



FHRI e-Newsletter

June — December 2015

Volume 13, Issue No. 2

THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE.

FHRI holds 9th General Assembly, 2015.



A cross-section of FHRI members at the 19th Annual General meeting held at the Human Rights House, Nsambya, Kampala on 22nd August 2015.

On 22nd August 2015, FHRI held her 9th General Assembly as well as the 19th Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Human Rights House, Kampala.

As an established practice, on an annual basis, the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) members benchmark progress, identify challenges and chart a way forward during the AGM while reflecting on the status of democracy and human rights at the local and international levels. Similarly, after every three years, a new Board of Directors is elected and on this day, the 9th General Assembly elected the 8th

Continued to page 2.

'Human Rights and Poverty-Eradicating Extreme Poverty in Uganda', report launched.



HUMAN RIGHTS AND POVERTY
ERADICATING EXTREME POVERTY IN UGANDA

The report titled, 'Human Rights and Poverty-Eradicating Extreme Poverty in Uganda' launched by H.E. Kristian Schmidt, Head of Delegation, European Union at Hotel Africana on 2nd December 2015. *Story on page 5.*

CCEDU launches "TOPOWA" campaign to boost Voter Turn-out in 2016.



Launch of TOPOWA—HONOUR YOUR VOTE CAMPAIGN: the procession composed of promoters and supporters of the campaign flagged off by Fr. Cyprian Masembe marching on Kampala streets from Wandegaya to Hotel Africana on 22nd September 2015.

Hotel Africana was the center of festivity on 22nd September 2015 as the Citizens Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU) launched their second voter mobilization campaign codenamed "Topowa". The campaign will take them throughout the country as they promote voter participation in the forth coming general elections.

Continued to page 21.

Inside this issue:

Human Rights Advocacy efforts extended to Mbarara and Kalungu districts.	5
Human Rights Defenders make a case for the NGO Bill.	7
FHRI promotes Land Rights of Internally Displaced People.	7
Women Judges promote the use of human rights norms in the application of law.	9
Students' Human Rights Clubs equipped with leadership skills.	12
Executive Members of Neighborhood Assemblies empowered with new skills to monitor service delivery.	14
Chairperson Uganda Electoral Commission Launches CEON-U.	22
PAS to address civil matters.	23



FHRI holds its 2015 Staff-Board of Directors Retreat.



FHRI staff members in a discussion at the 2015 Staff—Board of Directors Retreat that took place between 14th and 18th December 2015 at the House Rights House.

The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) held its 2015 Staff-Board of Directors retreat from 14th to 18th December 2015 at the Human Rights House, Nsambya. Every end of year, FHRI Staff and the Board of Directors collectively underscore organizational achievements, lessons, challenges while identifying future opportunities. The 2015 retreat prioritized a comprehensive discussion on the actions it will undertake in 2016 and beyond. Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, the FHRI Executive Director pointed out a range of issues necessary to successfully conclude the strategic plan 2012 - 2016 while reflecting on the future actions with innovativeness, creativity and discipline. During the retreat, a monitoring and evaluation training session was conducted by Freedom House. National Democratic Institute (NDI), a development partner also conducted an orientation of its working methods under the current partnership with FHRI/CEON.

5 Board Members attended the meeting which was chaired by Dr. Sewanyana. The Board Members in attendance were Rev. Dr. John K. Tumwine, Hon. Chairperson; Ms. Rossetti N. Nabbumba, Hon. Vice-Chairperson, Mr. Edward P. Obura, Hon. Treasurer; Ms. Evelyn K. Walimbwa and Mr. Wycliffe J. Kururagiyire, Hon Board Members. Also in attendance was Mr. Albert Mukundane, a member of the Board of Trustees. Over 25 members of staff attended the meeting. The retreat was crowned with a luncheon hosted together with the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project.

FHRI holds 9th General Assembly, 2015 *continued from page 1.*



Part of the 7th Board of Directors addressing the members at the 9th General Assembly that took place at the Human Rights House, Nsambya on 22nd August 2015. L-R: Rev. Dr. John Tumwine, Chairperson; Mr. Edward Peace Obura, Member; Mr. Davidson Sserunjogi, Treasurer; Mr. Celestine Mugisha, Member; and Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director.

Board of Directors composed of seven members for the period August 2015 – August 2018. The new FHRI's Board comprises; Dr. John K. Tumwine, Ms. Rosetti Nabbumba Nayenga, Mrs. Patricia A. P'Odong, Mr. Edward P. Obura, Mr. Jack W. Kururagiyire, Ms. Evelyn Korishaba Walimbwa and Mr. Frank N. Othembi. The Board of Directors formulates and supervises policy and programme implementation at FHRI.

During the meeting, a number of issues were discussed including; deepening democratic practices; expanding civic space; deepening citizen voices and access to justice. In his speaking notes, Rev. Dr. John Tumwine, the Chairperson, Board of Directors updated members on FHRI's achievements and challenges in their term of office but was also proud to mention that FHRI participated in the review and development of new human rights standards such as the Mandela Rules and the Draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human

and Peoples' Rights on the Abolition of the Death Penalty.

In his report, Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, the Executive Director of FHRI, briefed members on the progress of the strategic plan. Emphasis was on FHRI's legislative advocacy campaigns such as the submissions made before different committees of parliament on the Constitutional (amendment) Bill 2015, the NGO (amendment) Bill 2015 and the Transitional Justice Policy. He also highlighted the key issues on CCEDU's votability campaign geared towards mobilizing citizens to participate in the 2016 General elections. He highlighted some recommendations to be considered in informing FHRI's future human rights reform agenda. He noted that efforts directed at economic empowerment and social-political transformation are more likely to generate positive outcomes when people are enabled to participate in their own governance. He also pointed out that striking down barriers that undermine individual growth and potential, effective access to justice and wider political participation are some of the key ingredients in the human rights reform agenda. He thereafter called upon members to prioritize building a citizen's movement that says **No** to injustice and calls the state to order.

The 9th Annual General Meeting attracted 653 members (384 men and 269 women) including the Trustees, Board of Directors and the Working Group. Also present were representatives of the Development Partners, Auditors and staff.

Drake University and Makerere University Business School students visit the Human Rights House.

Over fifty students from Drake University and Makerere University Business School visited the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) on 5th June 2015. The students were addressed by Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, the Executive Director of FHRI on the various human rights campaigns FHRI has spearheaded over the years.

Reflecting on FHRI's long standing experience in advocacy and lobbying, he gave an insight into the abolition of the death penalty campaign in Uganda, prison reform, electoral democracy, judicial independence and access to justice for the poor and vulnerable people among others. He informed them that all these advocacy campaigns were based on research, monitoring and documentation of human rights issues. He shared with the students FHRI's efforts on the recent submissions before parliament on the two bills tabled before the house for debate i.e. the Non-Government Organizations Bill, 2015 and the Constitutional Amendment Bill, 2015. He informed them about the challenges faced in such campaign which include; restrictive civil society space, media censorship, limited funds and meeting expectations for the growing clientele.

Beyond FHRI's advocacy efforts, Dr. Sewanyana talked about Uganda's human rights situation and highlighted a number of issues among which were challenges that Uganda faced as a country. These include high levels of poverty, unemployment among the youth, poor health facilities, poor education structures and corruption. The students hailed FHRI for the tremendous work done and noted that their interaction with FHRI gave them a lot of information and exposure required in their career pursuits.

Ten Years, Defending Defenders: The East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project.

The East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP), celebrated 10 years of supporting human rights defenders at Munyonyo, Kampala on 27th October 2015.

East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project is an idea of Mr. Hassan Shire the Founder and Executive Director of EHAHRDP.

Mr. Shire forced into exile for his human rights work in Somalia in 2001, established the EHAHRDP based on a shared understanding; the challenges and hardships that come from standing up for human rights. Today, EHAHRDP is a fully functional support structure for human rights defenders across the sub-region.

Together with human rights defenders from far and wide, the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) joined EHAHRDP to celebrate this important milestone on 27th October 2015. In his congratulatory message, Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Board Chairperson of EHAHRDP and Executive Director of FHRI had this to say, "Ten years down the road, a little known project, EHAHRDP, has become a leading regional network to support those in need of protection and support in the East and Horn of Africa."

EHAHRDP is applauded for its unwavering commitment to flag the voices of human rights defenders at risk before the regional and international platforms. Human rights defenders are a vulnerable group that need emergency assistance, capacity building and protection.

Congratulations East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project!



Delegates witnessing the unveiling of the 10 year-profile of East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project during their 10th Anniversary Celebrations at Munyonyo, Kampala on 27th October 2015.

FHRI convenes Partners' Review Meeting, September 2015.

On 9th September 2015, the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) held a Partnership meeting with her development partners to review progress of the current programme titled: Bridging Rights and Values: the Civic and Democratic Culture in Uganda (2012-2016). This was a follow-up meeting focusing on the work implemented by FHRI since February 2015.

The meeting was attended by representatives from various donor partners namely: Ms. Sophie Racine, Component Manager; Ms. Anne Nyakato, Programme Manager; and Mr. Samson Asiimwe, Programme Assistant all from Democratic Governance Facility (DGF); Mr. Donald Rukare, Chief of Party, Freedom House and Ms. Patricia Nsanze-Nzeyi, Governance and Project Officer, British High Commission. The FHRI Board of Directors was represented by Ms. Rosetti Nayenga Nabbumba – Vice Chairperson. Mr. Patrick Ssemwogerere and Prof. Mwambutsya Ndebesa members of the working group were also present.

Ms. Sophie Racine thanked FHRI for organizing the review meeting. To DGF, such strategic partners' meetings are part of the DGF monitoring system, which among others tracks the partners' progress in implementing their strategic programme, discusses challenges and together agrees on strategies to enhance performance.

Together with FHRI staff, Dr. Sewanyana, the Executive Director FHRI, highlighted the major interventions undertaken by FHRI in the period under review as well as the challenges faced. The update resulted in a discussion which generated ideas for the way forward and recommendations to benefit the rest of the programme.

