

**SPEECH OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF  
THE VALIDATION WORKSHOP FOR POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA  
PROGRAMMES PREPARED BY ILPD - 28<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021**

The Rector- ILPD,  
Distinguished Participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great pleasure to be with you today and participate in this opening ceremony for this important workshop for the validation of new proposed Postgraduate diploma programmes at the Institute of Legal Practice and Development (ILPD). I wish to thank Dr. KAYIHURA M. Didas, the Rector of ILPD, and the organizing committee for all the preparatory work done.

Since the inception of ILPD in 2008, the Institute has delivered a work of quality in terms of different programs it offers, both as Diploma programmes and as short courses for a continuous legal education.

Today, the legal community is growing and issues in the society need more and more legal solutions from practitioners who master very well their field of activities. This implies a kind of specialization in different fields of law.

A work of quality and adequate answers to existing problems is the most needed in institutions that serve the population, private legal practitioners, investigators, prosecutors and courts that, most of the time, become a last resort to solve problems that arise.

As we all know, Rwanda is undergoing structural transformation in various areas and aspires to be an international business and financial hub. This requires among others to have a modernized judiciary capable of dealing with emerging complex legal disputes and delivering quality civil, criminal and commercial justice.

For the Judiciary of Rwanda to efficiently and effectively deal with modern judicial challenges, it is imperative that judges and judicial personnel are up to their tasks, which calls for adequate and specialized skills and expertise.

It should be recalled that a specialization in different fields of law was the concern, in particular, of the 14<sup>th</sup> Leadership Retreat of February to March 2017. The Retreat directed through its 20<sup>th</sup> resolution “*the Institute of Legal Practice and Development (ILPD) and the schools of law in Rwanda to focus on teaching specialized courses in order to produce more lawyers with specialist skills in particular areas of law practice*” (14<sup>th</sup> Leadership retreat resolutions).

A specialization in the practice of law is also reflected in different policies and strategic plans that include the Justice Sector Strategic Plan (SSP 4)

It is in this context that the Judiciary of Rwanda thought of partnering with ILPD to develop different Diploma programmes in different fields of laws of interests for courts.

The developed programmes consist of:

- a Post-Graduate Diploma in Criminal Process for International Crimes and Genocide Ideology (Pg. ICGI),
- a Post-Graduate Diploma in Criminal Procedure for Economic Crimes (Pg. DCPEC),
- a Postgraduate Diploma in Criminal Process and Sentencing (Pg. DCPS),
- a Post-Graduate Diploma in Contract and Tort Law Practice (Pg. DCTP),
- a Post Graduate Diploma in Corporate and Insolvency Law Practice (Pg. DCIP),
- a Post Graduate Diploma in Banking Law Practice (Pg. DBLP),
- a Postgraduate Diploma in Family Law Practice (Pg. DFLP), and
- a Postgraduate Diploma in Civil Procedure Practice (Pg. DCPP)

These different programmes will host trainees coming not only from the Judiciary, National Public Prosecution Authority and the Rwanda

Investigation Bureau, but also from different sectors that are involved in the covered programmes in their daily activities.

I am grateful that those different sectors are here represented for this validation workshop. With your dedication to the task ahead, I am confident that the proposed Diploma Programmes will be finalized and ready to be submitted to the Higher Education Council for approval.

I thank you all for finding time to be part of this exercise, and wish you a fruitful and productive workshop.