



TRACK NEWS LETTER

RAC Track Newsletter Issue 19

April 2017

From the Editor

To our esteemed fans of the TRACK Newsletter, Warm Greetings!

Welcome to yet another edition of the TRACK Newsletter. In this particular edition, we bring you a series of success stories registered thus far in the year 2017. We also take this opportunity to say thank you to our dear partners and all the stakeholders who work tirelessly to ensure that corruption is kicked out of the region and the country at large

The fight against corruption starts with you! It is for this reason that we implore everyone to play their role – however minute it may be... who knows what it will accomplish?

Happy reading

Victoria N. Busiinge

“Corruption is the enemy of development, and of good governance. It must be got rid of. Both the government and the people at large must come together to achieve this national objective”

Pratibha Patil

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Figure 1: The RAC ED (C) and the Communications Officer (L) monitoring Kibuku Primary school in Ntoroko district; extreme left is the Head teacher of Kibuku P/s



Figure 2: Kamwenge Town Council monitors in a training session

Strengthening RAC monitors' capacities in evidence-based monitoring

In the month of March, RAC traversed the region, training her monitors in evidence based monitoring and reporting: a total of 289 monitors (119 female and 170 male) were trained and obtained skills in evidence-based monitoring as a strategy to influence quick action on the cases reported. Sessions on the procurement cycle, gender analysis and understanding gender dynamics and consultations on the new strategic plan (2018-2022) were also conducted. The training enabled the monitors to understand better the various stages of the procurement cycle and how to carry out evidence-based monitoring. Monitors skills were enhanced in gender analysis to ensure gender-based reporting

Request for information through writing for record purposes was emphasized during the training. We now see monitors requesting for information in writing from the duty bearers, a practice that has increased transparency and accountability. Monitors of Rwimi sub-county for example wrote to the sub-county chief of Rwimi requesting for the sub-county's revenue inventory to assess the sources of revenue. The information provided showed that there are some businesses running within the sub-county but are not registered in the inventory. RAC has thus embarked on a follow up exercise to verify the basis upon which such agencies -

are operating in order to hamper loss of revenue for the sub-county.

Also, as a result of the training, monitoring reports submitted by monitors have greatly improved, and this is evidenced in the quality of the monitoring reports submitted this quarter – the reports are detailed with the necessary documents/evidence like Bills of Quantities (BoQs) for projects and site photographs.

The training session on gender dynamics played a key role in enlightening the participants – especially the women in protecting their family property through registering as co-owners (husband and wife) their family property such as land. 40% of the cases reported at RAC are land-related and out of these, 21% emanate from family wrangles. It is therefore anticipated that once the gender information given to the communities is

trickled down to the communities, gender based violence will greatly reduce .

Ttracking the Performance of procurement committees in the region:

Seven monitoring visits were made to all the seven district procurement departments to assess their performance, existing gaps/challenges faced in order to draw recommendations to address the identified gaps. Site visits to some of the projects awarded were also made to verify stages of implementation. Interviews with the project beneficiaries were also held to gather their opinion about the projects under implementation.

One of the major concerns raised by the project beneficiaries during our interaction with them was inadequate information sharing (lack of BoQs) by the project implementers, making it difficult for the beneficiaries to monitor project performance of the projects under implementation. RAC in response to this concern urged the beneficiaries to always demand for the Bills of Quantities of any project implemented since access to information is a right. They were urged to report any contractor

who denies them project information to the CAO. RAC further reported this concern to the relevant district procurement departments and these pledged to address these gaps through wider information sharing i.e. intensifying display of awarded projects on district notice-boards, as well as encouraging the lower local governments to display project info on their notice boards.

In Kasese district for example, the procurement officer encouraged RAC (through our Private Public Partnership – PPP) to sensitize the masses on their right to information, and also participate in project launches in order to obtain the data required.

Other recommendations drawn from procurement monitoring include;

Centralized appointment for procurement officers to lower down conflicts resulting from execution of their work

Organize joint meetings for all the procurement officers in the region at least twice a year to ensure that procurement policies and guidelines are adhered to

Install suggestion boxes at the district for contractors to raise any complaints/issues of concern in the procurement process in order to generate relevant actions

Our continuous monitoring of the performance of procurement committees has further contributed to improvement in the procurement processes, as well as adherence to the procurement guidelines and timely award of projects. This is evidenced in the findings obtained from this quarter's monitoring where out of all the seven district procurement departments monitored, no major administrative review complaints were raised. It was further observed that all the seven districts where RAC operates do adhere to the procurement decision making processes, despite the few challenges faced.

