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THE CEPIL TEAM MEETS THE POLICE TO REVIEW THE MEDIA GUIDELINES

Foreword

Greetings from CEPIL,
2021 is the year Uganda decided who will be the next president. This always puts our democratic processes to the test and sheds light on the gaps that exist in the legal framework governing elections. It is also a time when civil society and other stakeholders are challenged to watch, document, report and hold the state accountable for fundamental human rights and freedoms. This issue highlights CEPIL's endeavours in promoting the rule of law between January to March 2021.



**Gad Arthur Kisaalu,
Program Officer
Litigation**

Quarter Four 2020 Review Meeting

CEPIL held the quarter four review meeting at the secretariat on 11th January 2021. The team members presented the activities that had been done in the last quarter, including achievements and challenges faced in 2020. They also developed the 2021 work plan that covers CEPIL's thematic areas.



Update on the Judiciary Scorecard Research Initiative 2020

The Judiciary Scorecard Research Initiative 2020 continues with the review of the 2020 judgments of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, Constitutional Court and High Court by a team of five experts namely; Mr. Solomon Rukundo, Ms. Lucy Suky, Ms. Judith Aboto, Mr. Derrick Turyafuna and Ms. Doreen Kansiime.



Public Interest Litigation

In March 2021, CEPIL and others managed to reinstate and get a date for the hearing of a Constitutional Petition vide No. 009 of 2014; a petition against the government challenging provisions of the Journalist Act, Cap 105 establishing two government-controlled regulatory bodies with wide and significant discretionary powers over the media; restricting the practice of journalism by requiring compulsory licensing and registration of journalists; provisions authorizing significant penalties and sanctions on journalists, including disqualification and suspension from practicing journalism; provisions authorizing the Media Council to censor films and plays among others



Honorary Mention for the World Justice Project.

We are thrilled to be among the 10 projects chosen for the World Justice Challenge 2021 Honorable Mention for our demonstrated impact in advancing the rule of law in four thematic areas affected by the COVID-19 pandemic: access to justice for all, accountable governance, fundamental rights and non-discrimination, and anti-corruption and open government.



Webinars & Tweet Chats

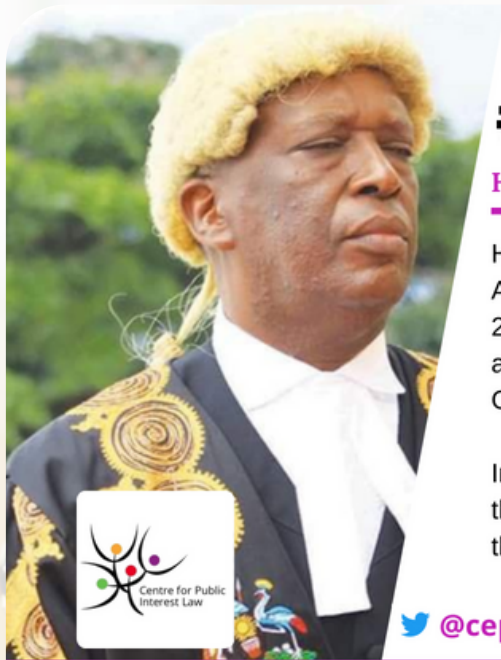
CEPIL in conjunction with NETPIL organized a webinar to discuss Election Petitions particularly lessons learnt from Kenya and Malawi that had successful Election Petitions. The panelists for this webinar included Mr. Wafula Wakoko, a jurist and Nairobi based lawyer, Professor Danwoon Chirwa, the Dean of law University of Cape Town and Dr. Busingye Kabumba, a law don at Makerere University. The moderator for the event was Miss. Akiteng Isabella. The panelists highlighted the role of the judiciary in election petitions and what lessons we could learn from the petitions in the neighboring countries.

