

Newsletter

Issue No.3: August - December 2013

HRAPF commemorates 5th Anniversary



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Introduction

This issue of the Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF) Newsletter marks two important events: the end of the first year of implementation of the new HRAPF strategic Plan 2013-2017 and the HRAPF's fifth anniversary.

The issue covers the period August - December 2013.

HRAPF is a non-governmental organisation whose vision is: "A society where the Human Rights of all persons including marginalised groups are valued and respected". Its work is directed towards achieving equality, non-discrimination, and access to justice for the most marginalised groups in Uganda.

HRAPF celebrates its fifth anniversary in the field of human rights activism, protection and advocacy. Looking back to 2008, when HRAPF opened its doors, the organisation has made tremendous progress. Nevertheless, a number of challenges too have been met. Fortunately, as a learning organisation, these challenges have simply

helped to spur us on.

I am therefore very proud of the achievements we have made over the last five years, proud of the people with whom we have achieved them, and also proud of the change that we have made to the lives of marginalised persons during this period.

The period August - December 2013 saw us completing the first year of the implementation of the new strategic plan 2013-2017. This Strategic Plan was born out of a very transparent and consultative process and it continues to guide our work.

During the period, HRAPF continued to provide free legal services to minorities, women and girls living with HIV/AIDS and women and elderly persons with land problems.

We also continued with our advocacy efforts against laws and Bills that we believed were against the values of human rights for all, notably the Anti Homosexuality Bill 2009, the Public Order Management Act, the Anti Pornography Act and Section 15(6)(d)

of the Equal opportunities Commission Act.

Unfortunately, the period saw the passing into law of the Anti Homosexuality Bill by parliament on 20th December 2013, a development whose ramifications will reverberate across this country for many years to come.

The case of *Jjuuko Adrian v. Attorney General* was constantly followed up but the ruling still remained elusive. Nevertheless new plans were drawn on how to move forward.

During this period, we also launched the Human Rights Advocate, a bi annual magazine published by HRAPF. The magazine focuses on analysing legislation or proposed legislation for their conformity to both national and international human rights standards.

This also discusses other developments like our vibrant internship program. Let me hope you enjoy reading it as we take human rights to all.

Adrian Jjuuko
Executive Director

KEY INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

HRAPF commemorates fifth anniversary



It was merry making at the HRAPF secretariat on the 18th of December 2013 when the organisation commemorated its fifth anniversary. There were lots of eats and drinks and cutting of the HRAPF five year cake but above all celebrating HRAPF's half a decade success in taking human rights to all.

HRAPF was founded in 2008 and formally registered on 16th August as an NGO, and later as a company limited by guarantee. Since then, HRAPF has lived to grow into a strong human rights advocacy organisation promoting the rights of marginalised Ugandans in the past five years.

The commemoration was attended by various people ranging from HRAPF members, staff and Board of Directors to partners, donors and other stakeholders.

Speaking at the function, HRAPF Executive Director Mr. Adrian Jjuuko expressed gratitude to all stakeholders for the tremendous contribution to the development of HRAPF over the years. He said that HRAPF started as a very humble organisation albeit with very ambitious objec-

tives. This coupled with a very committed young and vibrant staff; the organisation has grown into a formidable institution that has so far made a big contribution to provision of access to justice to vulnerable people in Uganda and contributing to the entire social, economic and political development agenda of the country.

The achievements that the organisation has registered in the past five years include: successful implementation of a three year strategic plan (2010-2012) and inauguration of a new strategic plan 2013-2017, having in place well-functioning structures including the membership ,Board of Directors and a fully operational Secretariat with skilled and committed members of staff. It has established partnerships with major legal and human rights networks and commissions promoting human rights in Uganda including among others: Human Rights Network Uganda (HURINET-Uganda), Uganda National NGO Forum, Legal Aids Service Providers Network (LASPNET), Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Constitutional Law (CSCRCL), East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders

Network, Citizens Coalition on Electoral Democracy (CCEDU), the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) among others .

The organisation has also implemented a number of projects that promote the rights of marginalised Ugandans. The legal aid project has handled over 700 cases since its inception in 2010, helping thousands of marginalised people access justice. Research and advocacy in favour of marginalised Ugandans has also been done to guide policies and legislations that observe the rights of the marginalised, strategic interest cases have also been filed on behalf of the marginalised. Awareness on basic human rights and the law has also been carried out through a systematic approach of outreach sessions, radio talk shows and publications that have reached thousands of vulnerable people.

Stakeholders attending the function appreciated HRAPF's role of covering a gap that existed in access to justice for marginalised communities in Uganda. They pledged to continue supporting and working with HRAPF in advancing access to justice for marginalised Ugandans.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WORK FROM ACCESS TO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Overview

The last five months of 2013 saw HRAPF's legal aid clinic continue providing legal aid services to marginalised Ugandans. Although the period witnessed passing of laws that may act as bottlenecks to access to justice to marginalised communities, the Access to Justice Department continued to gain ground under the new strategic plan in the provision of legal aid to the marginalised groups.

Following the passing of the Anti-Homosexuality Bill on December 20th, there were increased arrests of LGBT people. This is contrary to the situation in the second quarter of 2013 where arrests had reduced. More and more violations of the right to privacy, dignity and liberty were witnessed. Discrimination related cases also came in handy and threats of mob violence were also recorded. The media once again resumed its role of outing suspected LGBTI people in numerous allegations of sodomy and infecting victims with HIV.

Provision of legal aid to women and children infected with HIV/AIDS continued. More threats to the right to property were recorded and handled. Cases of discrimination and stigmatisation were also reported and handled. Once more, HRAPF won three court cases in favour of people living with HIV/AIDS in Kiboga, Mpigi and Mityana Districts.

The land project focuses on three districts which include Nakasongola, Mubendde and Wakiso in Central Uganda. It focuses on indigent women and children with land problems. The major human rights/legal issues addressed in this period include: illegal evictions of indigent bibanja holders by powerful landlords, trespass and encroachment on land. Our interventions have been key in creating awareness of property rights of bibanja holders and other vulnerable individuals facing land problems. Provision of legal representation has been equally crucial in safeguarding the rights of our indigent land clients.

We reached out to numerous beneficiaries through 3 awareness sessions reaching out to 267 people and 2 radio talk shows and publications. All these mediums were used to spread awareness on human rights and the law. We completed the second training of paralegals working with sexual minorities and the first training of those working with HIV/AIDS infected and affected women and children.

As we set out for 2014, we recognise the fact that access to justice to marginalised Ugandans is still very low. The new laws and bills passed speak volumes on the human rights situation for the New Year. For us we continue to recognise the fact that every human being deserves better without discrimination even in access to justice.

Taking human rights to all

Fridah Mutesi

Acting Head of Department Access to Justice

HRAPF graduates more 13 community paralegals



Paralegal training is one of the interventions implemented under the HRAPF's Access to Justice Department to enhance access to justice for marginalised groups. The people that are trained are selected by and from the marginalised communities that HRAPF serves. The trainees are brought together for three days and are passed out after being trained three times in three different modules and after being placed with an organisation working with legal issues for at least one week. Paralegals are trained in three modules, which are: The paralegal and the Legal system in Uganda; Criminal Law and Procedure in Uganda and Human Rights and other specific civil law actions.

HRAPF graduates more 13 community paralegals.. from page 3

On the 18th of December 2013, HRAPF awarded certificates to 13 new paralegals that had successfully completed full training in basic law and human rights bringing the number of community paralegals working with marginalised groups trained by HRAPF to 30. The Paralegals were awarded certificates during a colorful ceremony at HRAPF premises.

The certificates were awarded by Mr. Adrian Jjuuko, the Executive Director of HRAPF together with Mr Janvier Hakizimaana a Protection Associate from East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project one of our partners. The ceremony was attended by members from partner organisations, clients and trained paralegals, HRAPF Staff and members of the Board of Directors.

During the award ceremony, one of the trained paralegals urged the new paralegals to work together as a team and also to have a spirit of volunteerism. He further urged them to always be persistent to achieve the overall objective of enhancing access to Justice for the marginalised.

The representative from the partner organisations, Mr. Niiiki Mawanda thanked HRAPF for the continuous legal support and nurturing members of their communities. He said that the paralegals are able to assert the rights of minorities especially by obtaining bond from the police without paying bribes

The new paralegals appreciated HRAPF for enriching them with such skills which they have been able to exercise even before being passed out as fully trained paralegals. They also pledged to use the skills they had obtained for the benefits of their respective communities in assisting their members understand their rights and how to assert them.

