

THE CEPIL Newsletter

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Centre for Public
Interest Law

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The CEPIL Secretariat.

**Jacqueline Ayuya
Mukasa, Executive
Director**



Foreword

Greetings from CEPIL,
With the lockdown lifted, we are balancing telecommuting and working at the office as we adapt to the new normal. We are pleased to share the highlights of the third quarter 2020 initiatives in this issue of the newsletter. We started off with the review of quarter two 2020 performance to forge the way forward. We finalized the Judiciary Scorecard Research Initiative 2019 and are set to launch the Scorecard Report on 8th October 2020. The Judiciary Scorecard Research Initiative 2020 was rolled out in August with the training and deployment of Research Assistants across 24 courts to collect data relating to the performance of the Judiciary.

With the changing trends, we are leveraging technology to increase our social media presence through Vlogs summarizing different legal principles, CEPIL tweet chat initiative and #KnowTheLaw #KnowYourRights online campaign.

We are consistently expanding our reach and establishing partnerships both locally and internationally through collaboration with partners. At CEPIL, we believe that we need to constantly strengthen technical and leadership capacity of the team so the secretariat enrolled and completed an online course aimed at improving the team's writing skills.

Quarter Two 2020 Review Meeting

On 8th July 2020, the team had the quarter two review meeting to assess organization progress and lay out a way forward for the third quarter. This was followed by a team building session in the afternoon characterized by sharing a delicious meal and games.

Judiciary Scorecard Research Initiative 2019

Technical and judgment review teams were constituted to review the draft Uganda Judiciary Scorecard Report 2019. Following the review, the report was completed and is set to be launched on the 8th of October 2020 physically at Mestil Hotel and virtually via Zoom and Facebook. For more information, go to our website and download the report at www.cepiluganda.org.

Judiciary Scorecard Research Initiative 2020

Twenty-four (24) research assistants were identified, trained on the research methodology on 4th August 2020 and placed in 24 selected court stations. Unlike the previous years where data was collected by filling out paper questionnaires, this year in light of Covid-19 pandemic we are leveraging technology using a mobile application called Kobo collect in the data collection process.

Strengthening Technical and Leadership Capacity of the CEPIL Staff

In this quarter, the team enrolled in an online course on Communication with nonprofitready.org, an organisation that supports non-profit professionals and organizations by providing access to free sector-specific learning so that they have the knowledge and resources to create transformative impact in their own communities. The course covered aspects such as; technical writing, editing, proof reading business documents and planning an effective presentation.

Empowering the Bar and Bench in EA in Partnership with the EACJ

CEPIL is implementing a project with the East African Court of Justice under the theme “enhancing the performance of the Judiciary in East Africa through empowering the Bar and Bench in East Africa”. In this quarter, we contracted Tride BAC a consultancy firm to work with the EACJ to establish a strategy to promote the EACJ as a forum for promoting good governance, rule of law and protecting civic spaces

Celebrating Outstanding Employees in this Quarter

In this quarter, two staff member were recognised for their outstanding commitment and dedicated service in enabling CEPIL achieve its objectives. On this note, Angwech Lydia the Administration Officer, Gad Arthur Kisaalu the Litigation Officer and Obonyo Francis Alphonse the Advocacy Officer were appreciated for embodying the CEPIL values of excellence, integrity teamwork, and accountability.

CEPIL Tweet Chat Initiative

CEPIL has continued to engage the public online in the form of tweet chats to solicit their participation and opinion towards the development of solutions for challenges in society. Some of the topics discussed during these tweet chats include but are not limited to the following:



On 10th July 2020, the tweet chat focused on the impact of Covid-19 on the law in general. It was moderated by CEPIL and spearheaded by Mr. Phillip Karugaba; Partner at ENS Africa, Ms. Ruth Aber; CEPIL Rule of Law Champion 2019 and Mr. Gerald Batanda; Partner at Signum Advocates.

happening next at @cepil_uganda in next 10 days

Panelists; @PhillipKarugaba, @AberRuthie, Gerald Batanda
@Signumadvocates analyzing the impact of Covid-19 on the law in Uganda.

Join the conversation, ask questions and share your insights!



Centre for Public Interest Law @cepil_uganda · Sep 11
HAPPENING TODAY

Join us on a tweet chat to analyze the extent of the States Regulation of Freedom of Speech in Uganda with panelists @BillOpio @anite_ar @IBbosa at 10:00am - 11:30am

Join the conversation using the #HaveYourSayUg @cepil_uganda



On 11th September 2020, the tweet chat focused on analyzing the extent of state regulation on freedom of speech in Uganda. The discussion was spearheaded by; Mr. Bill Opio the Executive Director of Cyber law initiative, Ms. Catherine Anite the Executive Director of Freedom of Expression Hub and Ibrahim Bbosa the Head of Public and International Relations Uganda Communications Commission.

