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ACFIM is the Pan-African political finance think-tank and money in politics watchdog.



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Message from the Executive Director

The year 2022 was a difficult one for the organisation in the context of slow recovery from the effects of the suspension and eventual termination of the biggest democracy basket fund for civil society and government – the Democratic Governance Facility and the challenging operating environment for civic organisations working on democracy in Uganda.

I am happy to report that the organisation has developed a new organisational strategy (2023-2027) which highlights the following key shifts:

1) Expanding the scope to cover more organisations and countries in Africa

2) Incubating the African Election Observers Network (AfEONet) into a reputable pan-African election observation network with representation in four regions (ECOWAS, SADC, EAC and ECCAS) with a pool of renowned African electoral experts.

3) Defending civic space and promoting the rights of citizen observers as Human Rights defenders.

4) Becoming the home for inspiration, innovation, knowledge, evidence and stories on the role of money in politics and its impact on electoral integrity in Africa

On the international scene ACFIM is now a member of the Global Democracy Coalition which brings together all organisations working on democracy around the world with a secretariat hosted by International IDEA in Stockholm, Sweden. The organisation is building alliances with several likeminded organisations in the global north.

In Africa, the profile of the organisation continued to grow in leaps and bounds, and this partly informed the strategic shift to Pan-Africanism. As host of the African Election Observers Network (AfEONet), ACFIM is committed to championing Africa's democratic renewal including promoting the role and uniqueness of citizen observers as human rights defenders.

Last but not least, let me applaud the staff at the Secretariat who continued to demonstrate resilience during the difficult times the organisation went through in 2022.

A luta continua.

Henry Muguzi

Executive Director-Alliance for Finance Monitoring





This Annual Report highlights our contributions as defenders of democracy dedicated to promoting transparency in financing election campaigns & political parties, and protecting civic space with a view of building electoral integrity for sustainable democracy.

The year witnessed the ending of the four-year funding partnership from Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), a donor who contributed close to 80% of the organisation's institutional and programmatic expenses. The relationship ended on 30 September 2022 leaving ACFIM with big financial resource gap that is still yet to be covered. Nonetheless, during the year under review, the following activities were conducted.

Our Vision An African society whose leaders emerge from political processes that are inclusive, transparent and accountable

ACFIM holds in high esteem, its pan African ideals and values, and is committed to contributing to the overall goal of "an integrated, prosperous and democratic Africa, driven by its own citizens, open governments and representing a dynamic force in the international arena."

Our Mission

To promote and strengthen political integrity by fostering inclusiveness, transparency and accountability in financing politics for sustainable democracy in Africa. We do this through knowledge generation, civic engagement and formulating policy solutions.



ACFIM's Reach in Numbers One million people Virtual talk shows reached using were conducted online, social and electronic media



Editions of SecretsKnown news magazine produced and shared with 65,520 direct readers.









THE BANKNOTE CONTROLLED **VOTER CONSENT**

An extended study on Campaign Financing for Uganda General Elections 2021



ACFIM

Uganda's Governance Architecture and its influence on Electoral Democracy





Key Achievements against our Programme Areas

Priority Area 1: Political Finance Monitoring and **Exposing for Public Scrutiny**

namely:

a) Political Economy Analysis on Uganda's Governance Architecture and its influence on Electoral Democracy. The study analysed the formal and informal configuration of the current Ugandan state and the effect such has, on election administration, management and outcome.

b) Diagnostic study on the Political Finance Health of Political parties in Uganda. The study interrogated the inter and intra political party finance systems including sources of funding, fundraising capabilities, size of budgets, nature of internal administrative mechanisms and capacities. Recommendations were made for improving transparency and accountability in managing political parties

