



PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

Speaker's Chambers

PARLIAMENT HOUSE

P.O. BOX 7178
KAMPALA, UGANDA

Tel: +256-414-346 806

+256-414-377 100

+256-414-377 000

Fax: +256-414-231 296

AB/46/46/01

18th April 2012

Mr. Robert-Denis del Picchia
President of the IPU Twelve Plus Group
Groupe Francais de l'UIP – Palais du Luxembourg
75291 Paris cedex 06

FRANCE

RE: THE ANTI-HOMOSEXUALITY BILL, 2009

I have received your request that I prevent the Anti Homosexuality Bill from making progress in Parliament contained in your letter to me dated 10th April, 2012.

Whereas I appreciate your concerns raised in the said request, I would like to share with you as below-

1. The Bill in question is a private Member's Bill which was introduced in Parliament in accordance with the laid down procedures and the laws of Uganda.
2. Article 79 (1) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, commands that Parliament shall have power to make laws on any matter for peace, order, development and good governance of Uganda.
3. Article 94 of the same Constitution permits back-bench Members of Parliament to move private Members bills.
4. In addition, Rule 105 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda echoes the rights afforded under article 94 (4) as already referred to above.

5. Upon introduction of a Bill in the House/Parliament for its first reading, the Bill is referred to the relevant committee of Parliament for public hearings and detailed scrutiny. A report is subsequently made detailing the findings and recommendations of the committee. This report is presented to the House/Plenary for debate.
6. The Anti Homosexuality Bill, 2009 was accordingly referred to a relevant committee for the above mentioned purposes.
7. The Speaker has no role other than presiding over the plenary considering the bill. Indeed, the Speaker's role is to ensure that the Rules of Procedure of Parliament are strictly adhered to. I intend to do so.
8. In light of the above, I hope you appreciate that it is not the Speaker's mandate to frustrate any business that is presented in the plenary in total compliance with the Constitution and the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda. The Bill will be debated in the House and it is up to the Members of Parliament who are the people's representatives to either pass it or reject it. Any attempt by the Speaker to frustrate any Bill that has, in its introduction, complied with both the Constitution and the rules would be unconstitutional.
9. I will however forward your concerns, as I always do, to the Committee handling this Bill for consideration before they report to the House.
10. I would like to assure you that the Bill will be fully debated by the representatives of the people of Uganda and they will certainly take into consideration the very many comments and proposals that have been made on the Bill. In the end, I am confident, that a law that is good for Ugandans as part of the wider world community will be passed.


Rebecca A. Kadaga (MP)
SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA