

THE TRACK

Newsletter

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*O*ur esteemed readers,

Here again is our exciting edition of the TRACK Newsletter – the first of its kind in the New Year 2019. In this edition, we share with you highlights of the various activities conducted in the first quarter of the year 2019, achievements realized and stories of change among other articles.

Special thanks go out to those who have continuously given us feedback on the stories produced in our newsletter, and implore others to do so, for it is through your support and joint efforts that we can make the Rwenzori a corruption-free region.

Happy Reading!

HIGHLIGHTS OF INTERVENTIONS CARRIED OUT IN JANUARY – MARCH 2019

1: Regional Education Stakeholders' meeting – Fort Portal:



The Minister of State for Ethics and Integrity officiating as Chief guest at the Stakeholders meeting.

On February 28, 2019, key stakeholders and actors in the education sector (at district, regional and national level) converged at Gardens' Restaurant in Fort Portal – Kabarole district with the aim of addressing some of the major challenges facing and affecting the quality of education in the region and the country at large. Although the education sector is faced with numerous challenges, emphasis was laid on four i.e.

- Examination malpractices in primary and secondary schools
- Use of money and other incentives in the election of leaders in schools
- Mismanagement of school funds
- Absenteeism

Presided over by the State Minister for Ethics and Integrity – Hon. Fr. Simon Lokodo, the one day meeting brought together 104 participants from the Rwenzori region, as well as officials from the Ministry of Education, UNEB, Anti-Corruption Unit, ACFM and the Directorate of Ethics and Integrity. Regional/district-based participants included; District inspectors of School, Area Inspectors of Schools, District Education Officers, Resident District Commissioners, District Chairpersons, Chief Administrative Officers, District Internal Security Officers, heads of selected learning institutions, District Police Commanders, RAC focal persons, Board chair and staff.



Who is responsible for examination malpractices in Uganda

Various presentations and key note addresses were made, highlighting existing gaps and recommendations for improvement.

Key among the outputs of the meeting were commitments signed by the RDCs, District Chairpersons and CAOs of all the eight districts of the Rwenzori region, pledging to do everything within their powers to ensure that examination malpractices, staff absenteeism and monetized elections in schools are brought to an end.



Dr. Turyagyenda – the Director of Education Standards – MoE & S addressing participants during the meetig



Bundibugyo leaders against Examination

malpractices

KEY RESOLUTIONS FROM THE REGIONAL EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING

RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. The Education policy on staff recruitment should be revised to have the recruitment process decentralized so as to improve the staffing levels.
- b. There is need to reward/recognize officials that refuse to be compromised so as to motivate and encourage others to desist from examination malpractices
- c. Examinations, like ballot papers should be printed out of Uganda to reduce on the leakage and other malpractices
- d. During examination briefing for teachers and students, the police ,Army and CSOS too should be briefed to enable them offer maximum security and guard against malpractices
- e. There is need to change/improve our examination system so as to improve the quality of our education. Most schools are currently teaching pupils/students to pass exams other than learning to understand Parents should not give money to pupils unless it is requested for in a circular
- f. UNEB should punish everyone involved in examination malpractices, not learners alone
- g. Students who miss final exams due to non-payment of UNEB fees should be allowed to sit exams at the expense of the head teachers who embezzle their funds

No.	ISSUE	TIME FRAME	RESPONSIBLE ENTITY
1	UNEB to consider utilizing RAC monitors as scouts since they have passed the ACID test. They are people of integrity and will therefore not involve themselves in leaking exams and other forms of malpractices. To effect this, RAC should provide CVs of eligible monitors to UNEB	(MARCH – APRIL) 2019	RAC and UNEB
2.	ALL CAO'S of Districts should validate academic documents of all teachers in their districts.	By END OF DEC 2019	CAOS OF RWENZORI DISTRICTS
3.	District leadership should open up cases at police on examination malpractices and other corruption cases , they should not wait for other stakeholders to do it for them	Immediately	CAO, LCVS, RDCS
4.	Organize a meeting between UNEB , MOE&S and Bundibugyo leaders to address the education challenges in Bundibugyo district. The meeting was proposed for March 30, 2019.	By March 30, 2019.	CAO BUNDIBUGYO, UNEB ,MOE&S
5.	UNATU should release a statement on the schools involved in cheating and give their position on this .They should take action on individual teachers involved.	Immediately	UNATU