During our monitoring visits, we obtained copies of all the contract documents awarded and these were shared with our monitors to track project implementation, a factor that is expected to greatly reduce post-mortem monitoring which often times results into wastage of resources. Because the monitors are aware of awarded projects, they can monitor from an informed background and can therefore verify if implementation is done according to plan, hence reduce chances of fraud, shoddy works and misappropriation of resources.

Other findings revealed from our procurement monitoring include; alleged diversion of funds worth one hundred and twenty million Shillings (120,000,000/=) allocated for fence construction and renovation of Kyenjojo district headquarters to medical facilitation for the Katooke town council treasurer. RAC in its investigation about this allegation wrote to the district CAO for Kyenjojo for explanation and clarity about this allegation. The CAO in response informed RAC that the funds in question were actually intended for the Treasurer's medical facilitation but because of the delay in communication from the ministry of finance on how the remitted funds were to be expended, the district council allocated these funds to fence construction and renovation. Following CAO's response, RAC has gone ahead to request for more information regarding the Ministry of Finance's communication on the fund breakdown, in order to have logical conclusion of this case.

In Kasese district, our procurement monitoring findings revealed anomalies in the award of a contract for the collection of canoe landing fees at Katwe-Kabatoro town council. Having realized that the right procedure in the award of this nine million shillings (9,000,000/-) contract was not followed, RAC tasked the town council authorities to address the anomalies, leading to the cancellation of the contract. Among other anomalies, the contractor who had been awarded the tender was convicted of fees defaulting. She was also accused of bribing her way through. Due to the pressure amounted by RAC, the town council authorities wrote to the Kasese district CAO who called for the cancelation of the contract and awarded it to another contractor.

Our monitoring of the procurement processes has further drawn us closer to various contractors seeking for advice and justice. Because of our engagement with the procurement committees across the region and wide sensitization on the procurement procedures, a contractor – one Kasuka Godfrey of Straight Auctioneers and court Bailiffs received advice from RAC to report his dissatisfaction about the procurement process in the award of a tender to provide auctioneering services in Bundibugyo where the procurement team connived to award a contract to another company yet Kasuka's application had merged as the best bidder. RAC advised Kasuka to write to PPDA to raise his concerns and in response, PPDA revoked the contract in question, halting its award until further notice.

3 Billion \Shillings saved through RAC's intervention and advocacy:

Through our routine monitoring and case follow up, a total of 1,310,700,780/= out of the total sum of 1,926,421,000/= has been saved/recovered through fines, redo of shoddy works, correction of defects and return of embezzled resources. A total of 103 cases were reported to RAC for follow up and action in the period under review, out of which 46 were followed up to logical conclusion, while the remaining 57 are still under follow up. Cases followed up to conclusion include; recovery of a motor bike by one –Ms. Namirembe Jackline, whose bike had been retained by police as an exhibit. When the owner requested to have her bike back, police and the Bundibugyo RSA, declined, asking her to pay a bribe of 500,000/= before issuing back her bike. Namirembe, through her brother Joseph Okwir reported this matter to RAC, who quickly intervened by engaging the police and the RSA on the matter. After our intervention, Namirembe was able to get her bike back at no single cost. This particular case was reported to RAC on February 15, 2017 after the complainant writing to the Bundibugyo Resident State Attorney expressing loss of interest in the case, since they had agreed to settle the matter out of court.

Other cases followed up to logical conclusion include reconstruction of 2 classroom blocks and office that had been shoddily done by a contractor – Mutuye Dan and Sons Ltd who had shoddily constructed classroom blocks and office at St.Paul Church of Uganda Primary school in Kamwenge sub-county. In addition, funds worth 640,000,000/=were saved through completion of a maternity ward at Rukunyu HCIV in Kam-

wenge district which had stalled for over 3 years, with shoddy works. Other funds worth 274,000,000/= were saved through completion of Kabonero sub-county head quarters who for long had been housed under Kabonero health center III. RAC in partnership with the sub-county leadership lobbied for the construction of sub-county headquarters for Kabonero and these have been constructed at a cost of 274 million.

The 57 issues still under follow up include defaulting groups of youth livelihood projects, incomplete projects, alleged misappropriation of public resources, service delivery gaps like low staffing levels in public schools and health facilities, drug stock outs, and staff absenteeism among others.

