



ACFIM
Alliance for Finance Monitoring

2023

Annual Report





Table of Content

Vision And Mission-page 1

Message from the Executive Director -page 2

Overview -page 3

ACFIM at a glance -page 4

Journalist Investigations -page 6

International Convenings -page 9

Monthly Webinars -page 14

Policy briefs -page 15

Institutional Development -page 16



The Political Finance Watchdog



OUR VISION

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

OUR VISION

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

Message from the Executive Director

Dear readers, you will agree with me that our countries stand at a critical juncture where the integrity of our elections and the health of our democracies are imperiled by the unchecked influence of big money in elections.

This is partly why the year 2023 was characterized by strategic shifts in the programmatic approach, resource mobilisation methodologies, and technical capabilities. Thus, the organisation morphed into a new brand, developed a new strategic plan and strengthened its position as one of the frontline pro-democracy civil society organizations in Africa.

Having assumed its place as the continental political finance watchdog, ACFIM will continue to be the advocate, mobilize, educate, research, and conduct policy analysis on matters of democracy, elections and development. As one of the continual frontrunners in defending and promoting democracy, ACFIM continues to play the incubation role for the African Election Observers Network (AfEONet) whose role as a guardian of democratic values and electoral integrity across the continent cannot be overemphasized.

In the coming years, ACFIM will continue to work collaboratively with national governments, the African Union bodies, the regional economic communities (EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS & SADC) and other strategic partners that have an interest in promoting democracy in Africa.

I wish to profoundly thank the Board of Directors that has worked so closely with the Secretariat to ensure that notwithstanding the financial resource constraints, they steered the organisation to the above remarkable achievements. I also wish to thank the member organisations and partners of ACFIM for the support they have rendered to the secretariat.

Last but not, the staff, whose incredible work ethos continues to propel the organisation to even greater heights.

Thank you everyone for your support.

A luta continua.



Henry Muguzi, ACFIM's Executive Director



Overview

2023: A Year of Strategic Rethinking

- *New Brand, New website*
- *Widened Programmatic Scope*
- *Expanded Geographical Scope*
- *A year of downsizing and resizing*

Key Highlights in the Year

- *New Strategic Plan developed (2023 – 2027).*
- *Expanded programmatic and geographical scope.*
- *New organisational brand image launched.*
- *Growing international role and presence of ACFIM as one of the vanguard organisations defending democracy and fostering democratic renewal in Africa.*
- *ACFIM is poised to lead the AFRI-PTI, advocating for the African Union to establish continental standards that guarantee transparency in financing political parties and candidates for electoral purposes*

ACFIM at A Glance

1.2M

over 1 million people reached using online, social and electronic media

54

Virtual talkshows were conducted

02

Issues papers produced

02

Studies conducted

02

International events organised (S4D and conference on money in Politics)

33

Media Appearance (18 TV and 15 radio)

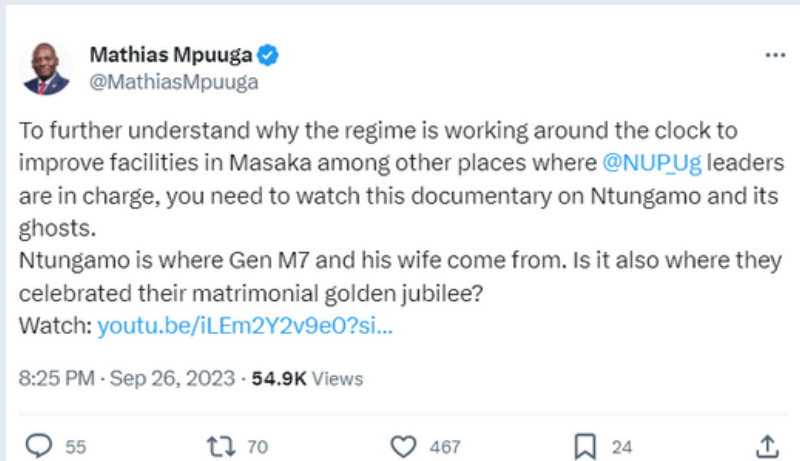
Key Milestones

Journalistic Investigations

Evidence-based video documentary produced

Alliance for Finance Monitoring (ACFIM) worked in partnership with the African Institute for Investigative Journalism (AIJ) to produce a video documentary exposing the ghost health centres in Ntungamo district in Western Uganda where President Yoweri Museveni and first lady Janet Museveni hail from. The 40-minute evidence-based video documentary which was a culmination of completed the five months of in-depth investigations, filming and production, premiered in Kampala and online on July 20, 2023 and was broadcast on national television (NBS). A twitter space discussion was conducted to give more airplay to the documentary and was followed by hosting the chief investigator, Solomon Serwanjja on ACFIM Talks Live virtual talk show which was simulcast on YouTube and on Facebook.