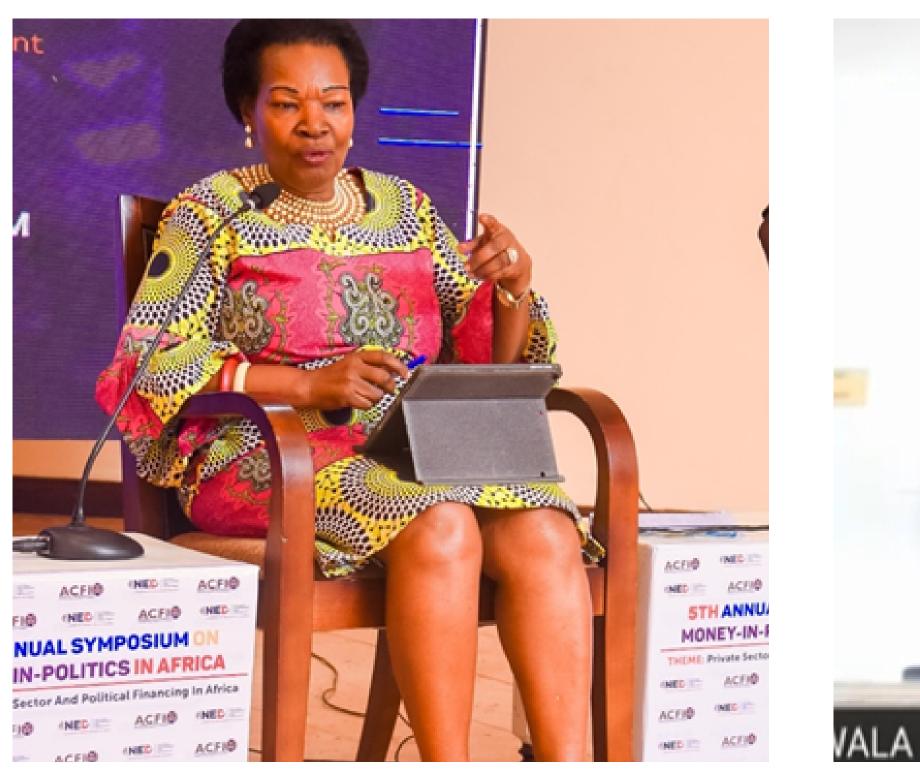
1.1 ACFIM conducted two studies under this priority area



Priority Area 2: Civic Engagement for Political and Electoral Accountability

2.1 The 5th Money in Politics in Africa Symposium

The 5th Symposium took place on 26 October 2022 at the Imperial Royale Hotel in Kampala. This was a hybrid event with both in-person and virtual participants. The theme of the symposium was: Private sector and Political Financing in Uganda. It interrogated how the private sector interacts with politics in accordance providing donations to political parties and candidates. The event was widely covered and publicised in the media.



Hon. Jovah Kamateeka, District Woman Representative of Mitooma

EISA's Noxolo Gwala making her submission as a virtual panelist from South Africa



The Panel, L-R: Prof. Daniel Walyemera (Kampala International university), Felix Kafuuma (moderator), Hon. Jovah Kamateeka and Issa Ssekitto (KACITA).





Some of the participants during the 5th Annual Symposium on Money in Politics, organised in Kampala.



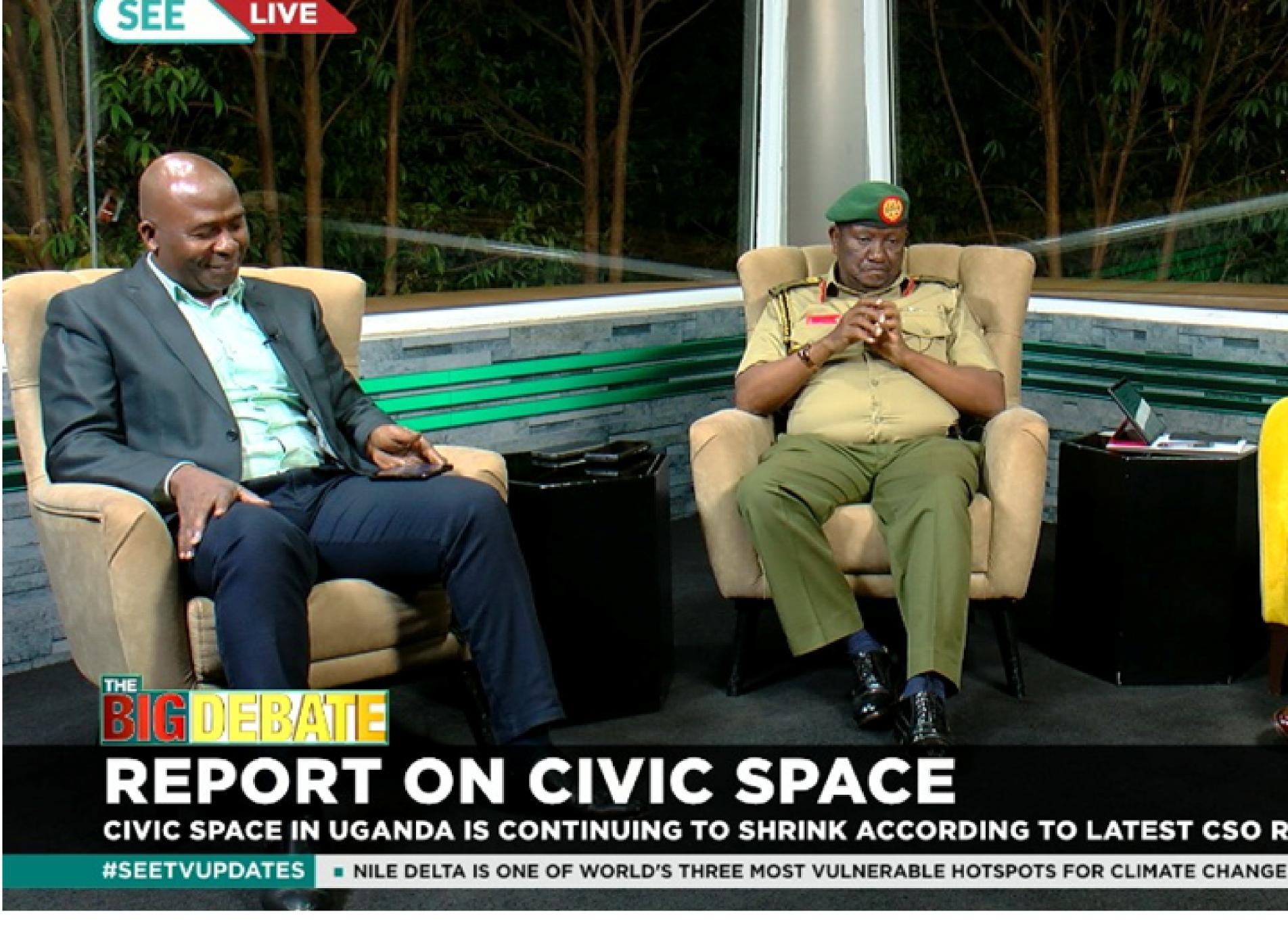
Dr. Kojo Asante joined the panel from Ghana



