

Tracking our achievements..



TheTrack

Newsletter Dec. 2018

Special Edition



TOWARDS A CORRUPT FREE UGANDA...

“The fight against corruption is legitimate; everyone involved in this war is waging a noble war”- President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. It is for this reason that Rwenzori Anti-Corruption Coalition (RAC) came into existence. RAC is a Civil Society Organization that seeks to complement the government of Uganda’s efforts to eradicate poverty through causing action against corruption. Corruption affects service delivery and therefore, RAC has set up various strategies to fight against corruption.

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Message From Executive Director

For over a decade, Rwenzori Anti-Corruption Coalition (RAC) has been working in the eight districts of the Rwenzori region to fight against corruption. As a whistle-blowing organization, RAC through her foot-soldiers – the RAC monitors in partnership with state and non-state agencies strives to expose and cause action against corruption for improved service delivery in the Rwenzori region and beyond. This is done through various fora, networks and partnerships right from sub-county, district, regional, national and international level

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TOWARDS A CORRUPT FREE UGANDA... *Continued*



Like RAC, the President ranks the war against corruption as one of the top-most vices that affect service delivery in Uganda and thus the need to set up mechanisms to fight against it.

The government of Uganda under the leadership of president Museveni has put in place institutions and instruments such as the office of the Inspector General of Government, the Leadership Code, 'The Zero tolerance to corruption' policy and the Anti-Corruption Act among others, to fight against corruption. Such instruments have enabled organizations like RAC in partnership with state anti-graft agencies to contribute to the reduction of corruption tendencies in the Rwenzori region. RAC is committed to support the government in this noble cause and we shall not rest until corruption is dealt with.

...Message From Executive Director

Our 16 year journey has produced tremendous results that have led to recoveries of embezzled funds, redo of shoddy works, arrests, detention, interdiction and dismissal of corrupt officials, raised a critical mass of citizens that are aware of the evils of corruption and can therefore hold their leaders accountable.

Our partnership and close working collaboration with state anti-graft agencies like the police, judiciary, office of the Auditor General, Office of the IGG, office of the RDCs and District Chairpersons among others has greatly contributed to the logical conclusion of over 300 cases reported to RAC.

As an anti-graft institution, we commend you, the President of the Republic of Uganda for your determination and dedication to wipe out corruption from the country. Although the vice still lingers on, we applaud you and your entire government for the efforts put in place to address corruption.

Mr. President, through our 16 year journey, we have identified a number of pertinent issues that call for your immediate attention i.e.

- Increment of the Local Government fund to 30%: Local Governments should be given at least 30% of the national budget so as to put to implementation the critical actions necessary for development, service delivery and problem solving. More resources need to be allocated to cater for non-wage and development expenditure at local government level*
- Enhance facilitation/support accorded to the monitoring arms of the government in order to reduce resource wastage that goes into post-mortem monitoring and rectification of shoddy works*
- Ensure that persons that encroach on forests, wetlands and other natural resources are seriously dealt with*



- Anyone found guilty of corruption should not be appointed for any public office again*
- Ensure equitable distribution of services*
- Ensure that state accountability institutions/agencies are efficient and fully functional*

As a whistle-blowing organization, we are committed to supporting you and the government of Uganda in ensuring that corruption is dealt with.

For God and my country
Angela Byangwa
Executive Director

Stories of Change

RAC's Intervention leads to restoration of missing school desks

72 (3 sitter) desks worth one million eighty thousand shillings (1,080,000/-) are the total number wooden desks that were meant to be supplied to Bumbwende and Kasaka primary schools in Bundibugyo district. Each of the two schools was entitled to 36 wooden desks. The procurement process for the desks was followed and payments made by the Bundibugyo district Local Government. What was rather surprising is the fact that all the payments for the 72 desks were made yet no single desk was supplied to the intended school. This shocking information was revealed by one of the Bundibugyo district leaders during the District Integrity Promotion Forum held in September 2017 in Bundibugyo.

When tasked to explain, the Bundibugyo District Education Officer admitted that the stated amount of money was released but the desks were never delivered. According to his explanation, the financial year was coming to the end and if the money had not been utilized by the close of the year, it had to be taken back to the central source as unutilized funds. Though not satisfactory, the DIPF advised the DEO as the head of the education sector in the district to ensure that all the desks in question are delivered to the respective schools within two weeks.

RAC made follow up engagements with the DEO after the DIPF to find out how far he had gone with the task of recovering the desks. The DEO confessed to RAC that he had made several attempts to have Mr. Kule – the contractor to supply the desks but all this was in vain. RAC pledged to support the DEO in tracking down the contractor. A few days later, a RAC official together with the DEO landed on Mr. Kule in his carpentry workshop in Kajambura village Bundibugyo town council. Mr. Kule Joseph was given an ultimatum for 2 weeks to have the desks delivered or face arrest.

One week down the road, the contractor was ready to deliver the 72 desks. The DEO invited RAC to witness the delivery of the 72 desks to Bumbwende

and Kasaka Primary School. After the delivery of the desks, RAC engaged the head-teachers of the two schools to understand the real story behind the 'desk-saga'. The story of the two head-teachers was the same. The duo claimed to have requested for supply of 36 desks each for their respective schools. They were however shocked to be approached by one – Kule Joseph who claimed to be the contractor to supply their schools with the desks requested for. Although the desks were not delivered, Mr. Kule pleaded with the two head-teachers to sign the goods delivery forms indicating that 36 desks had been delivered to each of the two schools. Although they tried to resist this illegal act, the head-teachers say that Mr.

