WHERE TO GO WHEN LAND CONFLICT OCCURS

HIGH COURT

While the High Court can try new cases over land, they usually only handle appeal cases. If the High Court feels that other structures are better fit to deal with the conflict, they may refer the case to the appropriate structure.

CHIEF MAGISTRATE COURT

This court is an appellate court and does not handle new cases over land. Instead cases are handled by the LCII Courts, then the SCC, and if not satisfied with outcome, they may appeal to the Chief Magistrate Court. If the conflicting parties are still not satisfied with the outcome, they may appeal to the High Court

SUB-COUNTY COURT COMMITTEE (SCC)

The SCC is an appellate court and as such does not hear new land conflict cases. If the case is new, they will refer it to be handled by the LCII Courts. Alternatively, if no attempt has been made to resolve the case through the use of grassroot leaders, they may refer the case directly to them. If the conflicting parties are not satisfied with the outcome, they may appeal to the Chief Magistrate Court.

LOCAL COUNCIL (LC) II COURTS

LCII Courts are the first court to hear fresh cases over land. If they feel that grassroot leaders may be able to handle the case, they may first refer the conflicting parties to such leaders. If the conflicting parties are not satisfied with the outcome, they may appeal to the Sub-County Court Committee. If cases are criminal in nature, they will also involve the police in the matter.

INFORMAL JUSTICE MECHANISMS

Grassroot leaders such as Rwodi, elders, religious leaders, peace committees, etc, can offer advise and mediation to conflicting parties which is less expensive than using the courts and promotes reconciliation. While an agreement can be signed, mediation is not legally binding. If parties are not satisfied with mediation or prefer to employ the courts, grassroot leaders will then refer the case to the LCII Courts. If cases are criminal in nature, they will also involve the police in the matter.

CONFLICTING PARTIES

When individuals/groups experience land conflict, they should first approach grassroot leaders to help resolve the matter.

POLICE

The police are called upon to restore order where a land dispute involves criminal activity or violence. The police, do not however, have a mandate to resolve a land conflict. However, they should, refer conflicting parties to either grassroot leaders for mediation or the LCII Courts.

APPEAL

REFERRAL

DISTRICT LAND BOARD (DLB)

Located within each district throughout Uganda, the District Land Boards are responsible for the administration of public land and do not resolve land conflicts. They are also mandated to receive applications for the registration of both customary and freehold land within

AREA LAND COMMITTEE (ALC)

The ALC is a voluntary body that assists the District Land Board by referring applications for a "Certificate of Customary Land Ownership." It is not mandated to resolve land conflicts.

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