6.	Before demanding for salary increment for teachers, UNATU should produce evidence in form of a report that teachers go to class/report for duty on time and offer lessons as expected.	Before second term begins.	UNATU
7.	Ministry of Education and Sports should issue out a circular to all schools to stop the act of monetized elections and a circular about the official schooling days and hours	By April	MoE&S
8.	A research or an Assessment be conducted to find out why the Rwenzori was referred to by UNEB as the hatchery for cheating exams /exam malpractices.	By end of year	MOE&S
9.	All unlicensed schools that are still operational should be closed as per the January 2018 circular from the ministry of education	Immediately	RDCS, CAOs and District Chairpersons
10.	RDCS should check whether primary schools that have boarding facilities have special permission from the MOE&S and if not close them.	Immediately	RDCS and DISOS
11.	RDCs and District chairpersons should ensure that all schools in their districts have latrines. Those without should be closed. Parents should support the schools in putting up latrines for the learners to avoid spreading of diseases	Immediately	RDCs and Chairpersons
12.	There is need to investigate to determine if the little funds released for inspection are properly utilised .Value for money audits conducted for inspection funds	Immediately	OAG
13.	Bundibugyo DISO to open up a case against the Bundibugyo team requesting for funds from pupils as exam fees and those caught red-handed cheating exams.	Immediately	DISO
14.	Local governments should rationalize to address the challenge of low staffing levels. They should transfer staff from schools with many teachers but fewer learners to those with less teachers but with high numbers of learners	Immediately	CAOs
15.	Capacity building program and retooling teachers to improve their performance	By end of year	District leadership
16.	Induct SMCs on their roles and responsibilities	Immediately	DEO and Governance cluster.



Witnesses to the commitments



Participants at Stakeholders meeting

2. Monitoring and case follow up

Various case follow ups and project monitoring exercises were carried out in the quarter under review. Deliberate efforts were made to follow up on the cases reported to RAC for response, action and logical conclusion. These include among others; encroachment of wetlands in Fort Portal Municipality Primary school in Kamwenge district, alleged lack of value for money in the construction of pit latrines at Karago Town council worth 60 million, misappropriation of production funds in Bundibugyo Town council, Alleged issuance of illegal street parking receipts in Fort Portal Municipality, alleged termination of road gangs in Kyamutunzi TC in Kyenjojo district, alleged extortion of money from members of the public by NIRA officials in Kyegegwa and Mabale in Kagadi district, alleged use of fake contractors during installation of power at Bukuku Sub-county head-quarters, alleged impersonation of two primary teachers in Kabonero sub-county in

Bunyangabu district, theft of drugs at Bukangama HC III, alleged misappropriation of funds for construction of Bundibugyo Town Council Office block, Delayed salary payment for secondary school teachers in Bundibugyo district , faulted procurement procedure in the construction of borehole in Ntoroko, non-completion of Karugutu Town council Administration block and alleged unsafe male circumcision in Nyabuharwa sub-county – Kyenjojo district among others.

Most of these cases are still under investigation while others were concluded. Among those that were concluded was the case of Nkongoro Primary School where funds were allegedly misappropriated by a few individuals for their own selfish interests. RAC, upon receipt of a complaint by a whistle-blower (through RAC's whatsapp group) did not rest until the diverted funds were returned. The story is detailed below:

Nkongoro Primary School: RAC's on-spot intervention facilitates return of misappropriated funds

On Monday August 28, 2019, RAC received a complaint from a whistle blower about gross mismanagement of funds meant for completion of a staff house at Nkongoro Primary School, Kamwenge Sub-county. The funds in question were awarded by Hima Cement as royalties to the sub-county.



