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UGANDA'S 2019 GUILD ELECTIONS CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

The continuous escalation of commercialized electoral processes is not only evident in the national politics of Uganda; its roots have sprouted in the tertiary institutions guild elections which is a big concern to Uganda's democratic growth.

Tertiary institutions are renowned breeding grounds for politicians who end up in mainstream politics, and also compose of enormous number of youth who are susceptible to vise of vote buying. A study by Agha Khan University reveals that 74% of youth are vulnerable to electoral bribery and of these, 39% said they will only vote if a political candidate bribed them.^[1]

Alliance for Finance Monitoring (ACFIM) a Pan-African organization with a mission to contribute towards building electoral integrity by promoting transparency and accountability in political and electoral processes, did train and deployed Campaign Finance Monitors in purposively selected tertiary institutions to establish the level of campaign spending by tracking and monitoring Guild candidates' activities.

[1] Uganda Youth Survey Report (2016), Agha Khan University

OBJECTIVES

- a) To establish the magnitude of candidates spending during Guild Presidential election campaigns in tertiary institutions.
- b) To investigate and understand the extent to which money influences student guild electoral outcomes in tertiary institutions.

METHODOLOGY

ACFIM trained 20 (13 males, 07 females) Campaign Finance Monitors (CFMs), identified from Makerere University (MUK), Makerere University Business School (MUBS), Kyambogo University (KYU), and Kampala International University (KIU) on how to monitor and interpret the designed tool which was tailored to capture empirical data on election campaign spending in tertiary institutions.

When Guild election campaigns kicked off, CFMs were deployed to follow and monitor all guild election campaign activities within and outside their tertiary institutions. CFMs observed, monitored and tracked campaign spending of guild candidates, and recorded empirical data for 10 days in each tertiary institution. ACFIM staff held evaluation meetings with CFMs during monitoring process, so as to offer guidance and support.

MEETINGS WITH UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATORS

ACFIM staff had an entry point into tertiary institutions to introduce what we do and how we do it. We had several engagements with Deans of Students to establish formal working relations, through which we would effectively engage with students' leaders in the tertiary institutions, as well as the various initiatives we intended to do with the students like the national youth convention.

All Deans of Students acknowledged that indeed commercialization of politics, elections are a big problem in tertiary institutions and were glad to work with ACFIM. They pledged total support toward our team and encouraged us to do the same even in primary and secondary schools where money has infiltrated their elections at that level. The Dean of Students for Kampala International University, Mrs. Kyomuhendo Catherine, was glad to share with us her experience in guild elections while she was still a student in Makerere University, in the guild race between Nobert Mao and the late Noble Mayombo. She narrated that Nobert Mao, then, showered girls in Mary Stuart Hall with sweets, for which they voted for him, highlighting that commercialization started a long time ago, it has only escalated recently with a lot of money being pumped into students' elections, expressing her worry on the quality of leaders that we end up with in mainstream politics.

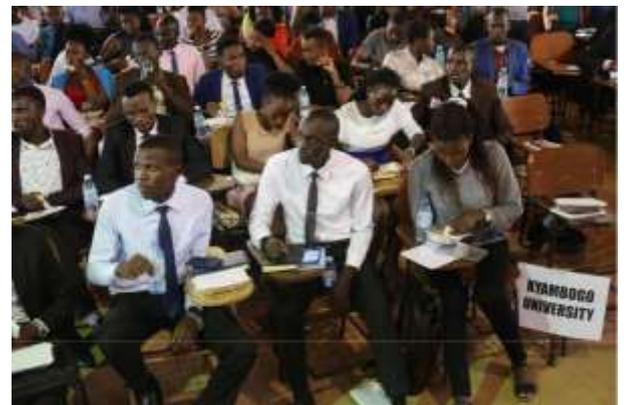
ACFIM committed to create civic awareness among the students' leaders and the entire students' body on the negative influence of money in elections and how best these tertiary institutions can adopt campaign finance reforms that would help regulate the amount of money used in elections, and monitor election campaign finance spending in the guild elections.

