

PLATFORM FOR LABOUR ACTION QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



OUR MISSION

“Promoting and Protecting the Rights of
Vulnerable and Marginalized Workers through
Empowerment of Communities and
Individuals”

IN THIS ISSUE



Word from the Executive Director



Domestic Workers Petition Speaker of Parliament



Parliament Passed the Employment Amendment Bill 2019



815 Poor, Marginalized and Vulnerable Workers Receive Free Legal Aid Services



64 police suspects released on police bond



3,556 Workers and Employers Received Awareness Messages





Ms. Grace Mukwaya Lule

Message from Our Executive Director

Greetings from PLA,

Dear Stakeholders and friends, Platform for Labour Action is happy to bring to you our first newsletter of the year 2021. The labour and employment sector since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic has presented untold struggles for many workers who continue to lose jobs, face salary cuts, nonpayment, unfair terminations/dismissals/ struggles to balance work and home duties. Nevertheless workers have continued to exhibit resilience in overcoming these challenges to provide for their families and meaningfully contribute to the economic development of Uganda. PLA pledges to continue to be at the forefront in ensuring decent work for all vulnerable and marginalized workers including access to justice, social protection and responsive legal and policy framework within the labour and employment sector.

DOMESTIC WORKERS PETITION SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT

PLA supported Domestic workers through their umbrella body Domestic Workers Association (DOWA) to develop a petition paper which they presented to the speaker of parliament to expedite the passing of the Employment Amendment Bill 2019. The Speaker in response promised to pass the Bill.



From Left; Executive Director PLA, Leaders of Domestic workers, Right Honorable speaker of Parliament, Rebecca Kadaga, Chairperson of UWOPA and two Hon. Members of Parliament during the during presentation of the petition.

Parliament Passed the Employment Amendment Bill 2019

Following the domestic workers petition to the speaker, on 1st April 2021 the parliament of Uganda discussed and passed the Employment Amendment Bill 2019. The Bill seeks to protect and recognize vulnerable groups of workers such as the domestic workers, casual workers and breast feeding working mothers.



Members of Parliament and Representatives from National Women and Youth Organizations join Domestic workers at the press conference after delivering the Petition to the Speaker of Parliament.

815 Poor, Marginalized and Vulnerable workers Receive Free Legal Aid Services



On the left is the PLA team and their client at mediation at the Employer's premises in Iganga district

This quarter, 815(275 female, 540 male), poor vulnerable and marginalized persons received free legal aid services across our districts of operations. Our clients came from different sectors of employment including construction workers, security guards, driver's food vendors, farmers, Hair dressers, boda boda cyclists and business persons.

Overall, the nature of claims reported varied from nonpayment, unfair termination, workers compensation, unlawful dedications, trafficking in persons, failure to remit NSSF by employers while the eastern and northern districts reported more cases on land matters, child neglect and domestic violence. The clients were presented in mediations, tribunals, labour offices and in courts of law mostly in the Industrial Court.

96 CLIENTS RECOVERED THEIR DUES

- 96(37 female and 59 male) clients recovered their owed dues from employers totaling to Ugx. 72,886,833/= (Seventy Two Million Eight Hundred Eight six Thousand Eight Hundred thirty three Shilling only).The money recovered was unpaid wages, loan repayments, NSSF savings, medical facilitation, workers' compensation and compensation for unfair termination and dismissals.
- For many of the workers the money recovered is used to pay off debts, carter for medical expenses for the families, send financial assistance to relatives in the villages, start up for small businesses

Ugx.
72,886,833
was recovered for
and on behalf of 96
clients (59 male, 37
female).



64 police suspects released on police bond



Represented, supported and enabled 64 police suspects at Kaliro, Bugir, Dokolo, Amolatar central police stations to be released on police bond. This would enable them to prepare adequately for their cases as well as enabling them to provide for their families

3,556, Workers and Employers Receive Awareness Messages

3,556 (1052 female, 2,504) Community members, workers, employers in the districts of Kaliro, Lira, Busia, Wakiso, Bugiri and Iganga were reached out to with different human rights messages ranging from workers rights, domestic violence, succession, rape, defilement.



Ensuring Compliance and Safety at the Work Places

PLA in partnership with the district labour Officers conducted three work place inspections to ensure that employers are in compliance with the employment and labour standards.

The workers and employers were also sensitized on guidelines COVID-19 occupational safety and health standard operating procedures for work places developed by Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development



PLA team with the Lira City Labor officer at Tip top bakeries in Lira for a workplace inspection

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