The incomplete staff house



No to Examination malpractice...
Kabarole leaders sign their commitments



Bundibugyo leaders against examination malpractices



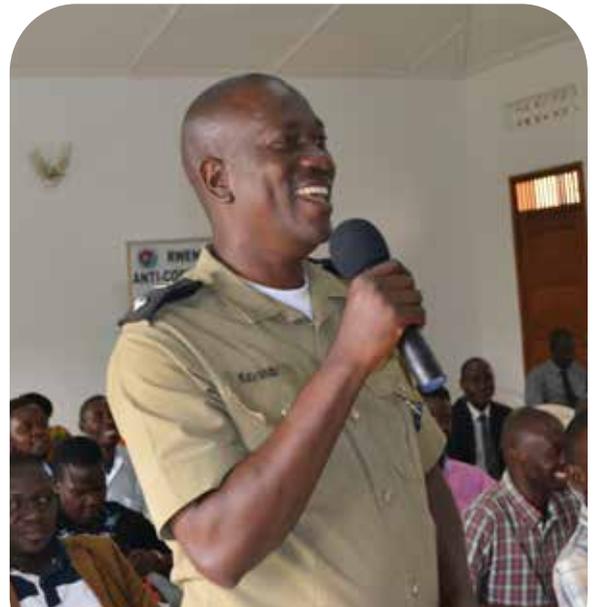
Dr. Turyagyenda, RAC Board Chair and the RAC ED during the Education Stakeholders meeting



Anti-Corruption walk. Hon. Lokodo with the RAC ED at the Regional Education Stakeholders meeting



Participants during the stakeholders' meeting



Bringing the police aboard the Anti-Corruption fight



Demanding for accountability



Members of the governance cluster in quarterly reflection meeting at RAC secretariat



Networking – Members of the governance cluster in a meeting organized by SEATINI



RAC in a closed-door meeting with key stakeholders in the Nkongoro issue



The Ntoroko District Chairperson stressing a point



Governance cluster members monitoring Kyenjojo Hospital



Governance cluster members sharing a light moment with the doctor during monitoring of Kyenjojo Hospital

In regard to the above complaint, RAC made a monitoring visit to Kamwenge on Wednesday January 30, 2019 in a bid to verify the allegations. The RAC team was led by the RAC Executive Director, together with the Communication and Documentation Officer, a RAC monitor and the Driver.

During our fact finding mission, various stakeholders were interviewed in search for answers and response to the allegations. These included;

a The Deputy Head-teacher – Nkongoro Primary

School

b. Member – Founding body

c. Teacher

d. SMC member

e. Sub-Accountant – Kamwenge Sub-county

f. The CAO- Kamwenge district

g. The District Engineer – Kamwenge district

N.B A phone call conversation was also held with the head teacher – Nkongoro Primary school since he was not at school at the time of our monitoring



Engaging the Deputy Head-teacher – Nkongoro Primary School

Findings

The management of the school as the beneficiaries had very limited information about the project. According to the deputy head-teacher, the funds in question were meant to complete a staff house that had stalled for over 10 years due to lack of funds. The project had been started by the parents but when the construction was at the ring beam, they failed to raise funds to complete the project. They were however informed that funds had been received from HIMA as royalties to support them complete the project.

In a telephone conversation with the school head teacher – Mr. Nzamiye, we were informed that he had been informed that they were receiving funds worth 42million from Hima to the sub-county account. He further informed us that the district engineer had visited the site and drew estimated bills of quantities at a cost of 69 million. However, no formal meeting had been conducted to inform the school management about the project in question.

Meeting with the Sub-Accountant – Ms. Rosette Twikirize

After our engagement with the school team, RAC made a trip to the sub-county head quarters to engage the leadership on our concerns. However, the sub-county was deserted with only the receptionist at the premises. The sub-accountant later walked in, and this gave us a chance to interview her on the project in question. Ms. Twikirize revealed that funds worth 67 million from Hima cement had been given to the sub-county for completion of Nkongoro P/S in the month of December 2018. According to Twikirize, the building had been constructed up to the ring beam but because it had stalled for a long time, the engineer advised that they demolish the ring beam and have it constructed afresh. According to Rosette, the school had requested for 52 million but the award from HIMA was 67million. Rosette expressed her shock over allegations of mismanagement of the funds in question yet according to her, these funds had been on the

account for only one month, with plans to put them to the rightful use. 'I was shocked to hear that there was a message rotating on a whatsapp group about funds mismanagement! This is not true, all these are false allegations from some community members' – she said.