This was the second time HRAPF awarded certificates to paralegals working with sexual minority communities. Last year 2012, HRAPF awarded certificates to 13 paralegals upon completion of their full course. The organisation is also training 21 paralegals to work with communities living with HIV/AIDS in the Districts of Luwero, Kiboga, Mpigi and Mityana. These will be awarded certificates next year 2014.

Paralegals work within the confines of their communities in conjunction with HRAPF legal aid clinic. They act as the contact persons at the grassroots and handle less complex legal proceedings like giving simple legal advice and securing Police Bond before the Lawyers intervene. They also help in referring cases to the legal aid clinic and training their communities in human rights and basic law.



HRAPF legal officers: Patricia Kimera and Fariida Ikyimaana receive gifts from the trained Paralegals during the certificate award ceremony at HRAPF secretariat on December 18, 2013

HRAPF uses local radio stations to promote the rights of People Living with HIV/AIDS in rural Uganda.



HRAPF Project officers: Mr. Julius Ssentamu and Ms. Fariida Ikyimaana discuss human rights issues with a HRAPF trained paralegal on Kiboga FM in Kiboga District.

When people think of helping people living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda, the first thing that comes to mind is medication, food supplements, testing and counselling. However, HRAPF supplements these by fighting stigma through providing information on their rights and free legal services.

Uganda is one of the countries where widespread human rights abuses and a lack of legal services continue to fuel the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The report documented several forms of stigma and discrimination, including: barriers to employment or education; discrimination in gaining access to medical care; violations of the right to medical privacy; forced HIV testing; and eviction from housing. The report also revealed that Ugandans who experience HIV-related human rights abuses have little access to legal services and limited knowledge about their rights.

After realising that many women affected and infected with HIV/AIDS in Uganda are denied ownership of property of their deceased husbands, humiliated, discriminated and stigmatized; orphans neglected and disowned by members of their families and denied access to education among others. HRAPF establish advocacy project to promote the rights and offer legal aid to women and children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in the rural Districts of Mityana, Kiboga, Luwero and Mpigi. The project has been in place since 2011.

One of the ways through which HRAPF reaches out and provides these services is by conducting radio talk shows using the available local radio stations in the said districts. Radio talk shows are an effective intervention in rural Uganda since a large percentage of the people there receive their information through the radio. Radio talk shows are planned and held on four local radio stations: Buwama FM for Mpigi, Kiboga FM for Kiboga, Mboona FM for Mityana and Musana FM for Luwero.

The radio program intervention works as an effective mechanism to teach about patients' rights, Will making, basic law and human rights and guides people on where to report in case their rights are violated. The program also provides free on air legal advice to clients who call in. After the radio talk show, an awareness session and a legal aid camp is held in the district to physically attend to issues of people who are attracted by the radio program.

During the last quarter of 2013, HRAPF conducted two radio talk shows on Mboona FM in Mityana District where 150 people living with HIV later turned up for legal aid and awareness on human rights. Another talk show was conducted on Kiboga FM in Kiboga District where 78 people living with HIV later turned up. In the same quarter HRAPF registered 38 new file cases on violation of rights of women and girls living with HIV/AIDS in the Districts of Luwero, Mityana, Kiboga and Mpigi.

HRAPF wins three more court cases in favour of people living with HIV/AIDS

HRAPF among other things provides legal representation for women and girls infected and by HIV/AIDS in the districts of Luwero, Kiboga, Mpigi and Mityana.

In the last quarter of 2013, HRAPF Lawyers continued to salvage women and girls infected with HIV/AIDS from discrimination and stigmatization using the courts of law. Three cases in favour of women living with HIV/AIDS were won in courts of law.

In the first case, HRAPF secured an order of joint custody for the clients whose step father wanted sole custody of the siblings.

In a second case, an application was filed on behalf of our client seeking among others care of the child who was being mistreated by his biological father and his step mother due to his HIV status. Two weeks to the first hearing, the biological

father transferred the child from a poor school to a better school. He even advised the step mother to take care of the child otherwise he would bring them problems with the court. On monitoring the situation, HRAPF found out that the child was now school going, in good health, taking medication and being looked after by all family members. A report was filed in court and the matter was concluded.

The third case involved a matter filed in court against our client on allegations that she was trespassing onto another persons' land (kibanja). When the respondent heard that the client had obtained lawyers from HRAPF, he stopped appearing in court. The matter was dismissed in our client's favour because there was no one to give evidence against her.