On 25th March 2021, the online conversation #HaveYourSayUg was Kenyan ban of maize from Uganda and the quality of food on the Ugandan market. This conversation was moderated by CEPIL and spearheaded by panelists; Mr. Obbo Geoffrey, Programs Manager Centre for Food and Adequate Living Rights Uganda, Mr. Siya Balaam, Food Expert and Mr. Brighten Abaho and activist.



Profiling PIL Lawyers

At the beginning of the quarter, CEPIL resolved to profile lawyers that have made significant impact in public interest litigation. The first lawyer, Hon Justice Kenneth Kakuru was profiled this month.



#PILLawyersUg

HON. JUSTICE KENNETH KAKURU

He is a member of the bench of the Court of Appeal/Constitutional Court having joined the judiciary in 2013. Prior to this, he was an environmental rights lawyer and activist in public interest litigation. He founded Greenwatch an environmental rights advocacy NGO.

In 2004 Greenwatch sought a temporary injunction against the government exporting any Chimpanzee from Uganda to the Peoples Republic of China.

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In 2007 Kenneth rallied public opinion against the use of herbicide (2,4-D) by government on the water hyacinth on Lake Victoria and provided information about the negative impacts of the chemical on creatures that call Lake Victoria home.

Greenwatch is responsible for pioneering sensitisation of the judiciary on environmental law and has it has been the inspiration for organisations such as The Environmental Action Network (TEAN Uganda), Lawyer Environment Action Team (LEAT) in Tanzania, Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODA) and several other in the East African region.

Kenneth still serves as a non-executive director of Greenwatch



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Celebrating International Women's Day 2021

Following the photoshoot that CEPIL conducted in partnership with 100 faces UK last year in honor of women, we carried on the initiative and profiled 18 women making an impact in Uganda. This is done to recognize efforts and motivate other women to continue changing society. Below is the celebration in pictures:



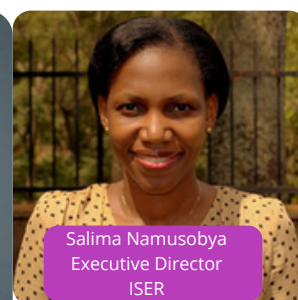
Sylvia Namubiru
Mukasa, CEO
LAPSNET



Pheona Wall,
President
Uganda Law Society



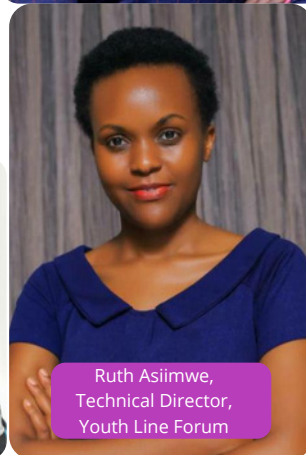
Jackie Asimwe, Chair
Person East African
Philanthropy Network



Salima Namusoby
Executive Director
ISER



Dr Roseline Karugonjo,
Chair Person Leadership
Code Tribunal



Ruth Asimwe,
Technical Director,
Youth Line Forum



Diana Angwech, Vice
President ULS



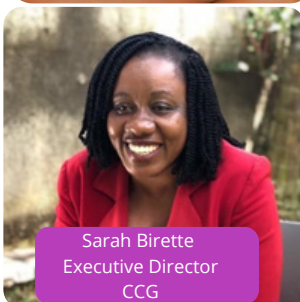
Catherine Anite
Executive Director
FOE- Hub



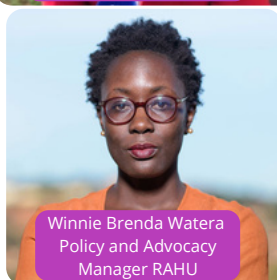
Rita Namakiika,
Secretary, ULS



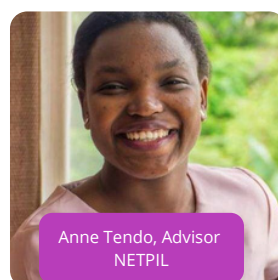
Rebecca Atayo,
LandNET Uganda



Sarah Birette
Executive Director
CCG



Winnie Brenda Watera
Policy and Advocacy
Manager RAHU



Anne Tendo, Advisor
NETPIL



Alice Namuli Blazeovic,
Partner KATS Advocates

Online Campaign #Court Processes.

