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THE TRACK



NEWSLETTER

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Warm greetings to all our esteemed readers and fans of the TRACK Newsletter!

We congratulate you upon the successful completion of the year 2020; a year that will linger on in the minds of many for the outbreak of the COVID19 pandemic, a virus that wept out thousands of lives across the globe. As a result, many countries went under lockdown for fear of spreading the disease faster. However, many have since opened up and resumed business but in a new normal way.

Throughout this quarter, a number of exciting events have taken place at a global, national and regional level. In this edition of the TRACK Newsletter, we bring you up to speed with some of the events that happened in the period under review. These include among others; commemoration of the 2020 Anti-Corruption Week across the 8 districts of the Rwenzori region, election campaign monitoring, governance cluster visit to Kasese among others.

As usual, your feedback, is of paramount importance to us. Please get back to us through our various addresses at the back page of this Newsletter.

Enjoy your reading!

Victoria N. Businge

*Communication and
Documentation Officer*



Mr. Makumbi - DEI together with RAC visit Kilembe Mines Hospital in Kasese district during the ACW 2020.JPG

Leaders' voices about RAC in the fight against corruption...

For approximately two decades, Rwenzori Anti-Corruption Coalition has been empowering citizens to fight against corruption, as a sure way to realizing better service delivery. From a simple background way back in 2002, RAC has grown into a robust NGO that is determined to wipe out the evils of corruption in the Rwenzori region and the country at large.

Through RAC's interventions over 15 billion Shillings have been saved through correction and redo of shoddy works, refund of misappropriated monies, interdiction and dismissal of errant staff among others. The fruits of RAC's sweat have been tested and felt by many across the frontiers as testified by the following leaders:

Mr. Asiimwe Stephen - Kabarole District RDC

"I commended RAC for the tremendous job they do in the fight against corruption... We have the office of the Auditor General and IGG in Fort Portal but none of them measures up to RAC when it comes to fighting corruption. RAC is making a difference in fighting against corruption and I urge them to keep up the good fight..."



Hon. Fr. Simon Lokodo - State Minister for Ethics and Integrity

"I have been around the country but I have not found any single organization that compares with RAC in terms of zeal and determination to fight against graft. Your tireless efforts towards this fight proves that you are true citizens of Uganda..."



**Mr. Festus Baryamuleeba –
Kabarole District Deputy RDC**

“Some officers pace up and down when they hear that RAC is coming. I am humbled by your performance. In 2018, you led us to Kasenda HC to inspect work – I will never forget! It was an opening for us to know the gaps at this facility – that was a turning point... RAC is there and has always helped us to do performance intelligence...”



**Vice Chairperson –
Kabarole District Local Government**

“RAC is a good partner... they have played their part in monitoring government projects. We pledge to continue working together to improve service delivery”.



**Justice Jane Frances Abodo –
Director of Public Prosecution**

“RAC is doing a great job in performance intelligence... I appreciate RAC for the work they have been doing in exposing and causing action against corruption for the last 18 years... It is good work you are doing... To all service providers, I ask you to emulate RAC – everyone should account... RAC is on the right track”



**Madam Mariam Wangadya –
Deputy IG**

“I commend RAC for being the most active CSO in the country... The cases reported to IG are several – but most of these are brought by RAC. We pay tribute to RAC for being courageous to report cases without fear or favor...”

Deputy RDC – Bundibugyo District

“I commend the good work done by RAC and the monitors in the fight against corruption... it is not easy, it is risky but you persisted... Fighting corruption is a job for all of us as a country... we should not leave it to RAC or government alone but instead we should all play a part in defeating corruption.”

Response rate and status of cases reported at RAC in the year 2020

As the year 2020 comes to a close, we would like to share with you the status of cases reported to RAC in the year 2020, and the response rate by duty bearers/stakeholders in each of the district where we operate.

