THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF UGANDA AT KAMPALA

CONSTITUTIONAL PETITION No. 7...+OF 2020

- 1. CHAPTER FOUR UGANDA
- 2. CENTER FOR CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE | PETITIONERS

VERSUS

ATTORNEY GENERAL

RESPONDENT

NOTICE OF PRESENTATION OF PETITION

To: The Attorney General's Chambers, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, P.O. Box 7183, Kampala.

TAKE NOTICE that the Chapter Four Uganda and Center for Constitutional Governance have filed a Petition against you in this Court. You are hereby required to file an answer within 10 days after the Petition has been served on you.

SHOULD YOU fail to file answer on or before the date above mentioned, Petitioners may proceed with the Petition which may be determined in your absence.

GIVEN under my hand and seal of this Honourable Court this . day of June, 2020

REGISTRAR, CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

Drawn and Filed by:
Messrs Signum Advocates,
3rd Floor Unicalo House,
Plot 11, Archer Road Kololo
P.O. Box 4846,
Kampala, Uganda



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF UGANDA AT KAMPALA

CONSTITUTIONAL PETITION No.D.A. OF 2020

- 1. CHAPTER FOUR UGANDA
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VERSUS

ATTORNEY GENERAL

] RESPONDENT

PETITION

[Petition for declarations and an order under Article 137 (1), (2), (3) and (7) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995 and Rule 3 of the Constitutional Court (Petitions and Reference) Rules 2005]

The Humble Petition of Chapter Four Uganda and Centre for Constitutional Governance whose registered places of business are at Plot 2 Wampewo Avenue, P. O. Box 33159, Kampala, Uganda and Plot 14, Muwafu Road, Ministers Village Ntinda, P. O. Box 72340, Kampala, respectively shows as follows: —

PARTIES

- Your 1st Petitioner is an independent, not-for-profit, non-partisan organization registered under the Non-Governmental Organizations Act, 2016 as a human rights organization dedicated to the protection of civil liberties and promotion of human rights for all in Uganda.
- Your 2nd Petitioner is a regional non-governmental organization, under the Non-Governmental Organizations Act, 2016 established to promote constitutionalism, good governance and strengthening civil society and other social institutions in Uganda.
- 3. Your Petitioners' address of service for these proceedings is Messrs Signum Advocates, 3rd Floor, Unicalo House, Plot 11, Archer Road-Kololo, P. O. Box 4846, Kampala.

4. The Respondent is, by virtue of Article 119 and 250 (1) and (2) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995 ("the Constitution"), the mandated legal representative in all civil proceedings by or against the Government of Uganda.

BACKGROUND

- In keeping with its constitutional mandate to make laws for peace, order, development and good governance of Uganda, Parliament passed the Non-Governmental Organizations Act of 2016 (the NGOs Act of 2016);
- 6. The NGOs Act of 2016, signed into law in January 2016, repealed and replaced the Non-Governmental Organizations Registration Act, Cap 113 (as amended by the Amendment Act of 2006). In May 2017, the NGO Regulations, 2017 made by the minister of Internal Affairs under Section 55 of the NGOs Act, 2016 were passed, revoking the NGOs Registration Regulations, 2009 (SI No. 19 of 2009) which revoked the NGOs Registration Regulations (SI 113—1.)
- 7. The raft of legal reforms in Uganda's NGO legal and regulatory framework account for the dynamic changes adopted in the regulation and licensing of NGOs. The changes without limitation include the replacement of the National Board of NGOs (the Board) with the National Bureau of NGOs (the Bureau), introduction of new registration requirements and additional regulatory requirements.
- 8. Whereas Section 2(3) of the NGOs Registration Act, Cap 113 (as amended by Section 4(c) of the 2006 Amendment Act) expressly conferred corporate personality on an organization upon registration with the Board as an NGO, the NGOs Act of 2016 has no similar provision to that effect.
- 9. Unlike under Cap 113, where the promoters of an organization applying to the Board to be registered and incorporated as an NGO were, among others, only required to present a valid reservation of the organization's name with the Registrar of Companies under Regulation 5(1) (c) of the NGO's Registration Regulations, 2009, the registration of an NGO under the NGOs Act, 2016 is categorically reserved for incorporated entities.
- 10. Under Regulation 6 of the repealed NGOs Registration Regulations, 2009, the Board, upon registration of an NGO, issued a certificate of registration and incorporation. That certificate in Form B of the Schedule issued under the 2009 Regulations categorically certified that the NGO had been registered and incorporated.

11. The permit under Form C issued under Regulation 7 of the same Regulations stated that the organization had been issued with a permit to be a body corporate under the NGOs Registration Act.

GROUNDS FOR THE PETITION

- 12. Your aforementioned Petitioners are ardent advocates of the rule of law, constitutionalism, civic rights and freedoms and have an interest in the matters hereinbelow which they believe are inconsistent with and/or in contravention of the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995 and international covenants and declarations to which Uganda is a state party, as follows:
 - 12.1. THAT Sections 29 (2), (3) and (4), 31(2), (3), (4) (5), (6) and (7), 44 (a) and (h) of the NGOs Act of 2016 in requiring non-governmental organizations to incorporate under the Companies Act, 2012 or the Trustees Incorporation Act; obtain a certificate of registration with the National Bureau for Non-governmental Organizations; apply for a permit from the National Bureau for Non-governmental Organizations; obtain the approval of Districts Non-governmental Monitoring Committees and Local Government of an area; and sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Local Government prior to operating establishes a cumbersome administrative procedure, inhibits other than promotes the right to association provided under Article 29 (1) (e) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995.
 - 12.2. THAT Sections 40 (1), (d) and 2, 44 (c), (d), (f) and (g) of the NGOs Act of 2016 in requiring non-governmental organizations to cooperate with local councils, District Non-governmental Monitoring Committees and Subcounty Non-governmental Monitoring Committees; prohibiting non-governmental organizations from engaging in acts prejudicial to the security or laws of Uganda; prohibiting non-governmental organizations from engaging in acts prejudicial to the interest and the dignity of the people of Uganda; and to be non-partisan and not engage in supporting or opposing any political party or candidate for an appointive or elective office provides overly broad, undefine, vague obligations and creates offence that is overly broad and is in contravention of the principle of legality under Article 28 (12) and 44 (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.
 - 12.3. THAT Sections 40 (1) and (2); 41 (7) of the NGOs Act of 2016 in imposing criminal sanctions of imprisonment against anyone or members of an organization for failure to carry administrative requirement constitute a severe, an unjustifiable restrictions of the freedom of assembly, expression

- and association and are therefore in contravention of and inconsistent with Articles 29 (1) (e) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.
- 12.4. THAT Section 29 (1) of the NGOs Act of 2016, in restricting registration to a person or group of persons incorporated as an organization actively discriminates against unincorporated persons and effectively whittles away their right to freedom of association in contravention of Article 29 (1) (e) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.
- 12.5. THAT Section 29(1) and 31(2) of the NGOs Act of 2016, by requiring only an incorporated body to be registered and obtain a permit to operate as a non-governmental organization, creates an unnecessary preliminary process prior to the registration and obtaining of a permit in contravention of the duty of the State in respect of the right to freedom of association in contravention of Article 29 (1) (e) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda; Articles 2 (1) and (2), 22(1) and (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 10 (1) of the African Charter for Human and Peoples Rights.
- 12.6. THAT Sections 39(3)(c) of the NGOs Act of 2016 that mandates NGOs to submit any other information required of them by the NGO Bureau, the District NGO Monitoring Committee and the Sub-county NGO Monitoring Committee compromises the rights to freely associate and to privacy and contravenes Articles 27(2), 29 (1) (e) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda
- 13. Your Petitioners allege and shall demonstrate that the impugned provisions of the NGOs Act of 2016, read as a whole, have the effect of unjustifiably singling NGOs for discriminative treatment which is a contravention of the right to equality and freedom from discrimination guaranteed under Article 21(1) of the Constitution.
- 14. Your Petitioners allege and shall demonstrate that the impugned sections of **NGOs** Act of 2016 mentioned herein read as whole, violate the principle of proportionality, are un-justified and inappropriate for achieving the overarching objective to provide a conducive and an enabling environment for the NGOs sector while strengthening and promoting their capacity and mutual partnership with Government and violate articles 21(1), 29(1)(a), 43(2)(c) and objective XXVIII(i)(b) of the Constitution.
- 15. This Petition is supported by the affidavits sworn by the Petitioners attached hereto and any other affidavits and evidence that shall be made available before and during the hearing.

PRAYERS

- 16. WHEREFORE your humble Petitioners bring this Petition as aggrieved persons and in the public interest and humbly prays that this Honorable Court may be pleased to declare and order:
 - 16.1. THAT Section 29 (1) of the NGOs Act of 2016, in restricting registration to a person or group of persons incorporated as an organization actively discriminates against unincorporated persons and effectively whittles away their right to freedom of association in contravention of Articles 20, 21 and 29 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.
 - 16.2. THAT Sections 29(1) and 31(2) of the NGOs Act of 2016, by requiring only an incorporated body to be registered and obtain a permit to operate as a non-governmental organization, creates an unnecessary preliminary process prior to the registration and obtaining of a permit in contravention of the negative duty of the State in respect of the right to freedom of association in contravention of Articles 20, 29 (1) (e) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda; Articles 2 (1) and (2), 22(1) and (2) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 10 (1) of the African Charter for Human and Peoples Rights.
 - 16.3. THAT Sections 29 (2), (3) and (4); 31(2), (3), (4) (5), (6) and (7); 44 (a) and (h) of the NGOs Act of 2016, in requiring non-governmental organizations to incorporate under the Companies Act, 2012 or the Trustees Incorporation Act; obtain a certificate of registration with the National Bureau for Non-governmental Organizations; apply for a permit from the National Bureau for Non-governmental Organizations; obtain the approval of Districts Non-governmental Monitoring Committees and Local Government of an area; and sign a memorandum of understanding with the Local Government prior to operating establishes a cumbersome administrative procedure, inhibits other than promote the right to association provided under Article 29 (1) (e) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.
 - 16.4. THAT Sections 39(3)(c) of the NGOs Act of 2016 that mandates NGOs to submit any other information required of them by the NGO Bureau, the District NGO Monitoring Committee and the Sub-county NGO Monitoring Committee is in contravention of and inconsistent with Articles 27(2), 29 (1) (e) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

- 16.5. THAT Sections 40 (1), (d) and 2; 44 (c), (d), (f) and (g) of the NGOs Act of 2016 in requiring non-governmental organizations to cooperate with local councils, District Non-governmental Monitoring Committees and Subcounty Non-governmental Monitoring Committees; prohibiting non-governmental organizations from engaging in acts prejudicial to the security or laws of Uganda; prohibiting non-governmental organizations from engaging in acts prejudicial to the interest and the dignity of the people of Uganda; and to be non-partisan and not engage in supporting or opposing any political party or candidate for an appointive or elective office provides overly broad, undefine, vague obligations and creates offence that is overly broad and is in contravention of the principle of legality under Articles 28(12) and 44 (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.
- 16.6. THAT Sections 40 (1) and (2); 41 (7) of the NGOs Act of 2016 in imposing criminal sanctions of imprisonment against anyone or members of an organization for failure to carry administrative requirement constitute a severe, an unjustifiable restrictions of the freedom of assembly, expression and association and are therefore in contravention of and inconsistent with Article 29 (1) (e) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.
- 16.7. Costs of the Petition.

Dated at Kampala this 13 day of February 2020



COUNSEL FOR THE PETITIONERS

Drawn and Filed by:
Messrs Signum Advocates,
3rd Floor Unicalo House,
Plot 11, Archer Road Kololo
P.O. Box 4846,
Kampala, Uganda

To be served on:

The Attorney General's Chambers Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs P.O. Box 7183 Kampala.



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

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VERSUS

ATTORNEY GENERAL

| RESPONDENT

AFFIDAVIT of Nicholas Opiyo IN SUPPORT OF THE PETITION – 1ST PETITIONER

I, **NICHOLAS OPIYO**, of Messrs Signum Advocates, 3rd Floor, UNICALO House, Plot 11, Archer Road-Kololo, and P.O. Box 4846, Kampala Uganda do affirm and state as follows: —

A. INTRODUCTION.

- 1. THAT I am a male adult Ugandan of sound mind, the founder and Executive Director of the 1st Petitioner, well-versed with the facts surrounding this Petition and in which capacity and with due authorization depose this affidavit.
- 2. THAT the 1st Petitioner is duly incorporated under the laws of Uganda as an independent, not-for-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to the protection of civil liberties and promotion of human rights for all in Uganda. The 1st Petitioner mobilizes domestic, regional and international legal expertise to provide public interest litigation, strategic litigation, legal representation and lawyering as a means to access justice, obtain redress for the abuse of civil liberties and protect human rights, giving priority to cases with the farthest-reaching impact as well as those involving the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.
- 3. THAT as an advocate and Executive Director of the 1st Petitioner, I am an avid researcher and active participant in the activities of civil society with experience in

research and advocacy with respect to civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights in Uganda and other African countries.

- 4. THAT besides founding the 1st Petitioner in 2013, I was until March 2017 a member of the team of experts attached to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Peaceful Assembly and Association. I am also a Visiting Scholar at the Centre for African Studies at Stanford University in the United States of America (USA) and the Global Health Program at the University of San Francisco also in the USA. In addition, I am the Board Chair of Action Aid Uganda, a member of the Human Rights Advisory Board at BENETECH, a Silicon Valley human rights and technology company based in Palo Alto, California, USA, and also a member of the African Middle Eastern Leadership Project (AMEL), a Washington DC- based thinktank and action group.
- 5. THAT since 2005, I have worked tirelessly to defend civil liberties in Uganda through public interest litigation and advocacy for human rights including institution of petitions similar to the present one seeking constitutional interpretation. As a result of those efforts, I was the recipient of the 2015 Voices for Justice Award from Human Rights Watch, the 2015 Alison Des Forges Award for Extraordinary Activism, the 2016 European Parliament Sakharov Fellows Prize as well as the 2017 German Africa Award for Defending the rule of law and political liberty.
- 6. THAT as the Executive Director of the 1st Petitioner, and as a result of my commitment to the defense of civil liberties through my profession as a human rights lawyer and a practicing Advocate, I have participated in high profile litigation challenging laws that are restrictive of human rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda including the Anti-Homosexuality Act of 2013 which was declared null and void by the Constitutional Court for having been passed for want of quorum. As such, I have amassed immense knowledge and experience in areas of Uganda's constitutional law, as well as human rights law to which I depone hereunder.

B. THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ACT, 2016

 THAT in keeping with its constitutional mandate to make laws for peace, order, development and good governance of Uganda, Parliament passed the Non-Governmental Organizations Act of 2016 (the NGOs Act of 2016);

A copy of the NGOs Act of 2016 is attached and marked annexture "B"

- THAT this new Act, signed into law in January 2016, repealed and replaced the Non-Governmental Organizations Registration Act, Cap 113 (as amended by the Amendment Act of 2006).
- THAT in May 2017, the NGO Regulations, 2017 made by the minister of Internal Affairs under Section 55 of the NGOs Act, 2016 were passed, revoking the NGOs Registration Regulations, 2009 (SI No. 19 of 2009) which revoked the NGOs Registration Regulations (SI 113—1.)

A copy of the NGOs Regulations, 2017 is attached and marked annexture "C"

- 10. THAT raft of legal reforms in Uganda's NGO legal and regulatory framework account for the dynamic changes adopted in the regulation and licensing of NGOs. The changes without limitation include:
 - 10.1 the replacement of the National Board of NGOs (the Board) with the National Bureau of NGOs (the Bureau),
 - 10.2 introduction of new registration requirements; and
 - 10.3 additional regulatory requirements.
- 11. **THAT** by virtue of my role as the Executive Director of the 1st Petitioner, I have had an opportunity to extensively examine the NGOs Act, 2016 and its attendant regulations and critically assess their impact on the constitutional rights guaranteed under the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. The Petitioner has also taken expert counsel from its lawyers within and outside the Petitioner in an effort to both understand and appreciate the impact of the provisions of the NGOs Act, 2016.
- 12. **THAT** by virtue of my own assessment as a human rights lawyer and activist, I am alive to the right of freedom of association which is protected by the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, international and regional legal instruments and the legal standards for the protection and restriction of the right to freedom of association.
- 13. THAT on the basis of the aforementioned standards, it is observable that:
 - 13.1 The NGOs Act, 2016 provides for needlessly burdensome reporting requirements that hamper the functioning of NGOs contrary to the Constitution and international legal instruments to which Uganda is a party;

- 13.2 The NGOs Act, 2016 provides for intrusive oversight powers that constrain individuals' and NGOs' freedom of association;
- 13.3 The NGOs Act, 2016 requires NGOs to have state permission in order to operate thereby violating their internationally recognized right to freedom of association;
- 13.4 The NGOs Act, 2016 is discriminatory against foreign workers contrary to the right to non-discrimination under the Constitution and international legal instruments to which Uganda is a party;
- 13.5 The NGOs Act, 2016 provides vague grounds authorizing the dissolution of associations contrary to the principle of legality thereby chilling their freedoms of expression, assembly and civic participation as well as their freedom of association; and
- 13.6 The NGOs Act, 2016 actively discriminates against unincorporated persons and effectively whittles away their right to freedom of association in contravention of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

(I) Needlessly Burdensome Reporting Requirements

- 14. THAT whereas Section 2(3) of the NGOs Registration Act, Cap 113 (as amended by Section 4(c) of the 2006 Amendment Act) expressly conferred corporate personality on an organization upon registration with the Board as an NGO, the NGOs Act of 2016 has no similar provision to that effect.
- 15. THAT unlike under Cap 113, where the promoters of an organization applying to the Board to be registered and incorporated as an NGO were, among others, only required to present a valid reservation of the organization's name with the Registrar of Companies under Regulation 5(1) (c) of the NGO's Registration Regulations, 2009, the registration of an NGO under the NGOs Act, 2016 is categorically reserved for incorporated entities.
- 16. THAT under Regulation 6 of the repealed NGOs Registration Regulations, 2009, the Board upon registration of an NGO, issued a certificate of registration and incorporation. That certificate in Form B of the Schedule issued under the 2009 Regulations categorically certified that the NGO had been registered and incorporated.

A copy of the certificate in Form B is attached and marked annexture "D"

17. THAT the permit under Form C issued under Regulation 7 of the same Regulations stated that the organization had been issued with a permit to a body corporate under the NGOs Registration Act.

A copy of the permit under Form C is attached and marked annexture "E"

- 18. **THAT** the effect of this new arrangement is to require an NGO to go through multiple unnecessary steps before obtaining legal recognition as an NGO since they are required to be otherwise incorporated before being registered.
- 19. THAT the incorporation envisaged by the NGOs Act of 2016 is provided for under the Companies Act, 2012 and the Trustees Incorporation Act which set out specific procedures to be taken to obtain corporate status as a company limited by guarantee and/or a registered trust.
- 20. THAT having followed such steps to obtain incorporation, a requirement that itself discriminatorily locks out unincorporated persons from seeking registration as NGOs, the organization is required to apply for registration as an NGO, and then apply for a permit.
- 21. **THAT** the aforementioned registration and reporting requirements which can be gleaned from Sections 29(1) and (2), 31(1), (2), (3) and (5), 32, 39(2)(a) and (b), 39(3)(a) and (b), 39(4)(a), (b) and 40(a) of the NGOs Act as well as Regulations 4, 7, 8, 9, 12 and 15 of the NGOs Regulations are indicative of how bureaucratic and strenuous the procedural and documentary requirements imposed on NGOs are.
- 22. **THAT** besides making the entire registration process more onerous, the reporting requirements imposed under those provisions are intrusive, restrictive and arbitrary, having no consideration for the organizations' entitlement to the right to privacy.
- 23. **THAT** from the foregoing, it is clear that these requirements demand immense time and resources of the NGOs, and also impair their ability to carry on their activities and accomplish their objectives.
- 24. THAT from my training as a lawyer and more specifically, my work as part of the team of experts attached to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association (UN Special Rapporteur), I am alive to the international standards as well as the African standards applicable to the right to freedom of association.

- 25. **THAT** while in the legitimate interest of transparency and accountability, States may require that certain types of associations to file reports in accountability, international standards provide that requirements should, as much as possible, be the least intrusive and restrictive and any procedures for such purposes respect the individuals' right to privacy and shall not be arbitrary and discriminatory.
- 26. THAT the legislation of countries such as Turkmenistan and Kyrgyzstan has been condemned for imposing unnecessarily burdensome reporting requirements on NGOs, especially those that impose onerous obligations to report to authorities and those that allow for state intrusiveness and restrict the independence of associations.
- 27. **THAT** the foregoing observations all emphasize the fact that legislative provisions ought not to be restrictive and intrusive because the right to freedom of association presupposes a negative obligation on the State which requires minimal interference from the State.

(II) Intrusive Oversight Powers

- 28. THAT NGOs Act sections 39(3)(c) and (4)(c) and Regulation 45 of the NGO Regulations mandate NGOs to submit any other information required of them by the NGO Bureau, the District NGO Monitoring Committee and the Sub-county NGO Monitoring Committee. These powers similarly compromise the rights to freely associate and to privacy.
- 29. THAT since Respondent should not subject associations to undue audits, the warrantless searches available to the State at any time under Uganda's NGOs Act as well as the power the law gives the State to force an association to produce any document at any time both conflict with the principle that States should not have excessive oversight over associations.
- 30. **THAT** international best practices relating to the regulation of NGOs underscore the impermissibility of inspections aimed at verifying the compliance of associations with their own internal procedures.
- 31. **THAT** authorities must not have excessive oversight power over associations. Sections 20(4), 21(3), and sections 39(3)(c) and (4)(c) of the NGOs Act and Regulation 45 of the NGO Regulations clearly confer excessive powers of oversight relative to associations.

32. **THAT** furthermore, many countries require associations to disclose and/or publish details of their funding sources, and details of their key staff members. Whilst there is a legitimate expectation that associations should conform to lawful and proportionate standards of transparency and regulatory oversight, the requirements imposed under the NGOs Act are unconstitutional.

(III) Requiring State Permission to Operate

- 33. **THAT** sections 29(1) and 31(1) of the NGOs Act, 2016, read together with Section 3 of the NGOs Act and Regulation 3(1) of the NGO Regulations, require all NGOs to register and be issued with a permit before commencing operations. Similarly, NGOs Act section 44(1) and Regulations 41 and 42 require NGOs to obtain approval from District NGO Monitoring Committees and area Local Governments and to have signed Memoranda of Understanding with the latter prior to carrying out activities. Under Section 47 of NGOs Act, all Organizations affiliated with NGOs are required to be registered under the Act.
- 34. THAT in requiring NGOs to register and receive a permit before commencing operations and imposing criminal penalties on unregistered organizations, Uganda's NGO law violates the well-established international legal principle that the right to freedom of association equally protects both formal associations (that is, those formally established and registered) and informal associations without registration.
- 35. THAT the right to freedom of association applies to informal associations and does not require that a group be registered.
- 36. THAT the demonstrably justifiable registration procedures in free and democratic societies are governed by a notification rather than an authorization regime which entails a requirement for associations to notify authorities that it has been created to establish an association with legal personality.
- 37. THAT the precondition of state permission before operation runs afoul of the right to freedom of association guaranteed under the Constitution of Uganda.

(IV) Vague Grounds for the Dissolution of Associations

38. **THAT** Section 50(b) of the NGOs Act, 2016, lists "threatening national security" as a ground for dissolution of an Organization, without a definition of the term. This creates a ground for dissolution that is vague and overly broad and that may be

- applied arbitrarily, in contravention of the constitutional principle of legality, as well as the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association and the right to civic participation.
- 39. THAT vague or overly broad language authorizing suspensions or dissolutions enables the State to target associations to pursue aims that may not be legitimate in ways that may not be proportional.
- 40. THAT the suspension and the involuntarily dissolution of an association are the severest types of restrictions on freedom of association. As a result, international standards dictate that suspension and the involuntarily dissolution should only be possible when there is a clear and imminent danger resulting in a flagrant violation of national law, in compliance with international human rights law. It should be strictly proportional to the legitimate aim pursued and used only when softer measures would be insufficient.
- 41. **THAT** failing to comply with administrative obligations enshrined in national law is not a sufficient ground for dissolution moreover, if an association fails to comply with its reporting obligations, such minor violation of the law should not lead to the closure of the association or criminal prosecution of its representative; rather, the association should be requested to promptly rectify the omission.
- 42. THAT furthermore, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights Guidelines on Freedom of Association and Assembly in Africa emphasizes the seriousness of suspension or dissolution and underscores that it may only occur following a court order, a full judicial procedure, and the exhaustion of all applicable appeal mechanisms.

(V) Discrimination against Unincorporated Persons

- 43. **THAT** the NGOs Act, 2016, specifically limits registration as an NGO to "any person or group of persons incorporated as an organization" under Section 29(1) and does not take into account the fact that unincorporated persons also have a right to freedom of association guaranteed under the law and that they are entitled to equal protection of their rights under the law.
- 44. **THAT** the NGOs Act, 2016, outrightly locks out persons that are not formally incorporated under the Companies Act, 2012 or the Trustees Incorporation Act from being registered thereby violating the constitutional principles of non-discrimination.

C. CONCLUSION

- 45. **THAT Ss.** 29 (1) to (7), 31(2), 29 (2), (3) and (4), 39(3)(c), 44 (a), (c), (d), (f), (g) and (h) 40 (1), (d) and (2); 41 (7) and 45(c) of the of the NGOs Act, 2016 read as a whole, have the effect of unjustifiably singling NGOs for discriminative treatment which is a contravention of the right to equality and freedom from discrimination guaranteed under Article 21(1) of the Constitution.
- 46. **THAT** the impugned provisions of the **NGOs** Act of **2016**, read as a whole, have the effect of unjustifiably singling NGOs for discriminative treatment which is a contravention of the right to equality and freedom from discrimination guaranteed under Article 21(1) of the Constitution.
- 47. **THAT** the impugned sections of **NGOs Act** of **2016** mentioned herein read as whole, violate the principle of proportionality, are un-justified and inappropriate for achieving the overarching objective to provide a conducive and an enabling environment for the NGOs sector while strengthening and promoting their capacity and mutual partnership with Government and violate articles 21(1), 29(1)(a), 43(2)(c) and objective XXVIII(i)(b) of the Constitution.
- 48. **THAT** I swear this affidavit in support of a Petition for declaration that the impugned provisions contravene the Constitutionally guaranteed rights to privacy, expression, association and assembly and the principle of legality.
- 49. THAT whatever is stated herein is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sworn at Kampala by the Said **NICHOLAS OPIYO** this 13th day of February, 2020 [....]
Deponent

Before me

[.....ANUEL WANAIMBI - Eso AMONTORISSIONACT FOR WATER COMMISSIONACT FOR WORTHS P.O. BOX 26933, KAMPA WATER

Drawn and Filed by: Signum Advocates 3rd Floor, Unicalo House Plot 11, Archer Road- Kololo P.O. Box 4846 Kampala

To be served upon:

The Attorney General's Chambers Plot 7, Parliamentary Avenue P.O. Box 7183,

Kampala, Uganda.

dcl.justice@gmail.com



ACTS SUPPLEMENT No. 4

3rd March, 2016.

ACTS SUPPLEMENT

to The Uganda Gazette No. 14, Volume CIX, dated 3rd March, 2016. Printed by UPPC, Entebbe, by Order of the Government.

Act 5

Non-Governmental Organisations Act

2016

THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ACT, 2016

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

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- 1. Title
- 2. Commencement
- 3. Interpretation
- Objects of the Act

PART II—THE NATIONAL BUREAU FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5. Establishment of the Bureau
- 6. Functions of the Bureau
- Powers of the Bureau
- Common seal of the Bureau

PART III—BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 9. Membership of the board of directors
- Tenure of office of members of the board of directors
- Functions of the board of directors 11.
- Meetings of the board of directors
- Remuneration of the members of the board of directors 13.

PART IV—COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Committees and sub-committees
- 15. Procedure of committees and sub-committees

PART V—MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF THE BUREAU

16. Executive Director

Non-Governmental Organisations Act

Act 5

Section

- 17. Secretary to the Bureau
- 18. Other staff

PART VI—REGIONAL OFFICES OF THE BUREAU AND DISTRICT AND SUB COUNTY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS COMMITTEES

- 19. Branch offices of the Bureau.
- 20. District Non-Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee
- 21. Subcounty Non-Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee

PART VII—FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

- 22. Funds of the Bureau
- 23. Estimates
- 24. Power to open and operate bank accounts
- 25. Financial year of the Bureau
- 26. Accounts
- 27. Audit
- 28. Annual report

PART VIII—REGISTRATION AND INCORPORATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

- 29. Registration of organisations with the Bureau.
- 30. Refusal to register
- 31. Application and issue of permit
- 32. Renewal of a permit
- 33. Grounds for revocation of a permit
- 34. Registration of organisations incorporated outside Uganda
- 35. Exemption of organisations

PART IX—SELF-REGULATION, ADMINISTRATIVE AND REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

- Interpretation
- 37. Formation of self-regulatory body
- 38. Self-regulatory mechanisms
- 39. Annual returns, estimates and furnishing of information

Section

PART X- OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

40. Offences and Penalties

PART X-MISCELLANEOUS

- 41. Inspection
- 42. Protection from liability
- 43. Assistance to the Bureau
- 44. Special obligations
- 45. Staffing of organisations
- 46. Business operations of organisations
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PART XI—SAVINGS AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

- 57. Vesting of assets and liabilities
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SCHEDULES

Schedule 1—currency point

Schedule 2-Meetings of the board of directors

THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ACT, 2016.