The documentary exposed the gaps in the districts pay-roll management by flagging the existence of over 20 ghost health centres for the last 10 years and a breakdown in the accountability system, has been produced. It triggered widespread comments including from the Leader of Opposition in Parliament, Hon. Mathias Mpuuga.



The documentary evoked secondary questions from the general public including the following:

- If corruption of that magnitude prevails in the home district of the president and first lady, what is likely to be happening in other districts?
- How big is the problem in Uganda?
- How much is Uganda losing as a country from ghost health centres?
- Who is responsible? Who dropped the ball?
- How the existence of ghost health centers has continued undetected for over six years?

Screening of the Documentary at Sub-National Level

The documentary was screened at grassroot level in three regions namely: Ntungamo Municipality (Ankole sub-region), Masindi Municipality (Bunyoro Sub-region) and in Fort Portal city (Rwenzori sub-region). Screening of the documentary stimulated subnational level discussion on irregularities in management of personnel and pension systems in their respective districts and inspire those in positions of authority including members of the district integrity platforms to probe the situation in their own localities.



Executive Director of KICK-U sharing with participants the purpose of the townhall meeting in Ntungamo district.



Participants in Ntungamo district watching "the Ghosts of Ntungamo" evidence-based documentary



Participants raising pertinent health issues after watching the documentary during community engagement in Masindi district.



Duty bearers in Masindi district taking note of the issues being raised by the locals during the community baraza.



The District Health Officer of Masindi responding to some of the issues raised by the locals during the community baraza meeting.



Participants listening to responses from duty bearers in Masindi district.



International Convenings

1. Conference on Money in Politics in Africa

ACFIM convened the two-day virtual conference on "Money in Politics in Africa" on August 30-31, 2023. A key outcome of the conference was the resolution to create a civil society coalition to promote political finance transparency with a view of shaping the continent's democratic future. The coalition dubbed, African Political Finance Transparency Initiative (AFRI-PTI) will coordinate practitioners, experts, and stakeholders for the advancement of transparency in the funding of political parties and candidatures for elected public office. The virtual conference whose theme was "Campaign Finance Transparency", gathered over 150 dedicated participants, from 20 CSO across 15 countries from Anglophone and Francophone Africa.

150

Participants

15

Countries

20

Organisations

05

Co-conveners

The conference was composed of six panel sessions namely;

1. Campaign Financing in Africa
2. The legal and institutional framework for campaign financing in Africa
3. The increasing cost of elective politics in Africa
4. Campaign finance and the participation of women and youth
5. Financing political parties in Africa: The nexus between campaign finance and political corruption
6. Citizen disinterest in how political parties and candidates, source for campaign money

Panel 1:

Campaign Financing in Africa

Contextualizing the extended study on campaign financing for Uganda general elections 2021

Wednesday, August 30, 2023
9.00 HRS - 11.00 HRS GMT

Register here:



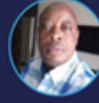
<https://bit.ly/45ipAW0>



SPEAKER
HENRY MUGUZI
Executive Director,
Alliance for Finance Monitoring
(ACFIM) Uganda



SPEAKER
THEOPHILUS GBENDA
Executive Director, Community
Media Network Sierra Leone
(CoMNet-SL)



SPEAKER
ERNEST MPARARO
Anti-Corruption Expert
DRC



SPEAKER
TAFADZWA CHIKUMBU
Executive Director,
Transparency International,
Zimbabwe



MODERATOR
FELIX KAFUUMA
Political Finance Expert

Panel 3:

The increasing cost of elective politics in Africa

Wednesday, August 30, 2023
15.00 HRS - 17.00 HRS GMT

Register here:



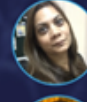
<https://bit.ly/45ipAW0>



MODERATOR
MARR NYANG
Executive Director,
Gambia Participates



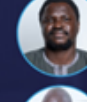
SPEAKER
DR. KOJO ASANTE
Director of Advocacy and
Policy Engagement, Center for
Democratic Development
(CDD-Ghana)



SPEAKER
DR. ROUKAYA KASENALLY
Associate Professor at the
University of Mauritius



SPEAKER
ARSENE K. KONAN
Electoral process and Democracy
specialist, INDDG- Côte D'Ivoire



