

**Laws are not Enough: Citizens Against  
Corruption in Police and Judicial  
Institutions**

**Police Community Partnership Forum**

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## **Background on NAFODU**

The National Foundation for Democracy and Human Rights in Uganda is a civic non partisan, not profit making, non governmental organization, registered under the Non Governmental Organization Registration statute of Uganda (1989). The Foundation was formed in 2000 by a group of youth with the major aim of promoting Democracy, human rights and good governance in Uganda. The Foundation also aimed at monitoring the 2001 presidential, parliamentary, local and village council elections

**NAFODU's Vision** is to have a democratic Uganda where government is accountable to its citizens and in which all the citizens freely and willingly participate in the social, political and economic affairs of the Country

**The Foundations mission** is to promote and strengthen democracy, human rights and good governance in Uganda through election monitoring, lobbying and advocacy, civic education, training, information Dissemination and conflict resolution

**NAFODU's Strategic (development) objectives are**

- I. To work towards strengthening and consolidating instruments, institutions and operation of democracy in Uganda
- II. To consolidate the respect and observance of human rights and tenets of good governance in Uganda

### **Partnership between NAFODU and PTF**

PTF support towards NAFODU begun in 2007. In 2007 PTF provided a grant to NAFODU that was used to implement a media campaign through a series of radio broadcasts that lasted for the whole year. After implementing this project, PTF made a final assessment of the project and it found out that the project was highly successful and hence renewed support for another project. In June, 2008 the Partnership for Transparency Fund approved a grant of \$30,000 to the National Foundation for Democracy and Human Rights in Uganda (NAFODU) to sponsor a Corruption Awareness and Prevention program in the Kigezi region of southwestern Uganda. NAFODU II was a continuation of an earlier PTF funded project (NAFODU I) which launched a media campaign against corruption.

The 2008 project objective was to raise public awareness and reduce corrupt practices in local government and the private sector. To this end, the project design had the following outputs.

- I. A network of trained volunteer monitors at sub-country, parish and village levels who will continue to monitor government programs and ensure that there is transparency and accountability
- II. Twelve monthly interactive radio call in programs called Iraka Ryawe on three radio stations (Voice of Kigezi, Radio Rukungiri and Ratio Ankole).
- III. A bi-annual corruption report documenting corruption cases
- IV. Promotion of public activism and recourse

### **Background on Police Community Partnership Forum**

In 2009, NAFODU approved an urgent request for funds from PTF to implement a project aiming at Police corruption prevention and saving the Integrity within the Police in South Western Uganda. The project which is being implemented involve a series of activities that will generate a debate on measures to reduce Police corruption by changing the way the Police operate and managed as well as build public trust and confidence in the Police Force. In September 2008, NAFODU conducted its first Integrity Survey in south western Uganda. According to the findings, the survey established that Police is the most Corrupt Institution in south Western Uganda. Most households regard the Police Force as the most corrupt institution followed by the Traffic Police. This is also in line with the report that was released by the Inspectorate of Government in November, 2008, which also ranked Police as the most corrupt institution in the Country.

Following a series of discussion with PTF regarding the impact of the project, PTF requested NAFODU to first organize the meetings with top Police Officials in the Districts of south western Uganda with which the outcome would be a memorandum of understanding with the Police that would show their willingness to participate in this program. Following this request, NAFODU organized the meetings with Police Officials in the five districts of south western Uganda, namely Kabale, Kisoro, Kanungu, Rukungiri and Ntungamo. The meetings established that there is a community of interest shared by both the Police and NAFODU for addressing corrupt Police practices. The Police also indicated that they are willing to improve their image in the community and have embarked on a program of community policing to further that objective. NAFODU had identified four main areas where police abuse currently exists and where improvements are needed. These are: (i) demand for mobilization fees to register cases, which typically affects the poor most dramatically; (ii) misuse of the police bond; (iii) frequent transfer of cases files between police officers leading to payment of extra fees and lastly Loss of case files.

### **Objectives of the Project**

- **Overall objective of the project**
- The overall objective of the project is to undertake activities aimed at improving police community service, reducing corruption and reinforced police community integrity.
- **Specific objectives**
- To ask people whether they had actually paid Police a bribe in the past 6 months or know of any one who paid a bribe through a survey
- To provide information to the public about police community partnership with NAFODU and the laws governing the conduct of the police through a series of radio broadcasts.
- To improve police understanding of their own codes of conduct, their performance within the police community and to promote justice and fairness in the region through Police Ethics training.
- To Prevent Police abuses and promote citizen outreach, networking of NAFODU Monitors through public information campaign.

### **Project accomplishments**

- Developed a Monitoring Program for Tracking the Conduct and Behaviour of Police in South Western Uganda. NAFODU worked with the monitors on this project to build public trust and confidence in the work of the Police, improve Police Integrity and prevent Police Corruption in south western Uganda.
- NAFODU organized a baseline survey to ask people whether they had actually paid Police a bribe in the past 6 months or know of any one who paid a bribe. At the end of the project. At the end of the project, NAFODU will organize the end of project survey to determine if there had been any improvement in police behavior in the four areas of abuse that have been the focus of the project
- To ensure local presence in each district, NAFODU established district based Offices in Kisoro, Kanungu, Rukungiri and Ntungamo with each district having its coordinator appointed by NAFODU. The coordinator will be responsible for handling complaints from the public against Police personnel and their misconduct. The coordinator will liaise with Police in the District.
- Organized Police Commanders meeting that enabled Police Officers to share experiences regarding Police integrity and how best the Police can regain public trust and confidence. The meeting led to development of strategies for improving Police Integrity
- 180 Police officers were trained. The training enabled the Police Officers to understand their codes of conduct, the Constitution, basic standards of policing in Uganda and to know where their power derives from

- Using radio programs to foster dialogue and promote police accountability. NAFODU sponsored weekly one hour radio programs on six local FM Radio stations with public information about laws governing payment or non payment of fees. Radio Programs raised awareness and stimulate dialogue on police behavior and how this affects to justice, transparency and accountability and social issues in South-Western Uganda.

## **Conclusion**

- As Activists, we must admit that the work of the police in our society today is dangerous. Everyday police officers risk their lives for our sake. They expose themselves to a lot of harm and death. In the past few months, several police officers have been shot dead at banks and on the highways. So the work of the police is such that nobody should expect them to do it with little or no motivation from their respective governments. Governments should note that commissioning police officers at very little pay is doing a great disservice to nations. It is like giving them a license to go and rob civilians. It is like providing them with a justification for their criminalities, illegalities and atrocities. However, Its important to note that the low pay Police Officers receive should not be a reason why they should become arm robbers in uniform, and convert the police stations into extortion and exploitation grounds.
- Police in Uganda need total, thorough and comprehensive reform that will equip, enable and motivate officers to fulfill their constitutional roles. This reform is needed to restore the credibility and integrity of the police force which is the aim of the NAFODU Police Community Partnership Forum. We hope the established forum will promote police integrity, promote police-community relations thereby building public trust and confidence in the work of Police. This will lead to competent, courageous, committed and incorruptible officers. It is important to note that this is not going to be an easy task given the depth of decadence and ineptitude in the Police force. But NAFODU believes it is possible. It is realizable. In fact a credible police force is absolutely necessary to move Uganda forward. Hence there is need to make police reform a priority. Otherwise all the efforts to enthrone the rule of law would end up in futility.

**END**