An Act to repeal and replace the Non-Governmental Organisations Act Cap. 113; to provide a conducive and an enabling environment for the Non-Governmental Organisations sector; to strengthen and promote the capacity of -Governmental Organisations and their mutual partnership with Government; to make provision for the corporate status of the National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations and provide for its capacity to register, regulate, coordinate and monitor Non-Governmental Organisations activities; to provide for the board of directors; to provide for the establishment of branch offices of the Bureau, District Non-Governmental Monitoring Committees, Subcounty Non-Organisations Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committees, to make provision for special obligations of Non-Governmental Organisations and to provide for other related matters.

DATE OF ASSENT: 30th January, 2016.

Date of Commencement: See section 2.

BE IT ENACTED by Parliament as follows—

PART I—PRELIMINARY

1. Title

This Act may be cited as the Non-Governmental Organisations Act, 2016.

2. Commencement

This Act shall come into force on a date appointed by the Minister by statutory instrument.

3. Interpretation

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—

- "board of directors" means the board of directors established under section 9;
- "Bureau" means the National Bureau of Non-Governmental Organisations established under section 5;
- "CBOs" means Community Based Organisations;
- "Chairperson" means the Chairperson of the Board appointed under section 9;
- "Community Based Organisation" means an organisation operating at a subcounty level and below whose objectives is to promote and advance the wellbeing of the members of the community;
- "continental organisation" means an organisation that has its original incorporation in any African country, other than the Partner States of the East African Community, and is partially or wholly controlled by citizens of one or more African countries, other than the citizens of the Partner State of the East African Community, and is operating in Uganda under the authority of a permit issued by the Bureau;
- "currency point" has the value specified in Schedule 1;
- "dissolution" means the cessation of operations of an organisation, voluntarily or by order of the court;

- "DNMC" means District Non-Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee;
- "emergency situation" means a situation of a serious nature that develops suddenly and unexpectedly and poses an immediate risk to health, life, property or the environment;
- "Executive Director" means the Executive Director of the Bureau appointed under section 16;
- "foreign organisation" means an organisation that does not have original incorporation in any country, and is partially or wholly controlled by citizens of other countries, other than the citizens of the Partner States of the East African Community, and is operating in Uganda under the authority of a permit issued by the Bureau;
- "indigenous organisation" means an organisation that is wholly controlled by Ugandan citizens;
- "international organisation" means an organisation that has its original incorporation in a country, other than a Partner State of the East African Community and is partially or wholly controlled by citizens of one or more countries, other than the citizens of the Partner States of the East African Community, and is operating in Uganda under the authority of a permit issued by the Bureau;
- "Minister" means the Minister responsible for internal affairs;
- "Organisation" means a legally constituted non-governmental organisation under this Act, which may be a private voluntary grouping of individuals or associations established to provide voluntary services to the community or any part, but not for profit or commercial purposes;

"permit" means a permit issued by the Board under section 31, granting permission to an organisation to operate;

"regional organisation" means an organisation incorporated in one or more of the Partner States of the East African Community, and which is partially or wholly controlled by citizens of one or more of the Partner States of the East African Community, and which is operating in Uganda under the authority of a permit issued by the Bureau;

"register" means a record of all organisations registered under the Act that is maintained by the Bureau in both electronic and hard copy; and

"SNMC" means Subcounty Non-Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee.

4. Objects of the Act

The objects of this Act are to—

- (a) establish an administrative and regulatory framework within which organisations can conduct their affairs;
- (b) promote and require organisations to maintain high standards of governance, transparency and accountability;
- (c) promote a spirit of cooperation, mutual partnership and shared responsibility between the organisations sector, the Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government and other stakeholders dealing with organisations;
- (d) provide the development of strong organisations and to facilitate the formation and effective function of organisations for public benefit purposes;
- (e) promote and strengthen the capacity of the organisations sector that is sustainable and able to deliver services professionally;

- (f) promote the development of self-regulation among organisations;
- (g) provide an enabling environment for the organisations sector;
- (h) strengthen the capacity of the Bureau; and
- promote and develop a charity culture that is voluntary, non-partisan and relevant to the needs and aspirations of the people of Uganda.

PART II—THE NATIONAL BUREAU FOR NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

5. Establishment of the Bureau

- There is established a National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations.
- (2) The Bureau shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession and a common seal and shall have power to sue and be sued in its corporate name.
- (3) The Bureau may for, and in connection with its functions under this Act—
 - (a) purchase, acquire, hold, manage and dispose of any movable and immovable property;
 - (b) enter into any contract or other transaction it may deem expedient; and
 - (c) do all acts and things as a body corporate may lawfully do.

6. Functions of the Bureau

The functions of the Bureau are-

 (a) to advise the Minister on the policy relating to the operations of organisations;

- (b) to formulate, develop and issue policy guidelines for DNMCs and SNMCs for the effective and efficient monitoring of the operations of the organisations;
- (c) to establish branch offices of the Bureau;
- (d) to formulate and develop policy guidelines for DNMCs, SNMCs, and CBOs;
- (e) to make recommendations to the relevant authorities with regard to employment of non citizens by an organisation, on whether an organisation may be exempted from taxes and duties or be accorded any other privileges or immunities;
- (f) to coordinate the establishment and functions of a National Non Governmental Organisations consultative and dialogue platform;
- (g) to establish and maintain a register of organisations;
- (h) to consider applications for issue and renewal of permits;
 and
- to perform any other function under this Act or as may be directed in writing by the Minister.

7. Powers of the Bureau

- (1) The Bureau shall have power to-
- (a) co-opt technical officers to deal with specific issues;
- (b) summon and discipline organisations by either—
 - (i) warning the organisation;
 - (ii) suspending the permit of the organisation;
 - (iii) exposing the affected organisation to the public;
 - (iv) blacklisting the organisation; or
 - (v) revocation of an organisation's permit; and
- (c) charge fees for any services performed by the Bureau.

(2) The Bureau shall before taking any action against an organisation under subsection (1), give the organisation the opportunity to be heard.

8. Common seal of the Bureau

- (1) The Bureau shall have a common seal which shall be kept in the custody of the Executive Director.
- (2) The affixing of the common seal of the Bureau shall be authenticated by the signature of the Executive Director.
- (3) Every document purporting to be an instrument issued by the Bureau, sealed with the official seal of the Bureau, and is authenticated in the manner provided by this section, shall be received and deemed to be such an instrument without further proof unless the contrary is shown.

PART III—BOARD OF DIRECTORS

9. Board of directors

- (1) The governing body of the Bureau is the board of directors.
- (2) The board of directors shall be appointed by the Minister and approved by Cabinet and shall consist of—
 - (a) a chairperson;
 - (b) a vice chairperson;
 - (c) two representatives from the Non-Governmental Organisations Sector in Uganda; and
 - (d) three other persons.
- (3) A member of the board of directors shall have proven experience of at least ten years in the relevant field.

- (4) At least one third of the members of the board of directors shall be female.
 - (5) A member of the board of directors shall—
 - (a) be a citizen of Uganda; and
 - (b) be of high moral character and proven integrity.
- (6) A member of the board of directors may resign his or her office by writing to the Minister or may be removed from office by the Minister on any of the following grounds—
 - (a) inability to perform the functions of his or her office arising out of physical or mental incapacity;
 - (b) incompetence;
 - (c) conflict of interest;
 - (d) is convicted of a criminal offence in respect of which a penalty of imprisonment of one year or more is imposed without the option of a fine;
 - (e) is adjudged bankrupt;
 - (f) abuse of office; or
 - (g) failure to attend four consecutive board of directors meetings without prior permission of the chairperson, or absence from Uganda for more than twelve months.
- (7) Where a member of the board of directors dies, resigns or for any reason ceases to be a member, the Minister may appoint another person to take the place of that member, and the person appointed, shall hold office until the expiration of the term of the member in whose place he or she was appointed.

10. Tenure of office of members of the board of directors

A member of the board of directors shall hold office for a period of three years and is eligible for reappointment for one further term.

11. Functions of the board of directors

The board of directors is responsible for-

- (a) overseeing implementation of the Bureau's policies and programmes in the organisations sector;
- (b) reviewing and approving strategic plans of the Bureau;
- reviewing and approving the annual plans and budget of the Bureau;
- (d) approving the annual reports and accounts of the Bureau;
- (e) establishing and approving rules and procedures for proper financial management and accountability of the Bureau;
- (f) determining and reviewing the structure and staffing levels;
- (g) appointing staff of the Bureau;
- (h) establishing and approving rules and procedures for appointment, discipline, termination of services and general personnel matters;
- determining and reviewing terms and conditions of service of staff of the Bureau; and
- (j) performing such other functions as may be prescribed by law.

12. Meetings of the board of directors

The meetings of the board of directors shall be conducted in accordance with Schedule 2.

13. Remuneration of the board of directors

The chairperson, vice chairperson and members of the board of directors shall be paid such remuneration as the Minister may, in consultation with the Minister responsible for finance, determine.

PART IV—COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

14. Committees and sub-committees

- The board of directors may establish committees and subcommittees for the efficient performance of their functions under this Act.
- (2) A committee or sub-committee established under this section may comprise members of the board of directors or members of the staff or both.
- (3) The board of directors may assign to any committee or subcommittee established under this section, functions subject to conditions and restrictions as the board of directors may determine.
- (4) A decision of the committee or sub-committee shall be subject to confirmation by the board of directors before being implemented.
- (5) A member of a committee or sub-committee shall disclose conflict of interest.

15. Procedure of committees and sub-committees

Except as expressly provided under this Act, the procedure of committees or sub-committees established under section 14 shall be prescribed by the board of directors.

PART V—MANAGEMENT AND STAFF OF THE BUREAU

16. Executive Director

- (1) There shall be an Executive Director of the Bureau who will be appointed by the Minister on the recommendation of the board of directors for a period of four years, eligible for reappointment for one further term on terms and conditions specified in the instrument of appointment.
- (2) The Executive Director shall be a person of high moral character and proven integrity, with the relevant qualifications and experience in any of the following fields—
 - (a) public administration and management;
 - (b) law;
 - (c) economics; or
 - (d) any other applicable qualification.
- (3) The Executive Director shall be an ex-officio member of the board of directors.
- (4) The Executive Director shall be the chief executive officer of the Bureau and shall be subject to the general supervision and control of the board of directors, and shall be responsible for—
 - (a) the day to day operations of the Bureau;
 - (b) the management of the funds of the Bureau;
 - (c) the administration and management of the property of the Bureau;
 - (d) the supervision and control of the officers and other staff of the Bureau;
 - (e) keeping a register of registered organisations;
 - (f) implementing the decisions of the board of directors;
 - (g) reporting to the board of directors on the operations of the Bureau;

- (h) certifying documents upon payment of the prescribed fee;
 and
- performing any other functions assigned to him or her by the board of directors.
- (5) The Minister may, on recommendation of the board of directors, remove the Executive Director from office for—
 - (a) inability to perform the functions of that office due to infirmity of mind or body;
 - (b) misbehaviour or misconduct;
 - (c) incompetence; or
 - (d) is declared bankrupt.

17. Secretary to the Bureau

- (1) There shall be a Secretary to the Bureau who shall be appointed by the board of directors for a period of four years and is eligible for reappointment for one further term on terms and conditions specified in the instrument of appointment.
- (2) The Secretary to the Bureau shall be the Principal Legal adviser to the board of directors and Bureau;
- (3) The Secretary to the Bureau shall perform such functions as the Executive Director may direct and in addition, shall be responsible for—
 - (a) arranging the business at meetings of the board of directors;
 - (b) taking the minutes of the meetings of the board of directors;
 and
 - (c) keeping the records of the decisions and other policy records of the board of directors;
- (4) In the performance of his or her duties, the Secretary shall report to the Executive Director.
- (5) The Secretary to the Bureau shall possess the relevant professional qualifications.

18. Other staff

- (1) The board of directors may employ officers and employees as may be necessary for the proper and efficient discharge of the objects and functions of the Bureau.
- (2) The officers and employees appointed under this section shall hold office on terms and conditions determined by the board of directors.
- (3) Without prejudice to the general effect of subsection (2), the board of directors may provide for payment to its officers and employees of salaries, allowances, pensions, gratuities or other retirement benefits and may require them to contribute to any pension, provident fund or superannuation scheme.
- (4) Public officers may be seconded to the service of the Bureau or may otherwise give assistance to the Bureau.
- (5) The board of directors may, subject to any conditions and restrictions delegate any of its powers under subsection (1) to a committee of the board of directors, the executive director or any employee of the Bureau.

PART VI—THE DISTRICT AND SUB-COUNTY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION MONITORING COMMITTEES

19. Branch offices of the Bureau

- (1) There is established offices of the Bureau.
- (2) The functions of branch offices of the Bureau are—
- (a) to supervise DNMCs;
- (b) to maintain a register of the registered organisations and CBOs within the region;
- (d) to perform any other function that the Bureau shall deem fit and necessary for purposes of giving effect to this Act.

20. District Non-Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee

- (1) There is established a DNMC in each district.
- (2) The DNMC shall comprise of—
- (a) the Chief Administrative Officer who shall be the chairperson of the committee;
- (b) the District Community Development Officer who shall be secretary to the committee;
- (c) the District Health Officer;
- (d) the District Internal Security Officer;
- (e) a representative of organisations in the district;
- (f) the District Education Officer; and
- (g) the Secretary for gender and community services.
- (3) The committee may co-opt technical officers to deal with specific issues.
 - (4) The functions of the DNMC are to—
 - (a) to consider applications for registration by CBOs;
 - (b) to keep and update the register of CBOs;
 - (c) to monitor and supervise SNMCs;
 - (d) to recommend organisations to the Bureau for registration;
 - (e) to advise the district councils on matters of registration and monitoring of organisations;
 - (f) to monitor and provide information to the Bureau regarding activities and performance of organisations in the district;

- (g) to guide and monitor CBOs in the provision of their services; and
- (h) to implement policy guidelines for CBOs.
- (5) Community Based Organisations shall be required to register with the DNMCs.