Proceeding with our investigations, we requested Rosette to avail us with copies of the project documents to support the verbal information she had given us. Rosette however told us that these were not available, as they were locked up in the Sub-county chief's drawers, so she could not access them. The only available documents she would share with us were a copy of the second requisition for funds worth 15 million. What was rather strange was the fact that this requisition was made on the same day that the first instalment of 13 million had been made. Worse still, the second requisition had been approved for purchase of the same materials that had allegedly been purchased with funds from the first instalment i.e. cement, sand and bricks. Although there were some materials on site, they could not tantamount to the funds released. There were approximately 3 trips of bricks, and 2 trips of sand (lake and clay). The other disturbing question was why the district engineer – Michael was the one making requisitions for the project funds

Meeting with the CAO

After our meeting with the sub-accountant, we paid a visit to the CAO with hope to find answers to the missing puzzles. The CAO was in shock when we informed her that some funds had already been withdrawn from the account yet the sub-county chief had been to her office the day before, seeking for guidance on the procurement method to undertake. In his letter to the CAO, the sub-county chief had proposed that they use community procurement for the completion of the staff house at Nkongoro P/S.

On why Michael – the district engineer was the one requesting for project funds, the CAO said that it would be best for Michael to explain his involvement in the procurement process for the project in question. According to Michael, he was approached by the district leadership for guidance. He recommended that the ring-beam be removed and start the construction afresh since the building was short and had stalled for some time. He advised that they break the beam to construct a taller building. He prepared the proje

BoQs worth 69 Million, and that the project was overseen by the parish procurement and Development committee. Michael further advised the team not to buy the building materials from the community, save for those produced locally like the sand and bricks. Michael was appointed by the sub-county chief as the contracts' supervisor and that's why, on January 16, 2019, he requested for funds to begin implementation. According to Michael, he first requested for 10 million, out of which 6 million was deposited for cement, iron bars, steer ups and binding wires. All these – according to Michael had been paid for at Wenger's hardware shop – who happens to be the district procurement officer

Impromptu visit to the hardware shop

A spontaneous visit was made to the hardware shop in question; our investigations revealed that the sub-accountant had rushed there after our engagement with her to forge a receipt. The shop attendant – who happened to be the Procurement officer's wife informed us that Rosette had rushed to her shop earlier in the day and asked her to make a receipt for cement worth 6million. We saw a carbonated copy of the receipt dated 16/01/19, but on the same page where sales for January 31 had been made – insinuating that that the receipt had been made that same day of our monitoring.

Bringing the RDC on board

At the end of our fact finding mission, a verbal report was shared with the CAO and RDC, detailing all the findings of our investigations. The CAO hence called for a meeting with all the key players involved in the matter under investigation. In attendance was the CAO, RDC, DISO, Kamwenge Sub-county chief, Kamwenge Sub-accountant, Kamwenge Sub-county chairperson, the District Engineer, the District Procurement Officer, the RAC ED, The RAC Communication and Documentation Officer and the Gender and Research Officer – RAC. After submissions from the various actors, the RDC resolved that all the project funds be put back to the account by close of business, failure of which they would face the wrath of the law. He demanded that they share with him the bank statement after depositing the money. Bowing to the RDC's commands, all the monies were re-banked. RAC obtained copies of the bank statements with proof that " the funds had indeed been rebanked.



1. Nkongoro Staff house before RAC intervention

2. Nkongoro Staff house after RAC intervention

3. Meeting with the Governance cluster

The governance cluster is a loose coalition of civil society organizations that seek to promote good governance and accountability in the Rwenzori region. The cluster is hosted by RAC. In pursuit of the cluster goals, a one-day meeting was conducted with members of the governance cluster, with the aim of reflecting upon the effectiveness of the activities previously carried out, so as to forge better strategies that would enable us realize our goal and objectives in the new year 2019. The following strategies/priorities were thus proposed:

1. Joint monitoring of projects with district leaders and governance cluster members
2. National level engagement with parliamentary sectoral committees of – health, production and environment and budgets (
3. Joint media campaign (compile documentary and air it on TV)

4. Learning visits i.e. caravan to various learning points, and visit to Hoima to engage Oil and gas companies to enable governance cluster members understand and monitor oil and gas projects

5. Documentation/publication of our work (Printing magazine on governance cluster work)

6. Engage parliament on governance issues and participate in the parliamentary week

7. Advocacy week on issues of women, youth and PWDs to sensitize them on available government programs

A joint monitoring visit was also made to Kyenjojo hospital to determine the state of service delivery at this facility.