SPEAKER
SAIT MATTY JAW
Executive Director,
Center for Research and Policy
Development (CRPD) - Gambia



SPEAKER
EMMANUEL KITAMIRIKE
Associate Director,
Public Policy Institute - Uganda



#MoneyPoliticsinAfrica ACFIM Africa

Panel 2:

The legal and institutional framework for campaign financing in Africa

Wednesday, August 30, 2023
12.00 HRS - 14.00 HRS GMT

Register here:



<https://bit.ly/45ipAW0>



SPEAKER
DERRICK MAKHANDIA
Program Officer-Citizen
Demand and Oversight,
Transparency International
Kenya



SPEAKER
**DR. KETAKANDRIANA
RAFITOSON**
Executive Director, Transparency
International, Madagascar



SPEAKER
HENRY MUGUZI
Executive Director,
Alliance for Finance Monitoring
(ACFIM) Uganda



SPEAKER
DR. JAMAL MSAMI
Director of Strategic Research/Sampling
Specialist and Data Manager at REPOA
Tanzania



SPEAKER
FESTUS OJEWUMI
Head of Programs,
Justice, Development and Peace Makers'
Centre- Nigeria



MODERATOR
**DR. SARAH
BIREETE**
Chairperson Eastern and
Horn of Africa Election
Observers Network
(E-HORN)

Panel 5:

Financing political parties in Africa: The nexus between campaign finance and political corruption

Thursday, August 31, 2023
12.00 HRS - 14.00 HRS GMT

Register here:



<https://bit.ly/45ipAW0>



SPEAKER
SHEILA MASINDE
Executive Director of
Transparency International
Kenya (TI-Kenya)



SPEAKER
CHIMUKA NACHIBINGA
Public & Business Integrity Manager
at Transparency International
Zambia



SPEAKER
WILLIAM NYARKO
Founder & Executive Director
Africa Center for International Law
and Accountability (ACILA)
Ghana



SPEAKER
AFOLABI ADEKAIYAOJA
Research Analyst (CDD-West Africa)
Nigeria



MODERATOR
FRANCISCA ENCHILL
Center for Democratic
Development (CDD-Ghana)



#MoneyPoliticsinAfrica ACFIM Africa

Panel 6:

Citizen disinterest in how political parties and candidates source for campaign money and how they spend it.

Thursday, August 31, 2023
15.00 HRS - 17.00 HRS GMT

Register here:



<https://bit.ly/45ipAW0>



SPEAKER
ANDREW KARAMAGI
Lawyer & Human Rights Activist
Uganda



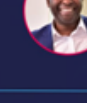
SPEAKER
PUSETSO MORAPEDI
Southern Africa Director,
Platform to Protect Whistle-
blowers in Africa (PPLAAF)
Botswana



SPEAKER
FELIX KAFUUMA
Director of Programs
Alliance for Finance Monitoring
(ACFIM) Uganda



SPEAKER
ISRAEL K. ILUNDE
Executive Director of the Youth
Partnership Countrywide (YPC)
Tanzania



MODERATOR
HENRY MUGUZI
Political Finance Expert-
Uganda



#MoneyPoliticsinAfrica ACFIM Africa

2. Pre-S4D Citizens Summit Convening in Lusaka, Zambia: In Defense of Democracy – Citizens Summit On Democracy



Alliance for Finance Monitoring together with other members of the Global Democracy Coalition namely; International IDEA, European Partnership for Democracy, Accountability Lab, Southern Defenders, Freedom House, Kofi Annan Foundation, Ford Foundation and West minister Foundation for Democracy, convened the pre-Summit for Democracy (S4D) on the 27th and 28th of March 2023 at Urban Hotel in Lusaka, ahead of the official Summit for Democracy. The event which was part of the Global Partners for Democracy Day was organized under the theme: “Citizens Summit in Defense of Democracy & Freedom”. It was attended by over 120 people on day one and 87+ on day 2, drawn from 29 countries.



Participants at the Pre-S4D Citizen Summit convening in Lusaka, Zambia

The Citizens Summit allowed civil society to shape narratives and share aspirations the democracy they want to see; how to make democracy deliver socioeconomic dividends, and how to push back on resurgent authoritarianism on the African continent.