MEETINGS WITH GUILD PRESIDENTS

ACFIM team had a number of one-on-one engagements with guild presidents of Makerere University, Kyambogo University, Uganda Christian University, Kampala International University and Makerere University Business School to introduce who we are, what we do and how we do it. We expressed our interest in working with guild councils and the students' body.

They attested to the fact that they are victims of commercialization of elections, where they appreciated the need to curb the vice with conversations around campaign finance reforms through which students' leaders would be educated on commercialization of elections and how they would be instrumental in establishing campaign finance reforms.

Guild presidents were key in the mobilization of other leaders when it came to awareness meetings and engagements with the electoral commissions, as well as the national youth convention which was held at Uganda Christian University in April, 2019



GUILD ELECTORAL PROCESS

STEP 01 Appointment of Electoral Commission members

STEP 02 Update and verification of students' registers

STEP 03 Electoral Road map

STEP 04 Nomination and briefing of candidates

STEP 05 Electoral Campaigns (Approximately for 2 weeks)

STEP 06 Elections

STEP 07 Election petitions (As and when)

ESTABLISHMENT OF ELECTORAL COMMISSIONS

All university Guild Constitutions do require top electoral commission members to be elected from within the Guild Council by Guild Representative Councilors, who are charged with the responsibility of managing and overseeing the entire electoral processes in guild elections, which involve setting election guidelines, nominating guild and Guild Representative Council candidates, managing elections, announcing guild election results and handling election petitions. For the case of Kyambogo University, the Guild President in consultation with the Executive proposes members of the electoral commission who shall be approved by the Guild council. The proposed members should not be part of the Guild Council. In all the three tertiary institutions the Electoral Commission top leadership has the mandate to invite applications for members who want to be polling assistances during elections. At Kyambogo University after the Electoral Commission (EC) was approved by the Guild Representative Council on 29th January 2019 to conduct elections, EC Chairperson and some EC members were reported to have solicited and received bribes from fellow students who had applied to be polling assistants, investigations found the reports to be true and about **UGX 2,500,000 (\$ 715)** had been collected by some commissioners, such an act was unlawful and the commissioners and Guild President who were part of such an act were asked to declair the money which was banked to the guild account, both the receiver and giver did not retain any money since they all had participated in corruption. Kyambogo University after that incident, a new Electoral Commission was constituted to conduct the Guild elections.

CAMPAIGN MONITORING STRATEGIES

The CFMs were able to monitor election campaign spending in various ways. These include the following:

Some CFMs joined the various camps of guild candidates during the campaign period. While in these camps, CFMs had the opportunity to attend strategic meetings of guild candidates' campaign teams through which they were able to access classified information like budgets. CFMs used observation as a means to collect data, regarding campaign spending on various campaign materials like tags, t-shirts.

ACFIM team was there to offer technical guidance and support to the CFMs through telephone calls, one on one engagements, monitoring, supervision.

ACFIM team also conducted one on one engagements with guild candidates, students, electoral commission executives to learn more about election campaign spending areas in guild elections

CFMs were able to follow the different campaign trails of different guild candidates to collect empirical data on campaign spending. This was done both during day and night. Some campaigns could stretch to as late as 1:00 am.



GUILD CANDIDATES' CAMPAIGN STRATEGIES

Guild presidential candidates set out to seek for political support from the students. All guild races in the three tertiary institutions were competitive, this pushed candidates to come up with creative strategies of popularizing themselves among the students. Some of these strategies included the following:

Door to door campaigns, usage of campaign paraphernalia and apparels such as banners, posters, branded t-shirts, and bandannas, Tags, fliers.

Neon advertisements, production of Infomercials(videos) shared on social media, band processions, and house parties.

Media such as Radio and TV talk shows were also used by some candidate who could afford. Some candidates invited of political party heads to campaign for them.

Political party colors and slogans and symbols were also used by party affiliated candidates.

Campaign songs were also composed by popular music artists and played during rallies.



ELECTION CAMPAIGN EXPENSES

Nomination Fees

Nomination fees paid by Guild Presidential candidates to contest varied from one university to another and the fees were determined by Guild Representative Council. Duly nominated Guild Presidential candidates at Kyambogo University were twelve (12), Makerere University had eleven (11), and Makerere University Business School had four (04).