KASAKA P. SCHOOL,
P.O. BOX 1168,
BUNDIBUGYO.
22/8/2017.
Imbusa Charles Headteacher of the
addressed school, hereby acknowledge
receipt of thirty six (36) desks from
Mr. Kule Joseph the Contractor.
Imbusa
IMBUSA CHARLES
0782451197.

Kule begged them to sign and once the money was paid to him, he will have all the desks delivered. Mr. Kule's defence was that the financial year (2016/17) was coming to a close and therefore, any unspent funds were to be taken back to Ministry of Finance, and therefore, the two parties (the school and the contractor) were bound to lose.

Convinced, the two head-teachers – Mr. Sibendire Jockus and Mbusa Charles of Bumbwende and Kasaka primary schools respectively accepted to sign the delivery notes, with commitment by Kule to have the desks delivered within the shortest time possible.

Unfortunately, the contractor did not live up to his word. Although all the money was paid to him, no single desk was delivered, causing trouble for the two head-teachers. It is until RAC's intervention and demand for action against the errant contractor that all the desks were supplied to the two schools.

The two head-teachers were very appreciative of RAC's intervention because all hope of recovering these desks had been lost. According to Mr. Sibanzire Jockus – the Head teacher of

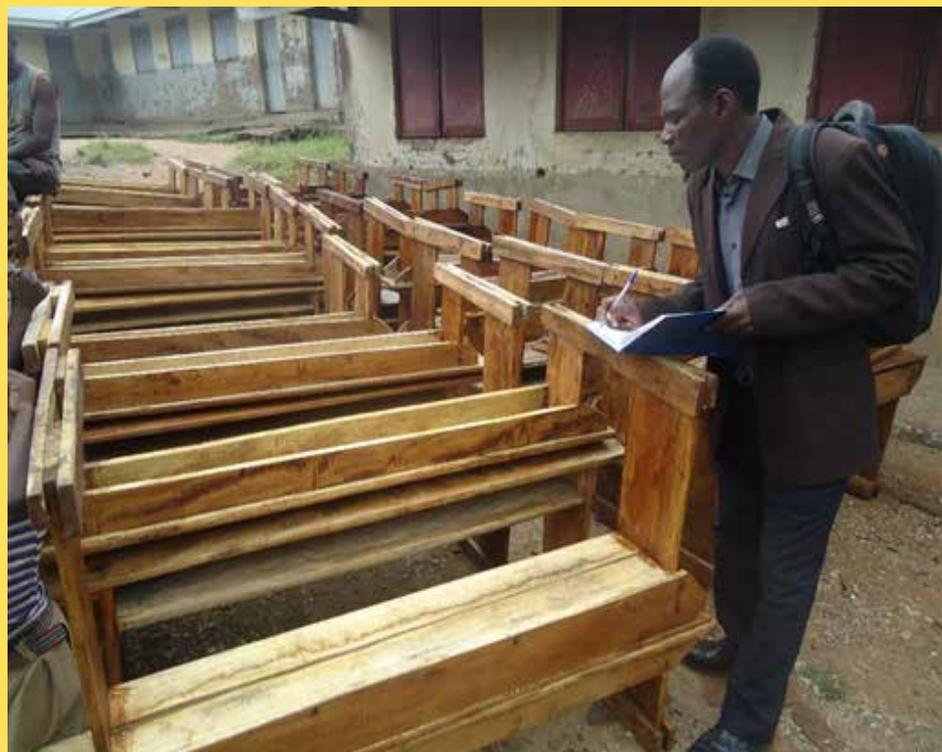


The long-awaited desks arrive at Bumbwende primary school in a track

Bumbwende Primary School, he had started to avoid meetings with the School Management Committee since he could no longer defend his actions of signing for undelivered desks. Due to RAC's intervention, Jockus was now happy to be back in his office without any pressure.

the head-teachers and the contractor, and therefore recommended to the district leadership of Bundibugyo through the CAO to bring all the errant officers to book, in order to guard against such acts in future.

Although the desks were finally delivered, RAC condemns the act of



The Head-teacher of Bumbwende primary school Mr. Sibendire Jockus receives the 36 desks

KISINGA RAC MONITORS LOBBY FOR BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION AT RIVER RWEMBYO – KASESE DISTRICT

On February 17, 2017, Kisinga RAC monitors, carried out their monitoring activity over roads and bridges in Kisinga town council.

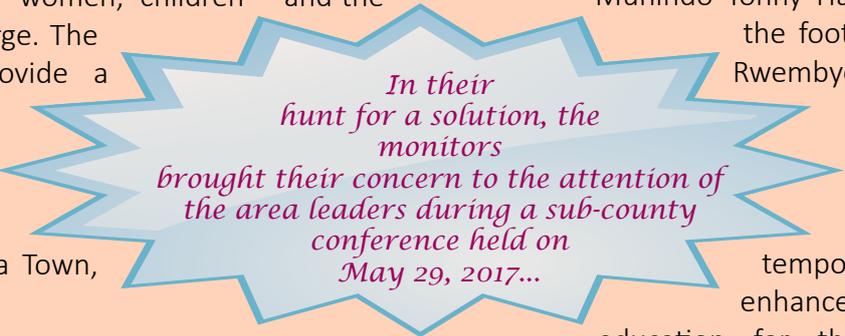
The monitoring report indicated that the two foot bridges on rivers Rwembya and Nyakatse connecting to Kagando were in a sorry state and a death trap for women, children and the community at large. The two bridges provide a short cut connecting Kaganda and Kisinga trading centers in Kisinga Town, Kasese District.

In their hunt for a solution, the monitors brought their concern to the attention of the area leaders during a sub-county conference held on May 29, 2017 at the sub county hall of Kisinga Town council. This conference was organized by the RAC secretariat, Fort portal. The monitors, during this conference were informed by the Town Council mayor that a request for construction of new bridges and the Bills of Quantities (BoQs) had been submitted at the district budget conference for consideration in the next financial year.

