

UGANDA UNION MISSION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

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ADVENTIST LEADER AND TRUSTEESHIP

Luganda quote

"Ekanisa yaffe eya SDA (Adventist) telina ba kadongo kamu, ffe tukuba band omulundi gumu.." (Pr Kajoba Samuel, CUC leadership installation, 30 May 2026)



LEGAL PERSPECTIVE OF A TRUSTEE

Trustee: *One who holds property on trust for another.* (The Longman Dictionary of Law, Eighth Edition, at page 475)

Trust: *...an equitable obligation which imposes on a person described as a trustee certain duty of dealing with property held and controlled by him for the benefit of the persons described as beneficiaries.*
Ibid, page 474

Settlor, trustee, beneficiary and trust property.



DUTIES OF A TRUSTEE



Duty of loyalty

- Can not buy assets from the trust
- Can not borrow from the trust
- Can not sell to the trust
- No self-dealing (conflict of interest)



Duty of care

- **Must manage property with care, skill, caution and prudence**
- **Duty of obedience to trust instrument**
- **Legally bound by express instructions in the trust deed e.g pay fees no purchase a car**



Duty to account



ADVENTIST REPRESENTATIVE LEADERSHIP

- When a leader is elected at the 4 governing structures, one is expected to represent the church in consonance with the Global Church Manual
- This means that personal, political, social or theological opinions must not be framed as the church's position
- In Adventist church, a leader is a trustee of the collective will not an independent policy maker



- Adventist governance operates on a representative model. When a leader speaks, acts or decides, they do so as a representation of the global body not as an independent or autonomous individual.
- This does not mean that Adventist leaders are denied freedom of speech, expression or conscience. No, we are the pioneers of the world's oldest association dedicated to the freedom of conscience for all people – 133 years of IRLA.



- The concept of representative leadership is what has kept us united as one organizational body for years.
- Our authority (**source of reference**) or scope of duty is neither personal opinion, personal charisma nor personal popularity. **Pr Kajoba in the same quote said *tetulina ba* star.**



Authorities

- Spiritual documents (Bible, SOP)
- Voted documents (Bye-laws & Constitution, Church Manual, Working Policy, Strategic Mission of the Global Church, Committee Resolutions)



Personal Opinion

- Adventist leaders must surrender the luxury of personal opinion where the church has established a policy position.
- As a leader entrusted in that position, when you speak, it's your office speaking not Pr so and so. Example of all my former pastors; UUM president and CUC president at Najjanankumbi, my KCC pastors; the UUM Executive Secretary, EBF president, WBF president, CUC departmental Communication (CUC), Education (CUC), Ministerial (MWUF)



- **ECD EXCOM report excerpt:** *"the report further noted that many members trusted the investment scheme because senior pastors publicly promoted the venture through church meetings, camp meetings and pastoral influence"*
- A leader speaks for the united body not a mere local congregation



THE RISK OF PERSONAL OPINION IN REPRESENTATIVE LEADERSHIP

Policy fragmentation

- Individualism has a high possibility to fracture the global family. (Remember **Proverbs 11:14** ...in the multitude of counselors there is safety)



Reputational risk

Imagine I entered a contract binding the church without the trustees' knowledge, what would follow? Total chaos, firefighting, presenting the church organization to the society as a group of disorganized people



Accountability risk

- Does my statement align with the church authorities
- Can I repeat the same if called upon or I can begin speaking in tongues



END

