

Directorate of Ethics and Integrity launches Runyankore Translation of Anti-corruption Laws

The Office of the President under the Directorate for Ethics and Integrity has launched the Runyankore-Rukiga simplified translation of Anti-corruption laws and citizens handbook on anti-corruption in Mbarara district.

The launch of the two publications which marked another step in the fight against corruption was launched at the district council hall on November 14, 2019 and was presided over by Mbarara Resident District Commissioner, Lt. Col. James Mwesigye, who represented, Rev. Fr. Simon Lokodo, the minister of state for Ethics and Integrity.

The launched Runyankore-Rukiga publications include; a simplified version of anti-corruption laws which contains the anti-corruption Act, the whistleblowers protection Act and the access to information Act.

Another book was a Uganda citizen's handbook on anti-corruption which highlights citizens' role in the fight against corruption and also informs about the member institutions of the inter agency forum, where citizens can report cases of corruption.

In his written speech, Rev. Fr. Lokodo, appealed to residents of Mbarara to reject and report corruption and urged leaders in Mbarara district to become good ambassadors by sensitizing people in their communities about their constitutional duty as good citizens of Uganda and join force to eliminate corruption in Uganda.

He explained that the Directorate for Ethics and Integrity has already translated the anti-corruption laws into four local languages of Ateso, Runyankore-Rukiga, Luo and Luganda to reflect the regions of Eastern, Western, Northern and central Uganda.

He thanked the department of language studies and communication skills of Makerere University which carried out the translation.

Dr. Fridah Katushemerwe, a lecturer at Makerere University who carried out the translation, said the simplified version will enable every Ugandan access, read and understand the laws and enable them participate in the fight against corruption. She challenged leaders of Mbarara district to ensure the books are freely distributed to every citizen.

Ruth Namirembe Olijjo, the commissioner legal in the office of the Directorate for Ethics and Integrity, said the publications will not only help people to know their role in the fight against corruption but will as well promote ethics and integrity especially among young people; she called for a need to popularize it in schools.

Rev. Canon Aaron Mwesigwa, the Director of religious affairs at the Directorate of Ethics and Integrity, called for a joint fight against corruption and emphasized it must start from homes. "Corruption fight starts with you, like scholars say, it is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men," he added.

Sharing experience on how they are eliminating corruption in Mbarara Municipality, Mr. Francis Barabanabo, the Town Clerk, revealed that they have already laid down strategies towards a corrupt free city which among them include establishment of a one stop centre to eliminate corruption tendencies that result from bureaucracy. He added that all contracts will run for only one financial year, emphasizing that even some contracts that were awarded with more than one year are going to be stopped. He said they are also going to strengthen e-payment system to avoid cash handling.

Closing the meeting the Mbarara district Chairperson Capt. J.B Bamaturaki Tumusiime called upon other government sectors to come up with similar action of translating their policies and programs into indigenous languages for the benefit of local communities to know and understand the law better.