

# The Uganda Land Alliance

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



Vol. 5: Jan-March 2011

## Women's Land rights—The time's **NOW!**



ULA Executive Director Esther Obaikol consults with Emmanuel Kabishanga of New Horizons during a Press Conference held at Sheraton Hotel and preceding the National Women's Land Rights Conference (October 2010). Over 400 women from the grassroots countrywide, attended the conference. They demanded for recognition of their right to land. *Photo by Francis Emorut*



By:  
**Sylvia  
 Namukasa**  
 Uganda Law  
 Society,  
 Member of ULA

**A**s Ugandans continue to celebrate the 20th year of official international recognition of women's contribution to this world, the time is now, to stop the rhetoric, take stock and audit what has been gained notably in the area of land ownership, control and usage.

Kudos to the government for positive efforts, for example the Bill of Rights in the 1995 Constitution, which has caused relative shift in societal [and or individual] perceptions and stereotypes about women in general. A commendable example here is the landmark judicial intervention in the Constitutional petition, No 13/2007: Law & Advocacy for Women in Uganda Vs Attorney General, through which their Lordships nullified S.27 of the Succession Act that favored male beneficiaries as opposed to female survivors. Such positive efforts must be supported to set a precedent for future generations.

Sadly though, whereas Uganda may generally be said to have very 'beautiful and rosy legal provisions, there's little to say about their practical translation especially to the women on the countryside. Uganda must make deliberate efforts to implement national, regional and international legal instruments to which it is a signatory, and which stipulate the rights of women. For example; Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) 1948 emphasizes freedom and equality of all humans thus; "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with

reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood." Article 2 emphasizes; "Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status..". We must therefore sternly deal with the challenges of ignorance, and archaic cultural norms and practices that perpetually negate women to an inferior status compared to men.

To page 4

## Editor's Note



Dear readers,

I welcome you all to this 5th Edition of the ULA Newsletter dedicated to women's land rights. Herein, you will find articles by eminent persons in the struggle, which I believe will enhance your knowledge on the concept of women's land rights.

We are also privileged to share with you the Declaration made during the 2010 National Women's Land Rights Conference at Speke Resort Munyonyo; among other issues.

In the 6th Edition of our Newsletter, we'll reflect on the topic, "The strengths & weaknesses of the National Land Policy". Writers will credit the good sections or damn the bad ones.

Please submit your articles of not more than 400 words to: [tdeo@ulaug.org](mailto:tdeo@ulaug.org) before 10th June 2011

**Tumusiime Kabwende Deo**

# Women's Rights to Land– a struggle for equal citizenship



Ms. Esther Obaikol reading out the Minimum Agenda at the National Women's Land Rights Conference

Nearly fifteen years after the world conference on women in Beijing China, there is considerable interest within the Women's land rights movement in Uganda and even government institutions, to review the progress of the project of gender equality.

Whereas there have since been considerable gains for women, Gender inequalities still persist. While Government has for example fulfilled its commitment of having one third representation of women on all elective positions, the issue of Gender mainstreaming has become but a mere political rhetoric without tangible benefits accruing to women.

Important to note also, is the fact that social transformation that makes equality in terms of resources, rights and voice, remains a far cry. This is because gender mainstreaming moved from a process of transformation to an end in itself, pursued solely with an instrumentalist intent. A central problem has been the difficulty of finding a fit between the technical project of mainstreaming gender equality in policy, programme and projects, and the political project of challenging inequality and promoting women's rights.

A decade of gender mainstreaming in Uganda has blurred the distinctive focus on transforming unequal power relations between the genders.

**Questions to ponder over:** In order to make some headway therefore, a few questions must be asked: How best can gender equality be promoted in the development of the land sector, not as a technical institution but as a socioeconomic and political entity involving stakeholders, right

By:  
**Esther Obaikol**  
Executive  
Director,  
ULA

from the community level to the national level? Secondly, can gender mainstreaming be looked at not as an end but in the context of transformation and thus enabling women to realize substantive equality?