Processions/ Road Drives

Processions/road-drives were a key campaign strategy most guild presidential candidates used to mobilize support, which was evident in all tertiary institutions. Guild candidates spent enormously on hiring of vehicles, public address systems and brass bands, used to lead procession teams to hostels and halls of residence during campaign periods.



Some Guild Presidential Candidates hired Bands to lead their processions.

Production and Promotion of Campaign Paraphernalia

Guild Presidential Candidates spent enormously in production of campaign paraphernalia or propaganda materials like posters which appeared in different qualities and sizes, banners, tags, berets, placards, ribbons and t-shirts which were in different colors and dished out to voters during guild candidates' general assembly meetings, campaign rallies, road drives, door to door campaigns, porridge nights and bull roasting events. Propaganda materials like posters and banners were also glued and hanged on walls, windows and major entrance gates of halls of residence, hostels and colleges.



Candidates also spent on protective head gears like helmets for the security team



VOTE BUYING

Student leaders and security teams of various halls, hostels and schools made guild campaigns a lucrative venture of extracting money from guild candidates in return of support. Guild candidates enormously invested in buying support of most influential personalities in halls, schools and hostels who rallied and mobilized support for guild candidates. For instance, at Makerere University the prevailing political culture required candidates to put a minimum of **UGX 10,000 (\$ 2.8)** in paraded boxes during rallies at halls of residence, any candidate who failed to comply with set standards would not be allowed to address the crowd. Due to such demands some candidates' hopes of becoming guild presidents were put into dust, of which some failed to turn-up for rallies and decided to withdraw from the race.

Candidate Namuddu Milly (R) from Makerere University pictured at Africa hall Putting Money in "culture boxes".



Voter Hospitality/ Electoral Treating

The Guild Presidential candidates throughout the guild campaigns were friendly, generous and entertaining to their voters. Some candidates spent part of their campaign finances in organizing porridge nights, bull roasting events, beach bashes, hiring local entertainers to perform and compose campaign music songs for some candidates.

Candidates also spent in ice cream, water, soda, food and alcohol like sachet gins, beer and local brew which were offered to potential voters to help entice them. Photo below shows student at Makerere University, Marty Stuart Hall lining up for ice sponsored for by a candidate.



Body Painting

Beautification of bodies with paint in colors used by guild candidates was commonly done by some campaign team members of guild candidates to entertain voters during election campaign rallies as shown in pictures below.



Security Task-force

Most of guild presidential candidates had their security taskforce teams that offered them protection during the guild campaign period. Some were hired from outside, while others were university students from halls of residence and hostels.

Most of the security teams had different t-shirts labelled with particular group for instance, Rat Guard Brigade (RGB), Gongom Guard Brigade (GGB), Afro-stone Guard Brigade (AGB) and Kyambogo Guard Brigade (KGB). Guild candidates spent a lot on facilitating the demands of the security taskforces especially on buying of helmets and alcohol.



ELECTORAL VIOLENCE

Guild Presidential election campaigns on several occasions were marred with electoral violence most especially at Makerere University and Kyambogo University, candidates and their sympathizers suffered from brutal attacks, intimidation and harassment which were evident during times of rallies and processions. Most of the violence was perpetuated by security teams of guild presidential candidates. Acts of violence scared and instilled fear among some students especially Persons with Disabilities, females, who wanted to fully listen to the views of candidates, but due to fear of violence some decided to stay out of rallies or observed from top balconys of halls of residences.



GENDER QUESTION

Guild presidential candidacy was male dominated across all three tertiary institutions that ACFIM monitored. Both Makerere University and Kyambogo University had one female Guild Presidential candidate each out of eleven and twelve candidates nominated respectively. For the case of Makerere University Business School, it was strange that no female candidate came up to compete with four males who ran for the student's guild top most office. Female participation was in mobilizing support for candidates of their choice during processions, campaign rallies and voting day. However, a reasonable number of females contested for GRC positions.



92.6 percent of nominated guild candidates were male compared to 7.4 percent of females, this a big gender disparity especially when ladies make up the biggest population of students in the tertiary institutions monitored, low internal political efficacy amongst majority of females was one of the barriers attributed to having limited number of females showing interest in the guild presidential position.



