

ACFIM NOW LEGAL ENTITY

ACFIM is now autonomous following a resolution by the 2016 Annual General Meeting to register it in line with the NGO Act 2016. The registered organisational name is: Alliance for Finance Monitoring (ACFIM).

The secretariat has moved away from Transparency International Uganda where it has been hosted since 2015, to Plot 96 Semawata Road, Ntinda, a Kampala suburb.

In the process the word “campaign” was lost from our original name but our strategic focus remains unchanged.

ACFIM continues to be the organisations the engages the agenda of electoral campaign financing in Uganda and Africa in general.

ACFIM VISION:

A society where political leaders are responsive and accountable to citizens.

Advocacy for Campaign Finance Reforms Gains Ground

The Speaker of the 10th Parliament Hon. Rebecca Kadaga has pledged to include on the Order Paper of Parliament, the Private Members’ Bill on election campaign financing. She made the pledge to Hon. Alex Ruhunda.

Ruhunda will seek leave of Parliament to work on the Private members Bill. He leads the informal group of MPs on campaign finance reforms. The group benefits from technical backstopping



NDI Country Director Simon Osborn chats with Fort Portal Municipality Member of Parliament Hon. Alex Ruhunda as ACFIM ED, Henry Muguzi (right) looks on.

provided by ACFIM, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and Legal Department of Parliament.

Advocacy for campaign finance reforms is gaining ground.

District Dialogues on Campaign Finance Reforms Gain Traction

District public dialogues on campaign finance reforms are in progress. The ultimate aim is to stimulate public demand for enactment of election campaign finance law. The public is increasingly realising that unregulated use of money in electoral campaigns has fuelled over commercialisa-



Kabalore District Dialogue on commercialization of politics and electoral campaigns.

tion of politics much to the detriment of service delivery.

Dialogues have already been conducted in the districts of Bushenyi, Kabale, Kabalore, Luweero, Hoima, Apac, Soroti and Masaka. Participation has been drawn from former political candidates and campaign agents, area MPs or their agents, district councillors, religious leaders, civil servants, civil society, local opinion leaders and the media.

The dialogues are galvanising national debate on campaign finance reforms. Over 600 men and women have participated directly in the meetings while an estimated over 0.5 million Ugandans have been reached through the media.

MPs Want Campaign Finance Reforms

ACFIM Survey on the 10th Parliament reveals that majority of the MPs are in support of campaign finance reforms. Below is a summary:

66% of the MPs agree that spending on electoral campaigns by Political Parties and Candidates should be limited.

68% agree that spending by Presidential candidates should be limited as well.

51% agree that a candidate who spends above the legally stipulated limit on their campaign expenditure should lose their

seat and should be stopped from contesting in ANY future elections

59% agree that a Parliamentary candidate should publicly declare the source of all campaign contributions of over UGX 1 million and this information should be made publicly available

79% agree that that a candidate found guilty of vote buying by the courts of law should lose their seat and be banned from contesting ANY elections again.

*Download full survey report on:
www.acfimuganda.org*



**Kakuuto Member of Parliament,
Hon. Boaz Kasirabo Ninsiima**

Commercialisation Manifesting in Village Council Politics

Commercialisation of politics has now reached village level.

ACFIM grass root activists report that aspiring candidates for Village Council Chairperson are already selling off their bulls, goats and in some cases even land, to raise campaign money ahead of the imminent village elections.

Some of them are already making donations to church-

es, women groups, and on funerals to popularize themselves.

This practice is becoming a cancer engulfing Uganda's politics as a rate we may not have imagined before.

In view of the foreseen voting method of lining behind a candidate, this has the potential to breed post village elections anarchy.

ACFIM MISSION:

To contribute towards building electoral integrity by promoting transparency and accountability in financing of political and electoral processes through research, civic engagement, monitoring and advocating for reforms.

ACFIM to Monitor Campaign Spending in By-Elections

ACFIM will monitor campaign spending during by-elections in Kamuli Municipality, Moroto Woman Member of Parliament and Kagoma Constituency MP.

Mobilisation and re-orientation of campaign finance monitors is underway in these constituencies. Preliminary reports will be released on site in every constituency with the Final Reports to follow soon after.

ACFIM is the pioneer organization in Africa to successfully monitor campaign spending and release evidence based reports highlighting credible estimates of electoral expenditure in 16 sample districts for Presidential and Member of Parliament Campaigns.