As seen from the charts below, the response rate by the duty bearers to cases reported by RAC has greatly improved. This can be attributed to a number of factors including;

- a. The trust built between RAC and the duty bearers, this trust has been strengthened as a result of the evidence-based reports produced by RAC. RAC tries as much as possible to do due diligence for all cases reported to ensure that justice prevails
- b. The wide range of platforms for stakeholder

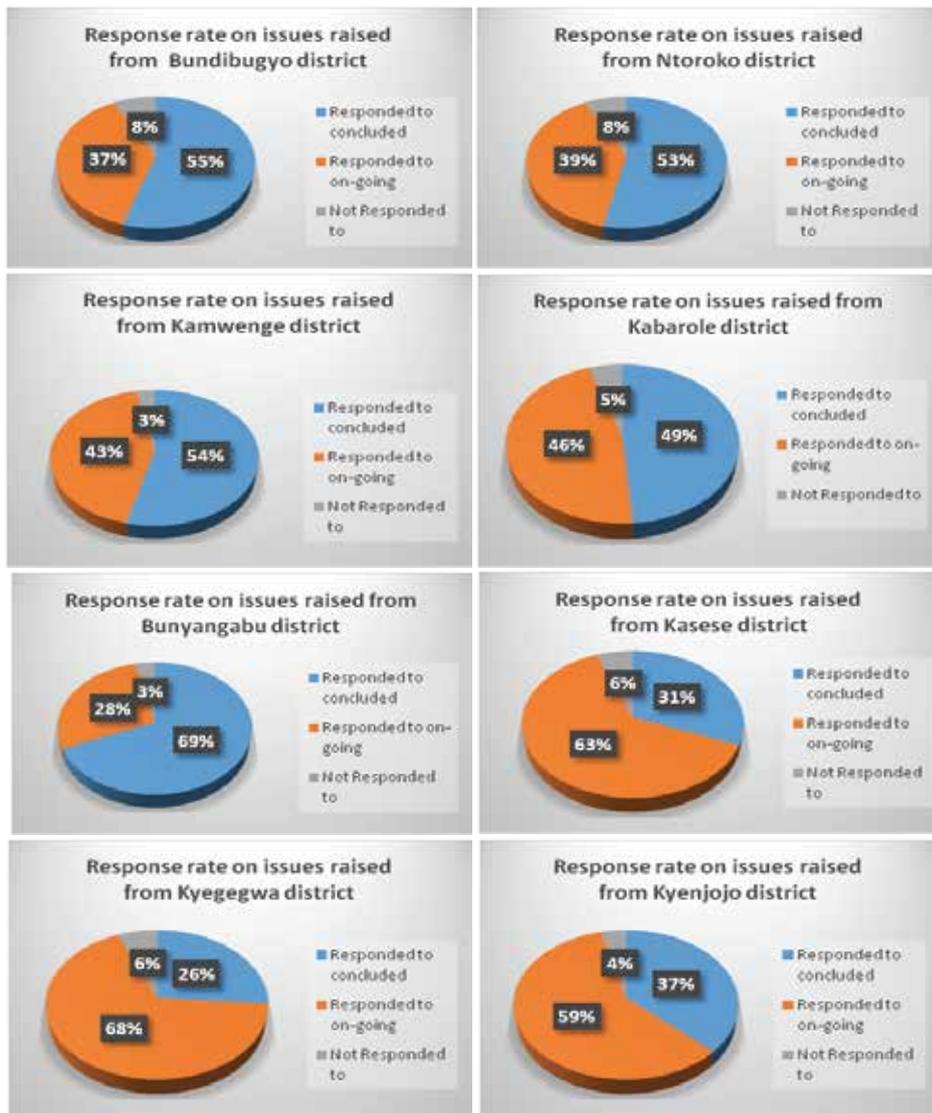
engagement has also strengthened our partnerships and collaboration with the duty bearers. We now look at each other as partners who need one another for improved service delivery in the Rwenzori region

c. Transparency exhibited in information sharing has further strengthened our collaboration with the state agencies.

Sharing of reports/issue papers ahead of our meetings and; provision of written responses to issues raised has also minimized room for error and false allegations

d. RAC’s commitment to leave no stone un-turned when it comes to case follow up and logical conclusion of all cases reported has earned us credit and as such, all stakeholders find RAC a credible institution that is worth working with. It is our plea to the state anti-graft agencies to always expedite action and conclusion of cases brought to their attention to avoid demotivating the whistle-blowers who raise a red-flag whenever they site cases of corruption in society.