Third, how can rights to land, be taken out of the domestic, into the public arena where questions of citizenship are contested? Other questions to ponder over, may include how the rights of individuals (particularly women) to land should be offset against the needs of the family, the community, the 'ethnic' nation or the territorial state. Additionally, what is the appropriate role of the State in promoting equality in land ownership? This foregrounds the reality of power relations and draws attention to the sites where struggles for equality are being waged.

ULA adopts a rights based approach in addressing inequalities against women, by interpreting both legal and customary law in light of the international human rights instruments that provide a neutral ground of engagement, because they uphold the universality of human rights. Working with legal pluralism is a pragmatic approach to dealing with inaccessible judicial or other legal services giving the opportunity for women to benefit out of the informal or customary structures. Working within customary systems to support women's struggles on land does have the important effect of exposing the contestation and variation that exists in customary law and undermining defensive efforts by dominant groups to portray local norms as bounded, immutable, and well settled.

The Struggle for Women's land rights in Uganda is more than equality as conveyed in the statute books; it is the translation of this equality in practice. It entails determining the minimum standards or levels of resource access, ownership and control by both men and women; the cultural biases embedded in notions of choice, agency and autonomy, most of it revolving around the concepts of patriarchy; the types of public policy needed to address and correct gender injustices, and the locus of responsibility for addressing these injustices taking into account both the formal and informal structures. Women's right to land is indeed a struggle for equal citizenship.

**Women's Land Rights - What's the way forward?**

Women's Land rights– The time's NOW!

# Women's Land Rights are- inherent and not granted!

Women's Land rights- The time's NOW!



By:  
**Frances Birungi Odong**  
 Senior Program Officer -  
 Human rights  
 UCOBAC

**W**omen's rights!!! .....Women's land rights???.....Why land??? .....What is the problem/gap???..... Why this problem/gap???..... What is the way forward??? Many times as I do my work in this struggle, these questions never stop to linger in my mind.

Women are human beings just as men are men; and just as men have land rights, so should women. Land rights are entitlements that men and women must have by virtue of being human beings.

One may wonder why the discussion on women's land rights if access, ownership and utilization of land are human rights, not granted but inherent. The real problem here is that cultural prejudices [and other factors] have over the years denied women their right to enjoy a resource so critical to a predominantly agricultural country like Uganda. Land is a means of livelihood to individuals, families,

communities and is a key contributor to the development of Uganda.

Statistics indicate that while 83% of women in Uganda are engaged in agricultural production and over 90% in food production and processing, only 25.5% own or control the land they cultivate. This underpins their ability to feel secure in their homes, to make income, to participate effectively in the development of their homes and communities. Such a trend is a nightmare to the realization of the Millennium Development Goal 3: Promotion of Gender equality and empowerment of women.

There's evident disparity between the provisions of the law and practicability of these smartly written laws and policies on the ground. Among the key gaps includes ignorance by most women [and men] of legal provisions that protect women's property rights, legalization of discriminatory laws, existing discriminatory cultural norms, beliefs and practices that discriminate against women, and high illiteracy/ignorance levels.

There's therefore need for all players in the struggle for women's rights to approach this challenge from a holistic perspective; from financing women empowerment programmes to policy influence, program development and implementation, and progress monitoring and Evaluation. Herein lies the massive contribution made by UCOBAC and sister partners in the struggle for women's land rights especially at the grassroots.

## Women's Land Rights-the time is now! From page 1

Moving forward, the actual realization of women's land and property rights calls for a united and robust partnership and efforts directed at legislative and policy reform in the sphere of women's land rights. Among others, there is an urgent need to deliberately strengthen and invigorate enforcement of laws both formal and customary; and to simplify relevant information through translation of laws into local languages to ensure easy access and understanding of the legal framework by mostly the illiterate rural women.