21. Subcounty Non-Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee

- (1) There is established a SNMC in every sub-county in Uganda.
- (2) The SNMC shall comprise of—
- (a) the Senior Assistant Secretary who shall be the Chairperson of the committee;
- (b) sub county Community Development Officer of the subcounty who shall be secretary to the committee;
- (c) the sub county health inspector;
- (d) the Gombolola Internal Security Officer (GISO); and
- (e) a representative of organisations in the subcounty.
- (3) The functions of the SNMC are—
- (a) to recommend CBOs to the DNMC for registration;
- (b) to advise the DNMC on matters of organisations and CBOs in the subcounty;
- (c) to provide the CBOs in the subcounty with guidelines to enable them effectively participate in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes;
- (d) to monitor and provide information on activities of the organisations in the subcounty to the DNMC;
- (e) to report to the DNMC on matters of the organisations in the subcounty; and

(f) to perform any other function that the Bureau shall deem necessary for purposes of giving effect to this Act.

PART VII—FINANCIAL PROVISIONS

22. Funds of the Bureau

- (1) The funds of the Bureau shall consist of money appropriated by Parliament for the purposes of the Bureau.
- (2) All non-tax revenue raised by the Bureau shall be remitted to the consolidated fund.
- (3) The Bureau shall at all times comply with the Public Finance Management Act, 2015.

23. Estimates

- (1) The Executive Director shall, within three months before the end of each financial year, cause to be prepared and submitted to the board of directors for its approval, estimates of the expenditure of the Bureau for the next financial year.
- (2) The board of directors shall within two months after receipt of the estimates referred to in subsection (1) cause to be submitted to Parliament for approval the estimates of income and expenditures approved by the board of directors.

24. Bank accounts

The Bureau shall with the authority of the Accountant General open and maintain such bank accounts as are necessary for the performance of its functions.

25. Financial year of the Bureau

The financial year of the Bureau shall be the same as the financial year of Government.

26. Accounts

- (1) The Executive Director shall cause to be kept, proper books of accounts and records of the transactions of the Bureau.
- (2) The board of directors shall cause to be prepared and submitted to the Minister and Secretary to the Treasury in respect of each financial year, statement of accounts which shall include—
 - (a) a balance sheet, statement of income and expenditure and a statement of surplus or deficit; and
 - (b) any other information in respect of the financial affairs of the Bureau as the Minister responsible for finance may, in writing require.

27. Audit

- (1) The Auditor General or an auditor appointed by the Auditor General shall, in each financial year, audit the accounts of the Bureau.
- (2) The Bureau shall ensure that within four months after the end of each financial year, a statement of accounts under section 26 is submitted for auditing to the Auditor General or an auditor appointed by the Auditor General.
- (3) The Auditor General or an auditor appointed by the Auditor General shall have access to all books of accounts, vouchers and other financial records of the Bureau, and is entitled to any information and explanation required in relation to those records.
- (4) The Auditor General or an auditor appointed by the Auditor General shall, within four months after receipt of the statement of accounts, under subsection (2) deliver to the Bureau a copy of the audited accounts together with a report on the accounts.

28. Annual report

(1) The board of directors shall, within three months after the end of each financial year submit to the Minister the annual report of the activities of the Bureau.

(2) The Minister shall, within one month after the receipt of the annual report from the Bureau, submit the report to Cabinet.

PART VIII—REGISTRATION AND INCORPORATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

29. Registration of organisations with the Bureau

- (1) Any person or group of persons incorporated as an organisation shall register with the Bureau.
- (2) An application made under subsection (1) shall be accompanied by—
 - (a) evidence of statements made in the application as the Minister may prescribe by regulations;
 - (b) a certificate of incorporation;
 - (c) a copy of the organisation's constitution; and
 - (d) evidence of payment of the prescribed fee.
- (3) Upon compliance with the requirements of subsection (2), the Bureau shall register the organisation.
- (4) An organisation that has been registered remains registered until—
 - (a) its registration is cancelled in terms of this Act;
 - (b) the organisation is voluntarily deregistered; or
 - (c) the organisation is wound up or dissolved.

30. Refusal to register

- (1) An organisation shall not be registered under this Act—
- (a) where the objectives of the organisation as specified in its constitution are in contravention of the laws of Uganda;

- (b) where the application for registration does not comply with the requirements of this Act;
- (c) where the applicant has given false or misleading information in any material particular.
- (2) Where the Bureau refuses to register an organisation under subsection (1), the Bureau shall inform the applicant in writing of the reasons for the refusal within thirty days.

31. Application and issue of permit

- (1) An organisation shall not operate in Uganda without a valid permit issued by the Bureau.
- (2) Subsection (1) shall apply to organisations incorporated or registered under the Companies Act or Trustees Incorporation Act and those that fall within the definition of organisation under Section 3 of this Act.
- (3) An organisation shall apply to the Bureau for a permit, and the Bureau shall, within forty five days issue a permit subject to conditions or directions stipulated by this Act.
- (4) An application made under this section shall be in a form as the Minister may by regulations prescribe.
 - (5) An application made under this section shall specify—
 - (a) the operations of the organisation;
 - (b) the areas where the organisation may carry out its activities;
 - (c) staffing of the organisation;
 - (d) geographical area of coverage of the organisation;
 - (e) location of the organisation's headquarters; and
 - (f) date of expiry of the previous permit.
- (6) An application made under subsection (2) shall be accompanied by evidence of payment of the prescribed fee.

(7) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Bureau may issue an Organisation with a permit to operate for a period not exceeding five years at a time.

32. Renewal of a permit

- (1) Subject to section 31, an organisation shall apply for renewal of a permit within six months before the expiry of its permit.
- (2) An organisation applying for renewal of a permit will comply with subsection (4) of section 31.
- (3) The Bureau shall renew a permit if it is satisfied that the organisation has complied with the requirements of the permit and this Act.
- (4) An organisation that requires to change the conditions of the permit, or the area of focus or the geographical area of focus shall apply to the Bureau to have its permit reviewed.
- (5) The Bureau may review and renew the permit for an organisation applying under subsection (4).
- (6) An organisation whose permit expires, but continues to operate without renewal of its permit will be fined ten currency points in case of Community Based Organisation and one hundred currency points for any other organisation, for every month of operation in default of renewal of the permit.

33. Grounds for revocation of a permit

- (1) The Bureau may revoke the permit of an organisation if—
- (a) the organisation does not operate in accordance with its constitution;
- (b) the organisation contravenes any of the conditions or directions specified in the permit.

- (2) Before the Bureau revokes a permit under this section, it shall within thirty days from the date of notice in writing request the holder of the permit to show cause why the permit should not be revoked.
- (3) Where the Bureau revokes a permit under this section, it shall inform, in writing, the holder of the permit of the reason why the permit has been revoked.
- (4) Where the Bureau revokes a permit of an organisation under this section, the organisation shall, subject to the conditions for grant of a permit under this Act, be allowed to re-apply for a permit.

34. Registration of organisations incorporated outside Uganda

- (1) Any organisation incorporated outside Uganda which intends to operate in Uganda shall apply to the Bureau to be registered and issued with a permit.
 - (2) An application made under subsection (1) shall be-
 - (a) accompanied by the prescribed fee;
 - (b) a certified copy of certificate of incorporation from the country of incorporation; and
 - (c) a certified copy of its constitution, or charter or documents governing the organisation.
- (3) Subject to fulfilment of the requirements under subsection (2), the Bureau may proceed to register and issue a permit to such an organization.

35. Exemption of organisations

(1) The Minister may in an emergency situation, and in consultation with the Bureau, exempt an organisation from the requirements of registration and issue of a permit.

- (2) Any exemption made under sub section (1) shall not include payment of prescribed fees.
- (3) Subject to sub-section (1), the minister shall issue a provisional permit for the exempted organisation to operate for a period not more than six months.

PART IX—SELF-REGULATION, ADMINISTRATIVE AND REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

36. Interpretation

For purposes of this part—

- (a) "self-regulatory body" refers to a body set up by registered organisations that have come together and agreed that the body exercises some degree of regulatory authority over them upon consenting or resolving that they would abide by a set code of conduct, rules and procedures; and
- (b) "self-regulatory mechanism" means self-regulatory tools, rules and standards that organisations adopt to govern them in an agreed set up.

37. Formation of self-regulatory body

- (1) Two or more organisations may form a self-regulating body.
- (2) A self-regulatory body shall be registered with the Bureau.
- (3) An application for registration under this section shall be accompanied by—
 - the resolution of each of the organisations forming the selfregulatory body stating its willingness to be part of the selfregulatory body;
 - (b) the code of conduct of the self-regulatory body; and

- (c) any other information that the Bureau may reasonably require.
- (4) The code of conduct of a self-regulatory body shall be adopted by a special meeting of the policy making organ of the self-regulating body, attended by not less than three quarters of the voting members present.
- (5) A self-regulatory body under this section shall adopt its own structure, rules and procedure for the efficient administration of its activities.

38. Self-regulatory mechanism.

A self-regulatory body that has established a self-regulatory mechanism shall inform the Bureau of its existence and mode of operations.

39. Annual returns, estimates and furnishing of information

- (1) An organisation shall, in accordance with the generally accepted standards of accounting practice—
 - (a) keep accounting records of its income, expenditure, assets and liabilities; and
 - (b) within six months after the end of its financial year, draw up financial statements.
- (2) An organisation shall within two months after drawing up its financial statements, submit to the Bureau a report stating whether or not—
 - (a) the accounting policies of the organisation are appropriate and have been appropriately applied in the preparation of the financial statements; and

- (b) the organisation has complied with the provisions of this Act and of its constitution which relate to financial matters.
- (3) An organisation shall—
- (a) submit to the Bureau annual returns and a report of the audited books of accounts by a certified auditor;
- (b) declare and submit to the District technical planning committee, the DNMC and SNMC of the area in which it operates, estimates of of its income and expenditure, budget, work plan, information on funds received and the sources of funds; and
- (c) submit to the Bureau, DNMC and SNMC in the area of operation, any other information that may be required.
- (4) A Community Based Organisation shall—
- (a) submit to the SNMC in the area of operation, annual returns and a report of the audited books of accounts by a certified auditor;
- (b) declare and submit to the SNMC its budget, work plan, information on funds received and the sources of funds; and
- (c) submit to the SNMC, any other information that may be required.

PART X—OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

40. Offences and Penalties

- (1) An organisation or a person commits an offence who—
- (a) on being required to do so, fails or refuses to produce to the Bureau a certificate, permit, constitution, charter or other relevant document or information relevant for the purposes of this Act;

- (b) knowingly gives false or incomplete information for the purpose of obtaining a permit or other requirement;
- (c) operates contrary to the conditions or directions specified in its permit; or
- (d) engages in any activity that is prohibited by this Act.
- (2) Any person who contravenes subsection (1) commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding seventy two currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years or both, and in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding fifteen currency points for each day during which the offence continues after conviction.

PART XI—MISCELLANEOUS

41. Inspection

- (1) An inspector may, at any reasonable time inspect the premises of an organisation and may request for any information that appears to him or her necessary for purposes of giving effect to this Act.
- (2) An inspector may, investigate any matter for the purpose of ensuring compliance with this Act and may subject to the power of the Director of Public Prosecutions under Article 120 of the Constitution prosecute any person for an offence alleged to be committed under this Act.
- (3) Subject to the provisions of this section, the Bureau may designate from among its officers such number of inspectors as are necessary for carrying out the purposes of this section.
- (4) A person designated as inspector, shall be Gazetted in the national Gazette.

- (5) Notwithstanding the powers given to an inspector under this section, no inspection shall be done without prior notice of at least three days being given to an organisation stating the time and purpose of the inspection.
- (6) For purposes of this section, reasonable time refers to hours of 8:00am to 5:00pm on working days.

(7) A person who—

- (a) without any lawful excuse denies an inspector access to any property, books of account, records, returns, document or information requested for under this section;
- (b) knowingly presents to the inspector a false or fabricated document or makes a false statement with intent to deceive or mislead the inspector; or
- (c) without reasonable excuse, refuses or fails to comply with any order or direction of the inspector;

commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding twenty four currency points or to imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

42. Protection from liability

A member of the board of directors, an officer or an employee of the Bureau or a person acting on the directions of the Bureau is not personally liable for any act or omission done or omitted to be done in good faith in the exercise of the functions of the Bureau.

43. Assistance to the Bureau

Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government shall afford the Bureau all necessary assistance for purposes of giving full effect to this Act.

44. Special obligations

An organisation shall—

- (a) not carry out activities in any part of the country, unless it has received the approval of the DNMC and Local Government of that area and has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Local Government to that effect;
- (b) not extend its operations to any new area beyond the area it is permited to operate unless it has received a recommendation from the Bureau through the DNMC of that area;
- (c) co-operate with local councils in the area of its operation and relevant DNMC and SNMC;
- (d) not engage in any act which is prejudicial to the security and laws of Uganda;
- (e) restrict its operations to the area of Uganda in respect of which it is permitted to operate;
- (f) not engage in any act, which is prejudicial to the interests of Uganda and the dignity of the people of Uganda;
- (g) be non-partisan and shall not engage in fundraising or campaigning to support or oppose any political party or candidate for an appointive office or elective political office, nor may it propose or register a candidate for elective political office; and
- (h) have a memorandum of understanding with its donors, sponsors, affiliates, local and foreigner partners, if any, specifying the terms and conditions of ownership, employment, resources mobilised for the organisation and any other relevant matter.

45. Staffing of organisations

An organisation shall comply with the following in respect to staffing—

- (a) at the time of applying for registration, submit to the Bureau a chart showing its organisational structure as stipulated in its constitution accompanied by a statement—
 - specifying its foreign staff requirements where necessary;
 - (ii) indicating its requirements of Ugandan counterparts of the foreign employees; and
 - (iii) indicating the period for the replacement of its foreign employees with qualified Ugandans;
- (b) comply with any written law in Uganda relating to labour and employment services;
- (c) shall not employ a person who is not a citizen of Uganda unless that person has, before proceeding to Uganda for the purposes of the employment by the organisation, submitted to the Ugandan diplomatic mission in his or her country of origin for transmission to the Government of Uganda for consideration, for his or her suitability for the employment—
 - (i) certified details of his or her certificates, credentials and recommendations of his or her academic and professional qualifications and proven work experience; and
 - (ii) a certificate of clearance of no criminal record from his or her country of origin;
- (d) ensure that any remuneration including salaries, allowances, fringe benefits and other terms and conditions of service of the Ugandan employees of the organisation are reasonably comparable to those for the time being prevailing in the employment market in Uganda or reasonably comparable to those of their foreign counterparts.

