

**MENTORING FIRST YEAR LAW STUDENTS AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL
OF LAW FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION**

GOVERNANCE SPHERE

INT CLASS 14: OS-UG-014-11-2014

Oak Seed: Daniel Ronald Ruhweza

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FOUR YEARS

UGX 25,000,000 /= (INTIAL)

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I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The project is aimed at refocusing the vision, passion and energies of young student lawyers from having an inward looking, selfish mindset, to one that is passionate about the nation of Uganda and interested in leaving the country a better place than one has found it.

The Project focuses on mentoring first year student lawyers at Makerere University of the 2014-2015 intake into becoming professional, ethical, outward looking, nation transformers before they are contaminated by the University. It is proposed that the mentoring system shall continue to run the length of their stay at Makerere University (four years). It is hoped that at the end of their stay at Makerere, these law students will not only be the read in law, but will also have additional skill sets and attitudes necessary to change the situations in which they will live and work. It is also hoped that this project will continually incorporate more first year students as they join the School of Law in order to have continuity. This will also give the continuing students an opportunity to mentor and guide the new ones.

In so doing, the Project will be an effective vehicle to create a critical mass of well grounded lawyers, no excuse, diligent, hardworking, committed lawyers who will cause national transformation.

II. It is hoped that the project will have different activities which include – but are not limited to -mentoring sessions, lectures, volunteering activities, conferences and others. It is hoped that funds will be generated for these activities from within the students themselves, fundraising activities, well wishers like lecturers at the School of Law, Collaborations with other projects, the Main administration at the University as well as other NGOs and companies. The first activity which is detailed in this proposal is estimated to costs UGX 25,000,000/=

INTRODUCTION

One of the core lessons learnt at the INT Class 16 Oak Seed Leadership Course is that everything rises and falls or hinges on Leadership. Many of the challenges in the Ugandan society today have failed to be resolved or have been minimally resolved because leadership is inadequate to address them. As a result, any intervention in society should always address the leadership question.

Related to the above, the mindset and culture of a people determine how a particular society will rise and fall. History has shown us that often times those who would have intervened to resolve a situation have not done so simply because they have the wrong mindset or are part of a culture that is either defeatist, uncaring, selfish or ignorant of what can be done.

The Ugandan society today is faced with similar challenges ranging from a near total abhorrence for the rule of law and good governance, to selfish activities like primitive accumulation of wealth with total disregard for the rest of society. There are many instances of wealthy Ugandans building very magnificent houses but refusing to repair the access roads to those very houses. Cheating and corruption is rife in all aspects of society, including but not limited to the Church of Christ itself. Insecurity, hatred, nepotism, sectarianism and such vices continue to pervade the rubric of society with little or no useful interventions to address them. The Elite who form a special, relevant group in societal development have to a large extent taken a back seat and allowed events to flow with a largely nonchalant no caring attitude.

This project therefore seeks to make an intervention to change this culture. It targets the reportedly brightest minds of the young generation who are joining the hitherto most

respected and oldest University in East Africa – Makerere University with the hope of reading law. In so doing, they will join a profession that has over the years adopted a negative reputation as a group of selfish, money hungry, unethical liars who concentrate on twisting the law to their advantage. They will also join the upper echelons of the elite group of the Ugandan Society which not only participates in blue collar crime, but also looks on as society degenerates in all aspects of the word.

III. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Makerere University has for the last 90 years graduated hundreds of thousands of students, the majority of whom have gone on to impact society in a variety of ways. However, with time, the standard of teaching in the University has continued to be affected by a variety of economic, social and political reasons. It can be argued that the situation in Makerere University is synonymous with the situation in Uganda generally.

As the nation has suffered from the after effects of bad governance, coups detat, corruption and poverty so has its privileged Ivory Tower Makerere University. As the quality of primary and secondary education in Uganda has suffered, so has the quality of candidate admitted in the University also decreased. As a result, the graduate from Makerere University, who has been ill prepared in his or her earlier learning, has continued to be ill prepared for the challenges facing the nation generally. Specifically, the quality of graduate of the Law School of Makerere University (formerly the Faculty of Law), has also continued to deteriorate in many aspects as the huge numbers of students admitted in the University cannot be adequately well trained by the few staff members. More problematically however, the Law School lecturer in many cases has to run another job so as to meet the

economic challenges of the times. This means that very few lecturers are available to mentor or address the academic and associated challenges which students at the School of law face. As a result, the law student has been left to look for alternative mentors and advisors and easy fixes in getting a good law degree. Cheating in examinations has increased, and so are the unconfirmed stories of sex – for- marks at the University generally, and the Law School has not escaped such stories. Unfortunately, as the lecturers drive in and out of the School of Law in very expensive cars and suits, they inadvertently “mentor” the law students on what is priority – money.

