



Your Constitutional Watchdog

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



One of the Logos designed by the students during the creative design competitions under the "Students Rock The Vote" Project.

## **ABOUT CCG**

### **OUR VISION**

A just and equitable society in all target countries with citizens at the center of their constitutional governance.

### **OUR MISSION**

Transformation of governance leadership through civil society driven initiatives with the broader governance partnership of state governments, regional organizations and the citizens.

### **MANDATE**

Making the constitution a people's document, by ensuring that they fully understand their constitutional rights and obligations and are at all times able to defend it.

### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

- (i) Promoting constitutionalism and constitutional governance
- (ii) Promoting democracy through creating platforms for discourse, debate and activism
- (iii) Promoting integrity of the democratic processes by advocating for effective policy, legal and institutional mechanisms
- (iv) Strengthening the CSOs regional state organizations and citizens through constitutional governance

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Foreword.....	4
Highlights of the Year.....	6
Our Work	
1. Constitutional Literacy Program.....	6
2. Hope Initiative Program .....	7
3. Human Rights .....	9
4. Oil Governance.....	10
Challenges faced.....	11
Pictorial Coverage.....	11

## **FOREWORD**

The politically charged 2016 general elections narrowed civil political space for many Ugandans and this was characterized by highly contested elections and contested legitimacy. CCG's year of 2015 (2015/2016) has been branded by quality voter education across the 25 universities involving youths of different political divides. Each transient year in Uganda's political campaign system brings new encounters. The escalating shocks to our changing governance environment, the hastily passed draconian laws by our parliament, collapsing service delivery, brutality by the Police, collapsing rule of law and the ever increasing corruption and youth unemployment are all keeping advocates for good governance and constitutionalism busy for a peaceful political transition.

There are numerous efforts aimed at ensuring that the educated youths turn up into big numbers to vote just like the rural and uneducated youth. CCG's voter education campaign in the 25 universities countrywide focused on issues (youth employment, quality of education, creativity and innovations and quality health care for all) that affect the youth. The five (5) thematic areas of the voter education campaign were covered through the monthly engagements and public dialogues both at the universities and the community.

There were ably demonstrated talents and skills during the creative design competitions where all youth were invited to make presentations in terms of essays, poems, plays, logos, plays and slogans on how they want to be involved and rally fellow youths to peacefully participate in the 2016 general elections. This competition was climaxed with an interface of all the 25 universities at Makerere – Food Science Auditorium on 19th Nov 2015.

In an age where young people are being used to fight in ethnic, religious and other unprincipled conflicts, it is refreshing to listen to students articulating such critical concepts of nation building as; constitutionalism, political pluralism, citizenship rights and responsibilities and human rights.

A mixture of constitutional literacy and the Hope Initiative program, therefore, is an important platform for these mentorship processes and should cut across not only the political divide but the generational one as well. This means we should have an intergenerational discourse where our political history is learned,

internalized and institutionalized and where progressive civic education becomes part and parcel of present and future electoral processes.

So what should we do to make this effort sustainable? We have invested a lot in setting up HI clubs in the 25 universities that we operate in, and in my opinion the result have been beyond our most ambitious expectations. The process has, therefore, matured and needs to be broadened and deepened. The number of young people that are enjoying these civic education interfaces should be increased for the benefit of the country. This will entail involving more university campuses in the dialogues and interfaces.

These were the outstanding achievements for CCG in the year of 2015 and we, therefore, hope that through these humble efforts of civil society, the political forces in this country will sit and peacefully chart out Uganda's future in the next elections.



**Okwiri Rabwoni**  
**Executive Director**

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR**

CCG held a number of Meetings both in the universities and with the general population on constitutional literacy and the broad civic education campaign on governance and development in Uganda including key sessions on voter education on the general elections of 2016, gender, human rights and oil governance in Uganda.

## **OUR WORK**

### **1. Constitutional Literacy**

CCG established a working relationship with Parliament of the Republic of Uganda; Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme, Uganda (UNDP) on joint constitutional engagements after the National Conference on the Constitution, held on 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 2013.

This relationship later resulted into a lot of work in terms of policy analysis, constitutional reforms and the National dialogue on Democracy Day.

#### **Activities under this programme include:**

- Policy analysis and engagements
- Simplifying and translating the constitution into eight major local languages and disseminating it;
- Constitutional literacy campaign;
- Mobilization and sensitization on constitutional rights and obligations;
- Advocating for harmonization of policies on governance within the region e.g. electoral laws, migration laws;
- Public dialogue for interface between government agencies and the citizens and training of trainers (TOT) for massive sensitization on constitutional rights and obligations. The expected outputs include: citizens are more knowledgeable about their constitutional rights and responsibilities;
- Cardinal constitutional principles are respected and restored; citizens have means and avenues for expressing their needs and concerns and for holding political leaders accountable;

- Increased understanding and participation of citizens in EAC Political integration process;
- Feedback and accountability processes between governments and the citizens are enhanced and development of a critical mass to effect the sensitization programme.

## **2. Hope Initiative Program**

The “Students Rock The Vote” Voter education project in the 25 universities started on 1st July 2015 and ended on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2016. It was funded by Democratic Governance facility –DGF. The project aimed to raise students participation in Uganda’s electoral processes at all levels. Its main objectives were to enable the students understand the need to participate in elections through registration and voting, to enable students influence youths programming and advocate for a responsive government through engagements with the various political leaders. This project was derived from the backdrop that Uganda has the world’s youngest population, with over 78% below 30 years and it’s estimated from the 2014 census draft report that 7.7 Million voters will be youths (people aged between 18-30 years). This makes the youths Uganda’s single largest voting group in the 2016 elections. There are numerous efforts aimed ensuring that the educated youths turn up to vote just like the rural and uneducated youth during the 2016 general elections.