46. Business operations of organisations

- (1) An organisation or a member or employee of the organisation shall not use the organisation directly or indirectly to engage in any gainful activities for individual interest, except for the economic interest of the organisation or in fulfilling its objectives.
 - (2) An organisation shall open and maintain a bank account.
- (3) Where an organisation receives monies in foreign currency, it shall open and operate a foreign currency bank account with a bank in which the currency shall be deposited and through which the transactions shall be conducted.
- (4) Except for fundraising purposes, where an organisation sells any goods or services to the public or to any other organisations, the prices of the goods and services shall be in conformity with the prices if any, prescribed by the Government for those goods and services or conformity with the open market prices in respect of those goods and services for the time being prevaling in Uganda.
- (5) Any sum of money received from the sale of any goods or services under subsection (4) in excess of the administrative costs incurred in the sale shall be reinvested in the project or as directed by the organisation.

47. Affiliated organisations

- (1) An organisation which is affiliated to another organisation registered under this Act shall not operate in Uganda, unless it has itself been duly registered under this Act.
- (2) For purposes of this section, affiliated organisation means an organisation which is formally or closely connected to or controlled by a nationally or internationally incorporated organisation or group.

48. Dissolution

The dissolution of an organisation may be either—

- (a) voluntary; or
- (b) by order of court.

49. Voluntary dissolution

- (1) Members of the organisation may by resolution in accordance with the constitution of the organisation, dissolve the organisation.
- (2) voluntary dissolution of the organisation shall be taken to have commenced at the time of passing the resolution under sub section (1).
- (3) where an organisation passes a resolution for voluntary dissolution, it shall, within fourteen days after passing the resolution—
 - (a) inform the Bureau of the resolution and the reasons for the resolution; and
 - (b) publish the resolution in the Gazzette and in any newspaper with wide circulation in Uganda.
- (4) A resolution for voluntary dissolution shall be registered with the Bureau and a copy sent to the official receiver within seven days after the date of passing the resolution.
- (5) Where default is made in complying with this section, the organisation and every officer of the organisation who defaults commits an offence and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding thirty currency points.
- (6) An organisation that has made a resolution for voluntary dissolution shall develop and submit to the Bureau and to the official receiver a statement of its affairs showing particulars of assets, liabilities, names, residence and occupation of the creditors and the securities held by them.

50. Dissolution by court

- (1) The jurisdiction in dissolution matters shall be exercised by the High Court.
- (2) Any person, organisation or bureau may apply to court for an order of dissolution of an organisation, on any of the following grounds—
 - (a) defrauding the public;
 - (b) threatening national security; or
 - (c) gross violation of the laws of Uganda.
- (3) where a person lodges a complaint against an organisation under subsection(2), court shall inquire into the affairs of the organisation.
- (4) Where an organisation is found guilty of any of the grounds stipulated in sub section (2), court shall move to dissolve the organisation.
- (5) It is an offence to cause an organisation, when it is being wound up or dissolved, to transfer its remaining assets otherwise than in the manner contemplated by this Act and the laws of Uganda.

51. Composition or scheme of arrangement

- (1) An organisation that makes a resolution for voluntarily dissolution shall make a scheme of arrangement showing how the organisation intends to deal with its assets and liabilities.
- (2) The scheme of arrangement shall be submitted to the official receiver and a copy shall be given to the Bureau.
- (3) For avoidance of doubt the scheme in subsection (1) shall consider the liabilities in accordance with the constitution of the organisation.

- (4) The official receiver shall have powers to vary the scheme where he or she is of the view that the scheme may not meet the needs of all the creditors.
- (5) The official receiver or a person appointed by court shall oversee the disposal of assets and liabilities of the organisation in accordance with the scheme or the direction of court.
- (6) where the organisation has met the requirements of this Act, and the provisions set out in the scheme of arrangement, the members of the organisation shall apply to court for an order of dissolution.

52. Adjudication and Appeals mechanism.

- (1) A person aggrieved by a decision of the SNMC or DNMC under sections 20 and 21 of this Act, shall appeal—
 - (a) from a decision of SNMC to DNMC; or
 - (b) from a decision of DNMC to the Bureau.
- (2) Where the DNMC or Bureau makes a decision against any organisation, it shall in writing inform the organisation of the reason for the decision.

53. Adjudication Committee.

- (1) There is established an adjudication committee to handle appeals by persons aggrieved by a decision of the Bureau.
- (2) The Minister shall constitute the adjudication committee by appointing its members to serve on terms and conditions specified in the instrument of appointment.
- (3) The adjudication Committee shall be constituted as follows—

- (a) a chairperson who shall be an advocate of the High Court of not less than ten years standing;
- (b) a representative of organisations;
- (c) a representative of the Bureau; and
- (d) two senior citizens.
- (4) Upon any complaint or appeal being made to the adjudication committee, the adjudication committee may—
 - (a) confirm, set aside, vary or quash the decision in question;
 - (b) require the Bureau to revise or review its decision; or
 - (c) make such other order as may be appropriate in the circumstances.
- (5) A person who is dissatisfied with the decision of the adjudication committee established under subsection (1) may appeal to the High court.
- (6) The Minister shall publish the general rules and guidelines to be used by the adjudication committee in execution of their functions under this Act.

54. Minister's Powers

The Minister may, subject to this Act, give to the Bureau written instructions of a general or specific nature relating to its functions to which it shall be bound to comply.

55. Regulations

(1) The Minister may, after consultation with the Bureau, make regulations for giving full effect to this Act.

- (2) Without prejudice to the general effect of subsection (1), regulations made under subsection (1) may prescribe the following—
 - (a) the form of application for registration;
 - (b) the form of a permit;
 - (c) the form of application for renewal of a permit;
 - (d) fees for foreign, indigenous, continental, regional and international organisations for purposes of application for registration and application for renewal of permits;
 - (e) the manner in which the organisation shall—
 - (i) be wound up when it ceases to operate;
 - (ii) carry out a search at the Bureau;
 - (iii) self regulate;
 - (iv) acquire tax exemption;
 - (v) submit annual returns;
 - (vi) replace its permit in case of loss or damage; and
 - (vii) notify the board on changes within the organisation and its constitution;
 - (f) terms and conditions that may be specified in the permit;
 - (g) the manner in which the Bureau shall handle complaints;
 - (h) fees for services rendered by the Bureau; and
 - (i) anything that is required or authorised to be prescribed under this Act.

- (3) The Minister may, by statutory instrument amend Schedule 1 to this Act, with the approval of Cabinet.
- (4) Regulations made by the Minister under this section shall be laid before Parliament.

56. Repeal of the Non-Governmental Organisations Act, Cap. 113 and savings

- (1) The Non-Governmental Organisations Act, Cap. 113 is repealed.
- (2) Any statutory instrument made under the Non-Governmental Organisations Act, Cap 113, repealed under subsection (1) and which is in force immediately before the commencement of this Act, shall remain in force, so far as it is not inconsistent with this Act, until it is revoked by a statutory instrument made under this Act and until that revocation, shall be deemed to have been made under this Act.

PART XII—SAVINGS AND TRANSITIONAL

57. Vesting of assets and liabilities

On the commencement of this Act—

- (a) all property and assets vested in the Board before the commencement of this Act shall be vested in the Bureau subject to all interests, liabilities, obligations and trusts affecting the property;
- any money held by or on account of the Board shall vest in the Bureau;
- all contracts, agreements and undertakings made by the Board and all securities lawfully given to or by it and in force immediately before the commencement of this Act have effect as contracts, agreements and undertakings by and with the Bureau and may be enforced by and against the Bureau; and
- (d) any proceedings commenced by or against the Board may be continued by or against the Bureau.

58. Continuation of the Bureau and employment of employees of the Board.

- (1) Notwithstanding the repeal in section 56(1), the Board established under the Non-Governmental Organisations Act, Cap. 113, shall continue to operate until the Minister appoints the board of directors, under section 9 of this Act.
 - (2) On the commencement of this Act—
 - (a) every person who, immediately before the commencement of this Act was employed by the Board becomes an employee of the Bureau and shall continue to be employed by the Bureau;
 - (b) the terms and conditions, including the salary, on which a person referred to in subsection (1) was employed immediately before the commencement of this Act, shall be no less favourable than those that applied to that person's office immediately before the commencement of this Act; and
 - (c) there is no break or interruption in the employment of such person because of the enactment of this Act.
- (3) Subject to subsection (1) (b), the terms and conditions of any employment referred to in subsection (1) may be varied after the commencement of this Act.
- (4) Nothing in this Act affects the pension rights under the Pensions Act of any person referred to in subsection (1).
- (5) For purposes of Sections 57 and 58 of this Act, reference to the Board means the Board established under the Non-Governmental Organisations Act, Cap. 113 repealed under Section 56(1) of this Act.

Act 5

59. Continuation of operation of organisations

An organisation and Community Based Organisation which existed immediately before the commencement of this Act and to which section 2(1) of the Non-Governmental Organisation Act, Cap. 113 applied, before the commencement of this Act, may continue to operate.

Act 5

Non-Governmental Organisations Act

2016

SCHEDULE 1

Sections 3

CURRENCY POINT

A currency point is equivalent to twenty thousand shillings.

SCHEDULE 2

Section 12

MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1. Meetings of the board of directors

- (1) The Chairperson shall convene meetings of the board of directors who shall meet at least once every three months at such places and at such times as may be decided upon by the board of directors.
- (2) The chairperson or in his or her absence the vice chairperson shall preside at every meeting of the board of directors and in the absence of both the Chair person and vice chairperson; the members present shall elect from among their number, an acting chairperson.
- (3) The Chairperson may, at any time, convene special meeting of the board of directors.
- (4) with the exception of a special meeting, notice of the board of directors meeting shall be given in writing to each member at least fourteen working days before the day of the meeting.

2. Quorum

The quorum for a meeting of the board of directors is five members.

3. Minutes of meetings.

- (1) The board of directors shall cause to be recorded and kept, minutes of all meetings of the board of directors in a form approved by the board of directors.
- (2) The minutes recorded under this paragraph shall be submitted to the board of directors for confirmation at its next meeting following that to which the minutes relate and when so confirmed, shall be signed by the Chairperson and the Secretary to the Bureau, in the presence of the members present at the latter meeting.

4. Decision of the board of directors

(1) All decisions at a meeting of the board of directors shall be by simple majority of the votes of the members present and where there is an equality of votes, the person presiding at the meeting shall have a casting vote.

(2) A decision reached by the board of directors shall be binding on all members.

5. Power to co-opt

- (1) The board of directors may co-opt any person who, in the opinion of the board of directors, has expert knowledge concerning the functions of the board of directors, to attend and take part in the proceedings of the board of directors.
- (2) A person co-opted under subparagraph (1) may take part in any discussion at the meeting of the board of directors on which his or her advice is required but shall not have any right to vote at that meeting.

6. Disclosure of interest of members

- (1) A member of the board of directors who is in any way directly or indirectly interested in a contract made or proposed to be made by the board of directors, or in any other matter which falls to be considered by the board of directors, shall disclose the nature of his or her interest at a meeting of the board of directors.
- (2) A disclosure made under subparagraph (1) shall be recorded in the minutes of that meeting.
- (3) A member who makes a disclosure under subparagraph (1) shall not—
 - (a) be present during any deliberation of the board of directors with respect to that matter; or
 - (b) take part in any decision of the board of directors with respect to that matter.
- (4) For purposes of determining whether there is a quorum, a member withdrawing from a meeting or who is not taking part in a meeting under subparagraph (3) shall be treated as being present.
- 7. The board of directors may regulate their own procedure Subject to this Act, the board of directors may regulate their own procedure or any other matter relating to its meetings.

Act 5 Non-Governmental Organisations Act

2016

Cross References

Public Finance Management Act, Act. No. 3 of 2015. Pensions Act, Cap. 286

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS SUPPLEMENT No. 13

5th May, 2017

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS SUPPLEMENT

to The Uganda Gazette No. 25, Volume CX, dated 5th May, 2017 Printed by UPPC, Entebbe, by Order of the Government.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2017 No. 22.

THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS REGULATIONS, 2017.

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

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- Interpretation.

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- Registration of organisation with the Bureau.
- Requirements for registration of organisation.
- 5. Certificate of registration
- 6. Refusal to register an organisation
- 7. Application for a permit
- 8. Conditions for a permit
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- Replacement of certificate, permit or document 10.
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- Registration of organisations incorporated outside Uganda 17.
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Register of organisations

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Schedule - Forms

S T A T U T O R Y I N S T R U M E N T S 2017 No. 22.

The Non-Governmental Organisations Regulations, 2017 (Under Section 55 of the Non-Governmental Organizations Act, 2016)

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred upon the Minister responsible for internal affairs by section 55 of the Non – Governmental Organisations Act, 2016 and in consultation with the Bureau, these Regulations are made this 24th day of March, 2017.

PART I—PRELIMINARY

1. Title.

These Regulations may be cited as the Non-Governmental Organisations Regulations, 2017.

2. Interpretation.

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

- "Act" means the Non-Governmental Organisations Act, 2016;
- "Bureau" means the National Bureau of Non-Governmental Organisations established under section 5 of the Act;
- "governing documents" includes; constitution, articles of association, charter or any other document providing for the administrative structures of an organisation;
- "local government" has a meaning assigned to under the Local Government Act, Cap 243;
- "Minister" means the Minister responsible for internal affairs;
- "Organisation" means a legally constituted non-governmental organisation under the Act, which may be a private voluntary grouping of individuals or associations established to provide voluntary services to the community or any part, but not for profit or commercial purposes;

"register" means a record of all organisations registered under the Act that is maintained by the Bureau in both electronic and hard copy.

PART II—REGISTRATION OF NON - GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION

3. Registration of organisation with the Bureau.

- (1) Any person or group of persons incorporated as an organisation under the Companies Act or Trustees Incorporation Act and those that fall within the definition of an Organisation under the Act, shall register with the Bureau.
- (2) The application for registration of organisation with the Bureau shall be in **Form A** as prescribed in the Schedule.