Joint Monitoring: Rwenzori Governance Cluster visits Kyenjojo Hospital



On January 22, 2019, members of the Rwenzori governance cluster, after their reflection meeting made a trip to Kyenjojo Hospital with the aim of understanding the state of service delivery at this facility. The team was received by the hospital medical superintendent – Dr. Kalyegira Stephen.

In his remarks, Dr. Kalyegira, prior to taking us around the hospital premises shared with us the status of services offered, achievements realized, challenges faced and future plans. He implored us to amplify his voice to the relevant duty bearers to address the existing gaps so as to improve service delivery in the health sector in the district. Dr. Kalyegira further implored us and other stakeholders to make routine visits to the hospital – saying that this would encourage them to improve in areas where they are weak.

Dr. Kalyegira was happy to report that;

- The hospital has two functional ambulances
- Erratic supplies of drugs had stopped; all drugs and other medical supplies are now delivered by NMS.
- Maternal mortality was low, although infant and prenatal mortality was still high

- The hospital has a reliable water source
 - Insulin, the drug for diabetic patients is now considered under the essential drugs so patients are no longer charged for it
- The hospital is however still grappling with a number challenges including;
- Lack of incinerator – the hospital uses open burning which is inefficient and risky
 - Drug stock-out, especially for Non-Communicable Diseases like Hypertension is still high
 - Staffing levels are still below the recommended standard. Out of the 12 required doctors for example, the hospital only has 6, with one additional from Baylor.
 - The hospital lacks an X-ray and a dental chair, yet they have a well-set up dental unit. The unit is thus dormant due to lack of these two key facilities.

At the end of our monitoring visit, Dr. Kalyegira requested us, together with other patriotic Ugandans to come in and support them where they are facing major challenges like fuel for the two ambulances as well as the missing facilities like the dental chair.



Dr. Kalyegira in an interview with the governance cluster members



Cluster members inspecting a new latrine under construction at the hospital

Other activities carried out in the quarter

Meeting with Focal Persons: in a bid to step up our monitoring exercise and documentation of findings, a meeting was conducted with the focal persons. In the meeting, members were taken through the proposed activities to be conducted through the quarter and at the same time, they were given a monitoring tool that would be used by the monitors to collect data. The tool was explained to the focal persons, detailing areas of emphasis. Findings obtained were intended to compile a research report that would be published for wider sharing and advocacy.

Monitoring: Monitoring facilitation and tools were sent to the monitors to embark on their quarterly monitoring. The tools were given to the focal persons to deliver to the monitors. The monitoring is primarily focused on three sectors i.e. Education, Health and Production. Some

branches have returned the filled monitoring tools while others are yet to return them. Once complete, the collated data will be used to compile a research report on the sectors monitored, which report will then be published for wider dissemination.

Radio talk shows: Three radio talk-shows were conducted in the Month of February and March 2019. Two out of the three radio talks shows were conducted in preparation for the Education Regional Stakeholders' meeting held at Gardens' Restaurant in Fort Portal. The talk shows were conducted in Bundibugyo and Kagadi districts i.e. UBC Bundibugyo and Kagadi FM. Another talk-show was conducted on Jubilee FM as feedback to the community about the action points drawn from the Education stakeholders' meeting.

Stories Of Change

Racs Advocacy Restores Subvention Grant For Rukoki Model Primary School

For four years, subvention grants to Rukoki Model Primary School had become a dream far from reach! This is after government, under the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development suspended the grant in 2015, a move that greatly affected the beneficiaries.

