
**CAUTIONARY STATEMENT: THE ANTI-SOVEREIGNTY BILL
SIGNALS THE OVERTHROW OF THE 1995 CONSTITUTION
AND UGANDA'S EXIT FROM THE DEMOCRATIC ORDER.
LEND TO IT AT YOUR OWN RISK!**

Kampala, Uganda - 20 April 2026: Due to overwhelming public demand and the impossibly short one-week deadline Parliament gave for comments on the so-called **“Protection of Sovereignty Bill, 2026,”** the Radical New Bar Governing Council of the Uganda Law Society (ULS) issues this cautionary statement. It is addressed to every Ugandan, to Parliament, and to the whole world — investors, governments, multilateral institutions, and friends of democracy everywhere. **Our full written views will go to Parliament on Friday, 24 April 2026.**

We are renaming this Bill what it really is: **the Anti-Sovereignty Bill.** It does not protect Uganda’s sovereignty. It destroys the sovereignty—**the people’s right to self-determination**—that belongs to Ugandans under Article 1 of the Constitution and hands all power to the Executive instead.

The Constitution is crystal clear: any law which tries to change the most basic rules of how Uganda is governed — especially who holds power and how the people’s rights are protected — **must be approved by the people in a national referendum.** That is the mandatory requirement in Article 260(2)(b). Every Ugandan must be allowed to vote yes or no.

This Bill completely ignores that rule. **It makes massive changes to the foundation of our Constitution without ever asking the people.** It wipes out the words **“all power belongs to the people”** and replaces them with **“all power belongs to Government.”** It takes away your right to be governed only through your own will and consent. It gives the Minister and a new secret Department of Peace and Security unchecked power to decide “Government interests” and punish anyone who disagrees.

Because it skipped the mandatory referendum, the Bill is dead on arrival. It is unconstitutional, null and void, and has no legal effect whatsoever. No court in Uganda should ever treat it as law.

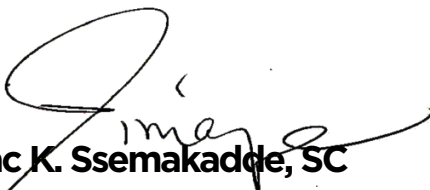
Worse still, the Bill is designed to crush free speech. It turns ordinary criticism of Government policy into the crime of **“economic sabotage.”** It turns Ugandans living abroad into **“foreigners.”** It cuts off funding to independent schools, hospitals, media and NGOs. **Its rules are so vague and overbroad that the Government can jail almost anyone it dislikes. This is exactly the kind of law our own courts have consistently thrown out as unconstitutional.**

To every Ugandan: Ask your NRM MP these three simple questions: **“Why did you hide this Bill from us until after we had voted?” “Why are you rushing it through now, when Parliament is closing?” “Is it true you took 100 million shillings at Kyankwanzi to pass it?”** This Bill is not against foreigners. **It is against you.** It is an attack on your power, your voice, and your future. **It is an act of treason under Article 3 of the Constitution.** Sovereignty belongs to the people of Uganda, not to any Government that fears them. **Reject this Bill.**

To the international community: If this Bill passes, Uganda will have walked out of the family of democracies. You will no longer be dealing with a country that respects the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights, the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights or the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community. **You will be dealing with a regime that jails its own citizens for speaking their minds, calls its own people “foreigners,” and hides behind “sovereignty” to cover up abuse of power.** Lend money, trade, invest, or give aid as you choose – but know you are no longer supporting a democracy. Foreign courts do not send people back to political prisons. Smart investors do not put money in places where the law changes on the ruler’s whim. Foreign governments do not subsidise dictatorships and call it partnership.

The Radical New Bar will not help implement or legitimise this destruction of the Constitution. We will not sanitise this assault on the rule of law or the independence of the legal profession guaranteed by the **UN Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers** (Principles 18 and 23) and the **IBA Standards** (Standards 7 and 14).

Uganda’s sovereignty is the power of her people. This Bill tries to abolish it. **The legal profession rejects it.** The greatest act of patriotism is to defend your country from a Government that no longer respects its own Constitution. We stand with the people of Uganda to restore and enforce the 1995 Constitution.


Isaac K. Ssemakadde, SC
President, Uganda Law Society