Additionally, there's dire need for massive sensitization of rural women (including widows, orphans and women affected by HIV/AIDS on their rights and obligations in relation to land, registration of customary marriages and birth certificates and also to sensitize and encourage men to support their spouses through making proper wills. Additionally, government needs to support civil society organizations and women's groups to raise the visibility of women's land rights issues and lobby for their incorporation into laws and policies and other government programmes.



## Speech by H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda at the Prayer Breakfast for the National Women's Land Rights Conference, 4th October 2010.

I thank the organizers of this conference for your invitation to me to share with you in this very important theme, "Equality is not Equality

of Outcomes but Equality of resources, Rights and Voice". I am happy to note that the women's Land Rights Movement comprises of key Government Departments, Civil Society and NGOs with particular interest in women's issues. Indeed, the National Resistance Movement Government, which has championed the cause of women, emphasizes their access to resources, rights and voice.

Not only is the African woman the child bearer; she cooks, farms, grinds grain, fetches water and collects firewood, teaches her children, nurses the sick, provides quality companionship to the husband, e.t.c, e.t.c. It is only in a few African societies where this formula of burden sharing is reversed, with men doing more work than women. Experts say that women in Africa contribute 70 per cent of food production and nearly half of all farm labour.

Cognizant of the important role women play in the transformation of society, the NRM Government has liberated women through the following:

- Providing safe water with coverage increasing from 10% to 63% in rural areas and from 17% to 65% in urban areas between 1986 and 2006
- Introducing Universal Primary and Secondary Education which has significantly increased access to education
- Improving literacy rate from 50% to 70% between 1986 to date. Additional, 80% of learners in the government-led Functional Adult Literacy Programmes are women
- Intervention in reducing HIV prevalence from 18% to 6%
- Ensuring that all children are fully immunized, and ;
- Increasing access to health units within the radius of 5 Kilometers from 30% to 70%

Women play a central role in society, rights from the domestic to the international scene. Collectively and individually, they have the highest concentrations of human, economic and culture resources necessary to occupy an enviable position in the global economy. However, the challenge is that only a few women are empowered; the majority still

continues to be trapped in the low income category with unacceptable levels of political, economic and human development.

The liberation and empowering of women, therefore, is a means of solving many socio-economic and political problems; especially for Africa. Gender-based violence and other discriminatory practices in our society have also hampered women from using their skills in development activities and prevented them from claiming their socio-economic rights e.g property rights and inheritance. It must be addressed.

Today, women's prospects for formal participation in politics have greatly improved, in spite of the many challenges they are faced with. The NRM Government has put in place conducive mechanisms which have enabled women to contribute to political transformation. We now have increased numbers in the political arena. The proportion of women in Local Councils rose from 6% in early 1990s to 44% in 2003; while in Parliament it rose from 18% in 1996 to 30% to date, which is the internationally recommended quota.

Government also established in 1988 what is now called Ministry of Genders and Social Affairs which, among others, caters for Women Affairs. It is headed by a Cabinet Minister. These milestones have promoted women's visibility and voice in decision making processes at all levels, which is a key tenet of democratic governance.

A number of women in Sub-Saharan Africa and, indeed Uganda, still experience discriminatory gender biases and prejudices which inhibit their potential. Most women lack ownership of productive resources, particularly land. The theme of this conference is, therefore, most pertinent in this regard.

The women, I am well informed, have been key players in the National Agriculture Advisory Service (NAADS) programme and have been very pro-active in forming farmer groups. Government is very supportive of the women's cause and shall continue to promote and enhance your participation in the socio-economic transformation of our society. Indeed, Equality is not Equality of Outcomes but Equality of resources, Rights and Voice. It is my sincere hope that as all stakeholders share experiences during this conference, a holistic and sustainable approach shall be generated in dealing with this theme.

I thank you.

# Pictorial recap of the National Women's Land Rights Conference 2010

Women's Land rights- The time's NOW!



ULA Deputy Board Chair consults with State Minister for Lands Asuman Kiyingi at the Conference.



