

2022 Annual Report

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



Introduction

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.

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 Vision

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

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

1M

One million people reached using online, social and electronic media



88

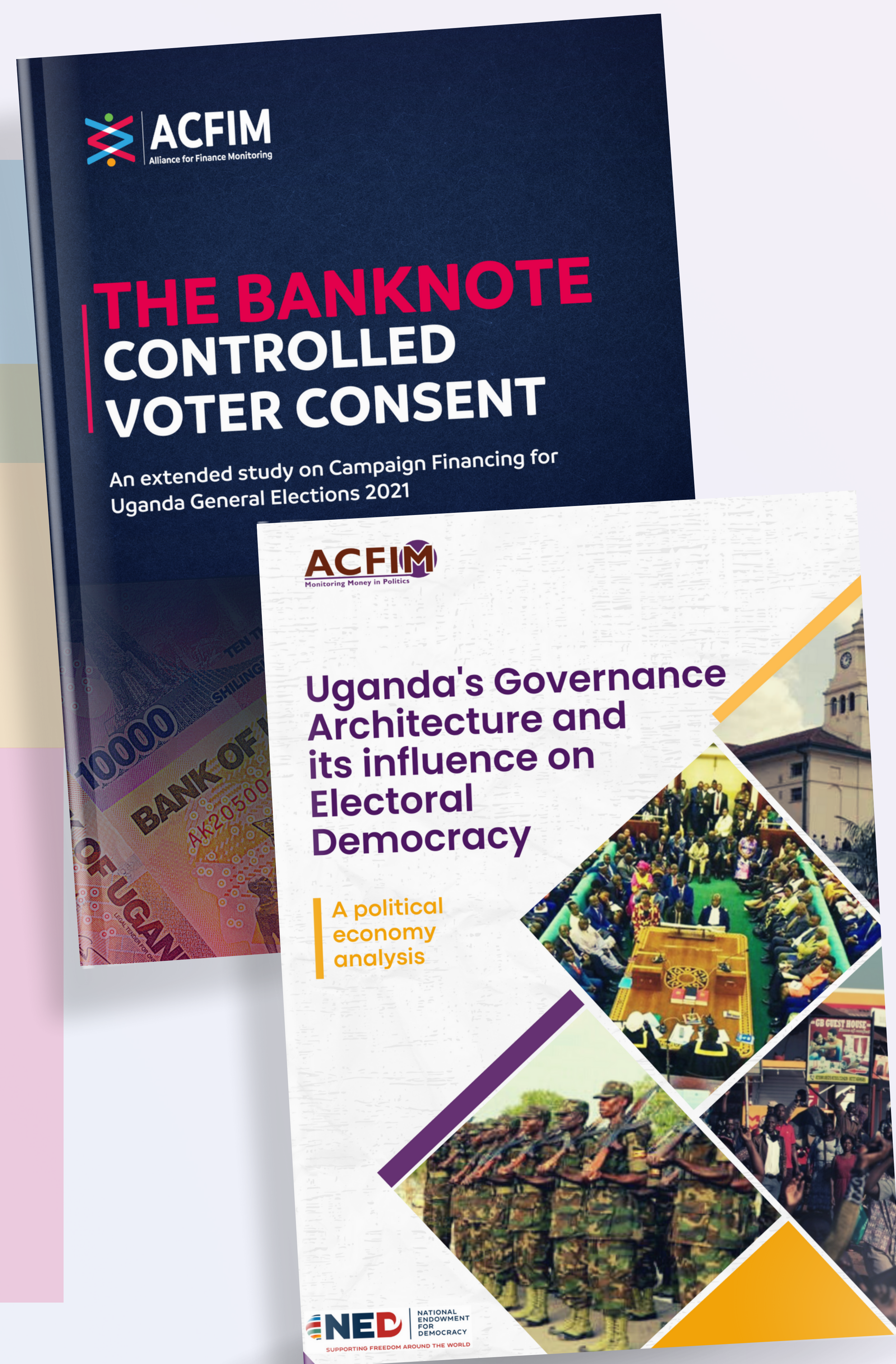
Virtual talk shows were conducted

42

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

03

Research studies were conducted. In addition the extended study on campaign financing for the 2021 general elections was readied for publication.