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) meet to promote good governance in Eastern Africa.



Delegates at the Regional Conference for East African National Human Rights Institutions held between 7th and 9th December, 2015, Nairobi, Kenya.



Left: Hon. Amos Wako, Former Attorney General of Kenya and (right) Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana having a light moment at the Regional Conference for East African National Human Rights Institutions held between 7th and 9th December, 2015, Nairobi, Kenya.

The Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) jointly with the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI) organized a Sub-Regional Conference for East African National Human Rights Institutions. The conference was organized under the theme: *Promoting Good Governance in Eastern Africa; the role of NHRIs*, at Hilton Hotel, Nairobi in Kenya between 7th and 9th December 2015.

In attendance were delegations of National Human Rights Institutions and civil society including Uganda, Kenya, Sudan, South Sudan and Cameroon. The Ugandan delegation was led by Mr. Gordon Mwesigye, Secretary, Uganda Human Rights Commission.

The conference was opened by Prof. Githu Muigai, the Attorney General of the Republic of Kenya. Among other speakers at the opening session was Ms. Kagwiria Mbogori, Chairperson of the KNCHR; Dr. Chemuta D. Banda, Chairperson of the NANHRI; Ms. Nardos Bekele-Thomas, UNDP Resident Representative; Ms. Vivian Nasaka Makunda, Deputy ICC Liaison Officer; and H.E. Frans Makken, Ambassador of the Royal Netherlands to Kenya. Prof. Shadrack B. O. Gutto, Professor and Editor, University of South Africa gave the keynote address which critically analysed the status of human rights realization within the region. The keynote address was discussed by Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director, FHRI who also made a presentation in the session that aimed at sharing experiences by NHRIs and CSOs on the promotion of democracy and good governance. Together with other speakers, they highlighted the challenges that CSOs face especially around the shrinking civic space and the interventions that can be made by NHRIs and explore opportunities for collaboration.

The discussions focused on: securing democracy and the rule of law; critical analysis of the status of human rights realization within the region; strengthening constitutionalism and the rule of law; utilization of regional structures for accountability; the role of NHRIs in engaging with SDGs, the opportunities for rights realization; the experiences and the role of NHRIs in monitoring elections; and safeguarding constitutionalism while promoting inclusion and diversity.

The conference was concluded with an 8-point **Nairobi Declaration: The Role of NHRIs in promoting Good Governance in Eastern Africa**, adopted on 9th December 2015. Key among the 8 points agreed upon were to deepen the engagement of NHRIs with other actors on the electoral processes for purposes of ensuring free, fair and credible elections; to coordinate and cooperate with CSOs and other partners relevant to the accountability agenda; and to scale up partnerships, collaborations and effective monitoring of SDGs and National Action Plans. Further commitment was made to hold the sub-regional conference on an annual basis and agreed to have the next East African Conference in Kampala, Uganda in 2016.

EVENTS DIARY : January — March , 2016

- Stakeholders Validation Meetings on the 1st Draft of Model Local Policy Guidelines in Amuru District; 25th – 27th Jan 2016.
- Paralegal Advisory Services Steering Committee Meeting; January 2016.
- “TOPOWA – Honor Your Vote” Campaign; District Activations and Radio Talk Shows; January – February, 2016.
- The Second Regional exchange visit under the East African Criminal Justice Civil Society Network for NGOs working with Women in Prison in Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania; 3rd – 5th February 2016.
- Judiciary Workshop on the UN Bangkok Rules for the treatment of women prisoners and non-custodial measures for women offenders; February 2016.
- Annual Partners Forum 2016; February 2016.
- Paralegal Training on Sexual and Reproductive Human Rights, Kalangala District; March 2016.
- Paralegal Advisory Services, Stakeholders’ Forum in Nakasongola and Kapchorwa Districts; March 2016.
- The 9th Inter-University Human Rights Competition; 4th -5th March, 2016.



THE RESEARCH DIVISION.

Human rights advocacy at the grassroots.



Standing: Justice Lameck Mukasa, former Head Criminal Division, High Court of Uganda responding to questions from participants at a baraza held in Mbarara on 26th August 2015.



Standing: Ms. Christine Nanding, Deputy Director, Legal and Human Rights Directorate, Uganda Police Force making a presentation on the rights of suspects to the participants at the open-air meeting in Kalungu district on 27th August 2015.



Participants of the Baraza organized by FHRI in Mbarara district on 26th August 2015

The Research Division organized two barazas in Western Uganda. Barazas are platforms for dialogue on human rights issues between communities, civil society, local governments and Law and Order institutions. At the barazas, findings of the performance audit that assessed the extent to which past recommendations by the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) have been implemented and the opinion poll gauging the human rights needs of the ordinary citizens were validated.

165 participants attended the baraza in Mbarara district on 26th August 2015 while 240 participants attended the baraza in Kalungu district on 27th August 2015. Participants included local residents, local government leaders, officials from the Uganda Police Force, the Uganda Prisons Service and the Directorate of Public Prosecutions.

In Mbarara district, the chief guest was Hon. Justice Lameck Mukasa, former Head Criminal Division, High Court of Uganda. He commended FHRI for undertaking the exercise and implored participants to make good use of the findings by engaging with political leaders in their communities. He called on Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to strengthen human rights advocacy in the communities as a means of empowering the citizenry. He emphasized the need for citizens to fulfill civic duties such as demand for rights and continuous engagement with government agencies, local leaders and Civil Society Organizations.

In Kalungu district, Ms. Christine Nanding, Deputy Director, Legal and Human Rights Directorate, Uganda Police Force (UPF) discussed the rights of suspects during arrest and detention. She expounded on the initiatives undertaken by the UPF to ensure respect and promotion of human rights. These include establishment of a human rights directorate, regional human rights desks, a professional standards unit and training of police officers on provisions of the *Prevention and Prohibition of Torture Act, 2012*.

The discussions mostly centered around the relationship between the public and the UPF. The predominant issues were excessive use of force, corruption and torture by the UPF. Participants

also discussed the rights of inmates in detention and barriers to access to justice.

The discussions have been used to further inform action points of the FHRI human rights reform agenda. The action points explore ways of deepening human rights protection and promotion in Uganda as a means of accelerating policy and practice change.

'Human Rights and Poverty -Eradicating Extreme Poverty in Uganda'.



2nd right: H.E. Mr. Kristian Schmidt, European Union, Head of delegation, launching the poverty report at Hotel Africana on 2nd December 2015. **L-R:** Mrs. Margaret Sekagya, Dr. Christopher Mbazira, Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, and Extreme Right Mr. Nigel Othembi looking on at the launching of the report.



A cross section of delegates at launch of the poverty report on 2nd December 2015 at Hotel Africana.

On 2nd December 2015, the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) launched a report titled: 'Human Rights and Poverty – *Eradicating Extreme Poverty in Uganda*'. H.E. Kristian Schmidt, European Union Head of Delegation, launched the report at Hotel Africana.

The report presents the findings of a research project carried out by FHRI in 2014/15. Section one examines poverty and analyses past and present governments' efforts towards poverty eradication in the country. It advocates a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to development in accordance with commitments made under human rights law and Vision 2040. Section two gives an overview of the broader human rights situation in the country in 2014/15.

In his welcome, Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, the Executive Director of FHRI, noted that the European Union (E.U.) is one of Uganda's largest development partners and that eradicating poverty is an issue that is at the heart of the E.U.'s Development Cooperation Agenda. In the same vein, he recognized the support of the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) as FHRI's strategic partner that supported FHRI in this research and the eventual launch of the report. He acknowledged the support received from the National Planning Authority and the Ministry of Finance during FHRI's extensive consultations from various sectors to inform the report and the support of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) towards its launch.

Speaking at the launch, Ms. Anne Nyakato, the Programme Manager-Human Rights DGF, stated that extreme poverty is a serious matter that needed to be tackled from various angles. She noted that poverty undermines the enjoyment of human rights and deprives a person of his or her dignity. In summary, Ms. Josephine Kankunda, the Senior Researcher at FHRI, highlighted the key findings and recommendations of the two-year research project report that FHRI undertook in 2014. She revealed that the report recognizes the correlation

between good governance and inclusive economic growth.

In his remarks, H.E. Kristian Schmidt stated that he agreed with the fundamental premise of the report that poverty and human rights are closely related because poverty is a violation of fundamental human rights. He noted that, even with the best intentions of society and government, the poor are likely to miss out on many opportunities, linger at the end of the queue for justice and get most affected by the consequences of environmental degradation, pollution and unsustainable management of natural resources. H.E. Schmidt stated that, the report offers useful recommendations to government, parliament, ministries and all stakeholders on how to eradicate extreme poverty in Uganda. He stressed that poverty cannot be eradicated by only the duty bearers and institutions. It is essential that rights holders are empowered; an approach that the E.U will follow.

His Worship the Lord Mayor of Kampala, Erias Lukwago, tasked FHRI with ensuring that the report is not only disseminated to policy makers and legislators but that the recommendations are debated within government forums and are implemented. This would ensure that the rights of the most vulnerable are protected. He also remarked that the report should be brought to the attention of candidates during this election period so that they address the concerns raised and challenges in their campaign manifestos.

The report was discussed by a panel of key stakeholders which included: Dr. Christopher Mbazira from the Public Interest Law Clinic, Makerere University; Dr. John Sekamatte from the National Planning Authority; Ms. Angella Nabwowe, the Programs Manager of Initiative for Social and Economic Rights and Mr. Erasmus Twaruhukwa, the Director, Directorate of Human Rights and Legal Services, Uganda Police Force.

The launch ended with a plenary discussion with representatives from the Uganda Prisons Service, academia, the development partners, the media fraternity and FHRI members among other members of the public who attended the event. Also in attendance were Ms. Sabrina Bazinella from the E.U. and FHRI Board members, namely; Mr. Frank Nigel Othembi, Mr. Jack W. Kururagyire, and Ms. Evelyn Walimbwa together with Mr. Patrick Ssemwogerere, a member of the FHRI working group. Other members in attendance included representatives from donor partners, civil society organizations, the human rights fraternity, government agencies and the general public.