Rukoki Model Primary School, situated in Kasese Municipality – Kasese district was founded with the aim of supporting Special Needs Education (SNE) children. Supported by the Government of Uganda under the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, the school offers Special Needs Education, accommodation, meals and special facilities like wheel chairs for the physically handicapped children.

However, in 2015, this special grant was suspended, a move that greatly suffocated these vulnerable children. Having suspended this grant, Kasese District leadership tried to step in to bridge the gap, but this could not be sustained for long, creating a dire situation for the management of the SNE children of Rukoki.

The RAC monitors, during their monthly monitoring of schools came to learn of this appalling situation and immediately informed the relevant duty bearers for action. RAC on her part brought this touching story to light during the Regional Budget Advocacy Consultative Meeting in Fort Portal, organized by CSBAG. Many were moved by this revelation and straight away, started to lobby and advocate for the reinstating of the grant to rescue the vulnerable children.

Fortunately, these pleas did not fall on deaf ears. In December 2018, a total fee of Two million Shillings (2,000,000/-) was deposited on the school account of Rukoki Model Primary School as subvention grant for SNE, for the 1st term of 2019.

To this end, RAC was greatly appreciated for their efforts without which the subvention grant to Rukoki may have been history. As a sign of their appreciation, the Deputy Head teacher on behalf of the Head teacher wrote an appreciation letter expressing their gratitude towards this noble cause.

Appreciation letter

RUKOKI MODEL PRIMARY
SCHOOL,
P.O. Box 250,
KASESE
UGANDA
28th JAN 2019

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
RWENZORI ANTI-CORRUPTION COALITION (RAC),
P.O. Box 135,
FORT PORTAL - UGANDA.

DEAR SIR,

RE:- REPORT ABOUT SUBVENTION
GRANT.

On behalf of the school administration I hereby submit a report about subvention grant which had not been remitted to the school account since 2015.

I hereby report to you that the school has received 2,000,000 (Two million shillings only). This positive response has been made.

I appreciate your effort towards the struggle to rectify this problem. We anticipate SNE department under Ministry of Education and Sports will continue responding positively.

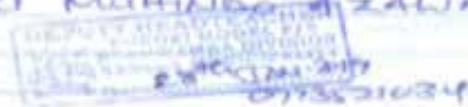
It is my sincere hope and conviction that this co-operation will continue.

Yours faithfully

Magezi Muhinda Zawah

MAGEZI MUHINDA ZAWAH.

cc. School file



RAC's intervention brings an end to extortion of money for NIRA Registration in Kyegegwa

Registration with the National Identification Registration Authority to obtain a National Identity card is supposed to be done free of charge. However, there are some unscrupulous individuals who have chosen to abuse this service by selling the application forms that should otherwise be given out for free. Such was the case in Kyegegwa sub-county where one – Magezi was asked to pay a total of 15,000/= when he went to register with NIRA for a national ID. The illegal fees were allegedly meant for;

- a. Forms (7000/=)
- b. Chairperson LCI (3000/=)
- c. Data entrant (5000/=)

When asked for these fees, Magezi Smelt a rat. He thus ran to RAC and reported this incidence. RAC immediately reported this case to NIRA at Fort Portal regional office, urging them to intervene and stop these unscrupulous individuals who were taking advantage of vulnerable Ugandans .

Following RAC's report, NIRA investigated and confirmed that Magezi's allegations

were true. NIRA, through their Fort Portal Regional supervisor hence swung into action and ordered all the culpable officials to stop these illegal charges with immediate effect.

The officials complied and Magezi was thus able to register for his national Identity card at no cost whatsoever.

Similarly, Asaba Scovia was able to obtain her National ID at no cost, after RAC's intervention. Some NIRA officials in Mabale sub-county had reportedly asked Scovia to pay a total fee of five hundred thousand shillings (500,000/=) for a national ID.

Skeptical about these charges, Scovia reported her concerns to RAC who then followed up with Fort Portal regional offices for clarification about these fees being asked for. Ms. Fortunate – the Supervisor for Rwenzori and Bunyoro region followed up and investigated these allegations, and verified them to be true. Ms. Fortunate cautioned the officials, and urged them to desist from such malpractices.