Kitgum Woman MP Beatrice Anywar stresses a point at the Women's Conference in October 2010



Everything is under control



Participants at the conference pull off their latest strokes



What a successful conference! ULA staff share a light moment



Participants dance away the joy of a largely successful conference

*Please tell us what you like about this newsletter. Send your comments to [tdeo@ulaug.org](mailto:tdeo@ulaug.org) or send a text to +256 712 075721*



## NAWOU-A mark of Quality for Women in Uganda



The Secretary General, NAWOU  
Mrs. Peace T. Kyamureku  
NAWOU is a member of ULA

When a call for an NGO audit was made in 2009, the National Association of Women Organizations in Uganda (NAWOU) was the first to scoop the Quality Assurance Mechanism Certificate. This achievement compounds the relevance of NAWOU's efforts especially in the struggle for the rights of the vulnerable women in Uganda.

NAWOU was founded in 1992 by non-governmental organizations (NGO) with a membership of over 70 national organizations, professional women and representatives of Community Based Organizations (CBOs). It was initially established with a mission of promoting a coordinated network of member organizations for efficient utilization of resources in order to improve the status and well-being of women of Uganda. The current mission is "to promote the growth of a strong women's movement in Uganda that claims the rights of women and enhances their socio-economic status.

Among other services offered by NAWOU includes Networking and information sharing, Visibility and information generation, Advocacy and representation of women, Training and capacity building and Support to

member organizations through micro-credit and marketing programs, among others. NAWOU currently employs 13 qualified staff supported by 6 volunteers, and also gives an opportunity to internees to move theory into practice.

In the past 18 years of operation, NAWOU's efforts have been recognized beyond Uganda and currently the organization is a member of International and regional organizations, among others; the International Council of Women (ICW), the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), International Council for Social Welfare (ICSW), the East African Sub-regional Support Initiative (EASSI) and FEMNET. On the local scene, NAWOU is a member of the Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF), Uganda Land Alliance (ULA), the Women's Land Rights Movement in Uganda (WLRM-U), and Human Rights Network (HURINET), to mention but a few.

NAWOU is currently preoccupied with among other thematic areas; Gender and women's rights, Poverty and economic empowerment, Women health and environment, Women's participation in governance, and Women's, peace and security. In the near future, NAWOU anticipates stepping up training of more human rights defenders at the grassroots, raising awareness on social protection and service delivery especially for vulnerable groups like women and children, and building the capacity of staff and the National Executive Committee on policy and other crucial areas like women's land rights.

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Women's Land rights- The time's NOW!

## Speech by the Hon. Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development at the National Women's Land Rights Conference Speke Resort Munyonyo, Kampala - Uganda 4th to 7th October, 2010



On behalf of the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and on my own behalf, I wish to welcome all of you to this important Conference on Women's Land Rights. I must say outright, that this is an important topic that does not only concern the women here present but all women [and men] in this Country.

While I appreciate the importance of this Conference, I must also note with sadness that we should be gathering in the 21st Century to discuss equality of rights between men and women, especially over land. Some of the inequalities we are witnessing, have a historical background dating back to the colonial era. As you may be aware, many African Countries are patriarchal in nature, where men assume a dominant role in making decisions concerning access to and control over resources including land. It is therefore our duty and collective responsibility to change the status of events to suit our own times. Considering the enormous role women contribute to our existence, their rights cannot therefore in any way be a point for debate.

The National Resistance Movement (NRM) Government was the first visionary Government over the years to recognise the rights of women in Uganda, by championing the Women Emancipation campaign. Today, the proceeds of this campaign do not need further elaboration as you will practically witness during the course of this Conference. This is also evidenced in the most gender sensitive 1995 Constitution that provides the overall legal framework for the pursuance of women's rights. Looking though the programme for this conference, I can see very powerful women who are going to discuss various topics - some are politicians, others academicians, Heads of institutions, all well learned. I have also been reliably informed that the majority, if not all the women participants at this gathering are all not just hailing from the 'kitchen' like was the traditional practice and do not only carry triple roles (reproductive, productive and community responsibilities), but are either representing grassroots organizations or are privately engaged in various development oriented activities. This is how far we have come, and the effort must be applauded.