Additionally, stories in the media about wealthy lawyers and/or media reports about lawyers involved in corruption scandals and getting away with it due to lacunae in the law continue to impress upon these young minds. As a result, the mindset that the law graduate develops throughout the law school of one of impatience to finish school and make money as fast as possible.

This means that the brightest minds in Uganda – for the law school only accepts the best – are being mentored to become the most selfish, inward looking, corrupt lawyers who will unfortunately be unleashed upon the unsuspecting public to wreck mayhem on what is left of the strands of integrity, good morals and respect for the rule of law. This is evidenced by the number of cases which the Disciplinary Committee of the Law Council has to hear each Friday of the week involving young lawyers who have acted unprofessionally by – in most cases- misappropriating funds meant for their clients- for their own benefit.

Very few lawyers today are passionate about improving the conditions in the country generally and are actually doing something. Many of them continue to perpetrate the very vices they accuse other leaders of doing and hardly make any positive interventions to

improve the respect for the rule of law, good governance and democracy in their country any better.

There have been interventions to combat this state of affairs: Makerere University and the Law Development Centre have introduced the pre-entry examination which is meant to weed out those students who beat the UACE and law degree examinations respectively through cheating. The success of this process is yet to be seen. The Law Development Centre has taught the professional ethics course for lawyers who wish to practice as Advocates of the Courts of Uganda. This however is such a late intervention to help the law graduate who has already been conditioned like Napoleon's dogs in Animal Farm or Pavlov's dogs in his research on conditioning. The Law Council of Uganda has also tried to intervene by carrying out its mandate of trying errant lawyers before its disciplinary committee. The cases however continue to increase rather than decrease. The government of Uganda has also tried to make interventions in addressing these challenges by promising to pay lecturers better (often renegeing on their promises), as well as introducing a variety of laws to curb the instances of white collar crime. These include laws on Money Laundering, The Leadership Code Act, Anti-Corruption, The Inspectorate of Government and many others. However, the adversarial court system in Uganda and the high standard of proving a criminal law case beyond reasonable doubt make it near impossible for Ugandans generally – and lawyers in particular to be found guilty. In any case, these interventions are only “hardware” interventions that do not deal with the root causes (software) of the problems enumerated above. The criminal mindset is hardly ever

addressed by criminal sanctions.¹ These top-down interventions have therefore not been helpful as lawyers and court practitioners continue to find more and more ways of cheating the system, the latest being the use of mobile money as a channel for fraud, corruption and bribery.

IV. PLATFORM FOR THE PROJECT

The Project platform will be Makerere University School of Law where the Oakseed is a lecturer in the Department of Law and Jurisprudence. The platform avails the Oakseed the opportunity to speak directly to the newly admitted law students when he teaches Constitutional Law and History in the First Semester of the First Year.

The Plat form has also been chosen because these First year law Students are still impressionable, have a deep respect for their lecturers in the same way that they have had respect for their secondary school teachers, and this makes them both easily accessible and easily teachable.

Communication in the English language is easier and there is no need for interpretation. These students are also able to share the views expressed by the lecturer with their fellow students back in their halls or hostels of residence.

The platform is also advantageous to invite Oak seeds from other disciplines to talk to the students as one of the activities. Oak seeds like Justice Mike Chibita have maintained a good relationship with the School of Law, especially its Christian Fellowship and this makes

¹ Research has shown that deterrence of crime has hardly ever been successful by the use of criminal sanctions. See generally Ruhweza Ronald Daniel, A REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION OF THE DEATH PENALTY IN UGANDA, (LLB Dissertation, Makerere University, 2000).

it possible to invite him and others like him to mentor, teach and inspire these young and inspirational minds in the same way that he did for the project proposer. It is also possible to invite Oak seeds like Robert Kirunda who also happen to be lecturers at the School of Law, to join in the cause of mentoring these young minds.

Students are also more willing to work and once the right people have been identified, they can run the project without micro management from the Project Proposer keep

The Panel should also find it worthwhile that the Proposer of this project has already commenced this process and is happy to report that some of his former students remain in close contact with him and have shared testimonies of excellent employer reports for the quality of their work and the high levels of integrity they so far display. It is therefore fair to argue that this project can be carried out successfully.