4. Requirements for registration of organisation.

- (1) Subject to section 29(2) of the Act, an application for registration of an organisation under regulation 3, shall be accompanied by—
 - (a) a certified copy of a certificate of incorporation;
 - (b) a copy of the organisation's constitution or governing documents;
 - (c) a chart showing the governance structure of the organisation;
 - (d) proof of payment of the prescribed fee;
 - (e) source of funding of the activities of the organisation;
 - (f) a copies of valid identification document for at least two founder members;
 - (g) minutes and resolutions of the members authorizing the organisation to register with the Bureau;
 - (h) a statement complying with section 45 of the Act;
 - (i) a recommendation from-

- (i) District Non- Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee where the headquarters are located; and
- (ii) the responsible ministry or ministries or a government department or agency.
- (2) For avoidance of doubt this regulation and regulation 3, shall only apply to indigenous organisation and foreign organisation.
- (3) The application for registration of an organisation shall be signed by at least two founder members.

5. Certificate of registration.

- (1) where the organisation has complied with the Act and the conditions specified in regulation 4, the Bureau shall issue a certificate of registration to the organisation.
- (2) The certificate of registration shall be in **Form B** prescribed in the Schedule and shall indicate the name, registration number and date of registration of the organisation.

6. Refusal to register an organisation.

- (1) Where the Bureau refuses to register an organisation, the Bureau shall give reasons for the refusal and notify the organisation of its decision within thirty days from the date of the refusal.
- (2) The notification under sub regulation (1), shall be in **Form C** as prescribed in the Schedule.

7. Application for a permit.

- (1) An organisation shall upon registration apply to the Bureau for a permit.
- (2) The application for a permit under sub regulation (1), shall be in **Form D** prescribed in the Schedule.
 - (3) The application for a permit shall specify—

- (a) the operations or objectives of the organisation;
- (b) staffing of the organisation;
- (c) geographical area of coverage of the organisation;
- (d) location of the organisation's headquarters;
- (e) evidence of payment of the prescribed fees; and
- (f) intended period of operation not exceeding five years.
- (4) Subject to section 31 of the Act and this regulation, the Bureau shall issue an organisation with a permit to operate for the time specified in the permit not exceeding five years.
- (5) The permit shall be in **Form E** as prescribed in the Schedule and shall indicate the name, the operations or objectives of the organisation, geographical area of operation and date of issue and expiry of the permit.

8. Conditions for a permit.

A permit issued under the Act and these Regulations shall comply with the following conditions—

- (a) the permit shall not be used for a purpose or objective other than that for which it is issued and an organisation shall not engage in any form of activity relating to sector other than the sector specified in the permit;
- (b) the permit shall not be transferable to any other organisation or person;
- (c) the permit shall be specific to the geographical area of operation specified in the permit;
- (d) the organisation shall, within fourteen days after making any change in the area of operation, headquarters of the organisation or activities, notify the Bureau of the change;
- (e) any other condition that may be specified in the permit by the Bureau.

9. Review of permit.

- (1) An organisation that may wish to change any condition specified in the permit shall, apply to the Bureau in **Form F** as prescribed in the Schedule.
- (2) The application under sub regulation (1), shall be accompanied by the proof of payment of the prescribed fees.
- (3) The Bureau shall review the application and shall within fortyfive days approve or refuse to approve the application to change the conditions in the permit.
- (4) Where the Bureau refuses to approve the application to change the conditions specified in the permit, the Bureau shall communicate to the organisation the reasons for refusal.

10. Replacement of certificate, permit or document.

- (1) Where an original certificate, permit or document issued by the Bureau is lost, destroyed or obliterated as to become illegible, the Bureau may issue a substitute of the original certificate, permit or document.
- (2) An organisation whose document has been lost or destroyed or obliterated as to become illegible shall apply to the Bureau for a replacement.
- (3) An application for a replacement under sub regulation (2), shall be in **Form G** as prescribed in the Schedule.
 - (4) The application shall be accompanied by the prescribed fees.
- (5) A substitute certificate, permit or document issued under this regulation shall have the same effect as the original copy.

11. Changes within the organisation or governing document.

(1) An organisation that has made changes within its structure, address or in its governing document, shall notify the Bureau of the changes within thirty days from the date of change.

- (2) The notification in sub regulation (1), shall be accompanied by a certified copy of the document or governing document containing the changes.
- (3) Where the changes relate to any condition specified in the permit or these regulations, the organisation shall comply with regulation 9.

12. Renewal of permit.

- (1) An organisation shall apply to the Bureau for renewal of a permit within six months before expiry of its permit.
- (2) The application for renewal of permit, shall be in **Form H** as prescribed in the Schedule, and shall be accompanied by—
 - (a) a copy of audited accounts;
 - (b) a copy of the annual report;
 - (c) minutes of the annual general assembly or the governing body;
 - (d) a work plan and budget or strategic plan for the organisation;
 and
 - (e) evidence of payment of prescribed fees.
- (3) Where the application for the renewal of a permit is approved, the Bureau shall issue a permit to take effect from the date of expiry of the previous permit.
- (4) Where the Bureau refuses to approve the application for renewal shall communicate to the organisation the reasons for refusal.

13. Revocation of permit.

(1) Before the Bureau revokes a permit, it shall within thirty days from the date of notice in writing request the holder of the permit to show cause why the permit should not be revoked.

- (2) A notice required from the Bureau under sub regulation (1), and section 33(2) of the Act, shall state—
 - (a) the ground for revocation;
 - (b) the brief facts of the case leading to revocation of the permit;
 and
 - (c) any relevant evidence relating to grounds.
- (3) Where the Bureau has revoked a permit of an organisation, the Bureau shall immediately notify the organisation of the revocation in **Form I** as prescribed in the Schedule.
- (4) A person or an organisation aggrieved by the decision of the Bureau under this regulation may appeal to the adjudication committee.

14. Exemption of organisations.

- (1) Where the Minister exempts an organisation from the requirements of registration and issue of a permit under section 35 of the Act, the Minister shall issue a provisional permit to the exempted organisation to operate for a period of not more than six months upon payment of the prescribed fees.
- (2) The provisional permit shall be in **Form J** as prescribed in the Schedule.
- (3) An exempted organisation shall before the expiry of provisional permit issued by the Minister apply for registration and issuance of a permit in accordance with the Act and these Regulations.

15. Registration of Community Based Organisations.

- (1) A person or group of persons intending to form a Community Based Organisation shall apply for registration to the District Non-Governmental Monitoring Committee before operating in a district.
- (2) The application for registration shall be in **Form K** as prescribed in the Schedule.

- (3) The application for registration of a Community Based Organisation, shall be accompanied by—
 - (a) a copy of the constitution of the Community Based Organisation to be registered;
 - (b) a recommendation from the Sub county Non-Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee;
 - (c) a work plan and budget or strategic plan for the Community Based Organisation; and
 - (d) proof of payment of the prescribed fees.
- (4) Upon fulfillment of the requirements specified in sub regulation (3), the District Non-Governmental Monitoring Committee shall issue a certificate of registration and a permit to the Community Based Organisation indicating—
 - (a) name of the Community Based Organisation;
 - (b) the objectives or activities of the Community Based Organisation;
 - (c) date of registration;
 - (d) registration number; and
 - (e) geographical area of operation.
- (5) The certificate of registration of a Community Based Organisation shall be in **Form L** as prescribed in the Schedule.
- (6) A permit of a Community Based Organisation shall be in FormL1 as prescribed in the Schedule

16. Refusal to register a Community Based Organisation.

(1) The District Non-Governmental Monitoring Committee may refuse to register a Community Based Organisation where—

- (a) the objectives of the Community Based Organisation as specified in its constitution are in contravention of the laws of Uganda;
- (b) the application for registration does not comply with the requirements of the Act;
- the applicant has given false or misleading information in any material particular;
- (d) the proposed name of the Community Based Organisation is the similar to that of an existing organisation or any entity operating within the district; or
- (e) the proposed name of the Community Based Organisation is confusing or undesirable.
- (2) For purposes of sub regulation (1) (d) and (e), the District Non-Governmental Monitoring Committee shall request a Community Based Organisation to change its proposed name before it is registered.
- (3) Where the District Non-Governmental Monitoring Committee refuses to register a Community Based Organisation, the District Non-Governmental Monitoring Committee shall give reasons for the refusal and notify the Community Based Organisation of its decision within 30 days.
- (4) The notification shall be in **Form M** as prescribed in the Schedule.

17. Registration of organisations incorporated outside Uganda.

- (1) Subject to section 34 of the Act, any organisation incorporated outside Uganda shall apply to the Bureau for registration.
- (2) The application for registration of an organisation incorporated outside Uganda shall be in **Form N** as prescribed in the Schedule.

- (3) The application for registration of an organisation incorporated outside Uganda shall be accompanied by—
 - (a) proof of payment of prescribed fees;
 - (b) a certified copy of certificate of incorporation from the country of origin;
 - a certified copy of its constitution, or charter, or memorandum of association, or any other documents governing the organisation;
 - (d) a certified copy of resolution authorising registration in Uganda;
 - (e) a certificate of good conduct of the signatories to the resolution in sub regulation 3(d) or at least two board members of the organisation;
 - (f) curriculum vitae of at least two board members of the organisation;
 - (g) a recommendation from their government or missions accredited to Uganda;
 - (h) a recommendation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Uganda;
 - a chart showing its organisational structure as stipulated in its governing documents;
 - a copy of a valid identification document for at least two board members;
 - (k) a work plan and budget or strategic plan for the organisation;
 - (l) a statement complying with section 45 of the Act;
 - (m) a recommendation from—
 - (i) District Non- Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee where its headquarters will be located; and

(ii) the responsible ministry or ministries or government department or agency.

18. Application for a permit of an organisation incorporated outside Uganda.

- (1) The application for a permit of an organisation incorporated outside Uganda and registered with the Bureau, shall be in accordance with regulation 7 of these Regulations with the necessary modifications.
- (2) Where an organisation incorporated outside Uganda, fulfills the requirements under section 34 of the Act and these Regulations, the Bureau shall issue a permit in accordance with these Regulations.

PART III—REGISTER OF ORGANISATIONS

19. Register of organisations.

- (1) The Bureau shall establish and maintain an up to date register of organisations other than Community Based Organisations.
- (2) The District Non- Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee shall establish and maintain an up to date register of Community Based Organisations.
- (3) The register required to be established by the Bureau and the District Non- Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee under sub-regulation (1) and (2) respectively, may be maintained in an electronic form or in any other form that permits the information recorded or stored in the register to be readily inspected or reproduced in a usable form.

20. Contents of the register.

- (1) The register shall contain in respect of each organisation registered with the Bureau the following—
 - (a) name and address of the organisation;
 - (b) registration number;

- (c) date of registration;
- (d) geographical areas of operation;
- (e) key activities or objectives of the organisation;
- (f) permit number;
- (g) district where the headquarters of an organisation is situated;
 and
- (h) date of issue and expiry of the permit for an organisation.
- (2) The Bureau may request the organisation in writing for information for purposes of compiling and updating the register.

21. Search and inspection of the register.

- (1) A person may, on payment of the prescribed fees, apply to the Bureau or to District Non- Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee to inspect the register or any document in the register.
- (2) The Bureau may prescribe the time and other conditions relating to inspection of the register.
- (3) A person may, upon payment of the prescribed fees, apply in writing to the Bureau for a copy of, or extract from a document or particulars of a document in the register.
- (4) A ministry, department or agency of Government shall not be required to pay any fees, for a copy of any document in the register which is required by that ministry, department or agency of Government in the performance of its functions.

22. Inventory of organisations.

(1) The District Non- Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee shall keep an inventory of all the organisations operating in the district. (2) The District Non- Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee shall submit to the Bureau an inventory of the organisations and an up to date register of Community Based Organisations operating in the district every financial year.

PART IV—REGULATION OF A SELF-REGULATORY BODY

23. Registration of a self-regulatory body.

- (1) A self-regulatory body formed by two or more organisations, shall before carrying out its operations apply to register with the Bureau.
- (2) An application for registration of a self-regulatory body shall, be in **Form O** as prescribed in the Schedule.
- (3) Subject to section 37 (3) of the Act, an application for registration of a self-regulatory body under sub regulation (2), shall be accompanied by—
 - (a) a resolution from each of the organisations stating their willingness to be part of a self-regulatory body;
 - (b) a copy of the code of conduct for the self-regulatory body;
 - (c) proof of a special meeting held under section 37 (4) of the Act accompanied by—
 - (i) a resolution;
 - (ii) a copy of the minutes; and
 - (iii) attendance list.
 - (d) a copy of the organisational structure and rules of the selfregulatory body or governing document if any;
 - (e) physical address of the secretariat of the self-regulatory body;
 - (f) a list of subscribing organisations and their physical address;
 - (g) proof of payment of the prescribed fees.

24. Certificate of registration of a self-regulatory body.

- (1) Upon fulfillment of the requirements in the Act and these Regulations, the Bureau shall issue a self-regulatory body a certificate of registration.
- (2) The certificate of registration in sub regulation (1), shall be in **Form P** as prescribed in the Schedule.

25. Refusal to register a self-regulatory body.

- (1) The Bureau may refuse to register a self-regulatory body where—
 - (a) the objectives of a self-regulatory body are in contravention with the laws of Uganda;
 - (b) the application for registration of a self-regulatory body does not comply with the requirements of the Act and these Regulations;
 - (c) a self-regulatory body has given false or misleading information in any material particular relating to selfregulatory body; and
 - (d) the proposed name of a self-regulatory body is similar to that of an existing organisation or any entity registered or incorporated in Uganda; or
 - (e) the proposed name of a self-regulatory body is confusing or undesirable.
- (2) For purposes of sub regulation (1) (d) and (e), the Bureau shall request a self-regulatory body to change its proposed name before it is registered.
- (3) Where the Bureau refuses to register a self-regulatory body, the Bureau shall give reasons for the refusal and notify a self-regulatory body of its decision within 30 days.
- (4) The notification in sub regulation (3), shall be in **Form Q** as prescribed in the Schedule.

26. A list of organisations subscribing to a self-regulatory body.

- (1) A self-regulatory body shall maintain an up to date list of all organisations who are subscribing members of the self-regulatory body.
- (2) Every registered self-regulatory body shall submit to the Bureau an up to date and accurate copy of the list of the organisations subscribing with the self-regulatory body by 31st December every calendar year.

27. Self-regulatory mechanism.

- (1) A self-regulatory body that has established a self-regulatory mechanism shall inform the Bureau in writing of its existence and mode of operation.
- (2) A self-regulatory body shall give a copy of the self-regulatory tools, rules and standards that organisations adopt to govern them in an agreed set up.
- (3) Where a self-regulatory body which amends or changes its self-regulatory mechanism or the mode of operations, shall notify the Bureau within 28 days from the date of the change or amendment.

