

By Aloysious Kasoma

Directors' forum to focus on governance, AI

The Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators Uganda (ICSA) in partnership with KPMG Uganda will host the 15th Annual Directors and Company Secretaries Conference on March 4 at Mestil Hotel in Kampala.

The conference, themed *Corporate Governance: The Bridge to Artificial Intelligence*, has also been boosted by the partnership of Vision Group, which is collaborating with governance experts to amplify discussions on responsible leadership, sustainability and technology-driven transformation.

Speaking during the launch held at the KPMG offices in Kampala on Thursday, Jane Okot P'Bitek Langoya, the chairperson of ICSA Uganda-East Africa region, said the conference is designed to address critical issues affecting corporate leadership today.

L-R: Nyakato, Langoya, Mwesigwa, Mugisha and Ayebare during the launch of the 15th Annual Directors and Company Secretaries Conference at the KPMG offices in Kampala on Thursday



"This conference brings together boards, senior management from public organisations, government, the private sector, large corporations, small and

medium-sized enterprises and non-governmental organisations.

"It creates a platform for leadership to discuss the issues that keep board members and

CEOs awake at night, and to learn from one another's experiences," Langoya said.

She cited some of the issues affecting organisations, including environmental,

social and governance (ESG), as well as artificial intelligence (AI).

"That is why this conference is linking ESG and AI to corporate governance," Langoya said.

KPMG Africa associate director Benson Mwesigwa said governance continues to shape business survival and long-term success in an increasingly digital world.

"Corporate governance is at the heart of everything we do. Without strategic direction and effective oversight, a business cannot succeed," he said.

Mwesigwa said the 2025 KPMG CEO Outlook Survey identified four major forces shaping corporate strategy: Generative AI, talent, ESG and cybersecurity.

From the Bank of Uganda,

Yedidah Nyakato highlighted the importance of governance in fulfilling institutional mandates and responding to emerging technologies.

Josephine Okui Ossiya, the chief executive officer of the Capital Markets Authority, will serve as chief guest, while the keynote address will be delivered by Patrick Ayota, the managing director of the National Social Security Fund.

An international perspective will be provided by Linda Ford, the chief executive officer of ICSA headquarters in the UK, who will speak on responsible AI governance and share lessons from emerging global governance systems.

Vision Group's risk manager, Ian Mugisha, said the media organisation is committed to promoting governance, sustainability and responsible use of emerging technologies through its operations and editorial platforms.