District Response rate to issues reported in the year 2020



Highlights of activities conducted in the Quarter under review

Governance cluster Joint Monitoring Visit to Kasese - October 23, 2020



Governance Cluster members at RWECO offices

On October 23, 2020, members of the governance cluster made a trip to Kasese in a joint learning/monitoring visit. The visit emanated as a proposal from one of the governance cluster reflection meetings. The Governance cluster members from Kasese had on several occasions failed to turn up for the governance cluster meetings and therefore, members found it prudent to make a courtesy call to understand why this was happening.

In addition, Kasese as a district had been hit by floods and grossly affected by COVID 19. To extend our compassion and solidarity to our governance cluster partners in Kasese, members resolved to visit the team in Kasese.

Further still, RAC as the host for the governance cluster had received reports from some of the whistle-blowers (RAC monitors) in Kasese who had written to RAC, alleging that they were being harassed for reporting cases of corruption to RAC. The board therefore resolved that they make a follow up visit to interact with these monitors not only to understand and address their concerns but also show solidarity and appreciation for the monitors' commitment to fight against corruption.

Also, the communities of Kasese as a district have for a long time been faced with several challenges including tribal clashes, land conflicts, epidemics like Ebola and COVID, and floods among others. The governance cluster, together with selected members from the RAC board therefore decided to pay a courtesy call to these communities, some of whom had lost their loved ones and property.

The visiting team was represented by members of the governance cluster and selected members of the RAC board.

In Kasese, the team visited some CSOs that seek to promote good governance and other like-minded organizations based in Kasese including RWECO, Good Hope and KALI. These had expressed interest in becoming members of the governance cluster. The team also interacted with some of the RAC monitors.

Courtesy Call at RWECO

This was the first stop-over...here the visiting team was received by Masereka Earnest – the Finance and Administrative Officer for RWECO. Mr. Masereka on behalf of his Executive Director who was away in Kampala for official duties welcomed the team and expressed his appreciation to the Governance Cluster for the courtesy call.

Mr. Masereka made a brief presentation about RWECO's profile, highlighting their programs and area of operation.

Meeting with KALI

KALI is a member organization of RWECO and as such, the visiting team paid a courtesy call to KALI to know more about their programs and how the cluster can pattern with them to promote good governance in the Rwenzori region.

Jimmy Odyek – a board member of KALI informed us of some of the governance programs they conduct as KALI. These include;

- Transparency and social accountability
- Gender Advocacy
- Peace and conflict resolution
- Human Rights Advocacy
- Environmental conservation and policy advocacy

Interface with the election Observers

A brief meeting with the election observers was also made to get a feel of the electoral processes in the district, while at the same time understand the challenges they face in executing their duties as election observers so as to come up with strategies to address the identified challenges.

Key among the challenges identified include;

- Long distances moved when executing their duties
- Harsh weather conditions that makes it difficult to



Meeting with the District Internal Security Officer



From RWECO, members of the Governance cluster paid a courtesy call to the DISO of Kasese. This was on behalf of the RDC who was away for other state duties. The purpose of this visit was to strengthen our collaboration with the district leadership of Kasese. In the meeting, Angela Byangwa, the Executive Director – Rwenzori Anti-Corruption Coalition (RAC) introduced the visiting team, highlighting the purpose of the visit...

She pointed out that some of the governance cluster members are election observers but unfortunately, some (RAC monitors) had been arrested while performing their duty. She said that as CSOs, we are there to support government in promoting good governance and therefore, it is not right to arrest citizens when performing such noble duties.

In response, the DISO cautioned the governance cluster and all CSOs at large to desist from employing persons who are actively involved in politics.

By and large, the DISO said that Kasese as a district is prone to disaster but they have a disaster plan in place to manage the different forms of disaster that befall the district.

In conclusion, the DISO appreciated our visit and thanked us for the support accorded to the district. "CSOs are doing a great job and government needs them..."

monitor especially during the rainy season.