In wait for the district’s decision, the monitors went ahead to lobby other leaders and stakeholders to do something about the bridge to avoid any loss of life.

Heeding to their plea, the Member of Parliament for Bukonzo East constituency Hon. Muhindo Tonny Harold constructed the foot bridge on River Rwembyo and repaired the one on River Nyakatsi - all crossing to Kagando as a temporary measure to enhance access to education for the school going children, expectant mothers attending antenatal clinic at Kagando hospital, and the wider community at large.

The bridge is also used by pedestrians and boda-boda riders to connect the two centers of Kagando and Kisinga hence boosting business and commercial services in the area. The community of Kisinga and the neighboring sub-counties hence applauded RAC monitors for their patriotism and commitment to contribute to improved service delivery.



In their hunt for a solution, the monitors brought their concern to the attention of the area leaders during a sub-county conference held on May 29, 2017...



MOTHER CARE VOCATIONAL SCHOOL: RAC INTERVENES, DEFECTS ON THE CLASS ROOM BLOCKS CORRECTED

Background

On 1st Aug 2017, RAC received reports from a whistle blower regarding shoddy works at Mother Care Vocational Secondary school in Bunyangabu district, the school received funds totaling to 172 Million Uganda shilling from the ministry of Education meant to construct two classroom blocks and two latrine blocks. Upon the receiving the funds, Kabarole district local government carried out a procurement process from the best bidder/contractor was selected and awarded the contract. The contractor is said to have constructed the building floors, window and door finishing poorly, even when he had been paid all the three phases. . On 9/8/17, RAC shared the matter with the CAO Kabarole who directed the district engineer to immediately follow up the matter and ensure the contractor addresses the defects as raised by the school and the community.



Old structures that were being replaced by the new project



The four classroom structures ready for use in 3rd term 2017

The floor and shutters at the pit latrine had also been fixed. The school head teacher noted that improvements had been made by the contractor and that the school will be in position to use the structures for third term 2017.

Feedback about the rectified defects was discussed in the Kabarole District Integrity Promotion Forum meeting where the RDC and the district leadership testified that JAMOS Construction Ltd had corrected the defects on the project.

Site visit report

On 31/8/17, RAC made follow up at the school and established that the CAO had instructed the district engineer to follow up JAMOS CONSTRUCTION SERVICES LTD to fix the defects. During the visit by RAC, it was observed that the defects had been attended to which including repairing the floor, the veranda, and installation of proper door shutters.

RESCUED FROM 'DEATH'! THE TALE OF MBABAZI HELEN

"Am forever grateful to RAC for if it were not for their timely intervention, who knows where I or my pretty baby would be right now?" Mbabazi Helen – a 17 year old girl from Bubandi sub-county, Bundibugyo district could not conceal her gratitude and appreciation to RAC for having rescued her from a situation that almost claimed her life.

It all started when Helen conceived a baby at a tender age of 17 by a fellow teenager from the same village. Because the duo could hardly provide the necessary care for the expectant mother and baby, Helen's mom, despite her meager finances took over the responsibility of nursing her before and after birth.

When she was due for delivery, Helen was rushed to Nyahuka Health center IV in Bundibugyo district for proper obstetric care. Due to some complications, Helen could not deliver normally and was therefore referred to theatre for a C-section, at a cost of 100,000/=. The money was paid to one – Yoneki, a theatre attendant who claimed to have given it to Dr. James Masaba. Fortunately, the operation was successful; Helen delivered a bouncing baby boy, and she was admitted for further medical care.

However, Helen's ordeal was far from over...only two days after delivery, the dressing and nursing of the wound was stopped, and would only be resumed if they paid a daily fee of 20,000/=. This revelation came as a shock for Helen and her mother because Nyahuka being a public health facility, one would expect to acquire medical care at zero or at most, a subsidized price. Left with no choice, the besieged woman had to

find the money, if only to save her daughter's life. Unfortunately, Helen's mom could not sustain this fee for more than four days and therefore, all the medical care was stopped! The result of all this was a deteriorating Helen who began to stink due to the unattended wound. .

RAC'S INTERVENTION

Helen's tribulation came to RAC's attention during one of the radio talk shows on 93.0 UBC Voice of Bundibugyo, hosting the RAC Gender Officer and the Bundibugyo district Local council Gender and social services secretary. Helen's uncle – Mbirika Sura happened to have closely listened in and after the show, he called the RAC gender officer – Meshach Byomuntura for assistance in regard to her niece's plight. Meshach immediately paid a visit to Nyahuka HCIV to establish deeper facts about Mbirika's allegations. Meshach was astonished by Helen's story, who by the time of his visit, she had gone unattended for four days! Meshach hence caused a crisis meeting with the management of Nyahuka and in a fact-finding mission, the accused nurses pleaded guilty to the accusations of illegally extorting money from the victim. They apologized for their actions and pledged to treat Helen at no cost whatsoever.

A duty roster for the nurses was thus made for the nurses, clearly stipulating the day and time for when which nurse would be attending to Helen. Helen was discharged after two weeks, with her and the baby in a good health condition



Mbabazi Helen speaking out her experience during the Orukurato rwa bakyala (women's parliament) organized by RAC



Mbabazi Helen with her baby boy speaking to Katusabe Ruth of Daily monitor shortly after Bundibugyo Women's Orukrato at Vanilla Hotel in Bundibugyo on 23rd/Dec/2014.

TOKWE BRIDGE: DEFECTS FIXED; SERVICE DELIVERY IMPROVED...