I am glad to remind you that the NRM Government is committed to promotion of good governance including decentralised governance. The Government through the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development put in place the Land Sector Strategic Plan to provide for delivery of services through decentralised structures, which has a great impact on creating awareness on women's land rights at all levels. Once again the Government's effort on promoting women's land rights should be appreciated.

As you may be well aware, Government together with other stakeholders is in the final stages of drafting of the National Land Policy. The Uganda Land Alliance and other Civil Society representatives participated actively in the critical stages of the drafting process, and I can assure you that women's land rights concerns were prominently captured. Your participation in this process was a manifestation that Government cannot work in isolation, but needs the contribution of each one of you both collectively and individually.

I know many of you must be wondering whether the good provisions for women's land rights will be implemented. Before you lose hope, I urge you to appreciate where we have come from, recognise where we are, and work with Government as your main ally to reach where we want to be.

The vision of the NRM of ensuring equal rights for all citizens has been welcomed by many who wish this country well. That's why each time we have elections, Ugandans always vote the NRM. As the 2011 elections draw closer, I believe all of you shall vote the NRM so that we can fulfil the pending programmes.

I am informed that after here, you are launching the Women's Land Rights Movement. Such a Movement I believe will go a long way in uniting women across the country. By virtue of the fact that already 4 Government Ministries are part of the Women's Movement, it is already confirmation that Government appreciates your efforts. Count on us, and we shall offer you all the support and good will you need.

With these few words, I take the honour to wish you the very best of deliberations during this Conference. Please do share your resolutions with us after the conference and we shall take the necessary actions.

To our dear guests from abroad, do not leave without touring Kampala and other parts of Uganda, which as you will discover is gifted by nature. Feel at home, enjoy the best weather and hospitality, and please come again.

I now have the honour and privilege to declare this Conference officially open.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

# National Women's Land Rights Conference - a landmark

## "Declaration of the Women of Uganda On our land"

We, the Women's Land Rights Movement in Uganda being the representatives of Government Departments, Grass roots women, producer organizations, research institutions, social movements, Civil Society and the private sector have gathered in Kampala this 3rd – 6th October 2010 under the theme; **"Equality is not Equality of Outcomes but Equality of Rights, Resources and Voice"**

We acknowledge that improved women's access, control and ownership of land/natural and productive resources, are key factors in eradicating hunger and rural poverty. Land is critical for improving women's, social security, livelihoods and their social status. Securing land rights for women would dramatically alter the insecurity, disempowerment and abuse that are associated with poverty and inequality.

We share a collective commitment to promoting equitable, just and secure access to, control over, and ownership of land and natural resources by women and men.

We are alarmed at the increasing incidences and the calculated moves towards land grabbing in Uganda, without transparency or consultation with local land-users. Women in particular single women and widows have been grossly affected by this. We call on government to come up with a clear policy on commercialization and commoditization of land in Uganda which takes into account the interests of the poor and vulnerable women and men.

We are appalled by the increasing domestic violence and death rate of women murdered by spouses as a result of disputes over land. We call on Government to commit itself to substantive equality to land and property between men and women and for our recognition in fact as full citizens of this country.

We note the commitment of Government to expediently dispose of land disputes in courts of Law. We call on Government to make Courts of law user friendly and affordable for the rural women

and to take a gendered approach to litigation. We acknowledge the government's commitment to promote Agriculture in Uganda. Taking cognizance of the fact that over 80% of the labour force comprises of women and over 90% of Uganda's population depends on land, we call on Government to invest in small-scale producers, particularly women, as the central pillar of meeting the food needs of Uganda.

