



ANTI CORRUPTION COALITION UGANDA

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

TO UNDERTAKE TRANSLATION OF A SIMPLIFIED VERSION OF THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT, 2005 AND REGULATIONS, 2011

1.0 ACCU Background

Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU) was formed in January 1999 and formally registered as an NGO under the NGO Statute in 2004. ACCU brings together like-minded entities and individual actors whose pre-occupation is publicizing, exposing and advocating for curbing corruption in Uganda. ACCU with support from different Development Partners has been implementing interventions since 1999, with the aim of creating an accountable and corruption free society. At the national level, ACCU works with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) engaged in the accountability sector. At the local level, ACCU works with and through Regional Anti-Corruption Coalitions (RACCs) that are spread out in the various parts of the country and of recent grass root member organisations¹. This approach ensures that the citizens' voices are reflected into the national agenda.

2.0 Project Background

ACCU is currently implementing the Strengthening Civil Society and Citizen Engagement in Accountability Project (SCEAP). The objective for the project is to contribute to improved transparency and accountability in Uganda. This project is implemented in three regions and 9 districts of Luuka, Iganga, Mayuge, Terego, Yumbe, Madi Okollo, Masindi, Buliisa & Kikuube. It is envisaged that the project will contribute to strengthening civil society and citizen engagement with government on implementation of anti-corruption laws, policies and accountability recommendations. This project focuses on tackling corruption in critical service delivery sectors like health, education, justice, infrastructure, environment and agriculture, which directly affect ordinary Ugandans. The project also supplements efforts by government accountability institutions in the fight against corruption.

3.0 Assignment Overview

Access to information is a fundamental human right recognized by international human rights instruments including article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which provides that, "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers". The right of access to information is also recognized by;

article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; and the United Nations General Assembly Resolution, 59 (1). In 2012, the United Nations also recognized access to the internet as an important tool for the promotion of the right of access to information, while 2016 was the first year that UNESCO marked September 28 as the “International Day for Universal Access to Information”¹.

In Uganda, the right of access to information is enshrined in Article 41 of the Constitution (1995) which provides that, “Every citizen has a right of access to information in the possession of the state or any other organ of the state except where the release of the information is likely to interfere with the security of the state or the right to the privacy of any other person”. Uganda was among the first African countries to enact a right to information law, the Access to Information Act (ATIA), 2005 and later the Access to Information Regulations, 2011². The Act was enacted to promote the right of access to information, promote an efficient, effective, transparent and accountable Government and to enable the public to effectively access and participate in decisions that affect them as citizens.

Since the enactment of ATIA and its enabling regulations, the Government of Uganda has taken significant steps to promote the right of access to information through a number of programmes and initiatives such as: The establishment of the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance (MoICT & NG), Development of the Government Communication Strategy to establish an effective, well-coordinated and proactive communication system across Government and with the public that will meet the nation’s information needs, Government Citizens Interaction Centre (GCIC) to enhance the monitoring of service delivery and provide a channel for feedback and suggestions from citizens.

Despite all the above initiatives, access to vital information by citizens remains a big challenge. The implementation of the Access to Information Law faces various challenges that include: Noncompliance by Ministers as per section 43 of the Act, Ignorance of the Law and its Relevance. Whereas it is an obligation of the State to sensitize its citizens on the right to information, Uganda’s citizens including information officers and various officials in some government ministries, departments and agencies remain ignorant about the existence of the law on access to information and this is worsened by the limited scope of bodies obligated to give information.

In good practice, all information that affects citizens and exercise of their rights, whether in possession of public or private bodies should be publicly accessible. According to Freedom House report on access to information 2021, unrealistic and complex laws limit the promotion of public institutional accountability and transparency. To this effect, citizens are usually left in the cold when undertaking efforts to enjoy the right to access information. More still, the uneven dissemination of information related to the enjoyment of human rights in Uganda has limited access to information for the people.

¹ UNESCO, International Day for Universal Access to Information, <http://en.unesco.org/iduai2016/about-day>

² Edrine Wanyama, “Freedom of Information in East Africa: Lessons from Uganda”, (LLM. Dissertation: University of Dar es Salaam, 2015).

Whereas government has the primary obligation to promote the enjoyment of civil-political rights of its people through among others, providing protection, promotion and fulfillment mechanisms, this has not significantly been achieved for the right of access to information. Whereas the parliament under article 79 and the parliamentary rules of procedures enacted the Access to Information Act as well as regulations to enhance credibility, accessibility and transparency, provisions under the act are still poorly implemented.

In order to increase access to information by citizens, ACCU undertook simplification of the Access to Information Act, 2005 and Regulations, 2011. This consultancy therefore aims at translating the simplified Access to Information Act and Regulations into local languages for easy comprehension among targeted citizens.

3.0 Objectives of the Consultancy:

To undertake translation of the simplified, Access to Information Act, 2005 and Regulations, 2011, into Runyoro language.

4.0 Nature of the Assignment:

The consultant will provide the following services:

- High quality translation of statements, from English to Runyoro;
- Use appropriate terminology considering the style and nuances of the original text;
- Review the translated material for accuracy of meaning, grammar, and syntax;
- Make necessary corrections or changes required by ACCU or its partners and re-submit corrected text within the agreed timeframe.

5.0 Key Deliverables

The successful consultant is expected to produce an accurate translation of approximately 9 pages of the simplified Access to Information Act, 2005 and Regulations, 2011, in Runyoro language.

6.0 Period of Performance

This assignment will be conducted in the month of November, 2023.

8.0 Level of Effort Expectation

This assignment is expected to have a Level of Effort (LoE) of 4 days.

9.0 Qualifications

The suitable candidate for this assignment is expected to possess;

- Relevant qualification in linguistics, languages or communication;
- Experience in translation, interpretation, proof reading or editing documents in Runyoro and English;

- At-least 5 years of experience in conducting similar assignments (samples of previous work and referees should be attached to the technical proposal);
- Prior experience working in the accountability sector will be considered an asset;
- Membership to a Professional Translators and Interpreters Association will be considered an asset.

10.0 Reporting and Supervision

The Consultant shall work closely and report to an assigned officer at ACCU.

11.0 Submission of Proposals

Interested individuals or organizations should submit their Technical and Financial Proposals to the Executive Director, Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda on info@accu.or.ug with a copy to amarlon@accu.or.ug not later than November 10, 2023 at 05:00pm.