Most women and children living with HIV/AIDS in Uganda suffer effects of human rights abuse, discrimination and stig-

matization yet they cannot afford to hire a lawyer in case of need to go to court.

In order to meet the demand for legal aid services among people living with HIV/AIDS, HRAPF trains Paralegals to work with communities living with HIV in the Districts of Luwero, Mpigi, Kiboga and Mityana. The aim is to empower them with legal and human rights knowledge to be able to offer legal first aid to people living with HIV/AIDS and refer cases to the HRAPF legal aid clinic at the Secretariat in Kampala. Paralegal training for People living with HIV started in 2013 and 21 women and girls completed their training and are awaiting award of certificates in 2014.

HRAPF believes that by offering legal assistance to women and children living with HIV/AIDS, the high levels of discrimination, stigma and abuse they face would eventually be eroded away.



HRAPF Head of Department Advocacy and Networking Ms. Flavia Zalwango facilitating at a training for HIV/AIDS Paralegals in Luwero District.

HRAPF participates in the Legal Aid week held in Kamuli District.

HRAPF participated in a one long Legal Aid Week in Kamuli District organised by the Legal Aid Providers Network (LASPNET) to which HRAPF is a member. HRAPF was represented by the Deputy Executive Director Mr. Anthony Mutimba.

The event was held to show case the need, relevance and existing space for legal aid in the community and better understand the common needs of legal aid at the grassroots. Specifically, the exercise sought: to raise awareness among the communities about the different legal aid service options available within their community and district; to provide on-spot legal aid services to walk-in clients throughout the legal aid open week and make referrals, where deemed appropriate; to collect and document issues arising from the discussions with the community to influence agenda for policy/law reform at national level; to provide quick-fix services to persons charged with minor offences and remanded in Prison or Police in order to reduce on case backlog; and to utilise the synergies among non-governmental legal aid service providers in providing more responsive services to the communities.



In photos, HRAPF Deputy Executive Director Mr. Anthony Mutimba attending to clients who came to seek for legal aid during LASPNET's legal aid week held in Kamuli District.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING DEPARTMENT

Overview

While HRAPF as a whole was commemorating its fifth anniversary, the Legislative Advocacy and Networking Department commemorated its first anniversary.

Established by the new HRAPF strategic plan 2013-2017, the department works with likeminded organisations and institutions to advocate and influence the adoption of policies and legislation that promote equality and non-discrimination in order to prevent discrimination of marginalised groups.

Two projects are directly implemented under the department: Beyond strategic litigation: Engagement with the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC)- a project that is working with the EOC to avail access to justice to minorities (this project ended in December 2013) and the advocacy project for human rights, legal and policy response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Uganda. This project accords legal aid to girls and women infected and affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the Districts of Luweero, Mpigi, Mityana and Kiboga. These are implemented alongside many other activities that take place in the department. The department also works jointly with

the Access to Justice Department in legislative advocacy.

During the period, the department launched the Human Rights Advocate, a magazine dedicated to legislative advocacy in favour of marginalised groups. The inaugural magazine focuses on section 15(6)(d) of the Equal Opportunities Commission and features articles from different contributors including among others: Prof. Sylvia Tamale of Makerere University, Mr. Jay Jacobsom a Senior New York Attorney who helped to draft the 1964 Constitution of Malawi and our own Executive Director Mr. Adrian Jjuuko. The magazine will be published bi-annually focusing on different legal and human rights issues affecting minorities. I encourage you to obtain a copy from our office or website. We followed up the case of *Jjuuko Adrian v. Attorney General* where we mobilised civil society to rally behind the case, issued press releases querying the delayed ruling and held a successful legal consultation meeting on the way forward.

Under legislative, the period witnessed the passing of the Anti-Homosexuality Bill and the Anti-Pornography Bill both of which are a challenge to the promotion, observance and respect of human rights

for all in Uganda. The Anti-Homosexuality bill violates the rights of Ugandans to non-discrimination, to equality before the law, and to privacy, and sanctions hatred, violence and the persecution of LGBTI people. It promotes intolerance and hampers the work of human rights defenders and others who find themselves in conflict with the law merely by carrying out their legitimate activities. The Anti-Pornography Bill even goes beyond to threaten internet freedoms.