Tokwe drift is a bridge that was constructed to connect the two sub-counties of Harugale and Bukonzo in the district of Bundibugyo, located in the western region of Uganda. The District is bordered by the Districts of Ntoroko in the North, Kabarole in the East and Southeast and by the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to the west. It is one of the seven districts that make up the Rwenzori region— where RAC operates. Bundibugyo became a District on the 11th of April 1974 within the aftermath of Rwenzururu movement uprising that led the government by then to allow the break off of Bwamba county and Busongora county from the former Toro/Kabarole District as Semuliki and Rwenzori Districts which are the present day Bundibugyo and Kasese respectively.

After a decade of service in the region, RAC has witnessed more corruption-related offenses in Bundibugyo than the other districts where she operates. Corruption tendencies reported range from ghost workers, shoddy constructions, mismanagement of public funds, inadequate health and education facilities among others; affecting service delivery.

Based on the aforementioned peculiarity of the district, the report about shoddy construction of Tokwe Bridge though unfortunate was no 'breaking news' to RAC. The 59,000,000/= bridge supported by the Uganda Road fund was way below acceptable standards! The shoddily constructed bridge developed big cracks hardly after its completion! The drift slab/surface had loose aggregates that could be easily removed by a mere finger-scratch. Simply said, the bridge was on the verge of collapsing! These observations were made by the RAC monitors during a monitoring exercise held on February 02nd-3rd, 2012.

Perturbed, a fact-finding mission to identify who, why and how the bridge defects could have arisen was their immediate concern. The primary investigations commissioned by RAC saw various consultations held with the community members, district leadership and technocrats and from the facts revealed, it was realized that the bridge construction was done force on account.

It was further revealed that the ratio used to mix the cement with sand was 1:5, contrary to the acceptable 1:3 for bridge construction and; the sand used was of poor quality. Under such circumstances, failure of the bridge to stand the test of time was not surprising at all!

Determined to have the bridge defects rectified, the monitors took on the district chairperson and the CAO – Bundibugyo in a bid to have the responsible culprits not only penalized but also right the wrongs committed during construction. In response, the duo in a joint move with RAC paid a visit to the litigious bridge: the district bosses could not deprecate the monitors concerns and at this point, there were no further questions... there was only one answer. A meeting was thus held by the district executive committee that unanimously agreed to resolve the issue once and for all. The executive resolution tantamount to a single directive: 'Fix the defects!'

No further ado! With instructions from above, the contractors were left with only one choice – and hooray! The defects were rectified with no extra penny given to the fraudulent contractors! They bled all the extra shillings required to right their wrongs.

This achievement did not only excite the people of Harugale and Bukonzo sub-counties, as it benefited many others beyond the region. Business transactions can now be effectively carried out without any transport hindrances.

On the local scene, the grassroots have better access to health services in Bundibugyo main hospital and Buhinga referral hospital in Fort portal, access to markets for farmers' produce has greatly improved; hence improved livelihoods of the people living in the surrounding areas. Credit goes to the RAC monitors who took the first initiative in addressing these challenges as well as the district leadership that took heed of RAC's advice to fix the bridge defects. The fruits are already here, yet many more lie ahead.

HEALTH WORKERS CHEAT HIV PATIENTS; MONITORS FACILITATE RECOVERY OF THEIR MONEY

Many a times, we tend to think that life is unfair, especially when the people we consider to be less 'holy' thrive in abundance and 'blessings' than we who imagine to be less evil. Although this assumption may hold some water, there's no justification for condemning life to unfairness. Various underlying factors may influence or deter many from attaining their dreams. To some, their dreams are snatched away by cheats while to others; their success was trampled on by people who stood in their way by way or unscrupulous engagements.

Looking at Uganda per se, is the biting poverty in some parts of the country a result of natural cause or man-made factors? This is a debate that could go on and on; depending on the school of thought you consult and I'm not about to go there.

Getting back to the gist of this article; why, for heaven's sake would a health worker steal from a patient? When I asked a friend this exact question, his response was a bible quotation: "Man eats from where he works..." 'Disgusted' is the word but that is putting it mildly and although his

answer was only a joke, it hurt so bad that many people have been involved in scandalous moves to cheat the poor, depriving them of even the least basic services which should not be considered as privileges but fundamental rights!

In Kyegegwa, a team of health workers teamed up to siphon money from people living with HIV/AIDS. The unscrupulous workers in connivance with the expert client at Kyegegwa Anti-retroviral Therapy (ART) clinic – Kyegegwa district took advantage of the HIV patients who for two months had failed to access ARVs. These

patients were residents of Kakabara sub-county but because Kakabara health center does not supply ARVs, the patients could only access ARVs from Kyegegwa health center IV. It is this lag in supply that the health workers took advantage of; demanding Shs.1000/= from the patients with claims that the funds collected were to facilitate the expert patient to collect the drugs from Kyegegwa health center IV to Kakabara HC III for easier access.

This particular case was reported during a monitoring exercise by the female monitors of Kyegegwa. Dismayed, the monitors with no further ado reported the case to the district chairperson – Hon. Norman Birungi who called for a meeting to address the raised concern. The meeting was attended by the Kyegegwa District Health Officer, the Chief Administrative Officer, the Resident District Commissioner, the Kyegegwa and Kakabara health in-charge, RAC monitors, expert clients and the affected people living with HIVs (PLWHIV).

From the meeting, it was resolved that the accused expert client together with his colleagues refund the 50,000/= shillings stolen from the 50 ART clients of Kakabara sub-county; and indeed, it was refunded..

The other key outcome of this meeting was a resolution drawn to deliver the drugs to Kakabara health center III on a bi-weekly basis to enable easy access of the ARVs by the patients. This has been viewed as a major achievement not only by the PLWHIV but also the entire community. The monitors are viewed as a rich resource and link to problem solving in as far as handling corrupt tendencies in the community is concerned.