A communique was produced at the end of the summit which among others things urged African governments to commit to standardizing legal frameworks on political financing to promote accountability and transparency in financing political parties, election campaigns, and referenda



The breakout session on Money in Politics in Africa featuring: Peter Mwanangombe – Executive Director at Christian Churches Monitoring Group (CCMG-Zambia), Tanja Hollstein – Head of Elections at Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Dr. Kojo Asante – Director Advocacy and Policy at CDD Ghana, Raymond Mutale – Director Programmes at Transparency International Zambia, Henry Muguzi – Executive Director at ACFIM. The session was moderated by Mulle Musau – Head of Secretariat at Elections Observation Group (ELOG-Kenya).



Jacek Jankowski, European Ambassador to Zambia, at the Pre-S4D Summit convening in Lusaka, Zambia.



ACFIM's Executive Director, Henry Muguzi (2nd right in blue jacket) as ELOG chief Executive, Mulle Musau (1st right) lays out the ground principles. This was one of the break-out sessions at the Pre-S4D Summit convening in Lusaka, Zambia.



3. Participated in the Official Summit for Democracy in Lusaka, Zambia

On March 29 and 30, 2023, the Government of the Republic of Zambia co-hosted the second Summit for Democracy with the United States of America, Costa Rica, the Netherlands, and South Korea governments. ACFIM Executive Director, Henry Muguzi, was invited by the Government of Zambia to be feature on a panel discussion on: “Transparency in Political Financing in Africa”.

Regulating money in politics with a view to promoting political finance transparency in Africa, is one of the strong recommendations that came out of the Summit for Democracy.



ACFIM's Executive Director, Henry Muguzi (1st left) with the Head of Open Society Foundation Africa Office Dr. Siphosami Malunga (2nd left) and joined by the Chairperson of Eastern and Horn of Africa Election Observers Network (E-HORN) Dr. Sarah Bireete (1st right) during the official summit for Democracy in Lusaka, Zambia.

Monthly Webinar Series

ACFIM conducted a series of webinars on the different perspectives of the challenge that unregulated Money in Politics imposes on the democratisation process in African countries. One of them was on the title: “Dirty Money and Politics in Africa: How Proceeds from Minerals Bankroll Political Survival”. The webinar featured investigative journalists, political analysts, the academia, and civil society experts from Uganda, Kenya, South Sudan, Nigeria, and Ghana. It attracted over 100 participants that followed the proceedings on ACFIM’s YouTube channel. The webinar hosted various speakers from Africa.



DIRTY MONEY AND POLITICS IN AFRICA

HOW PROCEEDS FROM MINERALS BANKROLL POLITICAL SURVIVAL

JUNE 01 | **12:00 GMT**

13.00-15.00hrs (Abuja time)
14.00-16.00hrs (Lusaka time)
15.00-17.00 hrs (Nairobi time)

Meeting ID: **87285013136**

Acfim Africa
ALLIANCE FOR FINANCE MONITORING

Moderator
Felix Kafuuma
Executive Director - NewsBridge Africa, Ghana

Speaker
Idayat Hassan
Director, Center for Democratic Development, West Africa, Nigeria

Speaker
Godber Tumushabe
Associate Director - GreatLakes Institute for Strategic Studies, Uganda

Speaker
Emmanuel K. Dogbevi
Executive Director - NewsBridge Africa, Ghana

Speaker
Mulle Musau
National Coordinator, Elections Observation Group (ELOG), Kenya

Speaker
Edmund Yakani
President, East Africa Civil Society Forum (EACSOF), South Sudan

Organized by ACFIM - The Pan-African Political Finance Watch Dog

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY



MILITARY COUPS, ZOMBIE ELECTIONS AND THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY IN AFRICA

PANELLISTS

HENRY MUGUZI
Overall Coordinator, AfeONeT, Uganda

PRISCILLA M. ISAAC
Former Chief Electoral Officer, the Electoral Commission of Zambia

SAMSON ITODO
Executive Director, Yiaga Africa, Nigeria

SLIM BOUZID
President Mourakiboun, Tunisia

MODERATOR
FELIX V. KAFUUMA
Political Finance Expert, Uganda

REGISTER HERE



https://streamyard.com/watch/Ru_wCWA5nvvpF

13:00 - 14:30 GMT
15 SEPTEMBER, 2023

Policy Briefs



The Policy Brief titled: “Alleged mismanagement of the personnel and payroll system in district local governments of Uganda–The Ghosts of Ntungamo”, and “Curbing the Escalating Cost of Politics: Comprehensive Reforms to Regulate Campaign Finance in Uganda”, were produced and shared with the relevant ministries including Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs and Ministry of Finance, Office of the Speaker of Parliament, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Committee, the Whips in Parliament, Cabinet Secretariat, Inspectorate of Government, Office of the Auditor General and leaders of political parties among others.