At a regional level HRAPF participated in the 54th Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights and the NGO Forum in preparation for the 54th Session of the African Commission on Human and people's Rights

Those put aside, I should say that 2013 has been a year of laying a firm ground for our advocacy envisaged in the new strategic plan, in that we have established new networks and built new strategies to take human rights to all. This is our core objective and passionate purpose for which we live.

Taking human rights to all

Flavia Zalwango
Acting Head of Department Legislative Advocacy and Networking

HRAPF launches the Human Rights Advocate Magazine

Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF) launched a human rights magazine titled "**The Human Rights Advocate.**" The magazine was launched on the 19th of December 2013 at the organization's secretariat. While speaking at the launch, the Executive Director HRAPF, Mr. Adrian Jjuuko stated that the Human Rights Advocate is a bi annual legislative advocacy magazine produced by HRAPF. It is focused on reviewing laws and their implications on human rights.

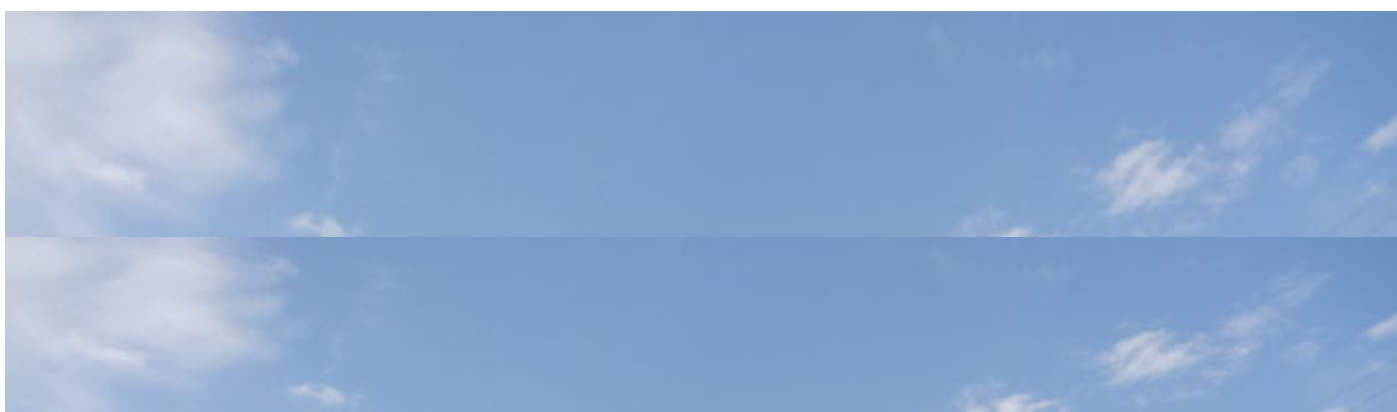
This inaugural edition of the magazine was dedicated to section 15(6) (d) of the Equal Opportunities Commission Act, 2007 and its implications on marginalised groups. The provision bars the Equal Opportunities Commission from investigating matters that are considered as "immoral and socially harmful or unacceptable by the majority of the cultural and social communities in Uganda". This section is being challenged in the Constitutional Court in the case of *Jjuuko Adrian v. Attorney General Constitutional Petition No.1 of 2009*. HRAPF believes that Section 15(6) (d) of the Act is contrary to the Constitution of Uganda, disregards the spirit of the Equal opportunities policy, the other provisions of the Act and undermines Uganda's International Human rights obligations.



SMUG Programs Director Pepe Julian Onziema launching the Human Rights Advocate at HRAPF secretariat on 18th December 2013.

The first issue contains six articles. Each of the articles covers an aspect of the Equal Opportunities Commission Act. The first article, written by Edward Mwebaza and Jay Jacobson, concerns the powers and functions as well as the current status of the Equal Opportunities Commission. The second, written by Prof. Sylvia Tamale of the School of Law, Makerere University, chronicles the legislative history of section 15(6)(d) and discusses how it is a provision that ought not to have been part of the Act. The third by Adrian Jjuuko, the Executive Director of HRAPF analyses the provision from a gendered perspective. The fourth article, by Jay Jacobson and Adrian Jjuuko, is a commentary on Section 15(6)(d) and the Constitutional framework of Uganda. The fifth article by Adrian Jjuuko analyses the consistence of Section 15(6)(d) with Uganda's Obligations under International Human Rights Law and the sixth article again by Adrian Jjuuko gives an overview of the case of Adrian Jjuuko v Attorney General so far. Finally, the Press Statement issued by HRAPF on the same matter on Women's Day 2013 is reproduced as the last item.