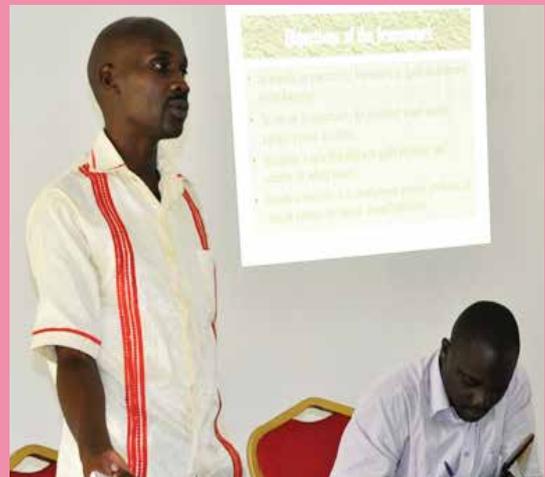
WHO WE WORK WITH



The RAC ED (right) inspecting participants' group work during a monitors' training on evidence-based reporting



Women empowerment: A female monitor stresses a point during a capacity building workshop for RAC monitors



Like-minded CSOs: RAC heads the governance cluster of the Rwenzori regional frame work. Members include KRC, Ride Africa, RWECO, KANCA, Kind Uganda and LAP



Rwenzori leaders together with RAC and other DGF supported CSOs inspecting exhibition stalls during the learning event at Mountains of the Moon Hotel - Fort Portal



Working with youth in schools: A RAC monitor sensitizing students about corruption and how they can fight against it



Members of Isango PWD in Kasese presenting their issues to RAC for follow up



Nyabusokoma staff latrine before rac intervention



Nyabusokoma staff latrine after rac intervention



Nyabusokoma staff house before rac intervention



Nyabusokoma staff house after rac intervention



Karugutu sss before rac intervention (after funds had been emblezzled)

**PICTORIAL SUMMARY
OF RAC ACHIEVEMENTS**



Karugutu sss after rac intervention



L-R IG Representative, Kabarole RDC, Kabarole District Chair Person, FMCTC & RAC ED



Some of the Participants



Ntoroko DPC Receiving an award from RAC - At the center is Nocholas Abola from DEI and RAC ED



Kyegegwa LCV Chair peson receiving his award



Kabarole Deputy District Chair peson receiving his award



Kasese Deputy RDC addressing participants

2018 Anti-Corruption Convention in Pictures

RAC facilitates recovery of misappropriated funds at Musandama Primary School

In 2010, three School Management Committee members of Busandama primary school were found guilty of swindling the school funds worth Shs. 2,425,925/= (two million four hundred twenty five thousand, nine hundred twenty five shillings), under the pretext of being the right owners of the land where the school was located. The money in question was compensation funds paid to the school by UGASURV during the construction of Fort Portal-Bundibugyo road. The trio shared the money amongst themselves, with a very small portion given to the school.

When RAC received this report, she went ahead to investigate and indeed, the allegations were

found to be true. A meeting, comprising the School Management Committee, founder Members body, PTA and other relevant stakeholders, was thus convened to address the problem. When asked, the accused did not deny but rather, they acknowledged their fault and asked to be pardoned. They pledged to refund all the money swindled.

True to their word, the money was repaid and banked on the school account and for this, the school head-teacher extended his appreciation to RAC for their intervention that saw the school regain the funds that had been diverted by a few selfish individuals.

RAC INTERVENES TO HAVE GHOST TEACHER DELETED FROM PAY-ROLL

For over two years, Katushabe Addah – a resident of Bundibugyo Central Parish, Bundibugyo district illegitimately got salary from Bundibugyo district local government under the pretext of a Grade II education assistant.

Addah fraudulently maneuvered her way through to Burondo Primary School payroll, but not even once did she ever set foot on the school premises for duty! On receiving this report from a whistle-blower, RAC immediately rolled out to investigate the case.

The findings revealed that since 2012, Addah was receiving a monthly gross pay of 506,087/= as a teacher of Burondo primary school, yet none of the school records, i.e. the duty roster, attendance list nor staff list proved her appearance at the school.

When contacted for response, Addah claimed to have been transferred from Burondo to Bunyarata primary school but when the RAC

team visited Bunyarata, there was no single record to prove Addah's claims. The head-teacher too refuted Addah's claims, insisting that she (Addah) had never set foot on the school premises.

On requesting for her academic documents, Addah claimed that they had all been burnt from her house during the July 05, 2014 Bundibugyo clashes. When we tried to cross-check with the district registry, there was no trace of Addah's documents.

During the Bundibugyo District Integrity Promotion Forum Meeting in December 2014, Addah's case was presented for discussion and action. The meeting tasked the district personnel officer to thoroughly investigate Addah's case and take appropriate action. This was effectively done and on January 02, 2015, Addah Katushabe was deleted from the payroll.

AGAINST ALL ODDS...

Monitoring is one of RAC's key programs implemented as a means to improved service delivery in the region. In order to assess the performance of government programs, RAC monitors 5 sectors i.e. education, health, works, production and natural resources. Although the monitoring findings vary from sector to sector, the challenge of inadequate resources and limited financial support from government cuts across.

Much as the resource factor may hold, a number of government aided projects have gone an extra mile to address the challenges faced without necessarily waiting for government support. A case in point is Kajuma Primary school – a government aided primary school located in Kajuma Zone Kigoyera Parish Kyarusozzi Subcounty in Kyenjojo district just 5kilometre away from Kigoyera Trading centre. The school has a total enrolment of 571 pupils, out of which 302 are boys while the remaining 269 are girls.