Cases received at RAC per sector in the period under review

District	Health	Education	Production	Natural resources	Works	Other (administration, Human rights etc)
Kabarole	15	1	1	2	4	8
Bundibugyo	3	4	0	0	4	6
Kyenjojo	2	3	0	3	0	0
Kyegegwa	1	2	0	0	1	2
Ntoroko	9	1	0	0	1	3
Kasese	2	4	3	0	4	1
Kamwenge	3	5	0	1	3	1
Total	35	20	4	6	17	21

Estimated Monetary Value of issues received at RAC in the period under

District	No of cases reported	Estimated Monetary value of cases reported	No. of cases Concluded/ responded to	Estimated monetary value of cases concluded/responded to	Cases at Court	No. of cases at Police	No. of cases at the District	No. of cases at IGG
Kabarole	31	785,291,000	15	294,000,000	3	4	20	2
Bundibugyo	17	41,530,000	9	500,000	1	4	11	0
Kyenjojo	8	4,480,000	3	1,200,000	0	0	7	0
Kyegegwa	6	32,300,000	4	14,000,780	0	0	4	0
Ntoroko	14	13,000,000	4	0	0	0	13	1
Kasese	14	385,120,000	7	370,000,000	2	2	7	0
Kamwenge	13	664,700,000	4	631,000,000	3	2	4	0
Total	103	1,926,421,000	46	1,310,700,780	9	12	66	3

Joint efforts for better health in the Rwenzori

On March 17, 2017, RAC in conjunction with the office of the RDC and the DHO organized a one-day dialogue at Buhinga Regional Referral Hospital in Fort Portal, Kabarole district, with the main purpose of understanding the state of service delivery in the health sector in Kabarole, and the Rwenzori region at large. The dialogue brought together a total of 79 participants (49 women and 30 men) to discuss matters of health in Kabarole and the region at large. In attendance were the various departmental heads and medical staff of the referral hospital, RAC monitors, office of the DHO, grassroots communities and RAC staff. The meeting provided a platform for the hospital leadership to share their achievements, challenges and recommendations for the hospital. The Buhinga referral hospital staff were able to share their challenges and called upon RAC to organize an engagement meeting with the staff of the hospital in order to come up with key strategies through which the existing challenges can be addressed.



Figure 3: Participants during the joint meeting at Buhinga hospital

Issues of concern ranged from inadequate drug supply compelling patients to incur costs to purchase them, bribery, unclear rates at the private wing, over-crowding within the wards, inadequate staff housing and absence of logistics like sugar for staff among others.

Key recommendations drawn from the meeting include;

- ◇ Mass sensitization for the community to know that Buhinga is a referral hospital and therefore, simple cases that can be handled at lower facilities should not be brought to Buhinga but rather, utilize the lower health facilities i.e. hospitals and Health centers II – IV. This will help in addressing the issue of overcrowding while at the same time lessen the burden on the little available medical supplies at the referral hospital.
- ◇ RAC with her partners should advocate for nursing assistants at referral hospitals to attend to patients, other than community members. This will help in reducing utility expenditure since the care takers are sometimes extravagant with utilities such as water. Using nurses to take care of patients will also reduce over-crowding within the hospital wards
- ◇ Lobby for purchase of a new hospital ambulance to address transportation challenges
- ◇ The media was cautioned to verify data obtained before publishing it as this may sometimes tarnish the name of the medical personnel
- ◇ The hospital should display phone numbers of staff to contact in case a patient is asked to pay a bribe or any form of illegal fees

One of the immediate results from this meeting was increased vigilance, having cautioned the community to monitor government services with a keen eye. A day after our DIPF meeting at Buhinga, a boda-boda rider who was hired by the hospital staff (mortuary attendant) to deliver stolen drugs and other medical supplies at a bus station quickly reported the matter to police and the office of the RDC, who then involved RAC to track down the culprit. The stolen drugs worth two million (approximately) were intercepted on a Kalita bus on the way to Kasese and are now in police custody, pending further investigations. Although the accused is still on the run, RAC has been commended by the district and hospital leadership, and the surrounding community for opening up their eyes on where to report cases of fraud and any other anomalies.