We note that while the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda provides for Equality of men and women before during and after marriage, women's rights to land are rarely recognized, protected or enforced. We affirm the emphasis the AU Framework and Guidelines places on securing the land rights of women, and call on Government to focus on enhancing women's rights to land.

We acknowledge the role of development



Hon. Ephraim Kamuntu, State Minister for Finance launching the National Women's Land Rights Movement . He represented H.E President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. Photo by: Francis Emorut

partners and multilateral organizations in supporting pro-poor land and tenure reform. We call on development partners to support efforts by civil society organizations in Uganda to educate women and the community on land issues in a bid to neutralize the bad cultural practices and laws...

*Editor's notes: The National Women's Land Rights Conference was attended by over 400 women drawn from grassroots across the country; and was organized by the Working Group for the Women's Land Rights Movement under the overall oversight of the Uganda Land Alliance (ULA)*

Women's Land Rights - What's the way forward?

Women's Land rights– The time's NOW!

# Women are not property!

Women's Land rights—The time's NOW!



By:  
**Joyce Nangobi**  
Programme  
Manager  
SWID

**A**ny tradition that continues to depict women as property for their husbands is likely to be met with protracted resistance in modern Uganda. This is because women have now been empowered to believe more than ever before that there's, but just a thin line between them and men-which still, does not make them the inferior of the sexes.

The Slum Women's Initiative for Development (SWID) is one organization that has awakened the dreams of particularly the

grassroots women in Jinja District. SWID observes that many women and girls from various cultural traditions are denied their right to inherit the deceased's property, which denies them a key human right.

The constitution of Uganda provides that every person is equal before the Law and that, every person equally has a right to own property, land inclusive regardless of gender, tribe or education levels provided one is a citizen (Quote).

In her resolve, SWID has so far supported over 250 women at the grassroots, of which 130 have been able to acquire land either through freehold or leasehold system of land tenure . It has also embarked on constructing affordable and decent houses for 2 grassroots women beneficiaries, and hopes to ensure in 10 to 15 years, that at least 550 housing units are constructed for the disadvantaged grassroots women within the district.

## Declaration Continued

From page 9

**This end, we the women, here representing millions of others commit to:**

### **Sensitization and Legal Education of fellow women and our constituents**

We commit to reaching out to fellow women and stakeholders in our areas on the importance of women's ownership of land and the rights that are available to them. To this end, we commit to work with the media in whichever way to spread the message far and wide.

### **Enhancement of girl child education and women Education**

We commit to promote girl child and women education and to work towards the integration of land into the education curriculum of Uganda right from the early stages of child development. In this quest, we commit to work with the religious leaders, traditional leaders and local leaders to get our voices heard

### **Economic empowerment of women towards ownership of land and property**

We commit to raise a voice for women to engage in economic activities and financial saving schemes as a mechanism of empowerment

towards purchase of land

### **Building the women's Movement on Land at the grass roots**

We commit to organize our selves regionally and in our districts right to the parishes as a way of expanding and spreading the message of the importance of women's ownership of land. To this end, we commit to promote networking and collaboration amongst us in order to sustain the dialogue.

### **Work towards a conducive legal regime for women on Land**

We commit to work with government at national and local level to ensure that appropriate amendments to the laws and the development of appropriate bye-laws is done to enable women realize their full potential on land. To this end, the laws relating to marriage and divorce, succession and inheritance and the Land Act need to reflect the equality pronounced in the constitution.  
Kampala 6th October

*The Women's Land Rights Movement was born on the 2nd June 2010 with Three Government Ministries, and 13 civil society organizations working around women's issues in Uganda to promote practice change in favour of women in land governance.*

Women's Land Rights-What's the way forward?



## Fare thee well Vincent Mutyaba



January 24th 2011, will always remain a black Monday in the history of the Uganda Land Alliance because that's the day will lost one of our very own. Vincent Mutyaba (48) died at Nsambya Hospital soon after he was admitted following a short

illness. He was later laid to rest at Bukuya village in Mubende district.