For more information get a copy of the first issue of the magazine from our offices at Plot 390, Prof. Apollo Nsibambi Road, Namirembe Kampala, Uganda or read online at www.hrapf.org.



Update on the Equal Opportunities Commission case.



Prof. Sylvia Tamale of School of Law Makerere University leading fellow layers in a discussion on the case of *Jjuuko Adrain v. Attorney* held at Protea Hotel kampala, December 2013

By Linette Du Toit: Intern at Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum (HRAPF) (October - November 2013)

Through our Executive Director Mr. Adrian Jjuuko, HRAPF filed a strategic interest case challenging the constitutionality of Section 15(6)(d) of the Equal Opportunities Act in 2009. This provision prevents the Equal Opportunities Commission from investigating matters involving behaviour which is deemed to be 'immoral or socially unacceptable' by the majority of cultural and social communities in Uganda. The purpose of the Equal Opportunities Commission is to 'eliminate discrimination and inequalities against any individual ... and take affirmative action in favour of groups marginalised which often are disapproved of and rejected by the majority of society'. Section 15(6)(d) of the EOA thus defeats the purpose of the Commission.

The case was filed as *Adrian Jjuuko v Attorney General*, Constitutional Petition No. 1 of 2009. It was heard in October 2011 and judgment has still not been delivered. Upon enquiries into the delay, HRAPF was informed by the Registrar of the Constitutional Court that the court's busy schedule and shortage of human resources was to blame and that the verdict will be out soon. From the time that the case was heard, two of the five judges who presided over the case retired and a third one passed away.

Seeing that much time has elapsed since the case was heard and that independent and uncoordinated efforts have been made in requesting a judgment, it was deemed necessary to bring all the key role players in the case on board. On 14 November 2013, HRAPF hosted a meeting for lawyers and activists that have been involved in the case in order to discuss possible legal strate-

gies in moving forward.

Counsel for the petitioner briefed the participants on the case and explained that it is not certain whether a judgment has been written and should just be delivered, or whether three of the five judges have left the equation prior to writing any judgment. There is no precedent of what happens where a case was heard by five judges and three of these become unavailable to contribute in giving judgment.

The participants considered the best way forward in the case that judgment has been written but not yet delivered as well as in the case that there is no judgment. It was agreed that Counsel will take it upon himself to request a meeting with the Deputy Chief Justice. The purpose of such a meeting would be to ascertain the exact progress of the case.

Participants also agreed that a constitutional law professor ought to be involved as an amicus, tasked with guiding the court on the concept of non-discrimination. It was also agreed that at this point, the media should not be involved in the case.

The meeting succeeded in clarifying the progress of the case to all involved and specific tasks were assigned to the best placed

Parliament pass the anti-homosexuality bill 2009



Uganda's 9th Parliament passed the controversial Anti-Homosexuality Bill 2009 on December 20th 2013, amidst calls from civil society and other stakeholders for the bill not to be passed.

This action has been condemned by various human rights activists and others concerned including the Prime Minister Hon. Amama Mbabazi who said that it was passed without quorum. Although the bill negates its earlier position of the death penalty, its current form violates all Uganda's constitutional rights and her obligations in international human rights documents that the country assented to.

The contentious provision on death sentence was removed and replaced with life sentences for any form of penetration or sexual stimulation of a person of the same sex, as well as for "aggravated" homosexuality, which would apply to "serial-offenders" among others.

In its current form, the bill also criminalizes "promotion" of homosexuality. Human rights groups and other organizations

that seek to promote tolerance and put an end to violence on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as organizations providing other social services to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people could easily be shut down, and their directors and key staff could face prison sentences according to the approved bill.

If the president signs it into law, the bill will add to Article 145 of the current penal code already punishing "carnal knowledge against the order of nature," a colonial period term understood to refer to sex between men, with life imprisonment. Research conducted by HRAPF has however shown that laws criminalising same sex relations in section 145 of the penal code are used not to prosecute but to persecute suspected LGBTI persons.

HRAPF calls upon the president to reject the bill for it is not intended to solve any of Uganda's problems, but rather fuel hatred of some groups of people and paint a black spot on the promotion, respect and observance of human rights for all in a free and democratic society.