Key Achievements against our Programme Areas

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

1.1 ACFIM conducted two studies under this priority area 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

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.



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



Hon. Jovah Kamateeka, District Woman Representative of Mitooma



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



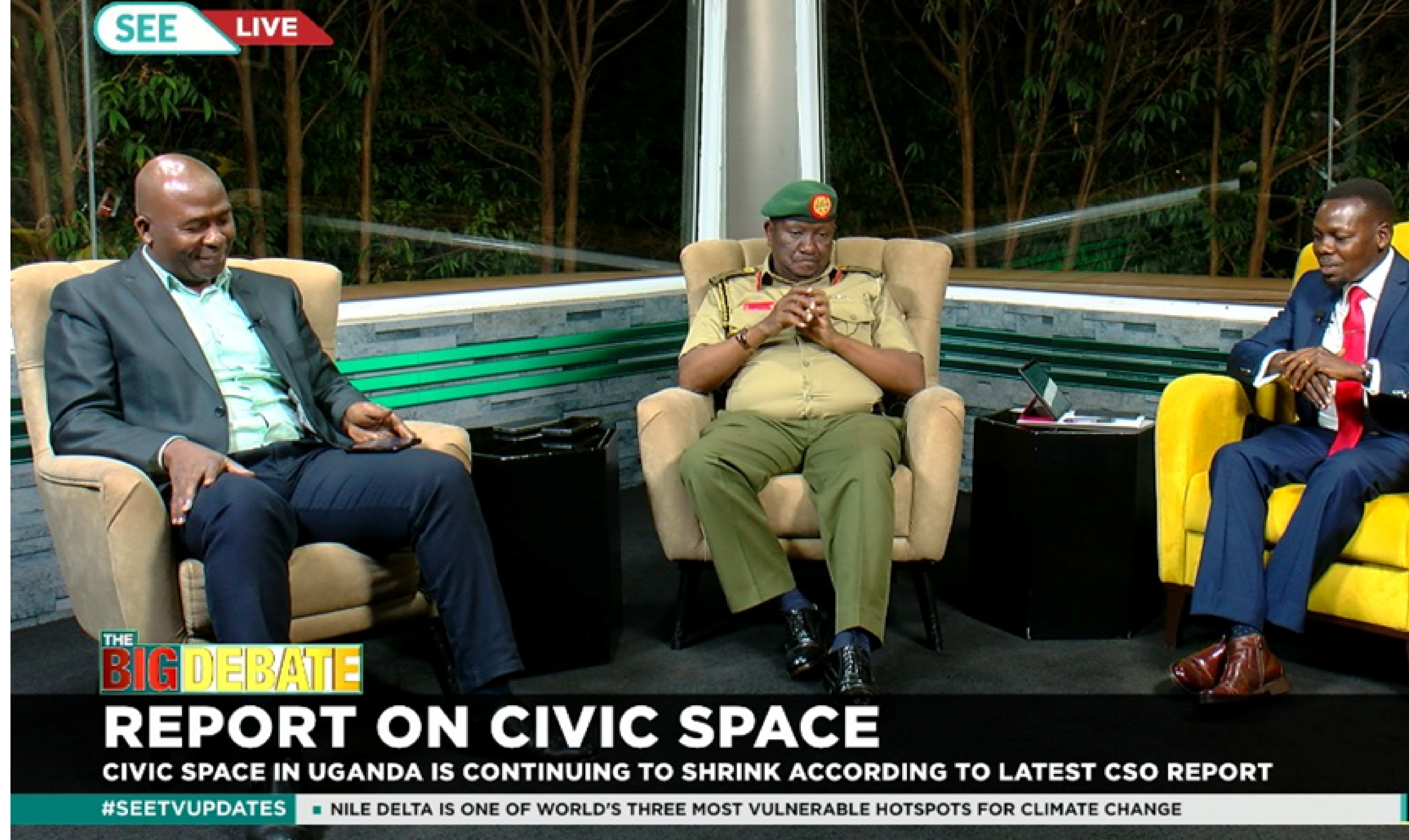
Some of the participants during the 5th Annual Symposium on Money in Politics, organised in Kampala.



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.



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.



2.3 Monthly Webinar series on Money in Politics 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.



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.

Priority Area 4: Institutional Strengthening, Learning and Development

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.



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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