

NETHERLANDS KING'S DAY

New Vision
ADVERTISER SUPPLEMENT

12 years of partnership with JLOS

By Gilbert Kidimu

King's Day, the national holiday in the Kingdom of the Netherlands is here. Celebrated on April 27 (the 26th if the 27th falls on a Sunday), the date marks the birth of King Willem-Alexander. The first King's Day in 123 years was held in 2014.

From 1890 to 2013, the day was known as Queen's Day ostensibly because the nation was led by a Queen. The holiday was first observed on August 31, 1885 as Princess's Day, the fifth birthday anniversary of Princess Wilhelmina, heiress to the Dutch throne.

On her accession, it became Queen's Day. When held on August 31, the holiday was the final day of school summer vacation, leading to its popularity among children. Following the accession of Wilhelmina's daughter Juliana in 1948, the holiday was moved to her birthday on April 30. Her daughter, Beatrix retained the celebration on April 30 after she ascended the throne in 1980, despite her birthday falling on January 31.

On the 2013 Queen's Day, Prince Willem-Alexander succeeded his mother Beatrix and became King of the Netherlands. The date changed to April 27, his birthday.

The festivities on King's Day are often organised by local associations known as Orange Committees. One of the activities is a

a nationwide flea market, at which people sell their used goods. This is the one day of the year that the Dutch government permits sales on the street without a permit and without the payment of value added tax.

Festivities also include large-scale celebrations, with concerts and special events in public spaces, particularly in Amsterdam.

Promoting justice, human rights

The Netherlands government supports the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) in Uganda, which works with 17 institutions to improve professionalism and service delivery.

These institutions include the Uganda Police Force, Uganda Prisons Service, the Judiciary, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Directorate of Public Prosecution, Uganda Human Rights Commission and the Uganda Law Society, among others.

"They have closely linked mandates of administering justice and maintaining law and order and human rights, into developing a common vision, policy framework, unified on objectives and plan over the medium term," reads a statement by Uganda Law Reform Commission.

It focuses on a holistic approach to improving access to and administration of justice through a sector wide approach to planning, budgeting, programme implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Their vision is to "Ensure that people in Uganda live in a Safe and Just Society" and mission is to "Improve



Dutch King Willem-Alexander with his wife Queen Maxima and their daughters Princesses Alexia (L), Amalia (R) and Ariane (C) during festivities for the country's first King's Day on April 27, 2014

the safety of the person, security of property, observance of human rights and access to justice for accelerating growth, employment and prosperity."

JLOS primarily aims at promoting the rule of law. Public confidence in the justice system has increased from 34% in 2008 to 50% in 2017.

"Achievements include a reduced crime rate by 43% over 12 years cooperation with JLOS. Crime reduced from 532 for every 100,000 to 305 in 2012. It is, therefore, now safer for

investors to operate without fear of losing their investment," JLOS states on its website.

Uganda has also experienced improved legal regime for doing business. Forty out of 44 laws have been reformed, reducing the regulatory burden on businesses in Uganda and enhancing competitiveness of Uganda as an investment destination. JLOS activities have further seen strong civilian administration throughout the country, including conflict-affected areas.



The Republic of Uganda



Kingdom of the Netherlands



THE JUSTICE, LAW AND ORDER SECTOR (JLOS) CONGRATULATES THE ROYAL KINGDOM OF NETHERLANDS ON THE OCCASION OF THE KONINGS DAG (KING'S DAY) - 27TH APRIL, 2016

The Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS) extends its congratulations to the Government and the people of the Royal Kingdom of Netherlands as they commemorate the King's Day. We also take this opportunity to extend our appreciation to the Government and the people of Netherlands for their support to the promotion of the rule of law, access to justice and respect for human rights in Uganda through support to the Justice, Law and Order Sector's Third Strategic Investment Plan (SIP III).

The Justice, Law and Order Sector looks forward to a continuing and fruitful partnership with the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Netherlands as we together continue to strengthen the delivery of justice services, improve human rights and accountability with a view of promoting justice for all.

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