The school was initiated in 1986 by the Catholic Church, but in 2008, the

government took it up as another one of its own. In the financial year 2008/9, government under the School Facility Grant constructed two classroom blocks with office space. The school further received financial support worth 1,205,056/= in October of the same financial year to procure scholastic materials, administration and financing co-curricular activities.

The government support was only a drop in the ocean, considering the numerous needs of the school. To this end, parents and teachers of Kajuma had to devise means to ensure that despite the huddles faced, the school business runs as usual. First, parents agreed to facilitate four extra teachers to add on the four that are on government payroll, to make a total of 8 teachers for the seven classes.

Because the two classrooms could not accommodate all the 571 pupils in the seven classes (P.1-P7), the school had to devise other means with their meager resources to construct other classrooms. Makeshift structures were thus constructed to accommodate the other pupils as seen in the figure below:



Pupils in p.6 class above



Female Teacher attending to P4 Class



Some of the classrooms constructed

Strange as this may seem, Kajuma P/S has stood up against all odds; the school has got very committed teachers and parents who are determined to see the school climb to greater horizons. In fact, it is this commitment that despite that the harsh conditions faced by this school (especially during the rainy season) Kajuma performed well in the 2013 Primary Leaving Exams where out of the 20 pupils who sat from this school, 3 passed in first grade, thirteen in second grade, 3 in 3rd and only one in fourth grade; there was no single failure!

Although Kajuma primary school is determined to survive at whatever cost, government ought to wake up and support it plus all her other schools to acceptable standards but as we wait for this to happen, schools in similar or worse conditions should not sit back and wait for government intervention like manna from heaven but rather, they should pick a leaf from Kajuma's book and do something to address the so many challenges faced by their schools. This is the only sure way through which our motherland will move to greater heights. Let us all take charge of the development of our country!

RAC's intervention results into recovery of embezzled funds at BUNDIWERUME PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bundiwerume primary school is a government aided school found in Kirumya Sub County, Nyankilo parish Bundiwerume village in Bundibugyo District. The school, which once had a total number of 177 pupils (101 boys and 76 girls), with classrooms running from Primary one to Primary four is now history. The school buildings were constructed on poor soils, causing the buildings to sink in, hence scaring away the pupils. Basing on the state of the

school buildings, the district engineer condemned all the structures and therefore recommended that it closes down. All parents therefore had to transfer their children to other schools. All the teachers were also transferred to other schools. Surprisingly however, a new head-teacher was posted to the same school even when there were neither pupils nor teachers.

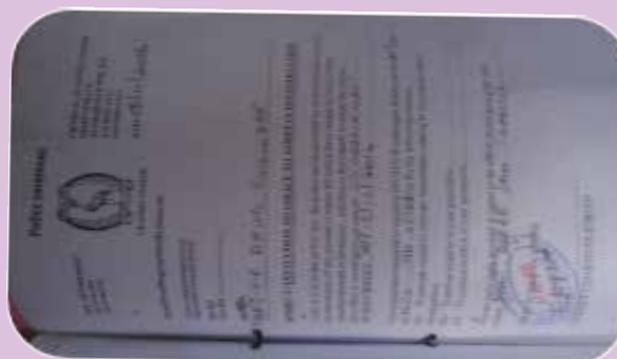
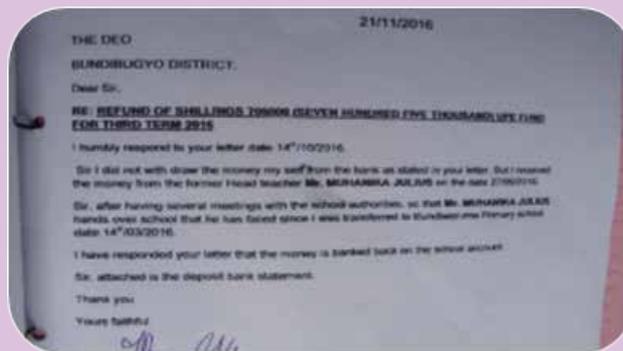


Some of the dilapidated classrooms at the school

Having received reports about the school, RAC in a joint-monitoring move with the Bundibugyo district public accounts committee agreed to pay a visit to this school to verify its status quo. Upon reaching the school, the team was welcomed by deserted and dilapidated buildings with no sign of ongoing studies whatsoever. Upon enquiry from the community, the monitoring team was informed that the school had been closed in the second term of 2015. What was rather shocking was the fact that the 'non-existing' school continued to receive UPE funds for 3 more terms i.e. the third term of 2015 and the first and second term of 2016, amounting to a total fee of 1,384,000/= RAC moved in to investigate these allegations further and found out that the former head-teacher – Muhanika Julius who had actually been transferred to another school continued to withdraw funds from Bundiwerume primary school. The funds withdrawn would then be given to the current head-teacher Bucweke David for his personal use. With such disturbing findings, RAC through her gender officer – Meshach Byomuntura opened up a case against these two head-teachers at Bundibugyo police station; Ref No.SD41/18/10/2016 .



Police file



During investigation, criminal summons were issued to Mr. Buchweke David, the current head-teacher who pleaded guilty to the offence of embezzling public funds. The District Education Officer, on 14th October 2016 wrote to Mr. Buchweke demanding that he refunds all the monies he had embezzled. He however did not adhere to the DEO's demands. This was prior to RAC's intervention, but when RAC reported the matter to police on 18th October 2016, Mr. Buchweke immediately refunded the monies he had misappropriated.