28. Dissolution of a self-regulatory body.

- (1) A self-regulatory body may be dissolved in accordance with its constitution or governing document.
- (2) Where a self-regulatory body has been dissolved, it shall notify the Bureau in writing within 7 days from the date of dissolution.

29. Complaint against self-regulatory body.

- (1) A person aggrieved by the decision or conduct of a selfregulatory body may file a complaint against a self-regulatory body to the Bureau.
- (2) A complaint filed against a self-regulatory body under sub regulation (1) shall be handled by the Bureau in accordance with regulation 39.

30. Annual returns of organisations other than Community Based Organisations.

- (1) An organisation other than a Community Based Organisation shall submit to the Bureau annual returns at least once in every twelve months.
- (2) The annual returns of organisations other than Community Based Organisations shall be filed in **Form R** as prescribed in the Schedule.
- (3) The annual returns of an organisation other than Community Based Organisation submitted to the Bureau under this regulation shall be accompanied by—
 - (a) proof of payment of the prescribed fees;
 - (b) a copy of audited books of accounts;
 - (c) a copy of an annual report; and
 - (d) minutes of the general assembly or governing body.
- (4) For purposes of sub regulation (3) (b), the audited books of accounts shall only be made by a person authorised to audit books of accounts under the Accountants Act, 2013.

31. Furnishing of information

- (1) An organisation shall at least once in every twelve months declare and submit to the Bureau the following—
 - (a) source of funds;
 - (b) funds received; and
 - (c) estimates of income and expenditure.
- (2) An organisation operating in a district shall at least once in every calendar year declare and submit to the District Technical Planning Committee their annual budgets and work plans.

- (3) An organisation shall declare and submit to the District Non-Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee of a district where its headquarters are located the following—
 - (a) source of funds;
 - (b) funds received; and
 - (c) estimates of income and expenditure.

32. Annual returns of Community Based Organisations.

- (1) A Community Based Organisation shall submit the Sub County Non-Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee annual returns at least once in every twelve months.
- (2) The annual returns of a Community Based Organisation, shall be in the **Form S** as prescribed in the Schedule.
- (3) The annual returns of a Community Based Organisation submitted to the Sub County Non-Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee under this regulation, shall be accompanied by—
 - (a) financial report;
 - (b) a copy for annual report; and
 - (c) minutes of the general assembly or governing board.
- (4) The Sub County Non-Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee shall forward all the annual returns filed under sub regulation (1), to the District Non- Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee.

PART VI—INSPECTION AND COMPLAINTS

33. Inspector.

(1) Subject to the provisions of section 41 of the Act, the Bureau may designate from among its officers such number of inspectors to investigate any matter for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the Act and these Regulations.

- (2) For purposes of section 41 (5) of the Act, a notice for inspection by the inspector shall be in **Form T** as prescribed in the Schedule.
- (3) The notice under sub regulation (2), shall be served on the office of the organisation intended to be inspected.

34. Powers of the inspectors.

- (1) An inspector may in the course of inspection exercise any of the following powers—
 - (a) have access to the premises of the organisation;
 - (b) confiscate any incriminating document or material;
 - (c) interview and record statements from any person having knowledge of the subject matter;
 - (d) recommend to the Bureau for an interim closure of the premises or offices of the organisation; or
 - (e) issue a compliance notice with the requirements of the Act or these Regulations.
- (2) In exercising his or her power under the Act and these regulations, an inspector shall suitably identify himself or herself with a valid identification document issued by the Bureau.
- (3) Every inspector shall immediately after conducting an inspection issue a certificate of inspection in duplicate signed by the inspector and a representative of the organisation.

35. Inspector's report.

- (1) An inspector shall make a report to the Executive Director of the Bureau detailing the findings of the investigation.
- (2) Upon receipt of the report under sub regulation (1), the Executive Director of the Bureau shall—

- (a) give a copy of the report to the organisation and to the complainant;
- (b) Subject to the Access to Information Act, 2005, where the Bureau deems it fit, give a copy of the report on request and on payment of the prescribed fee to any person who has an interest in the matter.

36. Proceedings on an inspector's report.

- (1) Where from a report made under regulation 35, it appears to the Bureau that provisions of the Act have not been complied with, the Bureau may—
 - (a) warn the organisation;
 - (b) suspend the permit of the organisation;
 - (c) expose the affected organisation to the public;
 - (d) blacklist the organisation; or
 - (e) revoke the permit.
- (2) Where from a report made under regulation 35, it appears that any person or organisation has committed an offence for which he or she or is criminally liable, the Bureau shall forward the copies of the report to the Director of Public Prosecutions for further action.

37. Right to Complain.

- (1) Any person or organisation alleging that an organisation has not complied with the Act or these regulations has a right to complain to the Bureau.
- (2) A complaint under sub regulation (1) shall be in **Form U** as prescribed in the Schedule.
- (3) Subject to sub regulation (2), where a person making a complaint is unable to read and write, he or she shall make an oral complaint to an authorised officer of the Bureau.

- (4) The authorised officer of the Bureau shall reduce the oral report made under sub regulation (3) in writing, interpret and explain it to the person making the complaint in a language the person understands and the person shall certify that the information contained in the statement is true and correct.
- (5) The complaint shall be accompanied by a copy of relevant evidence, if any.
- (6) The complaint shall be filed in duplicate and the officer receiving the complaint shall endorse a stamp or signature as proof of submission.

38. Jurisdiction to hear complaints.

The Bureau shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine all complaints arising from—

- (a) noncompliance with the Act and these regulations;
- (b) complaints arising from the interpretation of or noncompliance with organisation's governing documents;
- (c) failure by the Sub county Non-Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee or the District Non- Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee to comply with guidelines issued by the Bureau under section 6 of the Act;
- (d) the conduct of an inspector;
- (e) complaints against self-regulatory bodies; or
- (f) complaints arising from failure to sign a Memorandum of Understanding.

39. Procedure for handling a complaint.

(1) The Bureau shall study the complaint to ascertain whether there is a reasonable case.

- (2) Where the Bureau establishes that there is a reasonable case, it shall commence an investigation in the case by—
 - (a) inviting any affected party to appear before the Bureau;
 - (b) request for further information from the complainant or the respondent;
 - (c) inspect the premises of the organisation;
 - (d) contact any other government department, agency or ministry for necessary co-operation in the investigation; or
 - (e) carrying out any other act as the Bureau deems fit.
- (3) The Bureau shall in the process of investigating and handling the complaint accord the respondent the right to a fair hearing.

40. Decision of the Bureau.

- (1) The Bureau shall deliver its decision within 90 days from the date of the complaint.
- (2) The decision of the Bureau shall be in writing, authenticated by the seal of the Bureau.
- (3) Any person aggrieved by the decision of the Bureau may appeal to the adjudication committee.

PART VII—MISCELLANEOUS

41. Operation of an organisation in a district.

- (1) An organisation seeking to operate in a district shall in accordance with section 44(a) of the Act, seek approval from the District Non-Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee and Local Government of that area or district.
- (2) The approval required under sub regulation (1) shall be in writing.

- (3) The decision to grant or refuse an approval under sub regulation (1) shall be made within 14 days from the date of the request.
- (4) Where the District Non- Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee and the Local Government refuse to grant an approval under sub regulation (1), it shall give its reasons in writing.

42. Memorandum of understanding with Local Government.

- (1) Where the District Non- Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee and the Local Government has approved an organisation to operate in a district, the Local Government shall sign a memorandum of understanding with the organisation to carry out its activities in the district.
- (2) The memorandum of understanding in sub regulation (1), shall contain the following covenants or terms and conditions—
 - (a) term or duration of the memorandum of understanding;
 - (b) description of the cooperative activities and responsibilities of each Party under the memorandum of understanding;
 - (c) review process of the memorandum of understanding;
 - (d) dispute resolution, including legal actions, negotiations, consultations, or executive actions;
 - (e) waivers and rights involved in the memorandum of understanding to make compensation claims related to the execution of the memorandum of understanding against one another;
 - (f) an intellectual property rights provision;
 - (g) a privacy and confidentiality provision;
 - (h) a provision on timing, including relevant timelines, milestones and agreed frequency of cooperative activities;

- (i) the laws of Uganda shall be the law applicable;
- (j) protocol for communicating between the Parties; or
- (k) a provision on termination.
- (3) The memorandum of understanding under sub regulation (1), shall be executed at least within 14 days from the date of the approval of the organisation to carry out its activities in a district under regulation 41 of these Regulations.
- (4) The Local Government and the Organisation may adopt the template of memorandum of understanding in Form V in the Schedule.

43. Temporary closure of operations.

- (1) An Organisation that is registered with the Bureau and has a valid permit may apply to the Bureau in writing for approval to temporarily close operations for a period not exceeding five years.
- (2) Where the Bureau has approved the application for temporary closure of operations shall communicate to the organisation in writing and the Organisation shall be exempted from filing annual returns for the period of closure.
- (3) The period of closure of operations of an Organisation, shall be carried forward for purposes of renewal of a permit.

44. Cooperation with other agencies.

- (1) In the performance of its functions, the Bureau, shall cooperate with other ministries, departments or agencies of Government.
- (2) For the purposes of implementing the Act and these Regulations, the Bureau may enter into an arrangement with a ministry, department or agency of Government relating to—
 - (a) the exchange of information between the Bureau and the ministry, department or agency of Government;

- (b) enforcement of the compliance of the Act and these Regulations; or
- (c) the conduct of investigations.

45. Request for information.

The Bureau may, request the organisation in writing for information or any report for purposes of ensuring compliance with the Act and these Regulations.

46. Revocation of S.I. No. 19 of 2009

The Non- Governmental Organisations Registration Regulations, 2009 are revoked.

Schedule - Forms

FORM A

regulation 3 (2)

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ACT, 2016

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION.

To the Executive Director National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations

We the undersigned members hereby apply for registration of an organisation under the Non- Governmental Organisations Act, 2016.

| (a) | Name of the incorporated organisation |
|-------------|--|
| | |
| (b) | Nationality of the members |
| | |
| (c) | Physical address of the organisation |
| <i>(</i> 1) | |
| (d) | Telephone contacts of the organisation |
| (e) | Name of each organisation or group established outside or inside Uganda, if any, to which the organisation is affiliated or connected to |
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| (f) | Objectives of the organisation |
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| (g) | Class or classes of persons to whom membership of the organisation is open |
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| (g) | Present number of members |
| (6) | |
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| (h) | Names and positions of officers of the organisation |
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| (:) | Names assumption and addresses of the Court of the |
| (i) | Names, occupation and addresses of the officers of the |
| | organization |
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| j) | Sources of funding |
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| (k) | Property (if any) owned by the organisation |
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| (1) | Manner in which that property is held, acquired or vested |
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| (m) | Bankers of the organisation |
| (111) | Dankers of the organisation |
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| (n) | Any privileges, immunities and exemptions requested by the |
| | organisation from the Government |
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| | Names, signatures and passport size photographs of at least two |
| | members: |
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| Date. | |

FORM B

regulation 5 (2)

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ACT, 2016

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

| Registration Number: |
|--|
| CERTIFY that |
| has been registered with National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations. |
| Dated at Kampala, thisday of20 |
| Executive Director, National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations |

NOTIFICATION OF REFUSAL TO REGISTER AN ORGANISATION

| TAKE NOTICE that the application number dated thisd of20of | |
|---|--|
| address of the organisation) for registration with the Bureau, has been refus | |
| on the following grounds | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| Dated thisday of20 | |
| | |
| Executive Direct | |
| National Rureau for Non-Governmental Organisation | |

APPLICATION FOR A PERMIT

To the Executive Director National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations

| (a) | Name of the registered organisation |
|-----|--|
| (b) | |
| (b) | The registration number of the organisation |
| (c) | Physical address of the organisation |
| (d) | List of operations/ objectives of the organisation |
| | |
| (e) | The staffing structure of the organisation |
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| (f) | The geographical area or districts of coverage of the organisation |
|-----|--|
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| | |
| (g) | The location of the organisation's headquarters |
| | |
| | |
| (h) | Period of time requested for a permit not exceeding five years |
| | |
| | Names, signatures and passport size photographs of at least two |
| | members of the organisation: |
| | |
| | members of the organisation: |

PERMIT TO OPERATE AN ORGANISATION

| Permit Number: |
|--|
| I HEREBY CERTIFY that(state full name and |
| address of the organisation) has thisday of |
| This permit is subject to the following conditions- |
| |
| This permit shall be valid for (insert the number of months) from the date of issue. |
| Executive Divertor |
| Executive Director, National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations |

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ACT, 2016 APPLICATION TO REVIEW A PERMIT

| | e Executive Director onal Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations |
|-----|---|
| | ne undersigned members hereby apply for a review of a permit issued by ureau. |
| (a) | Name of the registered organisation |
| (b) | The registration Number of the organisation |
| (c) | Physical address of the organisation |
| (d) | List of operations/ objectives of the organisation include |
| (e) | Specify the changes proposed and the justification for the proposed changes |
| | |

| (f) | The geographical area or districts of coverage of the organisation |
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| | |
| (g) | The location of the organisation's headquarters |
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| (h) | The date of expiry of the current permit |
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| | Names, signatures and passport size photographs of at least two members of the organisation: |
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| Date | |

APPLICATION REPLACEMENT OF CERTIFICATE OR PERMIT

| | e Executive Director nal Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations |
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| | he undersigned members hereby apply for a substitute |
| (a) | Name of the registered organisation. |
| (b) | The registration number of the organisation |
| (c) | Physical address of the organisation |
| | |
| (d) | Specify the circumstances under which the original certificate, permit or document issued by the Bureau was lost or destroyed or obliterated. |
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| | | signatures s representi | | | | photogra | piis or | uı | reast | |
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| Date. | | | | | | | | | | |

APPLICATION REPLACEMENT OF CERTIFICATE OR PERMIT

To the Executive Director National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations

| | the undersigned members hereby apply for a substitute |
|-----|---|
| (a) | Name of the registered organisation. |
| (b) | The registration number of the organisation |
| (c) | Physical address of the organisation |
| | |
| (d) | Specify the circumstances under which the original certificate, permit or document issued by the Bureau was lost or destroyed or obliterated. |
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| | (attach anv relevant evidence) |

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APPLICATION RENEWAL OF APERMIT

To the Executive Director National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations

| | the undersigned members hereby apply for renewal of permit issued by the au under the Non- Governmental Organisations Act, 2016. |
|-----|--|
| (a) | Name of the organisation |
| (b) | Country of origin |
| (c) | District (s) of operation |
| | |
| (d) | Sector (s) of intervention. |
| (e) | Activities in the previous work plan |
| | |
| (f) | Activities accomplished |
| | |

| (g) | Sources of funding | |
|------|--|----|
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| | | |
| (a) | State if there is any change of sources of funding | _ |
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| (b) | Constraints or challenges | |
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| | | |
| (c) | Solutions | |
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| | | |
| (d) | Future plans | |
| (4) | rature plans | |
| | | |
| | *************************************** | |
| | | |
| (e) | The date of expiry of the previous permit | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | Names, signatures and passport size photographs of at least two members of the organisation: | 0 |
| | *************************************** | |
| | •••••• | |
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| Date | ð | |
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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ACT, 2016 APPLICATION RENEWAL OF APERMIT

NOTICE OF REVOCATION OF A PERMIT

| | | | | | Permit f | | | | | | | | |
|----------|---------------|--------|------------------------|--------------|----------------------|------|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------|------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| and this | addre noti | ess of | f <i>the</i> on | orgar the | nisation) followi | has | been grou | revo | ked b | y Bure | (star au fron | te full n the o | name date of |
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| Date | d this | S | | ••••• | day o | f | | | 2 | 0 | | | |
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FORM J

regulation 14 (2)

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ACT, 2016

PROVISIONAL PERMIT

| Permit number: |
|--|
| I HEREBY CERTIFY that |
| (state full name and address of the organisation) has thisday o |
| This provisional permit is subject to the following conditions- |
| ······································ |
| ····· |
| This provisional permit shall be valid for (insert the number of months) from the date of issue. |
| Minister of Internal Affair. |

FORM K

regulation 15 (2)

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ACT, 2016

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION.