V. BIBLICAL BASIS FOR THE PROJECT

The following Scriptures were identified as giving biblical basis for the project -

Proverbs 22: 6 (NKJV) Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it

This Scripture shows that training is necessary if one wants a child to have a certain character or attitude. As such, without such training, it should not be surprising if a child becomes an adult whose character and work ethic are below what is required for national transformation.

VI. GOALS

The Goals of the project as follows –

- I. To have well trained, professional lawyers who are cognizant of their role in using the legal profession to transform Uganda into a well functioning, admirable, respectable and successful nation where the rule of law, good governance and respect for the rights of person and property are no longer a myth but a reality;
- II. To have Level 5 no-excuse leaders in the legal profession who are willing and able to confront the hard facts about situation(s) like a poorly reputed legal profession and can devote themselves to addressing such situations without necessarily taking the glory for themselves;
- III. To have professional lawyers - of unquestionable integrity and moral standing- in all levels of leadership in society and who can implement or cause policy change, confront the culture of greed, selfishness, and primitive accumulation of wealth.

VII. OBJECTIVES

- i. To awaken a desire for law students to know more about Uganda and what they can do to alleviate the challenges faced by the citizenry so that 80% of our law graduates involve themselves in community participation activities or start social causes that will improve the welfare of the people of Uganda;
- ii. To enhance a strong sense of selflessness within the law student profession so that by the time they graduate from law School, about 90% of the students have participated in at least one not-for-profit activity that has improved the lives of many with the cumulative effect of fostering national transformation;

- iii. To decrease the sense of hopelessness in our law students about their ability to change the pervasive corrupt culture around them and instead increase their perception of the great potential they have to cause change in the country
- iv. To strengthen their sense of personal purpose, vision, so that the majority are able to clearly articulate their personal vision and mission by the end of the first year of law School at Makerere University.

VIII. **DELIVERABLES/EXPECTED RESULTS**

- Law students (and later graduates) who can clearly articulate their individual personal vision, mission and purpose in life;
- Law students (and later graduates) who are aware of the goings on in their nation and can provide and implement strategic interventions – however limited- to cause cultural change and improve the life of even one person in their surroundings;
- Law students (and later graduates) who are passionate about upholding the rule of law, good governance, fairness and equity –without fear or favor -even within their limited surroundings,
- Law students (and later graduates) who are unashamed to be associated with integrity, hard work, honest living and of a humble character humble

IX. **PROPOSED ACTIVITIES/INTERVENTIONS**

March to May 2015

Activity 1:

Meetings and Organization

Willing law students gather to listen to the project proposer share his vision for this project. The Law students are then tasked to share this information with mainly first year law students although willing students from other classes are encouraged to attend.

The students are tasked with identifying a need in Northern Uganda which has suffered the scourge of the Lord's Resistance Army rebellion since the late 1980's. Some students are tasked with conducting feasibility studies about the core needs in Gulu District of Uganda.

Meeting Two

The Law students with others they have invited attend a second meeting with the Project Proposer to listen to further and better particulars of the project. The students agree on collecting, saving up and fundraising stationery and sanitary towels for two secondary Schools in Gulu District. These will be identified by the steering committee that they will elect. Other students to report on longer term interventions in Northern Uganda

Activity 2:

Steering Committee members with Project Proposer to meet with the Ag. Principal and Deputy Principal of the School of Law to advise about the creation of the Project. Details of the feasibility study to be provided at this meeting. Seek

instruments from the School of Law Administration seeking for consent from parents to allow students to visit Northern Uganda to implement this project.

Activity 3: May to July 2015

- I. Students involved with fundraising activities to collect funds for purchase of stationery and sanitary towels;
- II. Project Proposer to organize talks on the following topics with members of the INT Class 16 Governance Group to equip the students -
 - ♣ Discovering one's Purpose in Life (Daniel Ruhweza)
 - ♣ Igniting your potential to achieve our purpose (Abel Tumuhirwe)
 - ♣ Mastering Effective Leadership Skills- humility, integrity, time management, Teamwork, Self discipline (Stirling Gapara)
 - ♣ Morals and Ethics (Mimi Harriet and Joel Mwangi)

Other talks will include Oak Seeds who have a national transformation mindset like Justice Mike Chibita and Robert Kirunda and Wafula Patrobas.