To address the above challenges, they recommended that RAC fundraises for more resources to equip them with motor bikes – considering the fact that Kasese is a mountainous area, it is not easy to move up the mountains on foot or by means of public transport

The monitors also requested for protective gears like umbrellas, gum-boots and rain coats to enable them monitor even on a rainy day.

included; RDCs, District Chairpersons, Chief Administrative Officers (CAOs) DPCs, DISOs, different Heads of Department, Members of the Governance Cluster, the Media Fraternity, the RAC board, Staff and Monitors among others.

Key immediate outcomes

- a. Response, clarification and updates on cases presented during the convention
- b. Commitments to expedite action upon the cases reported to the IAF
- c. Strengthened relationship and collaboration with the IAF at national level
- d. Renewed commitment to fight against corruption by leaders and key stakeholders at the district level
- e. The convention further provided a platform for the wider community to raise pertinent service delivery issues for response by the respective duty bearers
- f. All the 8 district-based conventions were aired live on different local FM stations for the wider community to participate. In addition, the proceedings of the convention were streamed live on Facebook and zoom.

All the eight district local governments where RAC works were awarded certificates in recognition of their support to the fight against corruption in the Rwenzori Region.

In addition, leaders of these districts i.e. the District Chairperson, RDC and CAO signed and renewed their commitment to the fight against



The Deputy IG signs the Zero Tolerance to corruption commitment forms in Ntoroko District



The Ntoroko RDC and CAO pause for a photo with their anti corruption recognition award.

corruption by signing the Zero Tolerance to Corruption commitment. These were witnessed by the Chief Guests, RAC ED and the Board Chairperson



The Anti-Corruption Week (ACW) commemoration was crowned with a Corporate Social Responsibility event, i.e. gift hampers were given to the mothers of neonates at Kasese Municipal Health Center III. The hampers comprised sugar, washing soap, baby sheets and diapers. The health facility administration and the mothers were extremely grateful to RAC for the kind gesture extended to them.

Pictorial Summary of activities implemented

Some of the Delegates at the 2020 AGM



Kyenjojo District Leaders pause for a photo during the commemoration of the Anti- Corruption Convention 2020



RAC staff putting up anti corruption stickers at Fort Portal court



Justice Jane Frances Abodo during the anti corruption commemoration in Fort Portal



Ms Olivia Mutamba raises a point during the convention



The Regional Inspectorate Officer Fort Portal addressing participants during the 2020 Anti-Corruption Convention



The ED ACCU giving her remarks at the Anti Corruption Convention in Fort Portal



RAC giving back to the mothers of Kasese Municipal HCIII.JPG



Justice Jane Frances Abodo cutting the cake during the launch of the new RAC logo

In Brief... other activities conducted in the Quarter under Review...

The RAC Annual General Meeting...

On October 30, 2020, the General Assembly of Rwenzori Anti-Corruption Coalition converged at their office premises to take stoke of the year 2019. The AGM that was meant to be conducted in the month of April was postponed to October due to the outbreak of the COVID19 pandemic across the globe. It is for this reason that this time round, participation of monitors and other stakeholders was limited to a smaller number, as required by the Ministry of Health Standard Operational Procedures SOPs to minimize the spread of the Corona virus.



Nevertheless, the meeting was successfully conducted, with some new members elected to join the board of Directors i.e. Kakooza John as the new District Coordinator of Kyenjojo/Kyegegwa District and Constance Koom as the new district coordinator of Kasese district. The rest of the Board members retained their positions.



The Voter Education project...

Rwenzori Anti-Corruption Coalition in partnership with the Civic Education Coalition in Uganda, (CECU) with financial support from the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) is implementing a voter education program in the 9 districts of the Rwenzori region i.e. Kabarole, Kamwenge, Kasese, Bunyangabu, Ntoroko, Bundibugyo, Kyenjojo, Kyegegwa and Kitagwenda.

The project seeks to contribute to the realization of a Free and Fair elections 2021, through empowering communities to exercise their civic and political rights.