CCG’s voter education campaign in the 25 universities countrywide focused on issues (youth employment, quality of education, creativity and innovations and quality health care for all) that affect the youth. The active citizenry by students created through monthly and interface debates, and dialogues between students and representatives of political parties made presidential candidates view the university students as a viable constituency to be mobilized.

We covered all the five (5) thematic areas of the campaign through our monthly engagements and public dialogues. Students also interfaced with representatives of the main contenders in the general elections and put forward their issues and demands.

Students’ active citizenry for the general elections was tested through the creative design campaign for Youth Rock The Vote. The students participated through writing essays, poems, songs, plays and logos. Several essays, poems, songs, plays and logos were received from student across the 25 universities and

56 were selected for publication. These pieces clearly spell out the issues, demands and expectations of the students. They were used during the voter education campaigns to rally more students to vote during the 2016 general elections and the copies were also published on CCG's website.

We equally had an amazing participation of Students in the National Youth Council (NYC) elections right from the grass root to the national level. A total of 60 students participated nationwide. Ms. Aber Lilian who emerged as the Chairperson of the NYC is a Hope Initiative Club alumnus of Makerere University.

Other successes registered during this reporting period were the election of the National Female Youth MP, Youth MPs and Councilors at the different levels. During these elections, Hon. Anna Ebaju emerged as the National Female Youth MP and Hon. Ishma Mafabi, Youth MP Eastern region. Some of the successful councilors were Ms. Angella Anyango, Female Youth Councilor V Pader District and Ms. Jackline Nabumba, Woman Councilor 3 Mutundwe B. All the above personalities are alumni of Hope Initiative from Makerere University, Islamic University in Uganda, Gulu University and Cavendish University respectively

There was also remarkable number of Hope Initiative club members who actively got engaged in the campaigns for candidates of their choice including taking on high profile roles at the various campaign secretariats. This greatly reduced the apathy normally exhibited by university students during election campaigns. In addition, all presidential candidates took this constituency of university students more seriously in this race compared to the previous campaigns and many youths (alumni of Hope Initiative) vied for different political positions at different levels.

### **3. Human Rights**

Center for Constitutional Governance (CCG) is still the current chair of the rights of minority groups in the on-going development of the National Action Plan for Human rights (NAP) in Uganda; the chair of youth cluster as well. CCG has also been elected chair of the Social Affairs committee under the AU CSO Cooperation.

CCG coordinates the rights of women, youth, children, indigenous communities and minority groups in this NAP Development Process. This mandate to promote human rights, rule of law and constitutionalism in Uganda that is cardinal to our work as a constitutional watchdog comes at a time

when Uganda's record in governance, rule of law and human rights is at its lowest, with the passing of draconian laws like the Anti-Homosexuality Act, The Public Order Management Act, The Anti-Pornography Act commonly known as the Mini Skirts Act, The NGO Amendment Bill 2013, Press and Journalists Act, Uganda Communications Regulatory Authority Act, Regulation of Interception of Communication Act, 2010, among others.

These draconian laws have clauses that contradict the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, as amended and affect mostly the youths, women and minority groups including LGBT communities in Uganda. These laws have made Uganda a repressive state when it comes to the promotion and protection of human rights. The narrowing space of civil society organizations through the NGO Act Amendments has also accelerated the compromise on human rights in the country, with the rise in the authorities especially the police in abusing individual human rights.

CCG uses its Hope Initiative Model as its approach to advocacy by putting communities at the center of advocacy for the issues that affect them and the Human Rights Programme is also delivered in the same aspect. CCG is politically non-partisan and always uses the Constitution – the Supreme Law of the Land, in benchmarking its work. We defend and promote democracy with due respect to the rule of law and human rights.

#### **4. Oil and Gas Governance**

Governance and Policy Issues in Uganda's Oil and Gas Sub-Sector, if managed properly and in an environmentally responsible way, oil and gas production has the potential of boosting the economy of the country. It can also be a curse if its governance framework is flawed and its management is not transparent and open.

As such, the governments of resource-rich countries face the daunting but surmountable challenge of devising institutional and legal frameworks that ensure maximum benefit for its citizens. The experience from oil and mineral producing African countries such as Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon and Angola show that benefits arising from the discovery of oil and minerals is intuitively linked to the quality of governance in the country which also defines the quality of governance of the oil and the minerals sector.

Whether a country avoids the oil curse is largely dependent on how the sector is managed from the time of discovery, exploration and extraction. It is therefore important that at the very initial stages of the sector, the institutional and legal frameworks to manage the sector are strong enough to cater for all the critical issues in the sector such as environmental, economic, political governance and security concerns.

### **Challenges faced**

The key challenges faced during the implementation of this project were political interference, narrowing of civic space for engagements at the universities and the community in general, the demand by some political leaders to use the Hope Initiative Network for their partisan mobilizations, and monetization of politics. State intimidations, police requirements and scrutiny during the campaign periods equally affected smooth implementation of the planned activities though at later time were sorted.

#### **(i) Pictorial Coverage**



A cross section of the youth that attended the creative design finals at Makerere – Food Science Auditorium on 19<sup>th</sup> Nov 2015



Youth performing a play on the dos and don'ts during elections titled "Your Vote Can"



One of the slogans in the competition