Rights groups make submission on the NGO Bill before Parliament.

Following the tabling of the NGO Bill in Parliament on 13th May 2015, FHRI in collaboration with four other organizations: East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project (EHAHRDP), Human Rights and Peace Center (HURIPEC), Human Rights Center-Uganda and Kituo Cha Katiba prepared a memorandum on the NGO Bill. The memorandum was presented before the Defense and Internal Affairs Committee of Parliament on 25th June 2015.



Standing: (Left) Ms. Lizet Vlamings, Research Fellow at FHRI and **(Right) Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana** presenting the memorandum on the NGO Bill before the Defense and Internal Affairs Committee of Parliament on 25th June 2015.

The memorandum highlighted areas of concern such as the powers and composition of the NGO Board, functions and composition of both the district NGO committee and the sub-county NGO monitoring committee, grounds for revocation of NGO permits, dissolution of NGOs and mode of inspection of premises of NGOs.

FHRI also utilized available spaces to deepen the debate and dialogue on the Bill. This was effected through speaking engagements at various agencies and/or institutions on the bill. The spaces used by FHRI include the European Union / Civil Society Organization consultative meeting on 21st May 2015, Inter-Party Organization for Dialogue (IPOD) on 25th May 2015, IPOD public dialogue on 9th July 2015 and the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) on 11th June 2015, among others. The NGO Bill, 2015 has been passed by Parliament and awaits assent by the President.

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE PROJECT.

Promoting land rights of IDPs through local policy advocacy: A case study of Amuru district.



Participants at the Stakeholders validation meeting at Lamogi Sub-county Hall on 28th October 2015

The Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) with support from the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) is implementing a 9 months project on land rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) through local policy advocacy. The objective of the project is to draw together and support relevant stakeholders in Amuru district including Amuru Local Government, Members of Parliament, district councilors, traditional leaders, Local Council Courts (LCCs) and Community Based Organisations to push for the development of Model Local Policy Guidelines (LPGs) that protect IDPs against arbitrary deprivation of land.

Situation analysis in Lamogi and Pabo Sub-counties, Amuru district

FHRI conducted a baseline study on the current situation of former IDPs and land rights in the two sub-counties from 21st to 25th September 2015. The study documented the existing procedures available to former IDPs to reclaim land, the role of various stakeholders in this process and the challenges associated with the return and resettlement process. The study paid special attention to the land rights of women/widows and children/orphans. The findings have been consolidated into a draft report that will inform the formulation of Model Local Policy Guidelines that could potentially enhance protection of the land rights of former IDPs.

Validation meetings of the baseline study on land rights of former IDPs in Lamogi and Pabo Sub-counties, Amuru district.

Following the situation analysis FHRI convened two stakeholders' validation meetings on 28th and 29th September 2015. The meetings were held at Lamogi Sub-county Hall and Multipurpose Hall, Amuru district. The meetings brought together all relevant stakeholders. The discussions focused on how to generate durable solutions to the practical challenges regarding access, ownership and control of land by former IDPs especially women, widows, children and orphans. The outstanding challenges include cultural practices contrary to human rights and law, poor communication by the authorities, misunderstandings of responsibilities of stakeholders in land matters, lack of sensitization on existing policies and laws governing access and ownership of land.

The validation meetings were attended by 43 participants (12 female, 31 male) at Lamogi Sub-county hall and 50 participants (female 19, 31 male) at Multipurpose Hall both in Amuru district representing Parliament, Justice Law and Order Sector institutions, district officials, Local Council Courts, cultural and religious institutions, opinion leaders, civil society, Community Based Organizations, former IDPs, women's groups and the media. Notable stakeholders in attendance included Mr. Kitembo Mathias, Sub-county Chief Lamogi, Mr. Ojera Atkinson, LC III Chairperson Lamogi and Mr. Bilak Jalmoro, Residence District Commissioner Amuru as well as Hon. Gilbert Olanya, Member of Parliament, Kilak County.

THE LEGAL SERVICES DIVISION.

SMILES AFTER THE STORM: The story of Nakajiri.

Nakajiri is a 41 year old single mother and resident of Kansanga, Masana Zone in Kampala. She resides in a semi-permanent 2 bed roomed house and hawks clothes in Masana Zone for a living. She has five children (3 male and 2 females) aged 24 – 15years. Only 2 of her children are in school while the rest have dropped out due to lack of tuition and related requirements. The father of her children deserted the family in 2012 after 19 years of cohabitation. In 2014, Nakajiri learnt about the imprisonment of the father of her children at Luzira prison in execution of a 10 year sentence following a conviction of obtaining money by false pretence (Civil Suit No.219 of 2014). In addition, the High Court issued a warrant of attachment and sale of his property.

Following the attachment order issued on 19th September 2015, Nakajiri received a notice from bailiffs to vacate the family home (a Kibanja with a semi-permanent structure situated in Kansanga- Masana zone) valued at 20,000,000/=) within 15 days. She was completely unaware and ignorant of the implications of the civil suit. On 21st September 2015, Nakajiri, acting upon the advice of her son who had heard about FHRI several times on radio and TV, approached the FHRI legal aid office for advice. With documents of the impending eviction, she explained that she was unaware of her partner's dealings and that her children were also victims of his crimes. She explained that the home doubled as a source of their livelihood since 1998 and that eviction meant homelessness and a street life for her children.

FHRI intervenes: Working against the time limitations imposed by the notice to give vacant possession, FHRI advised her to avail all transactional and ownership documents relating to the property. In her discussion with FHRI, she claimed that she jointly owned the property with her ex-partner. However, careful scrutiny of the documentation presented revealed that she had solely purchased the said land. Contrary to her assertion, she was actually the sole owner. This presented a ray of hope.

FHRI sensitized her on the implications of the sole ownership vis a vis the court order on attachment and sale. The irregularity of the court order was explained to the client who was also

informed that the property did not belong to the judgment debtor could not be attached.

The FHRI Legal Aid Office wrote to the bailiffs and copied the Director Kampala Metropolitan Police, Commandant Land

for incomplete execution. Currently, FHRI is assisting Nakajiri to lodge a caveat on the land in order to protect her rights and interests in the land.

Ecstatic about the outcome, in a letter to FHRI, Nakajiri expressed her appreciation to FHRI for the assistance.

The letter is paraphrased here below:



Nakajiri is all smiles in front of her house in September 2015

'Banange aba human rights, mwebale kutuyamba. Nalinfa! Nali simanyi kyakukola. Mwebale nyo balooya bange.'

Translated as

'My friends at FHRI, thank you so much for all your help. I was at the verge of death. I did not know what to do. Thank you my lawyers.'

That is just one of the many outcomes of FHRI's interventions in enabling the poor to access justice through its Legal Aid Programme.

During the period of June to October 2015, 199 (107 females and 92 males) new people walked into FHRI's premises seeking for legal assistance. The toll free facility (0800100016)

registered 1,204 calls. Of these, 549 were outgoing while 655 were incoming.

Outreach activities undertaken in Masaka & Jinja districts as follows:

Dates	Dis-tricts	New cases received from the camps.	Partici-pants in the legal rights awareness sessions.
15 th - 19 th June, 14 th - 18 th Sept, 16 th -20 th Nov 2015.	Jinja	185 (92fema le; 93 male)	2,034 (721 female; 1,313 male)
24 th – 28 th Aug, 9 th – 13 th Nov 2015	Masaka		

The legal rights awareness sessions focused on land, family and succession laws. More awareness was undertaken through 5 radio talk shows on Masaka 96.2 FM and Buladde FM in Masaka district and Basoga Bains (87.7 FM) and Kira FM in Jinja district. Each talk show lasted an hour.

In addition four capacity trainings were conducted for 156 (104 males & 52 females) local leaders including Local council chairpersons, leaders of persons with disabilities, members of the Area Land Committees, youth councillors, religious leaders and women councillors. The training venues were Mafubira sub-county headquarters in Jinja district and Kabonera sub-county headquarters in Masaka district. The impact of these trainings can be summarised in the following testimonies by some of the previous trainees.

Protection Unit, Assistant RDC, Makindye Division, DISO Makindye Division, DPC Kabalagala and the LC1 Chairperson Masana Zone Kansanga to bring the matter to their attention and request for a stay of execution of the sale and attachment order. The Legal Aid Office argued that there was a justifiable legal impediment, which could result in objector proceedings in courts of law. Several mediation meetings were held between FHRI and the above authorities on behalf of the client to ensure that the clients were protected from the illegal eviction.

Result: As a result of the intervention, the Chairperson, Local Council I and local leaders of Masana Zone, joined efforts to ensure that Nakajiri's property rights were not violated by the execution of an irregular court order. As a positive outcome, the bailiffs halted the execution and returned to court with reasons

Testimonies from beneficiaries of FHRI legal services work.

"Thank you for training us. We got confidence to handle land disputes. Most land cases were being reported to police but now they are reported to us. Also, Police trusts us more and refers land disputes. The cases we have handled have been settled. People feared reporting the rich in court because cases would "disappear" but now they do because they have lawyers to help them. People now trust us to handle their matters. We handle effectively and our resolutions are followed by the parties."

Mr. Bwanika George, Chairperson of the Area Land Committee-Kyanamukaaka.

"When I learnt about the project's good work in Kyanamukaaka and Buwunga last year, I wrote a letter requesting that it be extended to our sub county, which was done. In February, leaders were trained. I know our leaders. They are always restless in meetings, but this time I was so shocked! They attended the training fully for 4 days! My people have changed. Those who have attended the different activities have changed the way they handle issues because they are more knowledgeable."

Mr. Nsubuga Abdul - Chairman L.C.3 – Kyesiiga.

RIGHTS AND RULE OF LAW.

FHRI strengthens strategic litigation efforts.



Left & Right: Participants at the strategic litigation seminar that took place on 28th August, 2015 at Royal Suites Bugolobi. **Middle:** Prof. Joe Onyango-Oloka, a Professor of Law at the School of Law, Makerere University addressing the participants at the strategic litigation seminar on 28th August 2015.

A strategic litigation seminar took place on 28th August, 2015 at Royal Suites Bugolobi, Kampala. The seminar was organized under the auspices of the USAID Rights and Rule of Law program. The objective of the meeting was to explore strategies and advocacy opportunities for FHRI and broader civil society during litigation. In attendance were representatives from civil society organizations and government agencies, advocates from various law firms and academia.

The theme of the seminar was "**How to build an effective strategic litigation advocacy campaign**". Prof. Joe Onyango-Oloka, a Professor of Law at the School of Law, Makerere University conducted the seminar. A range of topics were

examined including introduction to strategic litigation, methods and mechanisms advocates and civil society should deploy in strategic litigation, challenges and practical considerations for public interest litigation cases and devising strategy when loss is anticipated.

The seminar enriched three public interest litigation cases that are currently before court – **FHRI v Attorney General (Constitutional Appeal No. 03 of 2009)**, **FHRI v Attorney General (Constitutional Petition No. 53 of 2011)** and **FHRI & 2 ors v Attorney General (Constitutional Petition No. 3 of 2015)**.

Women Judges discuss the application of human rights norms.

FHRI organized a human rights training for members of the National Association of Women's Judges (NAWJU) on 1st and 2nd October, 2015 in Kampala. The objective of the training was to promote the use of human rights norms in all areas of the law and to identify challenges faced by judicial officers in applying human rights norms in order to explore solutions.

The theme of the training was, "**The Role of The Judiciary in Human Rights Enforcement in Uganda**". The training was facilitated by a team of reputable experts including Rtd Hon. Lady Justice Mary Maitum (Experiences of the Bench in Human Rights Application), Hon. Lady Justice Damalie Kitembo (Human Rights Issues in Criminal Law), Dr. Zahara Nampewo (Application of International Human Rights in Domestic Jurisdiction and challenges), Dr. Rose Nakayi (Human Rights issues in Land Justice), Ms. Christine Birabwa (Human Rights Issues in the Domestic Law) and Mr. Isaac Ssali Mugerwa (Human Rights Issues in Commercial Law) and Dr. Donald Rukare (Contemporary issues in Human Rights promotion and protection). Hon. Lady Justice Dr Esther Kisaakye and Ms Valentine Namakula led the discussion on "**Strategic Interventions and recommendation for NAWJU**."

The training identified windows of opportunity for application of international human rights law in domestic jurisdictions and provided an interactive forum for judicial officers to share experiences.

Women Judges discuss the application of human rights norms continued from page 9.



A cross section of delegates from the various institutions that participated in the National Association of Women's Judges Training (NAWJU) on 1st and 2nd October, 2015 in Kampala.

Additionally, the training highlighted challenges in human rights enforcement and explored solutions from peers on how to balance the application of national and international laws. Lastly, the training provided an opportunity for a rare interaction between judges and lower bench judicial officers (magistrates and registrars).

Hon. Lady Justice Jane F.B. Kiggundu, Judge of the High Court and the

then Executive Director of the Judicial Studies Institute closed the training and commended the leadership of NA-WJU, specifically, the President – Hon. Lady Justice Esther Kisaakye. She also thanked FHRI, Freedom House and USAID for the initiative.

RIGHT TO LIFE PROJECT.

FHRI commemorates the World Day against the Death Penalty.



Left: Delegates watching the show: 'Dilemma in Matendo Village' by Echoes Africa staged at the International University of East Africa on the World Day Against the Death Penalty on 10th October 2015
Right: Clip of the drama play.



In commemoration of the World Day against the Death Penalty, FHRI in partnership with the International University of East Africa (IUEA) organized a drama entitled 'Dilemma in Matendo Village' on 10th October 2015. The drama was staged by Echoes Africa, a drama group based in Kampala. The show created awareness of the dire consequences of the death penalty.

In attendance was Hon. Fox Odoi, Member of Parliament for West Budama, Mr. Herbert Nsubuga, Executive Director, African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims, Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director, FHRI, students from the University Human Rights Network alongside FHRI staff.

Parliamentary Roundtable on the abolition of the death penalty in Uganda.

FHRI participated in the Parliamentary Roundtable on the abolition of the death penalty in Uganda that took place on 7th October 2015. The meeting was organised by Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) with the aim of analysing the national and international legal framework of the death penalty in Uganda, the obstacles to abolition and identifying the role Parliamentarians can play in the campaign for the abolition of the death penalty in Uganda.

Hon. Abdu Katuntu, MP and Shadow Attorney General in Uganda hosted the meeting on behalf of PGA, Uganda Chapter. The Hon. Rt. Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament opened the Roundtable. After presenting the main arguments for the abolition of the death penalty, Hon. Katuntu presented the bill introduced in Parliament by MPs working with FHRI. He noted that it is a non-partisan piece of legislation which should gather broad support when debated in Parliament.

Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director of FHRI made a presentation on the, 'Situation of the Death Penalty in Uganda – Impact of the death penalty, relevant national and international legal frameworks'. In his presentation he argued that even though Uganda scrapped mandatory death penalty under the Susan Kigula ruling and that no execution has been carried out since 1999, the death penalty should be progressively abolished. He urged parliamentarians to play a role towards progressive abolition of the death penalty by passing, 'The Law Revision (Penalties in Criminal Matters) Miscellaneous Amendments Bill' 2015. Ms. Doreen Namyalo, Manager of the Right to Life Project, FHRI, made a presentation on the challenges faced by the campaign such as lack of political will, shifting public opinion, high crime rates and the threat of terrorism. She recommended that MPs can further the abolitionist campaign by passing legislation that reduces the number of death penalty applicable crimes.

During the roundtable, most participants agreed that the death penalty should be abolished and also concurred that as MPs, they should lead public opinion on this important issue by sensitizing and educating masses on the misconceptions and misperceptions surrounding the death penalty.

FHRI participates in the Asian Regional Congress on the Death Penalty.

FHRI attended the Asian Regional Congress on the Death Penalty that took place on 11th and 12th June 2015 at the Renaissance Hotel in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The Congress was organised by Together Against the Death Penalty in partnership with Anti-Death Penalty Asia Network, Human Rights Commission of Malaysia and Bar Council Malaysia. Over 300 representatives attended the Congress from civil society organisations, development agencies, government officials in abolitionist and retentionist countries, academicians and the media at the local, regional and international levels.

The Congress aimed at discussing the challenges faced by abolitionists in the Asian continent with particular emphasis on drug related offences. The President of the Malaysian Bar Council, Mr. Steven Thiru, noted that there is a lack of empirical evidence to support the argument that the death penalty acts as a deterrent. This is especially true in Asia because drug related offences are on the rise even though Asia has the highest number of executions for such offences.

The Congress was made up of the following thematic workshops: drugs and the death penalty, the mandatory death penalty, judges and the death penalty, the elements of unfair trials, diplomacy and the death penalty, INGOs, diplomacy and the death penalty, working with victims' families and teaching abolition.

During the workshop on judges and the death penalty, Judge Chinhsein Chen, from Taiwan



From L-R: Mr. Raphael Chenail-Hazan, Executive Director of Together Against the Death Penalty, Ms. Catherine Komuhangi, Research Associate at FHRI, Mrs. Rakia Chehida, Ms. Dinara Dildabek representing Penal Reform International and Mr. Mustapha Znaidi, Project Coordinator for Abolition of the Death Penalty in Morocco at the Asian Regional Congress on the Death Penalty in June 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

testified that he once strongly believed in retribution. However, his experience in the legal system taught him that innocent people can be convicted and executed for crimes they did not commit. He therefore believes that the death penalty is not a just punishment due to the fact that it can affect innocent people.

The Congress was followed up by the World Coalition Against the Death Penalty (WCADP) General Assembly on 13th June 2015 where FHRI was voted as a member of the Coalition's Steering Committee. FHRI, the only organisation from Sub-Saharan Africa, will serve with 20 other organizations on the Steering Committee for two years.

ALTERNATIVES PROJECT.

Roundtable on the UN Bangkok Rules on Women Offenders and Prisoners.

The Roundtable on the UN Bangkok Rules on Women Offenders and Prisoners and launch of the report in Uganda was held on 9th July 2015 at Hotel Africana in Kampala. With financial support from the DFID, the event was organised by FHRI in partnership with Penal Reform International (PRI). A total of 30 stakeholders participated at the launch and the roundtable discussions.

The findings and recommendations from the FHRI-PRI report "Who are women prisoners? Survey results from Uganda" were presented and participants agreed upon actions to be taken forward to promote improved treatment of women in the criminal justice system.

The roundtable was attended by representatives from Civil Society Organisations, Uganda Human Rights Commission, academia, Office of the High Commission for Human Rights, Police and Prison services. The Assistant Registrar of the High Court of Uganda, Mr. Jamson Karemani represented Justice Lameck Mukasa, as Chief Guest.

The deliberations culminated into the following points being adopted as actions to follow up:

- Participants agreed to undertake capacity development and training for actors in the Justice Law and Order Sector (judiciary, police, and prisons) on gender specific issues in reference to the UN Bangkok Rules.
- There is need for the judiciary to implement the sentencing guidelines which include considerations like domestic violence, gender and, primary interests of children.
- Conduct research into the situation faced by the children living in prison and the children of imprisoned mothers.
- Promotion of coordination among the relevant actors.
- Legal reform and harmonization of laws. Participants noted the need to ensure existing instruments including the Prisons Act are implemented.
- Advocating for day care centres to be set up in prisons for children belonging to women prisoners.

Women Prison Officers trained on the UN Bangkok Rules.

On 22nd and 23rd October 2015, the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI) together with Penal Reform International (PRI) held a two day training for 23 Women Prison Officers and 3 officers from the Community Service Department on the UN Bangkok Rules at Royal Suites Hotel, Kampala. The prison officers came from prisons that hold convicted and pre-trial female prisoners, including prisons exclusively for women, from all regions of the country.

This was the first such training of women prison staff on the UN Bangkok Rules in East Africa. The training drew on the needs identified by the PRI-FHRI joint research *"Who are women prisoners? Survey results from Uganda"* and looked at the practical implications of implementing the UN Bangkok Rules in Uganda's prisons.

Topics covered include how the prison system and individual personnel can respond to the link between women prisoners and violence and abuse of women, prior to prison, in prison and on release; how to provide wholesome healthcare services to women prisoners; and how to provide suitable vocational training to women so that they can earn an income on release.

Ms. Joanne Honeybone, Project Coordinator PRI, Ms. Diva Mukisa, Project Coordinator, Mr. Elly Kasirye, Training Associate and Ms. Nassaka Alice, Director Civic Education conducted the training.

The participants pledged to implement the UN Bangkok Rules in their respective settings and to share the knowledge with other prison staff.

THE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION.

Capacity building sessions for CBO partners held.

Two (2) impact monitoring sessions were conducted in the Eastern and Northern regions of the country. The objective of these sessions was to meet with the Community Based Organizations (CBOs) partner groups that have over the years participated in capacity building sessions conducted by FHRI and to verify whether the CBO partner groups have capacity to track and document impact of their work within their respective communities.

On 9th July 2015, FHRI met with 10 partner CBOs from 10 districts operating in the eastern region of Uganda. These include Moroto, Tororo, Busia, Kamuli, Iganga, Mbale, Bududa, Bukedea, Soroti and Kumi. The session was attended by 22 participants (17 male and 5 female).

On 30th July 2015, FHRI convening a 1 day impact monitoring session in Gulu district. The session was attended by 20 participants (7 female and 13 male) from Dokolo, Gulu, Koboko, Kitgum, Lira, Nwoya, Pader and Amuru districts. Participants narrated how they had interceded in their communities as a result of knowledge and skills gained during past capacity building sessions. Mr. Odwong Wod Ayo working with MEGA FM in Kitgum stated that he is passionate about issues of inheritance and succession and boasted of bringing the practice of widow banishment to a decline in his area.

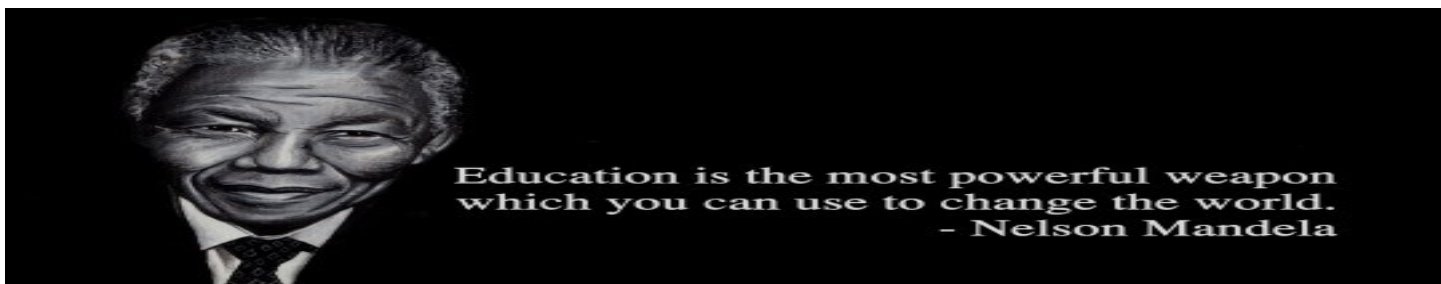
Mr. Ogema Francis working with Arapkob Media Ltd in Lira said that because of his training in human rights monitoring and reporting, he has been able to work closely with



FHRI staff with some of the participants who attended the Impact Assessment Session for the Northern Region held in Gulu district on 30th July 2015.

the Police and the Resident State Attorney and has progressively seen justice prevail in his community even for the indigent.

The impact monitoring exercise revealed that the capacity building sessions conducted by FHRI for various CBO partners over the years had greatly impacted the lives of individuals and communities in various parts of the country.



Leadership training for human rights clubs in universities and tertiary institutions.

With support from USAID, Rights and Rule of Law Program, FHRI conducted a leadership training for student leaders of human rights clubs from 22 universities and tertiary institutions in Uganda. The institutions represented were Makerere University, Uganda Christian University–Kampala Campus, National Teacher’s Colleges – Tororo and Unyama, Uganda College of Commerce-Tororo, Uganda Technical College – Elgon and Kumi, Kampala International University (KIU)-Bushenyi, Busitema University, Kampala University-Jinja, Busoga University, Mountains of the Moon University – Fort Portal, Nkumba University, Makerere University Business School, Cavendish University-Uganda, Ndejje University, Kyambogo University, Bishop Stuart University, Uganda Pentecostal University, International University of East Africa, Islamic University in Uganda, and Kabale University.

The event was attended by 59 student leaders (27 female and 32 male) and was hosted by Uganda Christian University, Kampala Campus from 17th to 18th September 2015.

Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Executive Director FHRI delivered a keynote



Leaders of the Human Rights Clubs together with (2nd Left) Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, FHRI's Executive Director and (3rd Left) Dr. Josephine Ndagire, Director Legal Services Division at Uganda Christian University (UCU) Kampala on 17th September 2015.

address on “*Altering Behavior: Building Actual Leadership Skills*” while Dr. Brian Kalenge, Dean School of Law, UCU – Kampala made a presentation on “*The Ethics of Human Rights Advocacy*”.

The two day training was facilitated by Mr. Martin Lwanga, Senior Lecturer and Dean Faculty of Business and Administration, Uganda Christian University and Principal Consultant with CME Consult Group Limited. The

sessions covered include introduction to leadership and key foundations, ethics of leadership, building members’ capacity – team building, charismatic leadership, power of persuasion, communication and interpersonal skills.

Each participant was awarded with a certificate of participation followed by the election of new committee members of the human rights clubs.

Sensitization of youth leaders and stakeholders in Wakiso district.

On 26th June 2015, FHRI held a human rights sensitization session for the youth leaders in Namayumba Sub-County, Wakiso District. The session was attended by 126 participants (23 female and 103 male) at Namayumba sub-county offices. The aim of the training was to strengthen youth participation in democratic governance. Mr. Elly Kasirye, Associate Trainer led the FHRI team. In attendance were key local leaders such as Hon. Nakabaale Patrick, Member of Parliament for the Youth in Central Region, Mr. Matthias Lwanga Bwanika, Chairperson L.C.V, Mr. Lule Mukasa, L.C. III Chairperson, among others.

The session was organized by Wakiso District Human Rights Youth Forum to provide youth leaders with information on how to participate in the democratization process of their country. Mr. Badru Walusansa made a presentation on, “*The role of the youth in the democratization process*” while Mr. Kasirye presented a paper on “*The Concept of Human Rights*”.

Mr. Lwanga Bwanika encouraged participants to support FHRI’s cause and stand up for human rights principles and freedoms by joining the FHRI membership. He advised them to always demand for service delivery and to hold leaders accountable where necessary instead of asking for money.

Mr. Lwanga Bwanika, Chairperson L.C.V, Wakiso district advised the youth to always demand for service delivery and to hold leaders accountable where necessary instead of asking for money.

“Students should not only be trained to live in a democracy when they grow up; they should have the chance to live in one today.”

Alfie Kohn



Neighbourhood assembly executive members empowered.



A cross-section of participants acting out a role play on leadership.

Standing: Mr. Elly Kasirye, Associate Trainer from FHRI emphasizing the role of Neighborhood Assemblies.

On 3rd September 2015, FHRI together with CEW-IT conducted a review and information sharing session on engagement skills and experiences of the members of the neighborhood of Kasekulo and Bbeta parishes in Kalangala district. The efforts are aimed at uplifting the morale of the assemblies in monitoring service delivery. The session mainly focused on the approaches used in monitoring progress of the programmes.

The members were re-introduced to the concept and structure of a neighbourhood assembly, composition and roles of the executive members that is, the convener, the clerk, sector ministers; the guidelines for establishing and operations of neighborhood assemblies and how to conduct business. The skills of the executive members were enhanced through role plays, dialogue, mock presentations and sharing of experiences.

20 members from each assembly attended the session. Also in attendance were local council leaders and members from Kalangala Human Rights Defenders (KHRD).

Among the local leaders present were speakers, deputy speakers, clerks, councilors in charge of health, education, water and sanitation, environment, information/security and gender at the district and sub-county levels.

The assemblies shared their successes such as transport to the main land at subsidized fares alongside a ferry at no cost between Masaka and Kalangala districts; the 24 hour electricity supply; and the on-going construction of the connecting road from Bugoma Landing site.

FHRI & CEW-IT Train Executive Members of Namengo and Kiteza Neighbourhood Assemblies in Buikwe District.

FHRI together with Citizens Election Watch with Information Technology (CEW-IT) organized a training for the executive members of the neighborhoods assemblies of Namengo and Kiteza Parishes in Buikwe district on 26th August 2015 at Equator College, Lugazi.

The training was conducted under the Support to Community Based Human Rights Associations on strengthening social accountability program. FHRI and CEW-IT work towards strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations including those of vulnerable groups to effectively engage the government on implementation and effectiveness of poverty eradication policies thereby strengthening social accountability. The training focused on how neighborhood assemblies are constituted, their operation, and how to conduct constructive engagement with local leaders to address local concerns.

Mr. Suleiman Mayanja, the Executive Director of Universal Human Rights Defenders and Activists in Buikwe informed participants that Buikwe is affected with a high level of corruption which has resulted into poor service delivery. He noted that this called for active citizens' watch to address the vice. Mr. Daniel Ntambi and Mr. Badru Walusansa represented FHRI while Ms. Olive Kabatwire represented CEW-IT.

Over 45 participants including aspiring local councilors and incumbents attended the training. Participants demonstrated a strong desire to learn and requested for more trainings to enhance their capacity to serve their communities more effectively.

Youth day celebrations held at Kisugu Information Health Center.

On 6th June 2014, Kisugu Health Centre Namuwongo and Naguru Teenage Health and Information Centre with support of FHRI organized a youth day under the theme 'Embracing comprehensive adolescent sexual education to all youths including the disabled.' The celebrations were held at Kisugu Information Health Center, Kampala.



Ms. Claire Nampala, Project Officer from FHRI awarding a youth with a T-shirt for giving a correct answer to a human rights and health question at Kisugu Information Health Center on 6th June 2015.



Students in a cast on HIV at Kisugu Information Health Center on 6th June 2015.

Ms. Nampala Claire, Project Officer, FHRI made a presentation on the role of the youth in human rights advocacy. In her presentation, she explained the importance of the rights to shelter, education, food, freedom of speech and civic participation.

The Chief Guest, Ms. Bonabona Margaret, Councilor, Local Council II, Kisugu Parish thanked FHRI for promoting and supporting CBOs in Uganda. She applauded FHRI for sensitizing youth on rights. The youth at the event were from Yearning Voices, Kisenyi Muvubuka Agunjuse group, CEDOVIP, China-Uganda Friendship Hospital, Peer Educators Just circus group, Naguru

Teenage and Information Centre, International Hospital Kampala, and Kisugu Health Centre. Others were from Makindye Community School and Ebenezer Secondary School, Makindye. Over 500 youths participated including 5 disabled children.

Parent-child dialogue for better health held in Munyonyo Parish.

Through the community outreach program, FHRI attended the Parent-Child Health dialogue at Munyonyo on 27th June 2015. The FHRI team addressed over 600 youth and parents in Munyonyo parish on the rights of children, parental responsibilities and child-parent relationship. The event was organized under the theme "Promoting Child Health Rights" and it took place at St Stephen's Church of Uganda. The Ministry of Health, FHRI, Kisugu Teenage Health Centre and Sickle Cell Network were among the participating institutions.

In his opening remarks, Rev. Michael Kazibwe advised all parents to take care of their children and provide them with quality education without forgetting that factors such as good and balanced feeding, shelter, safe drinking water, enough rest, good clothing and medical care impact on the performance of children in schools.

Mr. Badru Walusansa from FHRI addressed the children and parents about the importance of visiting health facilities for preventive purposes. Pregnant women living with HIV were advised to consider the PMTCT (prevention of mother to child transmission) approach to avoid spreading the disease to their unborn children.

A representative from Sickle cell Association of Uganda also sensitized parents about sickle cells and how it has claimed many lives of children.

Participants noted that children's health and welfare is a collective responsibility for government, parents and



A cross-section of youths who attended the Parent-Child dialogue on 27th June 2015 at St. Stephens's Church of Uganda, Munyonyo.



THE EXTERNAL SERVICES DIVISION.

FHRI Membership Platform held in Eastern Uganda.



Extreme Left: Ms. Elizabeth Nantamu, Coordinator, External Services Division, FHRI and **(Extreme Right)** Mr. George Musisi, Legal Officer with some of the members who attended the Membership Platform held in Mbale district on 30th July 2015.

On 30th July 2015, FHRI held a membership platform in the Eastern region at St. Austin Social Centre and Hostel in Mbale. The objectives of the platform were to update members on current FHRI campaigns; encourage members to link up with each other and network for advocacy purposes; and to update them on their rights and obligations as members of FHRI. Mr. George Musisi, Legal Officer, FHRI used the platform to empower members with basic knowledge on legal and human rights through an awareness session that culminated into a discussion on the emerging human rights issues in Uganda. The knowledge acquired and discussion enhanced their understanding of human rights. Over seventy participants from the districts of Mbale, Soroti, Butaleja, Manafwa, Kumi, Bukedea, Tororo, Sironko, Bulambuli and Bududa attended the event.

The FHRI team was led by Ms. Elizabeth Nantamu, Coordinator, External Services Division.

In her welcome remarks, Ms. Nantamu thanked the members for attending the event and gave them an update of ongoing campaigns at FHRI. She called on the members to be strong in their defence for human rights. She also urged members to be the voice of the voiceless by forming advocacy groups. She explained that members in Buikwe and Luweero districts actively advocate for rights through advocacy groups.

Mr. Ntambi explained the objectives of the platform and the roles, rights and obligations of FHRI members. He cautioned against misuse of membership and encouraged members to promote FHRI.

Mr. Musisi conducted an awareness session on legal and human rights and emerging rights issues in Uganda. The members were equipped with knowledge and skills to promote and protect their rights. They appreciated the exercise and called on FHRI to continue with initiatives which keep them informed and updated on the current human rights situation in Uganda.

FHRI Participates in the 5th Edition of the National CSO Fair.

The 5th National CSO Fair was held on 25th and 26th June 2015 at Hotel Africana, Kampala. The theme of the event was *"Leaving No One behind: Uganda's place in the next global development agenda"*. The event was spearheaded by the Uganda National NGO Forum and brought together actors from civil society, public and private spheres to share information on works, services, knowledge and experiences. The fair created an opportunity to increase civil society and citizen awareness and participation in the discussion and advancement of the Post 2015 agenda in Uganda. The outcomes fed into the ongoing Action 2015 global campaign that mobilizes citizens to call on leaders to take actions on issues of inequality, climate change and poverty.

93 people visited FHRI stall and learnt about programs and services rendered to the public. A sizeable number of publications on human rights and democracy related issues were shared with the visitors to the stall.

Also, under the CEW-IT Uganda Consortium, FHRI together with other members of the consortium held a parallel session on *'The Contribution of Neighborhood Assemblies in their respective communities.'* Representatives of particular neighborhood assemblies in the Central, Eastern, Northern and Western districts of Uganda shared best practices, challenges and prospects for engagement with their leaders. Engineer Steven Dagada, the Chairperson, Local Council V, Kayunga district shared his work experience at the district and best practices on service delivery and accountability. He encouraged leaders and other participants to be selfless, transparent and accountable when given an opportunity to serve the public.

FHRI Participates in the 5th Edition of the National CSO Fair 2015 continued from Page 16.



72 people attended the parallel session. Discussions included challenges in setting and influencing the agenda, planning and delivery of basic services at community level. A documentary on experiences and approaches of CSOs setting the agenda in service delivery was screened. Some of the key issues identified were the need to empower neighbourhood assembly committees. The neighbourhood assemblies represented at the dialogue were Asigala Talama, Masaka district, Oserra Citizens parliament, Kumi district, Busoro neighbourhood assembly from Kabarole and Nebbi districts.

Above: Some of latest FHRI publications showcased at the exhibitions

1st Row; Left—Right: (1st) Human Rights and Poverty-Eradicating Extreme Poverty in Uganda' report; (2nd) Brochure for the Right to Life Project. It gives 10 reasons why the death penalty should be abolished. (3rd) FHRI-PRI report "Who are women prisoners? Survey results from Uganda". (4th) Research Report: Performance Audit- An assessment on the level of implementation of recommendations made by FHRI (2007—2015). (5th) FHRI's Annual Report—2014. **2nd Row; Left—Right:** (6th) Research Report: Human Rights Reform Agenda- Informing FHRI's New Advocacy Strategy (Summarises the findings of the Performance Audit Report and provides action points for deepened human rights protection and promotion in Uganda. (7th and 8th) Patron's Speech Series No. 1 and 2 presented by Hon. Justice Prof. George Wilson Kanyeihamba in 2013 and 2014 respectively.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT .

Reviews of the FHRI monitoring and evaluation processes.

To strengthen results based reporting, a monitoring and evaluation session was conducted for FHRI staff on 21st August 2015. 9 staff representing all the programmes attended. The session took place at the Human Rights House.

Mr. Ivan Kahagire, a Business Development Manager, Techno Brain, emphasized the importance of monitoring and evaluation to an organization. He introduced staff to new ways of tracking outputs and impact. He noted that the FHRI Work Plan and Year Planner are useful tools in benchmarking progress for reporting results. He encouraged staff to document cases/ success stories and where necessary to elaborate interventions.



Some of FHRI staff who attended the monitoring and evaluation session conducted at the Human Rights House on 21st August 2015.



FHRI benefits from 'Minority Rights in the USA: a Project for Uganda'



3rd Left: Ms. Teddy Namayanja, Public Relations officer, FHRI with other participants from Uganda during the International Visitor Leadership Program that took place between 14th September to 2nd October 2015.

Ms. Teddy Namayanja, Public Relations Officer, FHRI is one of the nine Ugandan participants from government and civil society organizations who were nominated by the U.S. Embassy in Kampala to benefit from a U.S. State Department International Visitor Leadership Program under a project entitled "Minority Rights in the U.S A: a Project for Uganda. The Mississippi Consortium conducted the project from 14th September to 2nd October 2015.

Through the project, the Office of International Visitors gives broad perspectives in the International Visitor Leadership Program and enhances participants' knowledge and understanding of civil and human rights policies and protections with an emphasis on vulnerable populations including children, women, impacted by disabilities and other minorities.

The participants discussed the influence of NGO advocacy on policy decisions and assessed the capacity of law enforcement agencies to enforce laws designed to protect minority populations.

Participants discussed civil rights legislation in the US from its origins to present. Participants further examined how attorneys and judicial officers determine what constitutes a hate crime and gained an insight from the examples of organizations providing social and economic support to populations in distress.

The project addressed different themes in the cities of Washington, DC, Baltimore, Maryland, Los Angeles, California, El Paso, Texas, and New Orleans, Louisiana. In addition to learning experiences, participants also toured a number of historical sites namely Universal Record Studios, Los Angeles, African Museum in Washington, DC., Martin Luther King monument, Washington DC., Lincoln Memorial, Mexican traditional restaurants, El Paso and beaches, among others.

FHRI conducts a Human Rights Session for students under 2015 Internship.

The Programs Office at the FHRI organized a capacity building session for 21 interns on 24th July 2015 at Dr. Sarah Ntiro Boardroom, Human Rights House.

The guest speaker, Ms. Sarah Mirembe Nalunkuma, a young passionate lawyer and Consulting Partner at Development Law Associates encouraged interns to pursue their dreams and be innovative in the job market. Ms. Alice Nassaka, the Director, Civic Education, FHRI introduced human right concepts to the interns. Each participant was awarded with a certificate of participation.



A cross section of local and international students who interned with FHRI in 2015.

Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, the Executive Director, FHRI closed the session and thanked all the interns for choosing FHRI. He also expressed gratitude to the Programs Office and Capacity Development Division for organizing a motivational talk to prepare the interns for the next step in their academic and career journey.

"In giving rights to others which belong to them, we give rights to ourselves."

John F. Kennedy

FHRI staff attends 46th Annual Study Session at the International Institute of Human Rights, France.



A cross section of participants who attended the 46th Annual Study Session at the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg France from the 6th to 24th July 2015.

The 46th annual study session in international and comparative human rights law took place at the International Institute of Human Rights in Strasbourg, France, from the 6th to 24th July 2015. The focus of the study was children and international human rights law.

The annual program teaches advanced courses in international and comparative human rights law instructed by specialists in law, political and social sciences.

The topics covered during this year include United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the protection of children against armed conflict, sexual exploitation and abuse, child labour, protection of international child migrants, protection of children and new technologies and the protection of victims of international human rights violations.

The curriculum included field visits to the European Court of Human Rights and the Council of Europe where various speeches were delivered by notables such as Jean Paul Costa, President of the European Court of Human Rights, Thorbjourn Jagland, Secretary General, Council of Europe, and Maud de Boer Buquicchio, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and pornography.

Ms. Caroline Obbo, Legal Associate at the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative attended the programme and had this to say, *"I am obliged to state that although my varied work history and experience have helped in shaping my perspective towards human rights, democracy and good governance, my passion to defend human rights was enthused by the study. Through the study I was able to learn a lot about how the international community works in promoting and protecting human rights and gained a greater understanding of the United Nations system and its role in the world."*

Institutional strengthening in advocacy and lobbying.

FHRI held a staff training on human rights advocacy and lobbying on 28th September 2015 at the Human Rights House, Nsambya.

The objectives of the training were to review our understanding of advocacy and lobbying and distinguish it from other communication activities; review the effectiveness and relevance of the ongoing advocacy and lobbying campaigns; and learn best practices with the aim of enhancing the lobbying and advocacy function. The training examined components of advocacy and lobbying such as the need to have targeted messages and audiences. The need to be consistent, concise and credible in advocacy and lobbying efforts was underscored.

Ms. Barbara Ntambi Musoke, the Programme Manager, Media Development and Public Debate, Democratic Governance Facility, conducted the training with 25 FHRI staff in attendance.

“The secret of all victory lies in the organization of the non-obvious.”

Marcus Aurelius



CITIZENS' COALITION FOR ELECTORAL DEMOCRACY IN UGANDA.



FHRI/CCEDU and WLEDE form partnership for election observations .



L-R: Ms. Edith Ssali, Executive Director WLEDE, Ms. Sabrina Bazanella Operations Adviser – Governance, Democracy and Human Rights from EU and Mr. Moses Ngorok, Advocacy and Membership Officer, CCEDU at the Training for Long Term Observers at Eureka Place Hotel on 29th September 2015.

Some of the potential Long Term Observers with their trainers at the Long Term Observers Training at Eureka Place Hotel, Kampala on 29th September 2015.

By Eddie Ssemakula

The Citizens' Coalition for Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU) together with Women Leadership Development (WLEDE) conducted a combined training for 35 potential long term election observers from 29th September to 1st October 2015 at Eureka Place Hotel, Kampala. The training was convened under the European Union (EU) funded program titled 'Beyond 2011: Promoting the integrity, credibility and transparency of the electoral process in Uganda through: legislative advocacy and civic education (2012-2016).'

The training session facilitated learning and understanding of Uganda's electoral and legal framework, the Independent Guidelines for

Election Observers, gender considerations in election observation and election observation and reporting using the Open Data Kit (ODK) framework.

Ms. Sabrina Bazanella, Operations Adviser, Governance, Democracy and Human Rights, and Ms. Rosette Meya, Adviser, Human Rights, Conflict and Gender represented the European Union at the training.

Emphasizing the need to observe and monitor the entire electoral process, it was noted that issues like availability of opportunities for people to access the media, ease of participation of persons with disabilities, women and other special interest groups should not be overlooked.

Mr. Charles Mwangushya, the Communications Manager at CCEDU noted the importance of timeliness and illustrated how militia groups adversely affect citizen participation in an election.

Mr. Moses Ngorok, the Advocacy Officer at CCEDU explained the uniqueness of the project and its emphasis on women's participation in the electoral process. He noted that in 2011 women's participation was at 3.6% and that the 2015 target is 5%.

WLEDE's partnership with FHRI in election monitoring will potentially strengthen the observation process.

CCEDU Observes FDC primaries.

CCEDU, cognizant of the fact that building and strengthening internal political party democracy is vital in ensuring good governance and free and fair elections mobilised a team of observers to monitor the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC) elections held at a Special Delegates Conference on 12th June 2015 at the UMA Main Exhibition Hall, Lugogo, Kampala.

In advancing this objective, CCEDU sought accreditation and deployed a technical team of eight to observe the FDC party elections. The observer mission used a standard observation tool and respected set guidelines of reporting and departure times.

Observers monitored compliance with the FDC Party Constitution; party electoral guidelines for FDC National Executive Committee (NEC) elections, Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections and related laws.

A total of 147 candidates were nominated to compete for the 35 vacant party positions. Contrary to the FDC party laws, only 13% of the contestants were women. (The party policy requires at least 40 percent of positions to be filled by women). The highest position and most hotly contested was that of the Party Secretary General. Four candidates had initially expressed interest in vying for the position including Nabilah Sempala Naggayi, Nathan Nandala Mafabi, Ezati Kassiano Wadri and Odonga Otto. All are Members of Parliament in the 9th Parliament and members of the party's NEC. Ms. Nabillah Nagayi, the only woman contender for the seat withdrew from the race early in the day citing unfairness in the selection of delegates. Mr. Odonga Otto also pulled out of the race leaving Mr. Mafabi and Mr. Wadri. Each of the candidates for Secretary General was given 10 minutes to make their pitch before voters.

CCEDU Observes FDC primaries *continued from Page 20.*

Contenders for other positions were given 3 minutes to campaign. Nearly all candidates did not present manifestos to back their candidature. CCEDU was not able to verify if this was because of the limited campaign time accorded to candidates or the lack of manifestos.

The campaigns generally run smoothly save for incidents where candidates descended into character assassination of opponents and use of foul language. Several candidates withdrew from the race at the last minute in favour of opponents. Ms. Angeline Osege, for example, exited in favour of Mr. Geoffrey Ekanya for the position of Treasurer General.

A credible and transparent accreditation process for a non-universal suffrage election is essential to the credibility of any election. The FDC made an effort in this regard giving delegates accreditation tags with photographs to improve on security. CCEDU's findings and recommendations were presented in a report.

CCEDU Launches "TOPOWA"- Honor your vote-Your Vote counts! *Continued from Page 1.*



Launch of TOPOWA—HONOUR YOUR VOTE CAMPAIGN: the procession composed of promoters and supporters of the campaign flagged off by Fr. Cyprian Masembe marching on Kampala streets from Wandegaya to Hotel Africana on 22nd September 2015

Led by city comedian Afande Kerekere, the procession was flagged off at YMCA by Rev. Father Cyprian Masembe and went along Buganda Road up to Hotel Africana, where crowds were treated to performances from various artists such as Dr. Hilderman and Jam Rock entertainment.

Speaking at the launch, the guest of honor, Mr. Joseph Biribonwa, Vice Chairman of the Uganda Electoral Commission, urged stakeholders including CCEDU to remain neutral: "I charge all stakeholders to remain non-partisan." He called upon all citizens to start preparing to exercise their right to vote come 2016. He noted that it is unfair to register and end up not participating in the electoral process.

Mr. Mad Mayerhofer, Programme Officer representing Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), emphasized CCEDU's campaign concerns and among them was the growing voter apathy. He noted that CCEDU's "Topowa" campaign will try to reawaken their interest in participating in the electoral process by encouraging them to exercise their right to vote.



Topowa ambassador mobilizing Mbale residents to participate in the upcoming national elections.

Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, the Chairperson of CCEDU and Executive Director of Foundation for Human Rights Initiative, also decried the voter apathy at the official launch of the Topowa campaign. The colourful event was punctuated by a performance from Dr. Hilderman and a joint public pledge that emphasized the Ugandan commitment to participate in the coming 2016 elections. Masters of Ceremonies, Kerekere and KFM's Catherine Ageno, treated the crowd to amusing jokes as participants braved the mid-day sun.

"TOPOWA" caravan thrills the East, North and West of Uganda.

In her continuing efforts to mobilize Ugandans to actively and purposefully engage in the ongoing election process, the Citizens Coalition for Electoral Democracy (CCEDU) has successfully launched a countrywide caravan providing entertainment and messages on voter education and the upcoming general elections.

The caravan campaign is part of the 360 degree multi-media messaging effort promoting the "don't give up, your vote matters" campaign under the tagline "TOPOWA" aimed at fighting voter apathy throughout the country.

With barely two months to the 18th February 2016 polling day, CCEDU continues to spearhead voter mobilization, engagement and mobilization efforts through its Topowa campaign. Launched on 22nd September 2015 in Kampala, the Topowa campaign is running on traditional media platforms including radio, TV and newspapers as well as on social media till the eve of the polling day. The caravan with its nationwide procession has so far made stopovers in over 25 districts including Mukono, Jinja, Mbale, Soroti, Arua, Maracha, Koboko, Masindi, Lira and Kitgum districts.

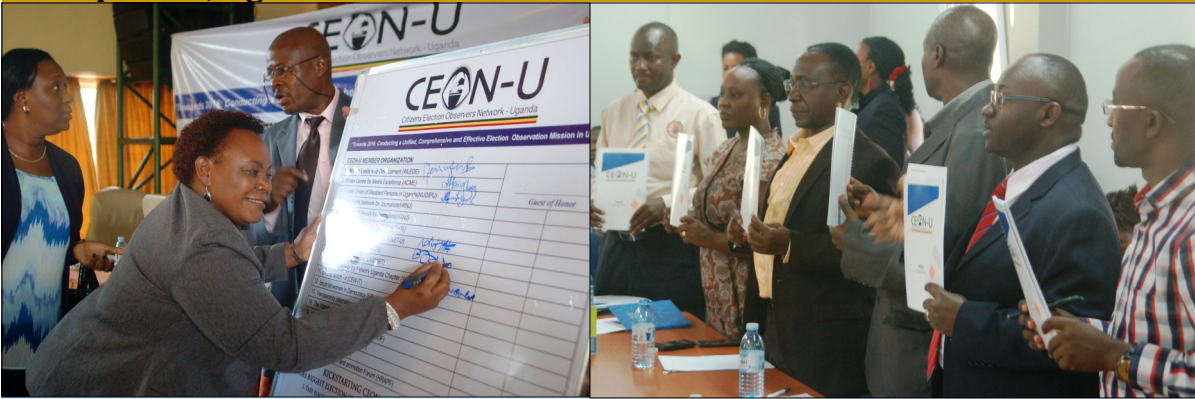
The activation caravan travels with entertainment groups making use of drama and comedy skits as well as sharing flyers and other materials on voter education and elections with the audience. CCEDU members in the various regions spearhead the sharing of information about the campaign with the electorate while sensitizing them about their right to vote.

Representatives from the CCEDU Secretariat also engage the citizens through live radio talk shows and continue to encourage and mobilize all eligible Ugandans to participate in the up-coming national elections. The TOPOWA campaign also calls upon Ugandans to participate peacefully in the electoral process but rejects voter bribery.



CITIZENS ELECTION OBSERVERS NETWORK-UGANDA (CEON-U).

Chairperson, Uganda Electoral Commission launches CEON-U.



Left: Mrs. Regina Bafaki, FOWODE steering committee member endorsing CEON Launch on 10th September, 2015 at Golf Course Hotel, Kampala.
Right: Launch of CEON's first report at the Human Rights House on 2nd November 2015.

The Citizens Election Observation Network - Uganda (CEON-U) is a network of 18 CSOs set up to contribute to a transparent, free and fair democratic process in the 2016 elections. It was officially launched by Engineer Dr. Badru Kiggundu, Chairperson, Uganda Electoral Commission (EC) on 10th September,

2015 at Golf Course Hotel, Kampala. The launch was symbolized by the signing of the CEON-U Declaration.

In his welcome remarks, Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, Chairperson of CEON-U underscored the importance of the EC in overseeing the much awaited electoral process of the 2016 general elections. He also unveiled CEON-U's overall objective, composition and Coordination Unit.

Speaking at the launch, Eng. Dr. Badru Kiggundu appreciated CEON-U for bringing together stakeholders in the electoral process. He noted that this demonstrated an important milestone in Uganda's democratization process. He further appreciated the good working relationship the EC has with FHRI and CCEDU. In a special way, he appreciated development partners for joining hands with Uganda in ensuring a transparent free and fair electoral process. As the referee in the electoral process, he pledged to deliver a free and fair election in the upcoming national elections irrespective of the differences. He pledged to promote a smooth working relationship with all stakeholders accredited by the EC. In conclusion, Eng. Dr. Kiggundu appreciated the unity displayed and assured CEON-U that the EC has been operating independently for the last 13 years.

Ms. Sabrina Bazanella, Operations Adviser, Governance, Democracy and Human Rights, European Union assured CEON-U that EU is in solidarity with the network and shares its objectives. Mr. Nils Mueller of USAID recognized stakeholders that worked hard to put together CEON-U. He revealed that USAID is committed to supporting CEON-U through the National Democratic Institute (NDI). He urged CEON-U members to ensure transparency and integrity in the electoral process. Also present was Mr. Simon Osborn, Resident Director NDI who assured CEON-U of their commitment to its work. Ms. Carla Benin from the US Embassy highlighted the need and importance of CEON-U in ensuring transparent, free, fair and legitimate electoral process.

On behalf of CEON-U and all members of the Civil Society fraternity present, Ms Rita Aciro, Co-Chairperson, CEON-U pledged to do a good job and to work together with the EC to ensure transparent, free and fair democratic electoral process.

CEON-U has so far released two reports on 2nd November 2015 and 2nd December 2015 giving an update on the progress of the electoral process. In both reports, issues of campaign financing, hate speech, ethnic tensions, low voter education and violence against women among others were highlighted.

CEON-U mobilizes Ugandans to observe elections.

By Charity Ahimbisibwe

As a way of empowering Ugandans to observe the forthcoming elections, CEON-Uganda conducted the simultaneous Long Term Observers (LTO) trainings in Buganda, Ankole, Rwenzori, Bunyoro, Teso/Sebei, Karamoja and Busoga regions on 6th and 7th October 2015. The trainings were conducted by Regional Coordinators (RCs), who had been trained by CEON-U. The trainings equipped LTOs with skills and knowledge to participate in the electoral observation process by paying keen attention to issues arising in their constituencies. The training in Kampala was held at Esella Country Hotel, in Busoga it was held at Cool Breeze Hotel in Jinja, in Gulu the training took place at Hotel Free Zone in Gulu town. The Karamoja training took place at Leslona Hotel, Moroto and the Bunyoro training took place at Hoima Resort Hotel. In the Bukedi region which includes Teso and Sebei, the training took place at Pretoria Hotel, Mbale.

The observers were told to observe the electoral process including the pre and post-election periods. They were advised to critically analyse the entire set of activities of the electoral process and emphasize the conduct of the EC and her officials including presiding officers, polling agents and assistants. LTOS will also observe the conduct of political parties and their candidates, security agencies, media, among others.



PARALEGAL ADVISORY SERVICES PROJECT (PAS).

PAS is branded.

A Paralegal Advisory Services (PAS) Steering Committee meeting held on 30th June 2015 branded PAS with a Logo. Besides discussions on the bottlenecks hampering the justice system, the major highlight of the meeting was to conclude the process of developing a PAS Logo. Comments and proposed changes were made by representatives from the different justice institutions and the logo is now in place.

PAS to address civil matters in Busia district.



A cross section of delegates at the launch of PAS' new intervention in Lunyo sub-county Busia district. Looking on as motorcycles and office requirement were being passed on is Mr. Wycliffe Jack Kururagiyire the PAS Steering Committee Member and members of the PAS Secretariat to the PAS' site at Lunyo, Busia on 6th November 2015.

On 6th November 2015, PAS launched a new intervention to address civil matters in Lunyo and Busiime Sub-counties in Busia district. The expansion of PAS services to intervene in civil matters is for the purpose of preventing simple civil matters escalating to legal disputes especially in the hard-to-reach areas. The programme piloted in Busiime and Lunyo sub-counties will focus on cases for indigent persons who are unable to afford the costs of hiring a private advocate.

To address the new demands of the intervention and to strengthen its operations under the Busia PAS station established in 2013, a Legal Officer was recruited to offer free legal representation in court. In addition, forty Community Legal Volunteers (CLVs) were trained on the basic legal procedures under the new PAS programme on 27th October 2015 by advocates of the high court: Ms. Nantale Susan and Ms. Ityang Harriet. The major focus of the training was on basic legal procedures in the justice system specially in civil and other non-criminal matters such as domestic relations as well as basic methods of handling/resolving civil matters as they arise in the communities such as Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). The CLVs identify civil cases at the grassroots and forward them to the Legal Officer for court representation.

They will also partner with paralegals and the Legal Officer to mediate cases that would otherwise end up in the formal justice system.

The well attended event involved some members of the PAS Steering Committee namely: Mr. Wycliffe Jack Kururagiyire, the Commissioner in Charge of Inspectorate at Uganda Prisons Service; Mr. Robert Omita, the Assistant Commissioner in charge of Welfare and Rehabilitation at Uganda Prisons Service; and Dr. Livingstone Sewanyana, the Executive Director, Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI). The Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) was represented by Mr. Jonathan Ochom. Others in attendance were Mr. Bonnex Taabu, LC.III Chairperson Lunyo, district officials including the District Police Commander, Community Development Officers, Senior Probation Officers, Community Leaders, the public and members of PAS Secretariat.

PAS visits new sites in Masaka, Nakasongola and Luweero districts.

Between 20th and 23rd October 2015, the PAS secretariat visited new sites in Nakasongola, Luweero and Masaka districts. Being the first visit to the sites, it was more of a familiarization meeting with the stakeholders there. During these visits, office assets purchased by the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) including furniture, motorcycles, computers and printers were handed over to each Officer in Charge (OC) of the respective stations. The OCs were appreciative of the items and the PAS services introduced in the district, most specifically in the prisons. In their feedback, the OCs applauded FHRI for its work in Nakasongola and Butuntumula prisons and the stakeholders pledged continued support to the PAS program.

Similarly, the PAS secretariat conducted a PAS monitoring visit to the western region PAS sites of Mbarara, Fort Portal and Bushenyi districts from 16th to 20th November 2015. As a practice, the team discussed the progress of the PAS objectives in the respective locations. According to the interactions with the different stakeholders, the program was increasingly appreciated and demanded especially in the outreaches. During this visit, the PAS Legal Officer and the PAS team in Bushenyi conducted a live radio talk show to sensitize the public on the PAS services and its increased coverage in the region. Members of the public called in appreciating the services so far provided.

Contact :

Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (FHRI), Human Rights House,
Block 15, Plot 1853, Lulume Road, Nsambya;
P.O. Box 11027 Kampala, Uganda.

Office Tel: +256-414-510263/498; 039-3-266025

Cell: +256-0752-791963

Email: fhri@dmail.ug

Website: www.fhri.or.ug; Face book FHRI; Skype: fhri123