Through various civic and voter awareness campaigns, the project seeks to equip citizens with knowledge on their rights so as to effectively task and engage those vying for different political positions to address their concerns (citizens charters) in exchange for their votes. A number of activities have thus been implemented including; Radio talk shows on voter education, voter education sessions for the community for mass awareness creation, live broadcast and radio, debates for candidates that are vying for various political positions and training of trainers (voter educators) to massively sensitize the masses on voter education among others. It is anticipated that at the end of the project, the citizens will be in a better position to make informed decisions in as far as electing their leaders is concerned.

Meeting with interest Group Members:

A total of eight interest groups were met across the eight districts of the Rwenzori region where RAC operates. The meetings offered a platform for the interest groups to air out their concerns, which were presented to leaders for redress during the District Integrity Promotion Forums. The groups met include among others; youth in school and out of school, youth leaders, women leaders, women groups, elderly and PWDs

Round table meetings:



A total of 63 round table meetings were conducted across the 63 sub-counties of the Rwenzori region, bringing together a total of 1343 participants i.e. 884 male, 410 female & 49 undisclosed sex, 52 elderly, 151

youth, 1116 adults & 24 undisclosed age, 22 PWDs, 1321 Non-PWDs. In this quarter, each round table meeting had a target of 22 participants. From the round table meetings, a total of 535 cases were presented to the leaders for response, out of which 87 were responded to and concluded while the remaining 225 were referred to District Integrity Promotion Forum for response by leaders/duty bearers at the district level. The round table meetings provided a platform for sub-county leadership to hear, respond, clarify and act on issues reported by the citizens. RAC has been appreciated by the leaders for providing this space for engagement with the citizens on accountability issues



Follow up of cases reported by monitors: A total of 203 cases reported by monitors were followed up in the quarter under review, and the response obtained was communicated to the citizens during the 63 community feedback meetings held.

A total of 8 social audits were conducted across the eight districts of RAC's operation in the Rwenzori region. During the social audit, a total of 16 projects were jointly monitored by RAC and the district officials including members of DPAC, District Chairpersons, RDCs, DISOs, District councilors, Internal auditors, Procurement officers, CAOs and the media. The social audits have been used as a tool to prevent loss of funds during project implementation. Through site visits with duty bearers, CAOs have directed contractors to correct defects on some of the projects monitored at their own (contractor's) cost.

Focal persons attend council sessions: All the 8 District Focal Persons attended various meetings within their respective districts and submitted reports to the secretariat for follow up on salient issues. A total of 22 reports were submitted by the district focal persons in the quarter under review, with updates on assignments conducted and cases followed up with respective duty bearers. The focal persons have been able to mentor the other monitors in case follow up and at the same

time keep RAC updated on the status of cases reported to the duty bearers. The focal persons further attended council sessions and technical meetings to track accountability by the duty bearers at the district level.

Monitoring Visits: A total of 80 monitoring activities were undertaken by 462 monitors and 218 activists. From the monitoring activities, a total of 80 evidence-based reports were submitted with 203 issues. Out of the issues reported, 87 were corruption related issues, 17 Human rights, 99 service delivery gaps were raised for response, follow up and action by the respective duty bearers. The issues raised were presented to the respective duty bearers for response during round-table meetings and District Integrity Promotion Forum meetings. RAC has been able to monitor government services amidst COVID19 pandemic and ensured that communities comply with the Ministry of Health SOPs

Mobilize communities to participate in sub county planning and budgeting meeting with parish representatives. RAC participated in 63 budget conferences and obtained lists of priorities identified at each sub-county. These were printed and disseminated to various candidates vying for various political offices to commit/ensure that once voted into office, they will endeavor to see to see that these are realized.



District Integrity Promotion Forums: A total of 8 DIPF meetings were conducted in the quarter under review, bringing together a total of 368 participants i.e. 235 male, 93 female, 40 undisclosed sex, 30 elderly, 27 youths, 308 adults, 3 undisclosed age, 362 Non PWDs and 6 PWDs. From the 10 DIPFs conducted, a total of 307 issues were presented to the leaders for response, out of which 166 were responded to and concluded, while the remaining 141 were responded to but are still under investigation.