ACFIM
Alliance for Finance Monitoring

POLICY BRIEF ON
ALLEGED MISMANAGEMENT OF THE PERSONNEL AND PAYROLL SYSTEM IN DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF UGANDA - THE GHOSTS OF NTUNGAMO

August 2023

Introduction

Alliance for Finance Monitoring (ACFIM) teamed up with the African Institute for Investigative Journalism (AIJ) to investigate reports of corruption in management of Ntungamo District’s health sector following a probe by the State House Health Monitoring Unit. The unit unearthed a multiplicity of irregularities that included nonexistent health centers with ghost health workers on the payroll, false accountabilities for Primary Health Care funds, result-based funds, and other monies from the Health Ministry at different Health Centers.

The interest of ACFIM and AIJ was spurred by health service delivery being a subject of national interest, and the reality that Ntungamo is the district of origin/birth for President Museveni and the first lady, Janet Museveni. Consequently, a documentary titled: The Ghosts of Ntungamo, was produced broadcast on national television and the various online platforms.

IN THE BRIEF

- 2- OVERVIEW
- 2- THE INVESTIGATION
- 3- PROBLEM AT HAND
- 6- POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Page 1

ACFIM
Alliance for Finance Monitoring

POLICY BRIEF
Issue 1 - Cost of Politics Series

CURBING THE ESCALATING COST OF POLITICS:

Comprehensive Reforms to Regulate Campaign Finance in Uganda

This policy brief addresses the critical need for comprehensive campaign finance reforms in Uganda to enhance transparency, accountability, and fairness in electoral processes for democratic renewal. It draws upon the extensive research conducted by the Alliance for Campaign Finance Monitoring (ACFIM) on campaign financing during the 2021 general elections.

Overview

A comprehensive report by the Alliance for Finance Monitoring (ACFIM) pertaining to campaign financing during the 2021 Uganda general elections unveiled a striking revelation. The political parties and candidates who actively participated in this electoral process displayed an unprecedented extravagance. To put this into perspective, the 2016 general elections witnessed an approximate expenditure of UGX 2.4 trillion (\$716 million). However, the 2021 general elections exceeded this amount significantly, with a total expenditure reaching UGX 3.983 trillion (\$1,091 billion). This dramatic escalation in campaign expenditure has underscored the deepening commercialization of politics, a topic of growing concern that now dominates discussions within Uganda’s political landscape at various levels.

KEY FINDINGS

A. Rising Campaign Costs and BigSpenders:

The cost of politics in Uganda has experienced a remarkable surge since the country’s return to multiparty dispensation in 2006. In the 2021 elections, campaign spending by candidates vying for direct constituency seats in Parliament stood at an average of UGX 511 million (\$141,944). However, it’s important to note that there were notable exceptions, with some candidates lavishing as much as UGX 3 billion, while a few worked with more modest budgets ranging from UGX 50-70 million. Contestants for District Women Representative positions in Parliament averaged a campaign expenditure of UGX 256 million (\$71,110). City Mayor candidates had an average expenditure of UGX 125 million (\$34,944), while those running for Municipality Mayor spent an average of UGX 61 million (\$16,944). District Chairperson candidates spent an estimated average of UGX 103 million (\$28,611). If this trend continues unabated, participating in the 2026 elections may become a domain reserved exclusively for the extremely affluent.

B. Voter Enticement:

The practice of voter inducement/enticement, which took the form of cash distributions, in-kind presents, and community contributions, played a substantial

ACFIM | Issue 1 | Cost of Politics Series | October 2023

01

Institutional Development



After seven years living with an image that the Board and Management felt did not reflect the stature of the organisation, a new brand manual was written and approved by the Board. At the beginning of 2023, the new image of ACFIM was unleashed to the world. Below are some of the moments during the commissioning of the new look of the organisation.



Nile Blue is the new organisational primary color. The secondary colors are:

- a) Debian red
- b) Orange peel
- c) Dark pastel green, and
- d) Butterfly blue

Old LOGO

The old logo below will now only exist in the annals of history.





For further information contact US



+256 (0) 393 217 168



acfim@acfim.org



www.acfim.org



***Interservice Tower, 1st Floor, Lumumba Avenue,
P.O Box 37206, Kampala***

©Alliance for Finance Monitoring (ACFIM) bears the sole responsibility for the content in this report.