HRAPF participates in the 54th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights in Banjul Gambia.



HRAPF Chairperson Board of Directors Ms. Shiela Muwanga and Ms. Flavia Zalwango, the Head of Advocacy and Networking Department at the 54th session of the African Commission on Human and People's rights in Banjul Gambia.

HRAPF Executive Director Mr. Adrian Jjuuko was nominated as one of the Ugandan activists to participate in the East African Pan-African Advocacy Programme run by The East African Sexual Health and Rights Initiative (UHAJ). The Programme intends to have a continued and sustained support to undertake strategic advocacy work at the regional and continental levels through supporting East African activists. The programme includes participation in the Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights. In 2013, the Commission held its 54th Ordinary Session in Banjul, The Gambia, from 22 October to 5 November 2013 which was attended by HRAPF.

At the session, HRAPF Executive Director was represented by HRAPF Head of Department Legislative Advocacy and Networking Ms. Flavia Zalwango. Before the Ordinary session, Activists attended a two day NGO Forum meeting to prepare for the Ordinary session. NGOs discussed a range of issues including: women's rights, rights of people with disabilities, rights of LGBTI persons and rights of persons who are albinos.

Later, the activists participated in the 54th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights on the 22 October to 5th November 2013. The session included different countries and institutions presenting status reports on the human rights situation of their respective countries.

During the session, Uganda did not present a report because it had submitted the report late to the Commission and it was not possible for it to be included on the agenda so it was saved for the next session in April 2014. It was also noted in the activities of the commission, that the Commissioner in charge of Uganda Ms. Lucy Asuagbor, had visited the country and got a chance to hold meetings with the government and two local NGOs with observer status from Uganda which included the Foundation for Human Rights Initiative and HURINET.

One of the biggest highlights about Uganda was the passing of the Public Order Management Act which curtails the freedom of expression and speech and this was condemned by the Commission. The Uganda Human Rights Commission also gave a brief report on the status of human

rights in Uganda where Police torture was highlighted among other issues.

During the session, two countries, Gabon and Cameroon, submitted their reports to the Commission. Commissioners noted that these countries still had various human rights violations that were going on and among these included torture of government opposition politicians, curtailing of freedom of speech, media freedom, poor education, limited public universities which was a denial of the right to education to the indigent persons and poor health services especially maternal health care. It was also highlighted that in these countries, persecution of LGBT persons was on a very high increase.

The African Commission on Human and people's Rights holds two ordinary sessions every year, unless there is need for extraordinary sessions. During the sessions, member countries as well as international bodies and civil society organisations that have observer status present situation reports on Human rights in respective countries. The Commission also submits to every Ordinary Session of the AU Assembly a report of its activities during sessions and inter-sessions.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Overview

The Finance and Administration Department, implements the Organisational Development and Capacity Building Program under the new strategic plan 2013-2017. The Department therefore is concerned with policy development and implementation, human resource, fundraising, monitoring and evaluation and finance management and control.

During the period August – December 2013, HRAPF maintained a stable and well-motivated human resource which enabled it to implement the organisations' activities. Capacity building programmes were sustained and a number of regulations guiding the smooth staff operations developed and implemented.

Like in the first half of the year, HRAPF raised a large percentage of funds to implement project activities at the time. However, funding for some projects was ending in 2013 posing a challenge for implementation of the organisation's activities in 2014. Nevertheless we are very grateful to all our partners for keeping our financial muscle moving throughout that year.

The internship programme continued to attract more professionals from outside Uganda which has provided reference for our staff on experiences from other countries. The program is such that the intern benefits but HRAPF benefits on the other hand.

Although a lot has been achieved in 2013, 2014 is the second year of implementation of the five year HRAPF plan and a lot needs to be done to achieve its objectives. We continue to call for support from partners and stakeholders to the strategic plan on this cause for social justice. We shall ensure the best financial and administration practices in the use of HRAPF's funds as we take human rights to all.

Anthony Mutimba
Deputy Executive Director.

HRAPF Awards best performing staff of 2013



Ms. Patricia Kimera and Mr. Julius Ssentamu after receiving the award of best staff of the year and most improving staff of the year 2013 respectively.