Speakers will then encourage the law students to think outside the Law to develop their own personal visions, missions and purpose in life. A follow up discussion and organization of mentoring sessions with different available lawyers of the Uganda Christian Law Fellowship (UCLF) and other collaborating bodies will then be organized.

Activity 4:

Implementation of the First Intervention to Two Secondary Schools in Gulu District

Law Students will visit the Schools talk to the pupils and even hold one on one mentoring sessions to answer questions about the law, Uganda and life experiences generally

During this visit to Gulu, law students will be given opportunity to visit Gulu University, the chairperson LC5 and Committee in Gulu, the political leadership in the Schools where interventions will be made, visit formerly displaced people's camps, the residence of the Acholi Paramount Chief Ker Kwaro Acoli, and the sites of massacre sites reportedly by the LRA.

Activity 5:

Upon return, students will be tasked with proposing other interventions in Gulu on both an individual and corporate basis. Students will also be helped in writing down their personal visions and purpose for life.

X. MONITORING AND EVALUATION

1. Discussions with collaborators like members of INT Class 16 Governance Group about the discussions they are having with the law students for signs of progress and interest;

2. Feedback from law students and other interested students or parties, This might be written or oral or in kind (in the form of increased passion for the project);
3. Group or individual feedback sessions to discuss the vision and purpose that students will identify for themselves
4. Feedback from the schools which will be recipients of the donations in Gulu;
5. Feedback from collaborators, lecturers, fellow students, etc

Please note that by its very nature, mentoring is a long and continuous process. It might be difficult to monitor and evaluate success in a short span of time.

XI. RISK MANAGEMENT

Due to the fact that the country is headed into the election year, and students of Makerere University are often treated with suspicion by the authorities, it is likely that the implementation of the project will suffer some setbacks as Resident District Commissioners, District Police Commanders or District Intelligence Officers (DISOs) could easily stop the students from accessing the schools where the intervention is targeted. It is hoped that this challenge will be avoided by including the said officers in the implementation of the project from its inauguration. The security officers will be asked to be part and parcel of the process, including providing security and permission as provided for by the Public Order and Management Act. In the event that this fails, it is hoped that the Project Proposer will use the good offices of other senior government officials like the Prime Ministers' Office to receive letters of recommendation that can be used to help in the implementation of the Project.

It is also likely that the management of the School of Law or the University generally might be hesitant to allow yet another project to be set up when the Public Interest Law Clinic (PILAC) and the Human Rights and Peace Centre (HURIPEC) are already in existence and could be viewed as being able to carry out similar or related activities. However it is hoped that this challenge will be avoided at the commencement of the project when the project proposer advises on the specific goals and objectives of the project which are aimed at mentorship and not merely activities

It is also likely that the students will suffer program fatigue as the project runs into its second and third year. They might also get swamped with a lot of academic work or other activities like Moot Court Competitions and thus are unable to participate in the activities proposed in the Project. It is however hoped that since the students will have developed personal mentoring relationships with the project proposer and other mentors, they will continue to be interested in the project. Additionally, since the mentors will be selected from a select group of seasoned lawyers and practitioners, the students will hopefully not be willing to cut ties with people who will help them as they negotiate their way through the legal profession.

XII. RESOURCE MOBILIZATION PLAN/ BUDGET

Resource mobilization will be from all a variety of sources – internally generated funds from the students through their own personal savings or collections, fundraising activities from organizations like PILAC, RLP, Coca Cola, Picfare, House of Plastics, etc

ITEM	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	ANTICIPATED COSTS
STATIONERY	Scholastic materials for 2 secondary Schools (6 Books and 6 Pens) for 1,000 students @ 1,000/= per book and 500/= per pen	UGX 9,000,000
SANITARY TOWELS	Two packets @ for 500 students @ 2,500/=	UGX 2,500,000
TRANSPORT	One 30 Seater from Kampala to Gulu Gulu to Kampala @ 50,000 per trip Travelling around Gulu to visit various sites @ 1,000,000	UGX 4,000,000
AIRTIME	Coordination of activities	UGX 150,000
SECURITY	Three security personnel at @ 100,000 per day for three (3) days	UGX 900,000
ACCOMODATION	Lodgings for 30 students for 2 nights @ 50,000 per night	UGX 3,000,000
Refreshments and feeding For 30 Law Students	Friday Dinner @ 10,000 for 30 students Saturday Breakfast @ 5,000 Lunch @ 10,000, Dinner @ 10,000 Sunday Breakfast @ 5,000 Lunch @ 10,000, Dinner @ 10,000	UGX 1,800,000
Contingency		UGX 2, 135,000
TOTAL		UGX 23,485,000

XIII.

