



PUBLIC DIALOGUE BRIEF: The Nexus Between Corruption and Governance: Challenges and Prospects for Uganda

Nkumba University
23 February, 2015 | 1400-1630

Religion, Rights and Peace Fellowship was hosted by the Department of Social Sciences at Nkumba University to deliberate on matters pertaining the connection between corruption and governance and the challenges and prospects thereof for Uganda.

Masaka Municipality Member of Parliament Hon Mathias Mpuuga was the main presenter. The Dean of the Department of Social Sciences, Dr George M Barenzi and the Dean of Students, Dr David Christopher Kasasa made interventions following Hon Mpuuga's presentation.

Before the presentations, the project's new institutional partner, Global Rights4 Alert screened a twenty five minute documentary on the challenges that especially African countries have encountered in petroleum and natural resource management, more so the problem of corruption and the attendant impropriety.

This documentary film gave elaborate explanations about the nature of the resource and the mistakes other countries have fallen prey to especially among others "the Dutch Disease", which manifests when countries lose focus from other areas of the economy and concentrate too much on oil revenues yet this is a finite resource. The film was instrumental in setting the pace and tone of the discussion.

Hon Mpuuga stated that far from being a challenge, corruption is the lifeblood of the ruling establishment, citing examples of past scandals in which colossal sums of money have been stolen with impunity. He stated that he as an MP, he has had the unfortunate experience of being privy to huge sums of money being stolen from public coffers almost daily. The Police has perennially been caught flatfooted whenever such statements were made and worse still, even when arraigned before court for trial, people engaged in grand corruption are more often than not likely to escape the law.

He implored civil society organizations to step up the civic awareness campaigns that they are involved in. Particularly he lauded the Black Monday campaign against the theft of public funds with impunity. He encouraged the students to pay particular attention to this scourge because it is one of the causes of the rampant youth unemployment in the country.

Dr Barenzi articulated the need to have strong judicial institutions so as to rein in corruption as well as a robust legal framework upon which the fight against corruption can be anchored. He reiterated the parliamentarian's call to action towards the student fraternity. Dr Kasasa stated that in and of itself, corruption possessed the singular ability to wreck debilitating



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effects on the socioeconomic and political fabric of the country. The Dialogue ended after an interactive session between the students and the panel that had presented before them.