On 7th August, 2020, the online conversation was on the analysis of the impact of the electoral commission roadmap 2020-2021. This conversation was spearheaded by Ms. Sarah Bireete; the Executive Director, Centre for Constitutional Governance, Mr. Candia Emmanuel; a member of Network for Public Interest Lawyers and Ms. Isabella Nakiyonga; a CEPIL Rule of Law Champion, 2019.

conversation starting in 5mins.

WELCOME



You can be a part of our bi-weekly tweet chat by following us on our tweeter [@cepil_uganda](https://twitter.com/cepil_uganda) and [#HaveYourSayUg](https://twitter.com/HaveYourSayUg)

Public Interest Litigation

As reported in the last issue, CEPIL through ALP Advocates filed a case for judicial review before the High Court against the Attorney General (Miscellaneous Cause No. 91 of 2020) seeking to challenge the legality of the process of making and passing the Electricity (Establishment and Management of the Rural Electric-ity Fund) Instrument, S.I No. 62 of 2020, and the scope of the powers exercised by the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development in making the provisions. Subsequently, on 25th September, 2020, Justice Musa Ssekaana declared that instrument invalid which was in favour of CEPIL.

#KnowTheLaw #KnowYourRights

Considering elections are around corner, we shared the following write ups on social media to increase the public's awareness of the law under the #KnowtheLaw #KnowYourRights campaign;

Article 69 - 76 of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. These provide for the establishment and regulation of Political Parties in Uganda. For more information please go to cepiluganda.org/know-your-righths/

A legal brief on the Human Rights Enforcement Act 2019 which provides for the procedure of enforcing rights under Chapter 4 of the 1995 Constitution of Uganda. The Act makes a public officer who violates human rights individually or in association with others liable regardless of whether or not the state is vicariously liable for his or her actions. For a detailed brief on this go to cepiluganda.org/news/



A blog on whether freedom of expression is really free following the arrest of the Bizoonto comedian group for citing nepotism in the current government. For more information go to cepiluganda.org/news/

A case summary where court struck out an application seeking a declaration on the breach of the freedom from torture cruelty, inhuman and degrading treatment guaranteed under Article 24 of the Constitution. (Izidoro Kizito V Attorney General Miscellaneous Cause No.102 of 2019, before Hon. Justice Musa Ssekaana). For more information go to cepiluganda.org/news/

Other Activities Attended

- Ms Daisy Anek Trinity, the Knowledge and Law Development Officer attended a validation meeting to discuss the research for cost-effective legal aid mechanisms in Uganda and an online trial advocacy training to improve LASP'S trial advocacy skills when carrying out legal aid. These events were organised by LASPNET.
- Ms. Jackie Ayuya Mukasa, the Executive Director attended the National Dialogue for Community Paralegals on the theme; "situating the role of community-based paralegals in enhancing access to justice for the poor vulnerable and marginalized in Uganda" organised by LAPSNET.
- Ms. Atukunda Rita (Research Officer) and Mr. Gad Arthur Kisaalu (Litigation Officer) attended the NETPIL Litigating Freedom of Expression and Protection of Human Rights Defenders training. This rapid response mechanism training discussed the role of young lawyers in defending the freedom of expression and protection of Human Rights Defenders.
- The Executive Director attended the Ford Foundation leadership programme, focus group discussion by Thrive – Worldwide and the Civsource master classes on leadership agility for organisation resilience .
- The Litigation officer attended the national consultative meeting on elections for human rights defenders and advocates organised by LASPNET at Hotel Africana. The purpose of this meeting was to deliberate on the forth coming general elections and forge a way on how to defend and advocate for human rights.
- The Research Officer attended a dialogue to discuss the implementation of the Anti-Corruption Act organised by Anti-Corruption Coalition.
- The Executive Director attended Citizens' Convention on Mining 2020 under the theme "sustainable development of mineral wealth in East Africa" at Imperial Royale. The event was organised by Global Rights Alert, Transparency International, Action Aid, ACODE and Uganda Association of Small Scale Miners. The overall objective of this convention was to harness the potential for East Africa's mineral wealth.

THANK YOU

All this would not have been possible without the help of our partners.
Thank you for your continued support



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