Online Campaign #court processes

To promote a transparent and independent judiciary, CEPIL shared the following court processes on the website and social media;

- Compulsory acquisition of land
- Parliamentary electoral petitions
- Withdrawal of court cases
- Parliamentary electoral petitions

Blogs

- The right to health of persons under incarceration
- The national ID as a requirement to access the COVID-19 vaccine in Uganda.

Case Summaries

- Editors Guild Uganda Limited & Centre for Public Interest Law Limited versus Attorney General Miscellaneous Cause No. 400 of 2020 on registration or issuance of certificate by the Uganda Media Council without following the legally provided procedure. The application sought to quash and challenge the legality of the directives to register and accredit journalists to cover the 2021 general elections and other State events.
- Odoi Bernard Onen versus the Independent National Electoral Commission & others, election petition Appeal No. 9 of 2021. The records at NIRA on birth is to be preferred in the event of contradiction with any other documents.
- Western Uganda importers and distributors limited versus Mukasa Ivan, Kasese District Land Board and commissioner for land registration Civil Suit No. 14 of 2014. Fraud is the intentional perversion of truth to induce another in reliance upon it to part with some valuable thing belonging to him or to surrender a legal right.
- Abiriga Ibrahim versus Independent Electoral Commission (Election Petition No.02 of 2016) [2016] UGHCED 4 (11 May 2016). A court order is a court order, it must be obeyed as ordered unless set aside or varied.
- Anecho Haruna Musa (legal representative of Adam Kelili versus Twahib Noah, Adam Juma and Maliyamungu Majid Civil Suit No. 009 of 2000. The duties of an administrator are intended to be a short-lived process.

The Media Guidelines



As we gear towards the launch of the guidelines to the media and police while covering demonstrations, the programs team met with the Police; CPC Asan Kasingye and Fred Enanga to discuss the guidelines in detail. The meeting was held at the Police Headquarters on Tuesday 30th March 2021 and we look forward to the continued partnerships.

Stakeholder Meetings

- We had a meeting with our partners NETPIL; Program Officer, John Mary Kimurahebwe at the CEPIL secretariat on the 21st January 2021. The meeting was aimed at sharing our different initiatives and activities for the year 2021 and forging a way on how we can cooperate moving forward.
- We also held a meeting with Youth Line Forum's Program Administrator, Daisy Frida Arutun at the CEPIL secretariat on the 28th January 2021. The meeting geared toward formulating a partnership on our thematic area, the Youth and the Law
- The Programme Officer Research, Rita Atukunda attended a co-creation workshop on strengthening university student's movements under a project termed G- next on the 19th of February at Eureka palace hotel coordinated by the youth line forum.
- The Knowledge and Development Officer, Anek Trinity Daisy attended a follow-up training on how to access government procurement information using the government procurement portal established by the African freedom of information centre (AFIC) in conjunction with the government of Uganda on the 18th of February at Hotel African coordinated by AFIC.
- The team at CEPIL met the Chairperson of the Judicial Service Commission Justice Kabiito Benjamin to discuss the Judiciary Performance Scorecard Initiative on 9th March 2021.
- Ms. Rita Atukunda together with the interns, Peter Classic attended the post-legislative scrutiny meeting on 23rd March 2021 at Nob View Hotel Ntinda coordinated by CEPA on 23rd March 2021.
- Mr. Francis Obonyo attended the launch of the media sector working group organized by Media Council Uganda on 30th March 2021 at Skyz Hotel Naguru



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



FORD
FOUNDATION

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