Prior to his death, Vincent had served as ULA's land rights desk officer, and was one of the most active members. For those of us who worked directly with him, he'll be remembered as a very calm person who was always willing to undertake any assignment at short notice. He also worked for Magala Mutyaba and Co. Advocates.

The late Mutyaba was a son to Mr. Magala Valentine and Ms. Agnes Nabadda, and had no wife at the time of his death.

## Selected Condolence messages received by ULA Secretariat

Please pass on my condolences to the bereaved family and to all our members - [Justice Anna Magezi](#)

It is such a sudden death, I saw Vincent last week when he came to renew his subscription, it is unbelievable that he has gone to be with the Lord so soon . We will always remember him for his service and commitment to serve the poor and marginalized, may his soul rest in eternal peace - [Sylvia Mukasa, Uganda Law Society.](#)

Sincere condolences. May he Rest in Peace - [Marren Akatsa-Bukachi, EASSI](#)

On behalf of Oxfam Novib, I express my sincere sorrow for the loss of your colleague Vincent Mutyaba. I wish you and all your colleagues strength to be able to live on without him - [Maria Maas](#)

Please pass my condolences to the family. This is very sad news for the alliance fraternity - [Richard Ssewakiryanga, Uganda National NGO Forum](#)

It's extremely sad and painful to lose someone who is especially part of us. Our sincere condolences to his family and friends. May God rest his soul in eternal peace-Frances Birungi-UCOBAC

Other message were received from: [Cathy Nagudi, Frederica Nshemereirwe, Jackie Okot, Lakony Ben, Debra Derby, Stella Candiru, Wandera Ouma, Tom Mugisa, Matilda](#)

*Makata, Annie Kairaba, Lorna Juliet, Anne Kampaire, Nairima Gertrude, Elizabeth Kharono, Business Chestrad, Linda Kibombo, Gladman Kundhlande, Jane Nalunga, Irene, Water Governance Institute, Norah Nyeko, Ellady Muyambi, Ruud Jansen, Agnes Kirabo, Shepherd Zvigadza...*

## Adieu James Esau Okema



Even if death is generally known to be everyone's destiny, the last couple of months have particularly been harsh on the Uganda Land Alliance. In James Esau Okema, death robbed us of an intellectual, who was well versed with the nitty-gritty of land ownership not only in the Acholi region, but Uganda at large. The papers he presented at various functions organized by ULA, moved many. It would be a very big task to identify a suitable replacement. Our sadness worsened by the fact that many of us did not even have a chance to say goodbye to James, but we believe that he's gone to be with God our Almighty father there in heaven where there's no grain of agony. God gives, God takes away, blessed always be his name. '

The late Okema (42) died at Nsambya Hospital on December 24th 2010 after succumbing to a pneumonia attack. He's survived by a wife and 3 daughters. He was buried at Kolo-Bobi, Gulu district.

Compiled by [Tumusiime K. Deo](#)

## Condolences

James was a personal friend to me [...] May his soul rest in eternal peace! [Richard Ssewakiryanga](#)

This is really sad news!!!! Nevertheless, James has fought a good fight and we thank God for he has made good use of his life Thank you God for James's life. May his soul rest in eternal peace-Agnes Kirabo

Its a pity. Our comfort is that one day there will be a reunion. Death is the door to eternity; we will meet on the other side one day-Cathy Mugabo

More condolence messages were received from: [Jackie Okot, Jane Nalunga, Peace Kyamuleku, Racheal Matovu, The Sunrise, Charles Busingye, Milly Kevin, Tom Mugisa, Joshua Zake, Rebecca Birungi, Sylvia Mukasa...](#)



**Everyone  
is entitled to all the rights and  
freedoms set forth in the Universal  
Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)  
without distinction of any kind,  
such as race, colour, sex, language,  
religion, political or other opinion,  
national or social origin, property,  
birth or other status..”**

## **Article 2**

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