stakeholders to join us and support this grand project in order for us to realise a free and democratic Uganda. Despite any differences we may have, let us strive for a common platform that will unite this country forever and let the next generation remember us for doing a great job for this country.

It is therefore my great pleasure to officially launch the Beyond Juba Project.

Thank You,

Rt. Hon. Edward K Ssekandi, MP  
**SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT**