

THE CEPIL Newsletter

Issue 5



September – December 2018

Launch of the Rule of Law Young Lawyers Champions Initiative at Imperial Royale Hotel in partnership with Uganda Law Society, October 2018



The CEPIL team, ULS team and students pause for a photo at the Uganda Law Society Symposium 19th October, 2018

Message from the Executive Director

Centre for Public Interest Law (CEPIL) is a non-profit organization promoting justice, equality and dignity for all in Uganda by addressing all forms of injustices and inequalities through legal processes and advocacy.

From September to December 2018, CEPIL carried out research on the performance of the Judiciary for the Year 2018 through the Scorecard Research Initiative.

In October 2018, CEPIL in partnership with the Uganda Law Society launched the Rule of Law Champions Initiative to equip and train young lawyers to be the defenders of the rule of law.

CEPIL participated at the National Land Forum coordinated by LASPNET in November 2018 and offered free legal aid services to the public at the National Theater.

Through research and consultations, CEPIL was able to present a position paper on the Administration of the Judiciary Bill 2018.



**Jacqueline Ayuya Mukasa,
Executive Director CEPIL**

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Highlights of the research on the performance of the Judiciary in 2018 through the Judiciary Scorecard Initiative

In line with our Justice tenet, CEPIL is currently implementing a project in support of the institution of the Judiciary in Uganda. The project aims at enhancing judicial independence by facilitating processes geared towards promoting effectiveness and accountability of the judiciary.

It is hoped that this project initiative will ensure effectiveness in service delivery and accountability of the institution of the Judiciary to the general citizenry on whose behalf it dispenses justice. Field data collection targeting the Judiciary, key stakeholders and the general citizenry on performance of the institution is an integral part of the scorecard initiative.

The scorecard initiative involves carrying out comprehensive research and analysis into the performance and accountability of the Judiciary and thereafter makes recommendations for improvement. The scorecard is based on synthesis and analysis of data collected to reflect actual/perceived performance of the institution as a whole across the country.



Diana Angwech, Technical Consultant Training Research Assistant on Data Collection Methods

In light of this, research assistants were recruited, trained in data collection processes and there after positioned in Seventeen (17) different High Court Circuits and Magisterial Areas across the country with a view of collecting primary data across a selection of stakeholders involved in the delivery and consumption of justice.

On the 17th of September 2018 CEPIL sent out a call for Research Assistants in Gulu, Arua, Mbale, Mbarara, Fort portal, Masaka, Mukono, Jinja and Kampala.

On the 27th of September 2018, CEPIL trained 34 Research Assistants in an in-depth data collection processes, interview as means of data collection and observation methods for data collection.



Rogers Twesigye (Research and Data Analyst Training Research Assistants in data collection methods at Eureka Place Hotel in Ntinda)

For the 2018 Scorecard CEPIL allocated two Research Assistants in each of the respective courts, that is Mukono High Court and Chief Magistrates Court, Arua High Court and Chief Magistrates Court, Gulu High Court and Chief Magistrates Court, Mbarara High Court and Chief Magistrates Court, Fort portal High Court and Chief Magistrates Court, Mbale High Court and Chief Magistrates Court, Jinja High Court and Chief Magistrates Court, the High Court divisions in Kampala (Criminal Division, Land Division, Family Division.), Mengo Magistrates Court, the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal and the Anti-Corruption Court.

The data collection process has revealed that there is need for more judges and infrastructure is still a challenge. This will be captured in the Judiciary Scorecard Report 2018

“ The scorecard initiative involves carrying out comprehensive research and analysis into the performance and accountability of the Judiciary and thereafter makes recommendations for improvement. ”

Making the Law work for the Public through legislative advocacy

Following the State of Judiciary Report 2016 and the Judiciary Scorecard Report 2017 on the 27th of September 2018, CEPIL together with the Coalition in Support of the Independence of the Judiciary (CISTIJ) appeared before the Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee to present a position on the Administration of the Judiciary Bill 2018.

This was one of the recommendations made in the reports to streamline the administration of the Judiciary and improve the administration of Justice in Uganda. The Bill seeks to operationalize Chapter 8 of the Constitution. In particular, it seeks to enforce and emphasize the independence of the Judiciary which can only be achieved through the following means:

- By comprehensively providing for the functioning, institutional operation and administrative independence of the Judiciary, as well as the retirement benefits of judicial officers.
- By requiring all organs of the state to accord the Judiciary the necessary assistance required to ensure the effectiveness of the Courts.
- By emphasizing that Judicial officers are not subject to actions or suits in relation to the exercise of their Judicial power.
- The administration expenses of the Judiciary including salaries allowances gratuities and pensions shall be charged directly on the consolidated fund. In addition, the bill seeks to make the budget of the Judiciary independent from that of the Ministry of the Justice and Constitutional Affairs.



Ms. Sylvia Namubiru Mukasa (Executive Director LASPNET) with a Hon member of the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs at the presentation of the CISTIJ Position on the Administration of the Judiciary Bill on the 27th of September 2018

By emphasizing that the Judiciary is to be self-accounting and may deal with the Ministry responsible for Finance in relation to its funds

In addition, CEPIL has covered five Parliament Committee meetings. This is in order to better understand how CEPIL can ensure that the interest of the public is well represented. In the course of the meetings, CEPIL provides live online tweets of what is going on in Parliament to the online users and the public in general.



Dr Livingstone Sewanyana, ED FHRI addressing the press on the importance of the Administration of the Judiciary Bill 2018 after the CISTIJ appearance before the Committee on Legal and Parliamentary Affairs

Media guidelines, a way forward for Media Freedoms in Uganda.

Following the growing concern in Uganda that Journalists and other media actors are increasingly being harassed, intimidated, deprived of their liberty, physically attacked and even killed because of their investigative work, opinions or reporting especially during demonstrations or protests by security agencies; CEPIL together with the Uganda Journalist Union and the East African Media Institute-Uganda Chapter engaged the spokesperson of the Uganda Police Force, SSP Emilian Kayima on possible collaboration between the two entities including a discussion on a number of guidelines for security agencies and Journalist when covering demonstrations.

Currently, the guidelines have been drafted and submitted to the security agencies for their engagement.

We believe that involving the police in the implementation of these guidelines will aid as a tool to hold security agencies accountable. As we wait on the Police, CEPIL plans to hold a training for Journalists in order to equip them with safety measures and protocol when covering demonstrations and how to partner with police on such matters so as to guarantee the safety of Journalist as well.

Investing in young people to be champions, leaders and defenders of the Rule of Law, Youth and the Law

In September 2018, CEPIL in partnership with the Uganda Law society launched the Rule of Law Young Lawyers Champions Initiative at the Rule of Law Young Lawyers Symposium. The Initiative seeks to train and equip young lawyers with the leadership skills and knowledge in the Rule of Law. CEPIL together with the Uganda Law Society is developing a leadership training curriculum and mentorship coaching to equip young lawyers with leadership skills and train them to be Champions in the Rule of Law



Ms. Jacqueline Ayuya Mukasa at the Rule of Law Symposium and Launch of the Rule of Law Champions Initiative



Making land work through sensitization and awareness, Land Rights programme

In November 2018 EPIL took part in the Land Rights Forum organized and coordinated by Landnet Uganda. The forum brought together legal professionals experienced in land rights to offer free legal aid service to the public. Legal practitioners were readily available to all the people that were in attendance during the event. They were addressing all issues related to land. This included guidance on how to process the letters of administration and probate, how to deal with the property of a deceased person, procedure of acquiring land titles and how to detect the validity of a land title.



Justice Kateirima Head Land Division of the High Court at the Bar and Bench Forum and Sheraton Kampala Hotel on the 13th of November 2018

The forum also provided an opportunity for the Ministry of Lands to help the people who wished to check the proprietorship of the lands they occupied or wished to purchase some land. They had the computerized system on the ground and all people were assisted accordingly.

The Forum was crowned with a Bar and Bench Dialogue which brought together the Ministry of Lands, Justice Kateiremu, a Judicial officer from the High Court of Uganda and Head of the Land Division, SSP Emilian Kayima the Spokes Person of the Uganda Police Force, Dr Zahara Nampewo lecturer of law at Makerere University, Godfrey Lena from the Traditional Management Systems and Mr. Simon Peter Kinobe the President of Uganda Law Society. The theme of the dialogue was “Sustainable Approaches to Addressing Land Injustices in Uganda”. In the dialogue, it was observed that the following approaches are key solving land injustice in Uganda:

1. Alternative dispute resolution to facilitate quick administration of Justice. This will reduce the number of cases on land matters filled in the Courts of Law. However, there is need for mass sensitization on land rights. The public most especially persons in rural areas need to be educated on their rights to land ownership and laws governing land ownership.
2. The Lands Information Systems need to be updated and this system needs to be availed to lawyers so to avoid double applications. This will also solve the problem of issuance of fake land titles which is causing most of the land conflicts and wrangles in Uganda today.
3. The communication between the police and the Courts of Law needs to be streamlined in order for quick remedy to be delivered in cases where land laws are breached.
4. The Ministry of Lands needs to strengthen its Land litigation department. This will stream line the legal technicalities encountered by lawyers and land owners and speed up Justice on matters relating to Land.
5. The traditional Land System needs to be streamlined in relation to the current laws governing land ownership through dialogue and Meetings.



Mr Francis Gimara Moderating the Bar and Bench Forum at Sheraton Kampala Hotel

Cepil in Pictures



Nakonde Josephine, CEPIL Research Assistant interviewing the Magistrate Grade 1 in Jinja on the Performance of the Judiciary in Jinja



Samuel Wanigina, and Nadejja Halima interviewing the Grade one Magistrate in Mbale



Hamza Ssekamate Interviewing a litigant on the Performance of the Mengo Chief Magistrate Court



Amito Fosca Interviewing a legal professional on the performance of the Judiciary in Arua District

Annet Namugosa, Legal Officer CEPIL offering free legal aid to the Public



All this would not Have Been Possible without our committed partners,
Thank you for your continued support

Our Partners



Visit us at: <http://cepiluganda.org/>
On Twitter: [@cepil_uganda](#)
Or Facebook: [@cepiluganda](#)

Find us on:

5th Floor, Northern Wing, Social Security
House. Plot 4 Jinja Road, Kampala.
P.O.Box 28611, Kampala, Uganda
Phone: +256 393 224 509
Email: info@cepiluganda.org