To the chairperson District Non-Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee. We the undersigned members hereby apply for registration of a Community Based Organisation under the Non-Governmental Organisations Act, 2016. Proposed name of the organisation..... (a) (b) Nationality of the members Physical address of the organisation (c) Telephone contacts of the organisation..... (d) Name of each organisation or group established outside or inside (e) Uganda, if any, with which the organisation is affiliated or connected to..... Objectives of the organisation (f)

| (g) | Class or classes of persons to whom membership of the organisation is open. |
|-----|---|
| (h) | Present number of members. |
| (i) | Names and positions of officers of the organisation |
| (j) | Names, occupation and addresses of the officers of the organisation. |
| (k) | Sources of funding |

| (1) | Property (if any) owned by the organisation |
|------|--|
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| | |
| (m) | Manner in which that property is held, acquired or sted |
| | |
| (n) | Bankers of the organisation |
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| | |
| (o) | Any privileges, immunities and exemptions requested by the |
| | organisation from the Government |
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| | Names, signatures and passport size photographs of at least two members: |
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| | |
| Date | |

FORM L

regulation 15 (5)

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ACT, 2016

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION

| Registration number: |
|--|
| I CERTIFY that |
| |
| This certificate of registration is subject to the following conditions- |
| |
| |
| |
| Dated at, thisday of20 |
| Chairperson, |
| District Non-Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee |

FORM L1

regulation 15 (6)

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ACT, 2016

PERMIT TO OPERATE A COMMUNITY BASED OGANISATION

| Permit Number: |
|--|
| I HEREBY CERTIFY that |
| This permit is subject to the following conditions - |
| |
| |
| This permit shall be valid for (insert the number of months) from the date of issue. |
| Chairperson, |
| District Non-Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee. |

FORM M

regulation 16 (4)

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ACT, 2016

NOTIFICATION OF REFUSAL TO REGISTER A COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATION

| TAKE NOTICE that the application number | |
|---|------------|
| name and address of the Community Based Organisation) for registration with District Non-Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee, has been refused on the following grounds | ith en |
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| ······································ | |
| | |
| Dated thisday of20 | |
| Executive Director | To Part of |
| District Non-Governmental Organisations Monitoring Committee | |

FORM N

regulation 17 (2)

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ACT, 2016

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF ORGANISATION INCORPORATED OUTSIDE UGANDA

To the Executive Director National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations

| | ne undersigned members hereby apply for registration of an Organisation porated outside under the Non- Governmental Organisations Act, 2016. |
|-----|--|
| (a) | Name and incorporation number of the Organisation. |
| (b) | Nationality of the members |
| (a) | Physical address of the organisation |
| (b) | Telephone contacts of the organisation |
| (c) | Name of each organisation or group established outside or inside Uganda, if any, with which the organisation is affiliated or connected to |

| (d) | Objectives of the organisation |
|-----|---|
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| | |
| (e) | Class or classes of persons to whom membership of the organisation is |
| | open |
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| (0 | D |
| (f) | Present number of members |
| | |
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| | |
| (g) | Names and positions of officers of the organisation |
| (8) | |
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| | ••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••• |
| (h) | Names, occupation and addresses of the officers of the organisation |
| () | |
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| (i) | Sources of funding |
|-------|---|
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| | |
| (i) | Property (if any) owned by the organisation |
| (j) | Property (II ally) owned by the organisation |
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| | |
| (k) | Manner in which that property is held, acquired or vested |
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| | |
| (1) | Bankers of the organisation |
| (1) | Dankers of the organisation. |
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| | |
| (m) | Any privileges, immunities and exemptions requested by the organisation from the Government |
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| | Names, signatures and passport size photographs of at least two members: |
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| | |
| Date. | |

FORM O

regulation 23 (2)

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ACT, 2016

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF SELF-REGULATORY BODY

| To | The Executive Director |
|------------|--|
| | National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations |
| | |
| | the undersigned members hereby apply for registration of self-regulatory under the Non- Governmental Organisations Act, 2016. |
| (-) | December 1 and 16 and 16 and 14 and 1 |
| (a) | Proposed name of self-regulatory body |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| (b) | Physical address of the secretariat of self-regulatory body |
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| | |
| | |
| | |
| (0) | Name of each organisation subscribing to the salf-regulators hads |
| (c) | Name of each organisation subscribing to the self-regulatory body |
| (c) | |
| (c) | |
| (c) | |
| (c) | |
| | |
| (c) (d) | Objectives of the self-regulatory body |
| | Objectives of the self-regulatory body |

| (e) | Names, occupation and addresses of the officers of the self-regulatory |
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| (f) | Sources of funding |
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| (g) | Property (if any) owned by the self-regulatory body |
| (8) | 그 그 사람들은 그리는 경에 가는 경에 가는 그 가장 하는 것이 되었다. 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 그 |
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| 4. | |
| (h) | Manner in which that property is held, acquired or vested |
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| | |
| (i) | Bankers of the self-regulatory body |
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| (j) |) Any privileges, immunities and exemptions requested by regulatory from the Government | by the self- |
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| | lames, signatures and passport size photographs of at least two rep f the self-regulatory body: | oresentatives |
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THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ACT, 2016

CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF A SELF-REGULATORY BODY

| Registration Number: |
|--|
| I CERTIFY that |
| |
| Dated at Kampala, thisday of20 |
| Executive Director, National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations |

THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ACT, 2016

NOTIFICATION OF REFUSAL TO REGISTER A SELF-REGULATORY BODY

| name ar | nd address n refused | s of a se | lf-reg | ulatory wing g | body) round | for registr | ration with | the Bu | full reau, |
|----------|-------------------------|-----------|--------|-------------------|----------------|--|-------------------------------|---------|---------------|
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| Dated th | is | _day of | | | , | 20 | | | |
| | | Na | tional | I Bureau | | | Execution Execution Execution | ve Dire | ctor, |

FORM R

regulation 30 (2)

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ACT, 2016

ANNUAL RETURNS OF ORGANISATIONS OTHER THAN COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS

| Na An | he Executive Director ional Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations nual returns of the |
|----------|---|
| 1. | Date of the annual Board or General meeting in the year ending or, 20 |
| 2. | Number of members of the organisations as at, 20 |
| 3. | Full names, occupation and addresses of the officers as at, 20 |
| | (a) |
| | (b) |
| | (c) |
| | (d) |
| | (e) |
| | (f) |
| | (g) |
| | (h) |
| 1. | If there has been any change since the date of application for registration or the date of the last annual return, whichever is later, then specify the change in the appropriate paragraph as follows: |
| | (a) Name of the organisation |
| | |
| | |

| (b) Objects, Constitution or rules of the organization | | | |
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| | (c) | Any affiliation to an organisation or group established outside Uganda | |
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| | (d) | The classes or classes of persons to whom its membership is open | |
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| | | | |
| 5. | The | source of funds for the previous year ending20 | |
| 6. | The | The total funds received for the previous year ending20 | |
| 7. | 7. The total estimates of income and expenditure for the current year starting20 | | |
| | Name | es and signatures of at least two representatives of the organisation | |
| | • • • • • • | | |
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THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ACT, 2016

ANNUAL RETURNS OF COMMUNITY BASED ORGANISATIONS

To The Chairperson
District Non-Governmental
Organisations Monitoring Committee

- - (h) If there has been any change since the date of application for registration or the date of the last annual return, whichever is later, then specify the change in the appropriate paragraph as follows:

(f)

(g)

| | (e) Name of the Community Based Organisation | | |
|-----|---|---|--|
| | | ······ | |
| | | | |
| | (f) | Objects, constitution or rules of the Community Based Organisations | |
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| | (g) | | |
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| | (h) | The classes or classes of persons to whom its membership is open | |
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| | | | |
| 4. | The | source of funds for the previous year ending20 | |
| 5. | The | total funds received for the previous year ending20 | |
| 6. | The total estimates of income and expenditure for the current year starting20 | | |
| | | nes and signatures of at least two members of the Community Based anisation | |
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THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ACT, 2016

NOTICE OF INSPECTION

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| Act and reany other | egulation 33(2), asset of your | shall be carry organisation | ying out an inspect on the | eau under 41 (3) of the fion or the premises of day of |
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| Dated this | day of | | , 20 | • |
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| | 37 | | | Executive Director |
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THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ACT, 2016

COMPLAINT FORM

To The Executive Director National Bureau for Non-Governmental Organisations

I/We the complainant (s) hereby raise a complaint against an Organisation or self-regulatory body (*delete whichever is not applicable*) for not complying with the Act or the Regulations made under the Act as stated hereunder—

| PAI | RTICULARS OF THE COMPLAINANT (S) |
|-----|---|
| (a) | Name |
| (b) | Address |
| (c) | Phone Number |
| I | PARTICULARS OF ORGANISATION OR SELF-REGULATORY BODY COMPLAINED AGAINST. |
| (a) | Name |
| (b) | Address |
| | NATURE OF THE COMPLAINT, WITH BRIEF FACTS |
| | ······································ |
| | |
| | PARTICULARS OF A WITNESS (if any). |
| (a) | First name |
| (b) | Surname name |

| (c) Address |
|--|
| (d) Occupation |
| (e) Telephone Number |
| ANY OTHER PENDING COMPLAINT. |
| Has the complainant made any similar pending complaint against the organisation or self-regulatory body to any other institution or body? (Tick) |
| Yes: |
| No: |
| If yes, give particulars of previous complaint and to whom the complaint was made. |
| |
| |
| (use a separate sheet if the space is not enough). |
| For official use only |
| Received by |
| Complaint No |
| Date of receipt: |
| DECLARATION |
| I/ we hereby declare that to the best of my/ our knowledge and belief all the particulars furnished in this complaint are true and correct. |
| Date |
| |
| Signature of complainant (s). |
| Signature of complainant (s). |

THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS ACT, 2016 TEMPLATE OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

| | THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF |
|-----------|--|
| | AND |
| | THEORGANISATION |
| 1. | Introduction This Memorandum of Understanding records the understandings reached between the Local Government of |
| 2. 1.1 | The |
| 1.2 | The Programme is based in |
| 1.3 | The long term goal of the program is (insert in the main goal or objective of the program) |
| 3. | Commencement This memorandum of understanding shall commence on theday of20 and end on theday of20 |
| | |

| | Any variation to this Memorandum of Understanding will be mutually determined in writing by both parties. |
|----|--|
| 5. | Agreement of the Local Government: |
| | The Local Government agrees to undertake the following key tasks, responsibilities: |
| | |
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| | ••••• |
| | ••••• |
| | ••••• |
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| 6. | Partnership between the Local Government and the NGO |
| | The intent of this Memorandum of Understanding is to form a strong relationship between the Local Government and the |
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| | |
| 7. | Agreement of the Organisation The Organisation (insert in the name of the organisation) agrees to undertake the following key tasks, responsibilities: |
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4. Variation

8. Termination

The parties may terminate this Memorandum of Understanding, at any time, by mutual agreement in writing.

In the event of termination, the Organisation will take immediate steps to bring its work to a close in a prompt and orderly manner and to reduce expenditure to a minimum.

9. Extraordinary Events

- (a) Neither party shall be liable for any failure to perform or any delay in performing under this Memorandum of Understanding to the extent that the cause of such failure or delay is beyond that party's reasonable control, (force majeure), provided notice claiming suspension of its obligations is given as soon as practicable.
- (b) The parties may mutually determine to suspend or terminate any part, or all of the Memorandum of Understanding in the event of *force majeure*.
- This memorandum of understanding shall be governed by the Laws of Uganda.

| SIGNED | |
|---|--|
| For and on behalf of the Local Government | |
| Signature | |
| Full Name | |
| Position | |
| Date | |
| | |

HON. (GEN) ODONGO JEJE (MP.)

Minister of Internal Affairs.



FORM B

Regulation 6

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

THE NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS REGISTRATION ACT, CAP.113

Registration Number:

| CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATI | ON AND INCORPORATION |
|---------------------------|--|
| I CERTIFY that | ON AND INCORPORATION This is the annexed Affine at 20. This is the annexed declared before me at 20. This is the ann |
| share capital. | registered and incorporated without |
| Dated at Kampala, thisda | y of20 |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| Chairperson, Natio | onal Board for |
| Non-Governmental | Organisations |



FORM C

Regulation 7

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

| THE NON-GOVE REGIST | ERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS FRATION ACT, CAP 1139 Annual at the state of |
|------------------------|--|
| Registration Number: | This is the in the Rectared be referred to in the Rectared be referred of afficient day of the restaurant of the restaur |
| PERMIT TO OPERATE AS A | NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION |
| | |
| | |
| of20 | body corporate under the Non-Governmental |
| | llowing conditions/directions:- |
| | |
| Member | Member |
| | |
| | rson, National Board for |
| Non-Gov | vernmental Organizations. |