POLITICAL PARTIES & MOVEMENTS

National political parties like Democratic Party, National Resistance Movement, Forum for Democratic Change and People Power Movement influence were witnessed across all the guild campaigns in all tertiary institutions where some guild candidates used colors, logos and symbols of political parties and movements in most of their paraphernalia. Some guild presidential candidates also received campaign finances and man power from political parties. For instance, Uganda Young Democrats (UYD) which is part of Democratic Party utilized its structures in tertiary institutions together with People Power to galvanize support for all guild presidential candidates aligned to them.



ROLE OF MEDIA & PHOTOGRAPHY

Guild campaigns were spectacular on media especially social media platforms like WhatsApp groups, Facebook pages, and Tweeter handles, which had created by almost all guild presidential candidates, and used to disseminate information about candidate's political ideology, campaign photos, videos and animations with aim to persuade voters. Most Guild candidates had social media teams with a duty to influence and promote conversations on social media platforms, Guild candidates catered for costs of internet data and Over The Top (OTT) tax.

Social media platforms were also used in promoting political mudslinging by rival camps. For instance, at Makerere University a few days towards guild presidential polls, a forged letter emerged and was virally circulated on social media alleging that candidate Katerrega Julius camp had received UGX 5,000,000 bribe from the university administration to finance his campaigns. The allegations were quashed by the university administration as "chemical" which is a phrase commonly known to Makerereans as fake news, and that it was intended to malice and undermine fair competition in student's guild elections.

The Guild campaigns also attracted most of the national media outlets like NTV, NBS and Urban TV whose presence were seen during last campaign rallies and were said to be attracted by influence of Political parties and movements in tertiary institutions guild politics. Capital FM was among the sponsors of Makerere University Electoral Commission

Kamugisha Emmanuel Guild Presidential candidate from Kyambogo University had his manifesto and photos played as video every evening in one of the streets in banda, where students could pass and view easily.

Some guild presidential candidates did hire photographers to capture campaign photos which would be posted on guild candidates' different social media platforms.

ELECTION DAY

After traversing hostels, halls of residence and schools to share ideologies with students during Guild campaigns for averagely 10 days. Each tertiary institution set up a polling day for students to decide who amongst the many Guild Presidential candidates they would enter a social contract (vote) with to govern them. Kyambogo conducted their polls on 14 March 2019, Makerere University went to polls on 15 March 2019 and lastly on 16 April 2019 for Makerere University Business School.

Set up and opening of polling stations

Polling stations were set up at various colleges and schools, so students were meant to vote from their schools. The polling stations were managed by polling assistants under supervision of the Returning Officer and other commissioners. Uganda Police Force took care off of the security at polling stations. In Kyambogo University, a separate polling station was set up for PWDs to cater for their physical needs.

In all the monitored tertiary institutions most, polling stations did not open according to the expected time which arouse from delayed delivery and arrival of election materials since the number of vehicles distributing election materials was inadequate. For instance, at Kyambogo University Electoral Commission shared on its tweeter handle (@ECKYU2019) in March 12, 2019, that voting would start at 7:00am and shall close at 4:00pm. On polling day we waited up to 8:00am that's when some polling stations opened, meanwhile at mechanical department polling station voting started at around 10:00am.

Voting method and requirements

All the guild elections were conducted under secret ballot voting method. Students whose names were in the voters' register were expected to presence their valid university student Identity card or bio-data for the case of MAK and MUBS, while in KYU eligible documents were Student Identity Card, Medical card and Library card. Polling assistants verified the information in the voters register with that of the document to confirm authenticity before issuing a ballot to the student to proceed and vote

Closure of voting at polling stations

Most polling stations closed by 4:30pm at MAK, MUBS and KYU. Except for mechanical department polling station at KYU where voting continued still about 7:00pm to compensate on time lost due to delayed delivery of voting materials by Electoral Commission.