His partner – the former head-teacher was on the other hand arrested and detained but after producing evidence to prove that the funds had been given to Mr. Buchweke, he was released on police bond. RAC was hailed for this intervention without which the culprits could have probably walked away scot-free

Kicheche RAC Monitors influence return of embezzled UPE funds

Buryansungwe is a grade one mixed day and boarding Primary School located in Bwera Parish, Kicheche sub-county, Kitagwenda county, in Kamwenge district.

Reports received during a monitoring visit to the school in December 2015 by the RAC monitors revealed that the then school head-teacher – Mr. Bahemuka had embezzled school funds worth 8,910,000/= for personal gain. It is from this report that the monitors through the chairpersons – school management committee and Parents Teachers Association quickly mobilized a parents' meeting to address the situation.

Further investigations into the allegations revealed that the head-teacher had for a long time been extorting money from the school account through duping the other signatories to sign on the cheques before filling in the amount in words. All he would write was the amount in figures without filling in the amount in words. In one incidence, the head-teacher prepared a check with a figure of 280,000/= but did not write it in words. After the other two signatories had signed, he added a 1 in front of the

280,000/- to read 1,280,000/-. By the time all this was brought to light, Mr. Bahemuka had swindled a total amount of 8,910,000.

Mr. Bahemuka was thus arrested and detained for 5 days, after which he was released on police bond, on condition that he refunds all the monies swindled. He agreed to do so in three installments. In addition to his arrest, he was transferred to Bukurungo primary school, replaced by Mr. Kamukama John Bosco as the new head-teacher.

After payment of his first installment (3,500,000/-), Mr. Bahemuka defaulted and went into hiding. The RAC monitors informed the police who embarked on a fresh search for him. He was nabbed and detained again but after payment of the second installment (2,500,000), he was released again on police bond. In a follow up exercise on September 28, 2016 during the District Integrity Promotion Forum meeting, RAC was reliably informed by police that Mr. Bahemuka had fully paid the total amount of money (8,910,000/-) that he owed to the school.

RAC's intervention causes fraudulent Bailiff to 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

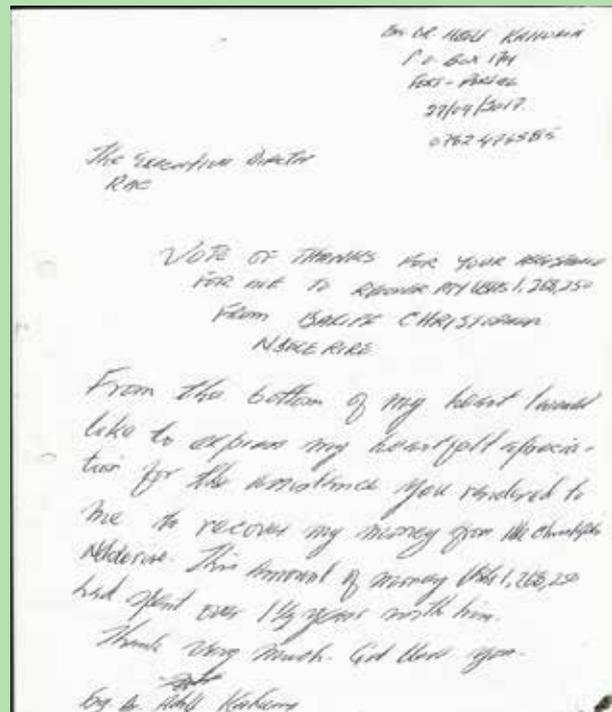
surprise, the money lender continued to demand for his money from Kahuma. His (Nyakahuma's) explanation that he had fully paid up the money owed to the money lender fell on deaf ears. It was later revealed that although Kahuma had paid up all the money to the bailiff, the bailiff did not remit the money 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. Kahuma’s letter of appreciation to RAC is here .



RAC’s efforts influence return of missing water tank at Bubandu Primary School

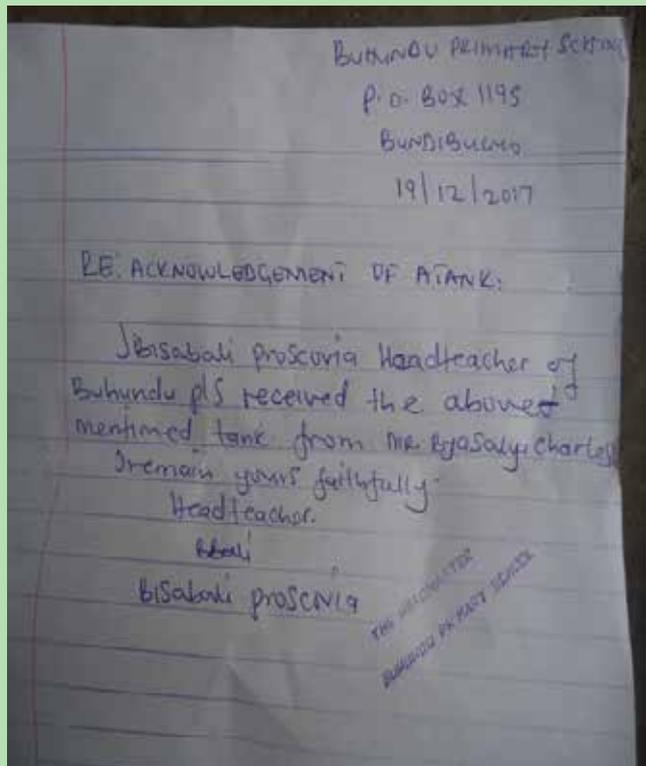
It was during one of the routine monitoring exercise of government programs by the RAC monitors of Bundibugyo Town Council that the shocking news about a missing tank at Bubandu Primary school was brought to their attention. The tank in question was erroneously lent out by Mr. Byasali Charles, the then head-teacher of Bubandu Primary school to Mr. Mutabazi, the then head teacher of Super primary school – a private school in Bundibugyo, way back in 2013. The tank that was borrowed under the pretext of addressing an emergency water crisis at Super Primary school was not returned for almost four years, causing a water crisis at Bubandu – where the tank had been borrowed from. The head-teachers being friends were reluctant to make any move in returning the tank to its right location. It was also reported that the head-teacher manipulated the School Management Committee to erroneously accept to lend out the tank to a private school, hence negatively affecting the children at the school who were the direct beneficiaries..This prompted the concerned stakeholders to raise a

red flag.