2.2 Conducted a study on the status of Civic Space in Uganda

The study interrogated the current state of civic space restrictions in Uganda and suggested recommendations to enable concerned actors and stakeholders to be more effective in supporting and advocating for promotion and safeguarding of civic space in Uganda. It was conducted in 15 districts that were purposively sampled from 10 sub-regions of Uganda.





ACFIM Executive Director (1st left) and Uganda Peoples Defense Forces (UPDF) spokesperson Brig. Gen. Felix Kulayigye (middle) and moderator Gabriel Iguma during SEE TV's popular live political show – The Big Debate, on Wednesday November 2nd, 2022. Below is Henry Muguzi in action on the show.

National News

Government urged to exhibit a degree of tolerance to dissenting voices that have found refuge on online spaces.

BY SHABIBAH NAKIRIGYA

ction observers have warned the nment of Uganda against rict the freedom of expression of citizens on social media and other on

This was during the launch of the report titled 'State of Civic Space in Uganda 2022'in Kampala yesterday by Alliance for Finance Monitoring (ACFIM).

The executive director of ACFIM, Mr exhibit a degree of tolerance to dissenting voices that have found refuge on online spaces.

"The computer misuse law is the recent spanner in the works of shrinking of all available spaces for citizens to engage with people in power,"he said.

Mr Muguzi added that as election observers, they think the law was enacted to intimidate free speech, which they say is not good for democracy.

Poll observers warn govt on computer misuse law

the challenges in order for them be able to make informed decision in the next election."he said. The Computer Misuse Act, which

who send malicious and unsolicit ed information as well as share that about children without the consent of their parents or guardians. Section 23(A) of the law creates the offence of hate speech, which includes the writing, sending or sharing of any infor mation through a computer, which is likely to ridicule, degrade or demean another person, group of persons, tribe, ethnicity, religion, or gender. If convicted, one faces seven years imprisonment or a fine of Shs10m.

Mr Muguzi added that by enacting the law, the waves of fear have started tackling through society, which violates their freedom of expression and restricts them from making in-

REPORT ON CIVIC SPACE CIVIC SPACE IN UGANDA IS CONTINUING TO SHRINK ACCORDING TO LATEST CSO REPORT

DAILY MONITOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER, 2, 2022

www.monitor.co.u

that the law must be blind. The law was enacted to target specific people and it not fair because the law mus be blind and applied to all citizens."