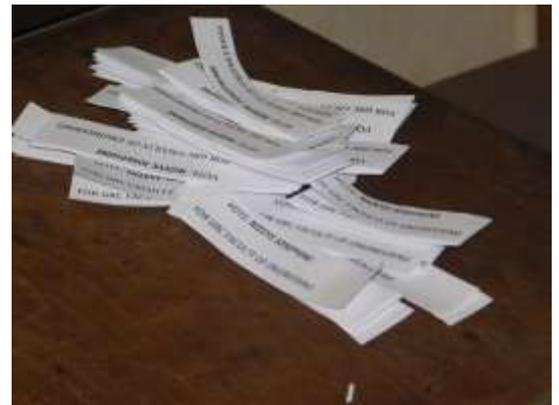


VOTE BUYING ON ELECTION DAY

Vote buying was not predominant on election day, however, a case of vote buying was reported at MUK College of Business and Management where agents of one candidate were reported to be paying money to voters who had cast their ballot in favor of that candidate and had to show proof by taking a picture of their ticked ballot. There was vigilance by students at most of the polling stations which made it difficult for candidates to buy voters. Voter bribery manifested during campaigns where some voters received cash through mobile money transactions.

Electioneering

Campaign agents of different guild presidential candidates were seen distributing small pieces of papers with names of their preferred candidates, to voters who would turn up at the different polling stations, with the intention of influencing the choice of the voters.



Voter turnout

In all three tertiary institutions monitored, ACFIM discovered that the number of students who cast their votes was low. Through interviews with some students to further investigate on low voter turnout, some students eluded that, party portion of students communities have lost trust in the students' guild council leadership, since often time's students issues are not taken seriously by the students' guild leadership. So due to the declining external political efficacy some students opted not to vote. More Females turned-out to vote compared to males during the monitored guild polls.

Closure of voting at polling stations

Most polling stations closed by 5: 00 pm at MUK, MUBS and KYU, except for a few polling stations at KYU where voting continued till 7:00 pm to compensate on time lost due to delayed delivery of voting materials by Electoral Commission.

Vote counting, transmission, tallying and declaration of results

Immediately after closure of voting at polling stations, the polling assistants in the presence of guild candidate agents and students (voters) opened the ballot boxes and embarked on vote counting, after counting declaration forms were filled and signed by polling assistants and guild candidate agents of whom were given a copy. The vote counting processes were peaceful at polling stations in all tertiary institutions. All announced results from each polling station backed by signed declaration forms were delivered to one Tallying Centre. For instance, at Kyambogo University the tally centre was stationed at Students centre, at Makerere University it was at Student Guild offices while at Makerere University Business School (MUBS) final results were tallied from MUBS Main Football Pitch. The tallying processes in monitored tertiary institutions were spearheaded by of returning officers (Chairpersons Electoral Commission) of those institutions with help of electoral commissioners. Tallying was done in the presence of students.

After completion of tallying exercise, each returning officer from the monitored tertiary institution declared the guild president elect. For the case of Kyambogo University, the Returning Officer declared results late at 2:00am, which was in non-compliance with Article 9 clause 2(h), which stipulates that the Chairperson of the Electoral Commission shall announce and cause to be published the results of the elections mostly President elect not later than one hour after receiving the results from all the polling stations before midnight.

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COPIES OF DECLARED RESULTS

Makerere University Guild Presidential Results 2019

	Guild Presidential Candidate	Votes		Gender	Political Party Affiliation or Movement
1	Kateregga Julius	3912	33.3	Male	Uganda Young Democrats (UYD) and People Power
2	Mukisa Joshua William	3365	28.7	Male	Independent and People Power
3	Taliwaku Andrew Julian	1465	12.5	Male	National Resistance Movement (NRM)
4	Namuddu Milly	1298	11	Female	Forum for Democratic Change (FDC)
5	Mutumba George	886	7.5	Male	Independent
6	Musiri David	637	5.4	Male	Independent
7	Nsimire Winter Muhangi	81	0.7	Male	Independent
8	Arinda Osbert	55	0.5	Male	Independent
9	Wageya Umaru	44	0.4	Male	Independent
	Total	11,743	100		

