

TABLE 1: STATUS OF THE PRIORITIZED COMMERCIAL BILLS AS OF NOVEMBER 30TH 2009

	LEGISLATION	OBJECTIVE	STATUS
A. Enacted into Law			
(i)	Copy Rights and Neighboring Rights, No 19 2006	Seeks to repeal the outdated copyright Act, (Cap 215) passed in 1964 and to provide for greater protection of literary scientific and artistic intellectual works and their neighboring rights.	This was passed and enacted into law.
(ii)	Audit Act, 2008	Aimed at giving greater autonomy to the office of the Auditor General in the execution of functions and responsibilities.	The Bill was passed assented to and commenced in 2008
(iii)	The Hire Purchase Act No. 3, 2009.	To provide for the regulation and registration of hire purchase agreements and the licensing of persons carrying out hire purchases business and for related purposes. Hire purchase refers to a method of buying goods by paying periodic installments and only gets full ownership after completing full payment.	Bill assented to and published as Act No.3 of 2009. Date of commencement 12/6/2009.
(iv)	Trade Secrets Protection Act, No 2 2009.	To provide for the protection of undisclosed information in commercial transactions and provide for related matters. A trade secret is information that must be legally protected against disclosure, acquisition or use by others in a manner contrary to honest commercial practice.	Bill assented to and published as Act No. 2 of 2009. Date of commencement 12/6/2009.
(v)	Mortgage Act, 2009 (MLHUD)	To abandon and replace the Mortgage Act Cap 229 and some provisions in the Registration of Titles Act Cap. 230. To enhance and maintain the law in line with the market developments and practices. A Mortgage is a binding agreement for banks to lend money to persons holding property/land on terms and conditions for the money to be paid back at an agreed period with interest.	Bill assented to by the President.
B. Bills Passed and Awaiting Assent by the President			
(vi)	Partnerships Bill, 2008(MOJCA)	To repeal and replace the existing Partnership Act Cap. 114 which is based on the laws of England. A Partnership is the relationship that subsists between individual persons or corporations carrying out business in common with a view to making profits.	The Bill was passed by Parliament on 6 th May 2009.

C. Bills before Parliament or with Relevant Parliamentary Committees			
(viii)	Electronic Transaction Bill, 2008 - New	<p>To promote operation and development of electronic transactions.</p> <p>To regulate websites, and contractual agreements resulting from e-commerce transactions.</p> <p>Ensure harmonization of ICT regulations with international regulations to avoid market distortions.</p>	Bill read for the first time in Parliament on 18 th March 2009 and committed to the Parliamentary Committee on ICT
(ix)	Insolvency Bill, 2009.	The Bill is intended to provide a comprehensive law covering both individual bankruptcy and corporate insolvency.	Bill committed to the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee in July 2009.
(x)	Electronic (Digital) Signature Bill, 2008	Aimed at recognizing technology of digital signatures and guaranteeing their security.	Bill before the Parliamentary Committee on ICT as of Sept. 2009.
(xi)	Computer Misuse Bill	<p>To promote the development and use of ICT.</p> <p>To ensure legal protection of computers is harmonized internationally.</p>	Bill before the Parliamentary Committee on ICT.
(xii)	Geographical Indications Bill 2008(MFPED)	<p>The bill provides for the regulation and registration of geographical indications and remedies for infringement for their use.</p> <p>Geographical indications are a sign used on goods that have a specific origin and possesses qualities that are due to their place of origin e.g. Swiss watches.</p>	Bill before the Legal and Parliamentary affairs Committee.
(xiii)	Trade Marks And Services Bill, No.9, 2009(MOJCA)	<p>To repeal and replace the existing Trade Marks Act (Cap 217), to incorporate new developments in trademarks law to support a competitive economy.</p> <p>Trade mark means a mark used or proposed to be used in relation to goods for the purpose of indicating, or so as to indicate a connection in the course of trade between the goods and some persons having the right either as proprietor or as registered user to use the mark, whether with or without any indication of the identity of that person.</p>	Bill was read the first time in Parliament on 2 nd September, 2008 and committed to Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee.
(xiv)	Industrial Property Bill, 2008 (MOJCA)	To replace the Patents Act with the new Industrial Property law in order to upgrade the ground for promotion of inventive and innovative activities therefore create a base for the advancing technology in Uganda, regionally and globally.	Bill before the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee of Parliament.
(xv)	Companies Bill, 2008(MOJCA)	To reform the current outdated law relating to incorporation. Management, regulation and administration of companies and other associations.	The bill is before the legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee of Parliament.

(xvi)	Chattels Securities Bill, 2008	To regulate the making and enforcement of security interests in chattels, to repeal the Chattels Transfer Act Cap 70. Chattels security deals with the giving of personal property or chattels other than land as security for a loan or debt	Bill is before the Legal and Parliamentary Committee of Parliament.
(vii)	The Contract (Amendment) Bill, 2008(MOJCA)	To repeal and replace the current Contract Act Cap 79, to consolidate the law relating to contracts. A contract is an agreement made with the free consent of parties with capacity to contract, for a lawful consideration, with a lawful object and with the intention to be legally bound.	Bill passed by Parliament and sent to President for Assent. Bill before the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee.
D. Bills before Cabinet.			
(xvii)	Sale Of Goods And Supply Of Services Bill, 2008 (New)	To repeal and replace the Sale of Goods Act Cap 82, and improve the quality of services rendered to the public, e.g. banking. Sale of goods is defined as the contract where the seller transfers or agrees to transfer the property in the goods to the buyer for a price.	MTTI to give drafting instructions to FPC following stakeholder input.
(xviii)	Free Zones Bill, 2008 (New)	To provide for the establishment, development, management, marketing, maintenance, supervision and control of free zones.	Cabinet discussed the Bill on 7 th October and requested MFPED to consult and clarify on terms and resubmit draft. MFPED is due to complete the consultations and resubmit to Cabinet.
(xix)	Accountant Amendment Bill, 2008	To repeal the old act and to realign the legislation with the current practice. To regulate registration of accountants and to enforce professional standards.	The principles for amending the Law are before Cabinet.
(xx)	Capital Markets Authority Bill, 2008	To accommodate the growing market and stock exchange requirements.	Bill is before Cabinet following the consent of the Attorney General.
E. Bills under Drafting Stage			
xxi	Investment Code (Amendment) Bill, 2008 (MoFPED)	To amend the Investment Code, 1991 and provides for registration of investors, making UIA a one-stop centre for investment.	The principles for the amendment were approved in May 2009. The Bill is being drafted by FPC.
(xxii)	Counterfeit Goods Bill, 2008 (MTTI)	To curtail trade in counterfeit goods by empowering authorities concerned to seize and detain suspected counterfeited goods.	The bill is being drafted by FPC for resubmission to Cabinet.