When contacted yesterday, Mr Ofwono Opondo, the government spokes person and executive director of the Jganda Media Centre, said organisa tions such as ACFIM are not part of

ABOUT THE LAW

The Computer Misuse Act, among others, creates the offence of misuse of social media against a person who uses the platforms to publish, distribute or share information, prohibited under the laws of Uganda or using disguised or false identity. The law is an amendment to the principal Act of 2011 to

enacted by ignoring the principle Uganda's governance structure to ad vise the government how it should run its affairs

"There are thousands of laws on Uganda statute books and why do they feel only the computer misuse law target specific individuals? Can they name

those being targeted?"he wondered. Findings of the report launched yes terday indicate shrinking civic space in

Mr Abel Eseru, one of the lead researchers, said: "The study, which was done in 13 districts on the shrinking civic space in Uganda, shows that there is a need to amend the restrictive provisions on all legal instruments that curtail civic space and replace them with more enabling provisions."

The study was conducted in a period of four months from June to Septem-

Mr Eseru added that the study also intended to identify gaps and opportunities in civic space and the capacity of civil society partners to protect and pro-

Court dismisses 5 cases against redevelopment ofNakivubo

BY JULIET KIGONGO

KAMPALA. Court has dismissed five cases that were filed separately, challenging the redevelopment of Naki vubo Stadium

The cases were filed against Ham En terprises Limited, businessman Hamis Kiggundu and the board of trustees of Nakivubo War Memorial Stadium Trus between 2013 and 2017.

High Court judge Musa Ssekaana declared that all the cases were filed bas on illegalities and that they did have a reasonable cause of action.

The judge also held that the cases are barred in law because they were since determined.

"I agree with the applicants' submission that the claims of the existence of a market without a licence presume that there were illegal and unlicensed activities on the suit land, which cannot form a basis of a valid and tenable cause of





Issues Paper on State of Civic Space in Uganda

An issues paper on the state of civic space in Uganda was developed to aid in engaging with policy makers, security institutions and other relevant stakeholders in government on the foundational democratic principles including freedoms of expression, of association and of assembly.



in Africa

During the year under review, ACFIM conducted 10 monthly webinars on different sub-themes under the domain of money in politics. The cardinal objective was to take the discussion on monetisation and commercialisation of elective politics to audiences in various African countries and in the "global north" particularly targeting Africans in the diaspora.



EROLE OF ICT IN ENHANCING TRANSPARENT POLITICAL FINAN

2.3 Monthly Webinar series on Money in Politics



2.4 Weekly Virtual Talk shows on Financial Transparency and Accountability for Development

ACFIM conducted 78 live virtual talk shows on its three online platforms, anchored on different themes that manifested democratic reversals, political accountability deficits and general misrule. The virtual talk shows featured a myriad of guest speakers. The numbers of shows were as follows:

a) ACFIM Talks- 38 shows

b) The Other Perspective - 24 shows

c) Ensigo ku Kizinga - 16 shows

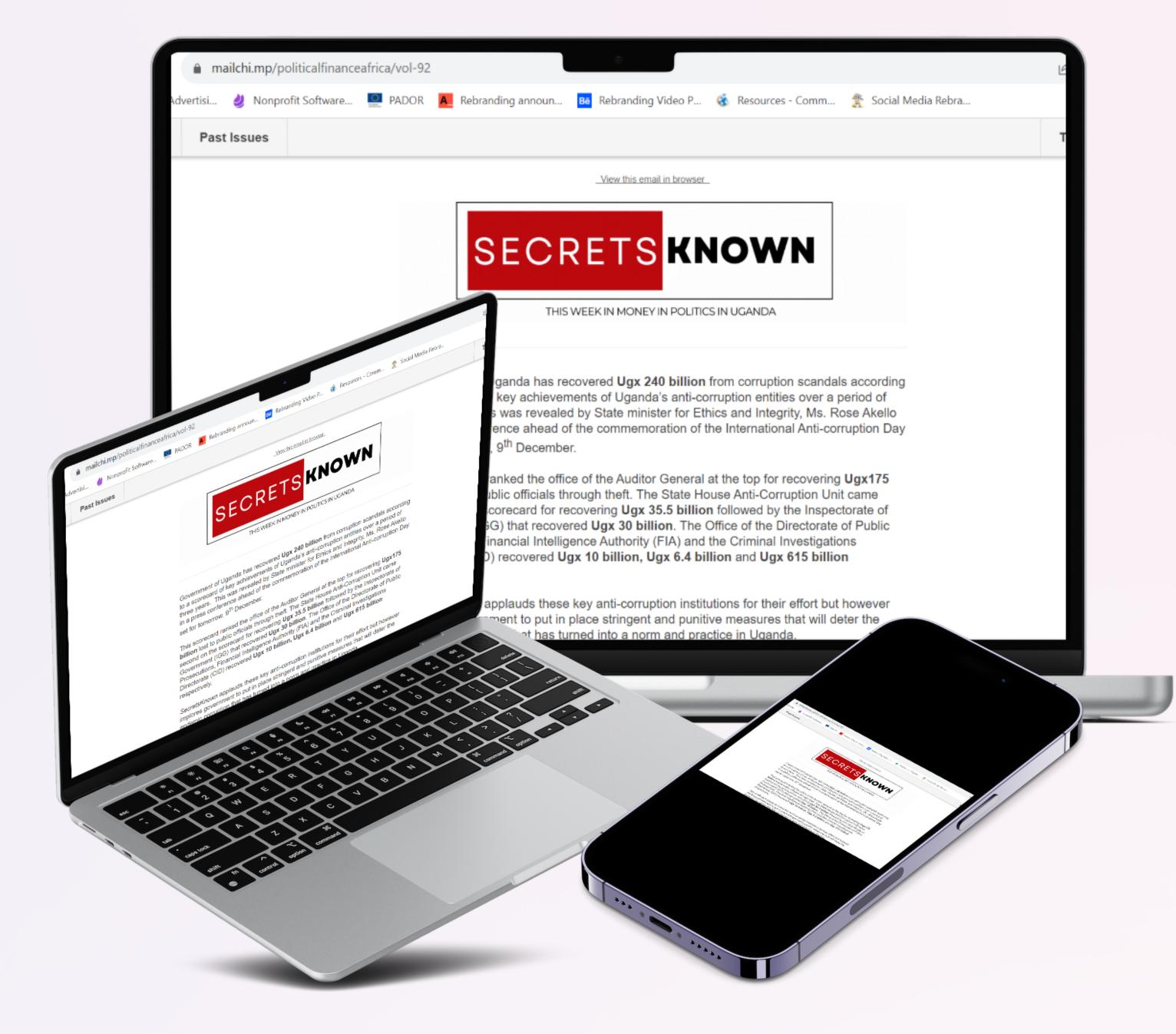


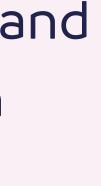
ACFIM TALKS: THE MARRIAGE BETWEEN DP AND NRM - IMPLICATIONS ON UGANDA'S DEMOCRACY (PART 1)

2.5 Weekly E-News Magazine - Secrets Known

ACFIM produced 42 editions of Secrets Known news magazine and shared it to a combined total 1,560 readers. Secrets Known is a weekly online news magazine that applies analytical lenses to selected news stories on money in politics and democracy in Africa. Most of its readership is in the global north.







Priority Area 3: Campaign finance reforms are prioritized

ACFIM worked in partnership with the Public Policy Institute (PPI) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI) under the auspices of the Civil Society Election Engagement Platform (CEEP) to validate and aggregate previous and currently proposed constitutional and electoral reforms alongside a political economy analysis framework. ACFIM is a founder member of CEEP. Ultimately, nine key reform areas were identified among them, establishing campaign finance law and the office of the Registrar of Political Parties. The reforms have been shared informally with key institutions and selected Members of Parliament.

4.2 Board Activities

The four statutory meetings of the Board were conducted per quarter in line with the organisation's constitution. This was in addition to the Board committee meeting and the retreat for the Board and staff during the year under review.

4.1 New Organisational Strategy Developed

In September, ACFIM staff and Board members convened at Country Lake Resort, Garuga for two days to brainstorm on the new organisational strategy (2023-2027). The new strategy has been fully developed and awaits Board approval and presentation to the Annual General Meeting.



Priority Area 4: Institutional Strengthening, Learning and Development











5.0 Challenges Funding Gap

The funding gap created by the departure of DGF coupled with the structural changes at the Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa (OSIEA) and the changing dynamics in the global north in terms of priorities in the wake of the war in Ukraine, are still posing a challenge to the organisation's operations.





6.0 Looking to the future

ACFIM rebranded this year (2023) and this included expanding her scope to cover more countries in Africa in line with the vision of its founders.

Old Logo



New Logo



ACFIM rebranded this year (2023) and this included expanding her scope to cover more countries in Africa in line with the vision of its founders. With this development, the programmatic approach has also changed as the organisation now focuses on macro-level continental interventions. A new organisational strategy (2023-2027) has been developed in that regard and the organisation's policies are being aligned with the pan-African approach. But most importantly, the organisations changed its logo as follows.



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