Source: Makerere University Electoral Commission 2019

Kyambogo University Guild Presidential Results 2019

	Guild Presidential Candidate	Votes	Gender	Political Party Affiliation or Movement
1	Tundulu Jonathan	2789	Male	People Power Movement
2	Alto Sebbi Juma	2634	Male	Forum for Democratic Change (FDC)
3	Mugangu Kalulu Nicholas	1489	Male	Independent
4	Ahabwe Christian	1133	Male	National Resistance Movement (NRM)
5	Anyens Agnes Kukunda	762	Female	Independent
6	Kamugsha Emmanuel	689	Male	Independent
7	Walaka John	448	Male	Independent
8	Kimera William	303	Male	Independent
9	Woniata Bonne	186	Male	Independent
10	Monday Shaduracka	100	Male	Independent
11	Kateregga Stephen	12	Male	Independent
12	Omongole Moses	13	Male	Independent
	Total	10,858		

Source: Kyambogo University Electoral Commission 2019

Makerere University Business School Guild Presidential Results 2019

	Guild Presidential Candidate	Votes	Percentage (%)	Gender	Political Party Affiliation or Movement
1	Tumusingwire Romulus	3404	59.2	Male	Independent
2	Ndinumukiza Wisdom	919	16.1	Male	Forum for Democratic Change (FDC)
3	Aine Douglas Sabiiti	53	0.9	Male	National Resistance Movement (NRM)
4	Mwesiga Shenmark	1370	23.8	Male	Uganda Young Democrats (UYD) People Power Movement
	Total	5749	100		

Source: Makerere University Business School Electoral Commission 2019

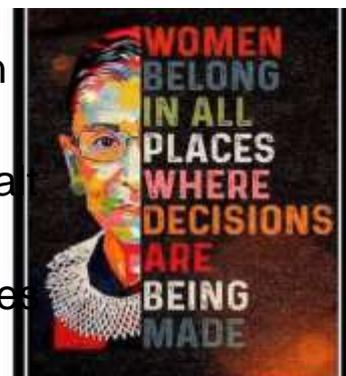
DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Key findings in the electoral process in tertiary institutions leave so much to be desired, as far as improving the governance architecture and accountability aspects of students' leaders. We acknowledge that tertiary institutions act as a breeding ground for leaders and politicians who in the long run end up in mainstream politics of Uganda, some end up as Members of Parliament, political party leaders, movement leaders, to mention a few.

Participation of Females

For a very long time, the guild presidential races have been signposted as a no-go area for females because it is wrongly perceived to be a male thing. Majority of females have overtime been convinced that they cannot compete favorably with their male counterparts due to the social cultural construct that females cannot lead men. Female students also continuously express their fear over the amount of money and resources it takes to run a successful campaign. Furthermore, the energy, time and some tactics involved in campaigns is difficult for females, for example moving in the wee hours of the night to canvass for support.

This means that this cripples equal and meaningful participation of females in decision making processes, through which issues that affect them are adequately addressed and dealt with. Low participation of females widens the gap in gender inequality in leadership structures in tertiary institutions.



Election Campaign Spending War

Tertiary institutions have election guidelines that are devoid of campaign finance reforms. One of the outstanding drivers of excessive campaign spending is the unregulated campaigns that are started early enough before the stipulated time of official campaigns which are supposed to run for only two weeks to election day. For example, there was a high spending competition, candidates displayed high quality posters and banners in November, 2018, while others went as far as using neon boards on the streets leading to the university, way before they were nominated. Election guidelines are often not implemented and put to use, especially when it comes to restricted use of certain campaign materials, which exposes guild presidential candidates to excessive campaign spending in order to entice potential voters due to the high and stiff competition. This greatly affects female candidates who have limited resources and cannot live up to the competition between them and male counterparts, this is largely because of limited capacity of females to mobilize resources, unlike the males who have easy access to campaign resources. Females are more comfortable contesting for lower positions which call for less resources like GRC positions.



Involvement of political parties and movements

In all the tertiary institutions, some guild presidential candidates were seen to be associated with some political parties like NRM, FDC, and DP. This was manifested on campaign materials like use political party colors, logos, slogans and symbols on posters, flyers, banners, tags, t-shirts, vuvuzelas. Political parties were instrumental in mobilizing support for their candidates in tertiary institutions. Competition was higher between candidates with political party leaning, compared to independent candidates.