As a way of motivating and recognizing staff for their contribution, HRAPF awards two staff members every year who stand out during the course of the year in implementing the Organisations's activities. The Awards are: The Staff of the Year Award which is given to the best staff overall and the Most Improving Staff of the Year Award awarded to the staff that has shown the most improvement during the course of the year.

The 2013 Staff of the Year Award was won by Ms. Patricia Kimera, a lawyer in HRAPF legal Aid Clinic. Patricia was awarded for her exceptionally efficient implementation of her activities during the year. Her commitment and timely reporting and diligence to her work were always the best. She assisted in the smooth implementation of the HIV/AIDS project in the absence of the concerned legal officer alongside her work.

The Most Improving Staff of the Year Award for 2013 was won by Mr. Julius Ssentamu, the Project Officer for the HIV project. Julius was recognised for his unrivaled work that made the HIV Project thrive and continue to grow, his improvement in reporting and writing plus his commitment to implementing the project activities.

While handing over the awards, HRAPF Executive Director Mr. Adrian Jjuuko appreciated the winning staff for their contribution and work during the year and implored all the others to emulate them in order to move HRAPF forward.

HRAPF staff ends 2013 in style

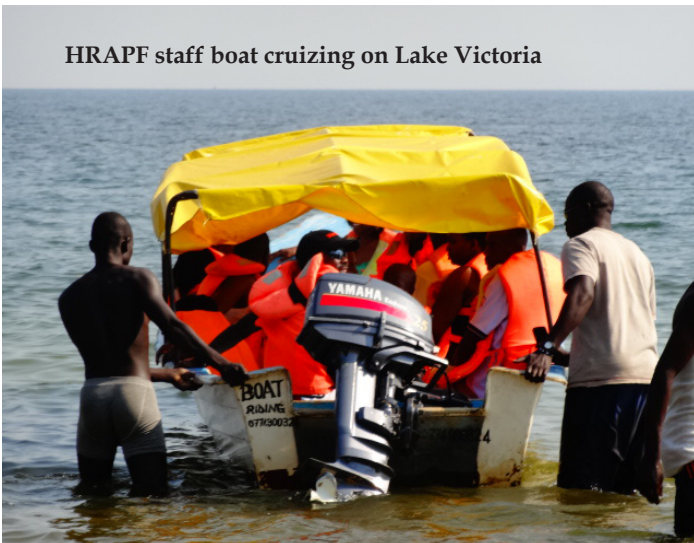
Every end of year, HRAPF holds a staff party to celebrate achievements in the ending year. 2013 was ended in style at a beach on the 20th of December. Usually, staff is engaged in a week long review process of the work implemented and end with a party on the final day of the week.

The end of year staff party is used to promote team bonding, cohesion and reduce burn out created by the year's activities. It gives the team a time to be away from work and discover each other's other side of life. They get involved in a number of ac

tivities including games and sports and other social amenities.

For 2013, celebrations started earlier on 19th with annual review at Ivys's Hotel Nateete where all staff presented the account of their activities in 2013. This exercise is one of the ways through which HRAPF assess progress on an annual basis for the implementation of project activities. After the annual review, HRAPF staff proceeded on the 20th to Aero Beach Entebbe for the end of year staff party. At the beach, staff took part in swimming, football match, volleyball and lots of eats and drinks.

HRAPF staff boat cruising on Lake Victoria



HRAPF staff presenting annual reports during the 2013 annual review at Ivy's Hotel Nateete Kampala.



Update on the Internship Program



Linette Du Toit

HRAPF's Internship Programme continued to attract more legal students from outside Uganda. The programme that is implemented under the administration component attracts both national and international students especially from the field of law and Social work to learn from HRAPF's work and vice versa.

In the last quarter of 2013, HRAPF hosted Ms. Linette Du Toit from the University of Pretoria. Linette is a student on the University of Pretoria's LLM in Human Rights and Democratisation in Africa. She is a South African with deep interest in human rights especially the rights of marginalised groups.

During her internship at HRAPF, she worked under the Legal Department and the Legislative Advocacy and Networking Department.

During the year 2013, the Internship program hosted 6 interns. Two of the interns were from Makerere University yet the four were from other countries including the USA, Canada and South Africa.

HRAPF believes that interns are a great resource for the growth of the organisation. We learn from them and share our expertise and experience with them. At moments when literally every HRAPF staff member busy, the interns help fill in. In addition, interns come with fresh thinking and often initiate new areas of work for an organisation.

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