Change stories

JUSTICE AT LAST... RAC'S SUPPORT EARNS JUSTICE FOR THE COMMUNITY OF BASE CAMP IN KASESE DISTRICT

The community of the Red Cross Area of Base camp in Kasese district will forever be grateful to RAC for their commitment, assistance and determination that enabled them win the case against those that had erroneously sold their land for their own selfish gain...

It all started way back in the year 2008 when Alex Katikiro, while being employed as Acting Senior Lands Management Officer Kasese District Local Government wrote to the Commissioner land registration indicating that Kasese District Land Board had granted Muthegeki John Muhindo a freehold land measuring 1.272 instead of 0.60 hectares along base camp road, an act which was prejudicial to the interest of his employer.

According to the then Assitant CAO and Secretary Land board for Kasese District Local Government, Mr. Muthegeki John applied for a piece of land and the board approved to the applicant freehold land of 0.695 hectares. However, Mr. Katikiro communicated to Mr. Muhindo and the Commissioner Land Registration that the board had approved 1.272 hectares and therefore should go ahead and process a land title for the

applicant. The title was thus secured in the names of Mutegeki John Muhindo using the board minutes that that had approved the size of 0.695 hectares.

In the year 2010, Mr. Mutegheki sold the land in question to Prakash Ganatra, leading to the eventual eviction and demolition of property of the community that was residing on this piece of land.

In search for justice, the affected community ran to the courts of Law to file their case; a criminal case no. HCT – 00-AC-CO-033-2016 was opened against Alex Katikiro. Although the case was filed, investigation and conclusion of this case was so slow hence delaying justice.

It's at this point that the affected community reported their dissatisfaction and concerns to RAC, seeking for their help to have their case expeditiously concluded. Following their plea, the RAC monitors of Kasese Municipal Council dug up the case and established that it was lying in the Anti-Corruption Court. The monitors lobbied several relevant offices to ensure that the case comes up for

hearing. Among other things, the monitors at some point provided transport means and on other occasions traveled to Kampala as witnesses to the case to ensure that justice prevails.

On November 13, 2020, the monitors' sweat yielded beautiful fruits... after several sessions of hearings and submission of evidence, the accused – Mr. Katikiro Alex was sentenced to a 3 year and 8 month imprisonment, in addition to disqualification from public office for a period of Ten years. Hadn't it been for the commitment of the RAC monitors that did everything within their powers to ensure that the case is brought for hearing, the affected community would probably never have lived long enough to attain justice.

At long last...

For a very long time, RAC has been engaging various offices and duty bearers for justice and logical conclusion of the case in which one –Zhao Long – the owner of Good Home Super Market in Fort Portal was arrested by police over possession of government stores. During the search, ten Mama kits were recovered each being sold at 50,000 (Fifty Thousand shillings Only). A case was registered at Fort Portal police vide SD REF NO.32/19/03/20 and case reference number CRB 340/20 (Illegal possession of Government stores). The suspect called Zhao Long was arrested and detained at the said police station but later given bail.

To RAC’s dismay, the RSA failed to

prosecute the suspect, asking him to bring the person who sold to him the kits. The investigating officer said that when they tried to review the CCTV camera to see who had supplied them, it was found that the camera had been tampered with so they could not track the person who delivered the kits in question. Such circumstances were therefore delaying the logical conclusion of this case and as such setting a bad example for others out there who are or are likely to engage in such unscrupulous behaviour.

RAC could not rest until this case was accorded all the investigations and justice deemed necessary. She therefore brought it to the attention of several stakeholders and players including the District

Integrity Promotion Forum, Director of Public Prosecution, IGG and the Directorate of Ethics and Integrity among others.

Owing to the pressure mounted by RAC, the file was recalled and court hearings resumed...on December 13, 2020, Mr. Zhao Long was brought before court for hearing. Though not yet concluded, we at RAC and other justice-loving citizens are optimistic that once found guilty and charged, others elsewhere with similar intentions of robbing government stores will desist from engaging in such illegal acts – to the benefit of the citizens for which such items are intended.



Exhibits of kits recovered from the super market



Zhao (R) Ight the owner of the super market

Some of the RAC Monitors and Activists