Figure 4: Sample of drugs intercepted on Kalita bus

RAC's intervention Causes fraudulent Bailiff return embezzled funds

On March 28th 2017, RAC received a complaint from one – Engineer Kahuma Adolf of Fort Portal, Kabarole district about the unbecoming behavior of Ndolerire Christopher – a high court bailiff based in Fort Portal. It all started when Engineer Kahuma defaulted in repayment of a loan of 1,269,250. This forced the money lender to seek for legal redress to have Kahuma honor his loan. Services of a court bailiff were sought to effect this order. To this end, Ndolerire Christopher was contracted to act on behalf of the money lender to ensure recovery of every single penny Kahuma owed to the money lender. A loan repayment schedule was drawn to this effect, to which Kahuma complied. Kahuma faithfully paid his loan to the last penny through the bailiff, according to the agreed schedule. To his surprise, the money lender continued to demand for his money from Kahuma. His (Nyakahuma's) explanation that he had fully paid up the money owed to the money lender fell on deaf ears. It was later revealed that although Kahuma had paid up all the money to the bailiff, the bailiff did not remit the money to the intended client. Consequently, Kahuma settled his debt with the money lender by making fresh payments, different from what he had paid to the money lender. He (Kahuma) then went ahead to hire services of another bailiff to refund the monies he paid to the bailiff. However, his efforts did not yield any fruits in terms of recovering his money!

Disheartened, Kahuma approached RAC as the only resort to recover his money. RAC immediately swung into action to bring the fraudulent bailiff to book; the RAC ED, advocacy officer and Kahuma – the complainant visited the office of the Fort Portal Chief Magistrate – His Worship Omalla Felix to register this complaint. The chief attentively listened to Kahuma's tale with disbelief. Perturbed by the unbelievable actions of the bailiff, the chief magistrate wrote to Ndolerire – the bailiff directing him to pay the money to the owner within seven days, short of which he would face cancellation of his bailiff's certificate and face criminal prosecution all together.

With such a directive, Ndolerire was left with no choice but to pay back all the money owed to Kahuma, leading to the successful conclusion and closure of the case.

Engineer Kahuma was thus very appreciative of RAC, without whose support, the fraudulent bailiff would have walked away scot-free.

ENGR. DR. ADOLF KAHUMA
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The Executive Director
RAC

NOTE OF THANKS FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE
FOR ME TO RECOVER MY MONIES 1,269,250
FROM BAILIFF CHRISTOPHER
NDOLERIRE

From the bottom of my heart I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for the assistance you rendered to me to recover my money from Mr. Christopher Ndolerire. This amount of money UShs 1,269,250 had spent over 1 1/2 years with him.

Thank Very Much. God Bless you.

Engr. Dr. Adolf Kahuma

RAC MONITORS INFLUENCE RECOVERY OF 10 TWIN DESKS WORTH 980,000/=

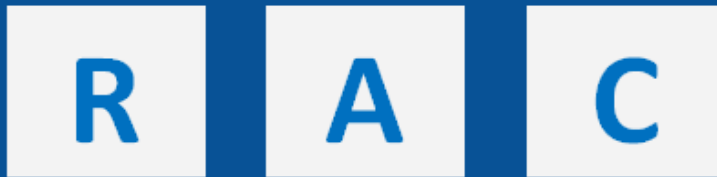
Nyamukoiyo Primary School is a government aided school located in Ntara sub-county, Kamwenge district. During one of their monitoring visits in Nyamukoiyo Primary School, Ntara Branch monitors received reports of embezzlement of funds by the then sub-county chief of Ntara – Mr. Birungi Prima. The said funds equivalent to 980,000/= were meant to purchase a total of 10 twin desks to improve the pupils' learning environment.

However, when Mr. Birungi withdrew the said funds from the sub-county account, he decided to divert the funds for his personal gain, causing financial losses to the school.

Upon receipt of this report, the RAC monitors reported the case to various local leaders including the district councilors of Ntara. The councilors and the monitors teamed up to investigate the allegations. Their findings revealed that indeed, Mr. Birungi had diverted the said funds.

When approached, Mr. Baguma confessed that he had diverted these funds but was willing to return the money in question. An agreement was reached upon which Mr. Baguma pledged and fulfilled his pledge by purchasing the said desks. These were handed over to the school, much to the benefit of the pupils of Nyamukoiyo Primary school.

The Head teacher was very appreciative to RAC for their efforts in ensuring that the once embezzled funds for the desks were recovered and used to purchase the desks. The pupils can now comfortably sit in class in a conducive learning environment – a factor that is expected to improve their class performance



Rwenzori Anti Corruption Coalition

Zero tolerance to corruption

"The fight against corruption begins with you"

Contact Us

Give us a call for more information about our services and also report cases of corruption on the address below

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