New wave of People Power Movement

In all tertiary institutions, there was a new wave of people power movement, led by Hon. Kyagulanyi Sentamu, popularly known as Bobi Wine. Many youth in tertiary institutions currently look at him as their hope for new political change in Uganda, due to this, all winning contenders had to align to the aspiration and beliefs of the movement. For example, the current president of MUK was originally a UYD candidate when he first contested, along the way, he switched to People Power in order to attract massive support from the students. This means that youth in Uganda today are hungry for political change and therefore will be swayed away by anything or anyone that comes with a political alternative to the already existing political players.

Vote Buying

This is the use of money or materials to induce or solicit for political support. There were a number of incidents in tertiary institutions where candidates were seen giving money and other materials in exchange for votes. It has become a common practice, even in tertiary institutions because candidates think that is the only way voters can be convinced, beyond manifestos. This means that the relationship between candidates and voters has become transactional, this jeopardizes democracy, leading to selection of businessmen, rather than leaders, who will in the end serve the interests of the financiers, rather than the people who voted them into power. Such leaders use their positions as opportunity for them to recoup the money they spent during elections, for which they cannot be held accountable, voters are deprived of the power to hold their leaders accountable because they were bought off.



Electoral Violence

Guild elections were marred with many cases of extreme violence, some students were badly injured and heavy police deployment was in play. This greatly affected the fair participation of all students in the electoral process, especially the females who resorted to staying in their hostels.

Electoral violence simply occurs when elections become a do-or-die affair, in an instance where all candidates have spent a lot of money and resources, they resort to fighting. This has continued to scare away potential leaders who would otherwise have participated in these electoral processes.



Voter Turnout

Even when students were given money and goodies by guild presidential candidates, majority never turned out to vote Why?? Students that ACFIM interacted with argued that at the end of the day, it's the candidate that will benefit and not them, they also think that most leaders rarely deliver on their manifestos. It turns out that money is no longer a motivating factor for students to vote, but rather an opportune time for them to enjoy part of the lion's share. In Makerere University, out of 40,000 students, only 11,743 turned up to vote.



POST ELECTIONS

Elected guild presidents continue to pay allegiance to the players that were instrumental in supporting their candidature and securing their victory. For instance, these guild presidents have to continue financing the well fare of their security teams, Mugaati Party in MUK.



Kyambogo University, Presidential candidate, Tundulu Jonathan in navy blue suit with his security

Some candidates suffer from psychological torture after heavy election campaign spending, for they lose elections and cannot recover the money they used e.g, tuition money, loans from money lenders, hence affecting their education.

CONCLUSION

Commercialization of democratic elections is subverting and distorting democratic processes in tertiary institutions in Uganda. The downside is that financing of election campaigns in tertiary institutions remains one of the most neglected areas of electoral democracy in tertiary institutions.

Commercialization in tertiary institutions has hit through the roof and it is likely to spill over to mainstream national politics since most research has revealed that tertiary institutions are breeding grounds for potential politicians who end up in mainstream national politics, both as politicians and voters.

ACFIM findings reveal that clean, transparent and healthy political life is not possible as long as the use of money in electoral processes in tertiary institutions remains unregulated.

RECOMMENDATIONS

ACFIM findings reveal that clean, transparent and healthy political life is not possible as long as the use of money in electoral processes in tertiary institutions remains unregulated.

ACFIM recommends that:

- The university administration in collaboration with the students' leaders, should consider adopting election campaign finance reforms that seek to regulate the amount of money used by candidates during election campaigns in tertiary institutions.
- Both the university administration, guild electoral commissions and guild leaders should conduct regular civic awareness and voter education of the students.



ABOUT ACFIM

Alliance for Finance Monitoring is a coalition of Pan African civil society organizations founded in Uganda to contribute to electoral integrity through monitoring of election campaign finance; engaging the electorate on electoral accountability; and advocating for feasible legal /institutional framework for election campaign financing. ACFIM believes that sustainable democracy may not be realized if the question of money in politics and electoral processes is not addressed.