XIV. COLLABORATIONS

- ♣ Prime Minister's Office
- ♣ The Minister of Disaster Preparedness
- ♣ The Directorate of Public Prosecutions
- ♣ The Inspectorate of Government

- ♣ Office of the Uganda People's Defense Forces
- ♣ Media Houses
- ♣ Members of Parliament Gulu
- ♣ Local Council Leaders
- ♣ Church leaders especially the Acholi Religious Leaders' Peace Initiative
- ♣ Traditional Leaders like the Ker Kwaro Acoli Chiefs
- ♣ Fellow Lecturers at Law School Makerere University
- ♣ Organizations like PILAC, UCLF, ULS, AYINET, RLP
- ♣ School of Law Makerere University Administration

XV. WORK PLAN

The Project will continue to be carried out due to the fact that the students will be in at Makerere University for Four years it is a mentoring process. The members therefore propose to continue carrying out these activities listed below -

PROJECT TITLE	MENTORING FIRST YEAR LAW STUDENTS AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF LAW FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION
GOAL	<i>To have well trained, professional lawyers who are cognizant of their role in using the legal profession to transform Uganda into a well functioning, admirable, respectable and successful nation where the rule of law, good governance and respect for the rights of person and property are no longer a myth but a reality</i>

KEY ACTIVITIES	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	COST IMPLICATIONS	Expected outcome	M & E	YEAR 1				YEAR 2				YEAR 3					
					1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4		
Law Student Mentorship Program Help Law students to develop their personal vision, purpose and mission One on one sessions with select teaching staff and practitioners of proven repute	Project Proposer in liaison with members of the INT Class 16 Governance Group, members of the UCLF	Honorarium to the selected Mentors UGX 150,000	Focused law students who have a clear vision and focus of life with ability to identify their full purpose and potential.	Increased law student activity in social programs meant to improve society and not personal gain Writing articles in newspapers Focus on social justice issues Increased participation in class and academic work together with consulting of lecturers Commencing various individual projects Self driven desire for and seeking out possible mentors	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

<p>Reach out to New students in their First year of study</p>	<p>Continuing students, project proposer and invited guests</p>	<p>Refreshments and printing costs for materials UGX 100,000 Honorarium for THREE (3) invited Guests UGX 150,000</p>	<p>More new students join the project to enable continuity Continuing students are given opportunity to share the vision with others</p>	<p>Making time to mentor others and organize activities in liaison with Makerere Law Society Seeking to collaborate and engage with national and local leaders on issues of accountability Increased participation in local university politics with specific manifestos</p>					x				x			
<p>Collaborations with other Colleges and Universities Spread the Vision of the Project to other select collaborating Colleges like Medicine to make interventions for persons suffering from injuries of war as well as other likeminded universities Nkumba, UCU,</p>	<p>Student steering committee Project proposer</p>	<p>Printing and photocopying of Literature UGX 100,000 Transportation to the different Universities for five (5) students (@ 10,000) 50,000</p>	<p>Law students develop important linkages with other students from other Universities to broaden their scope of intervention and ideas</p>	<p>Seeking collaborations and developing joint programs with minimum supervision</p>		x	x			x	x			x	x	

etc																				
Talks on Nation Focused Interventions Series of Discussions on Uganda and National Development		Honorarium at UGX 150,000@	Students develop personal visions, mission statements and seek to find out their purpose in life and ways in which the law will help them achieve that purpose	Desire to share information on national media, engaging local leaders and increased participation in civic activities			x	x			x	x						x	x	
Collaborations with RLP and PILAC To Be Agreed depending on support needed	Coordinator of PILAC, RLP		Further exposure of students to various interventions in Uganda	TBC							x	x						x	x	
Further Interventions in Gulu District Northern Uganda Carry out reconnaissance and assessment of need studies in liaison with community development officers	Select Law Students to carry out feasibility studies with Project proposer	Transport to and from Gulu, lodging and meals @200,000	Hands on experience of what is happening on the ground in Gulu Opportunity for law students to learn to work as a team in informal	Self driven fundraising drives and initiatives to address other social causes			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Proposed fundraising to SPONSOR students to COMPLETE Secondary Education

Develop a saving culture right from law School to help in such activities as well as for financial freedom

circumstances