When the RAC monitors received this complaint, they immediately embarked on a fact-finding mission to determine what befell the borrowed tank. They shared their report with the RAC secretariat who then presented this concern to the DIPF of Bundibugyo for response by the responsible duty bearers. The missing tank caused mixed reactions among the members of the DIPF, wondering how an asset from a public facility can be lent out to a private facility. When tasked to explain, Mr. Byasali said that the request for a tank by Super School was approved by the School Management Committee with a stipulated period. However, Mr. Mutabazi did not honor his commitment, prompting Mr. Byasali to go pick it from Super. Mr. Byasali did not pick the tank because at the time of picking it, it was damaged, yet it had been given to them in a good shape. He therefore tasked Mr. Mutabazi to ensure that the borrowed tank is returned in the condition in which it was taken. Moving forward, the DIPF through orders of the

District Education Officer and the District Police Commander tasked Mr. Byasali to do everything within his powers to ensure that the tank is returned to Bubandu Primary School within 2 weeks, or else face the wrath of the law, an order he agreed to abide by.

Two months down the road, Mr. Byasali had not honored his pledge and this prompted RAC to demand for response from the DEO – since he had been tasked by the DIPP to ensure that this tank is delivered back. It was during the 2017 Anti-Corruption Convention organized by RAC that the DEO recommitted to cause Mr. Byasali return the tank within 5 days. 3 days down the road, RAC received a phone call from the Bundibugyo DEO to come and witness the hand-over of the water tank to Bubandu Primary School. The pupils of this school can now enjoy clean water supply as the tank acts as a reservoir in times of water shortage.



Water tank being delivered at school



Photo of water tank delivered at school

RAC'S INTERVENTION RESULTS INTO RECOVERY OF SOLAR LED LAMPS

Ighomerwa Primary school is a government aided school located in Bukonzo sub-county, in a hard-to reach village of Ighomerwa, Bundibugyo district.

Because of its location, access to power is a dream far from reach in this part of the country. It is for this reason that Save the Children in Uganda donated solar-led lamps to the school, to provide lights for the upper-class pupils to enable them carry on with their studies in the night.

Strangely, the head-teacher – Mr. Bisereko Wesley diverted the lamps from their intended purpose for his personal gain. Recipients of these lamps included the head-teacher himself, the inspector of schools in charge of Bughendera county Mr, Byasalya Charles, as well s other teachers. The target beneficiaries of the lamps i.e. the pupils were only left with 5 out of the donated 30 lamps!

This unfortunate scenario was brought to RAC's attention in October 2014 by a whistle-blower from the same school. Upon receiving the complaints, RAC embarked on a fact-finding mission into the allegations, involving the Bundibugyo district police.

The investigations resulted into the arrest of the school head-teacher and the school management committee, but were later released on police bond to enable them recover the misappropriated lamps.

The pressure mounted by RAC, the whistle-blower and the police yielded positive results; by February 2015, all the lamps had been recovered, and these were handed over to the Senior Education Officer Mr Matte who will hand them over to the new head-teacher of Ighomerwa Primary school

some of the payment receipts rac landed on during investigations



Ndahura Phillip whose name appear on the Receipt is the biological son to Bisereko the headteacher



Detective Byabagambi inspecting the solar lamps brought delivered by the headteacher.



Detective byabagambi, Kule David and Bisereko Welsey displaying the solar lamps at Police for inspection



Mr. Bisereko Welsey displaying one of the solar lamps for inspection by Detective byabagambi at Bundibugyo Central Police

Nurse convicted over Theft of Drugs at Kabonero Health Center II

On July 14, 2011, RAC received a report from the GISO – Kabonero Sub-county about Ms. Nyakwera Elizabeth – a nurse at Kabonero health center II accused of stealing and selling government drugs. It is alleged that on June 29, 2011, Ms. Nyakwera was arrested at Nkimbiri with two boxes of coartem and a tin of paracetamol with a Government mark

RAC, thus embarked on an investigation journey that led her to various offices including the Directorate of Public Prosecutions (DPP), the Anti-corruption Court and police among others; to push for facts and justification for releasing Elizabeth without conviction.

The Anti-corruption court confirmed to RAC that Nyakwera's case had been recorded and still under investigation but promised to share the findings/ resolutions once the case was finalized.

Nyakwera was convicted on her own plea of guilty on counts of abuse of office and possession of classified drugs. She was thus interdicted out of office for 10 years, and ordered to return the drugs that were found in her possession to Kabonero health center II. She was further sentenced to a fine of 200,000/= for both offenses or serve six months in prison.

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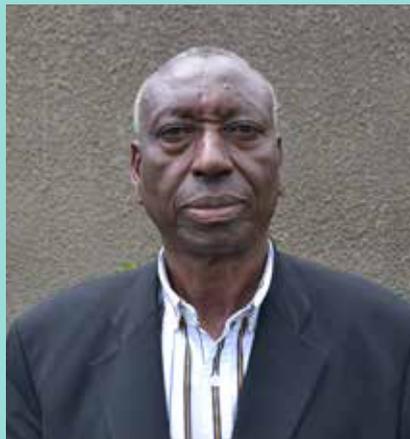
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