

50% campaign to protect children

Children's rights. Tanzania's future. Your responsibility.



Case Study

Media Sensitisation Seminar

June 2008

Recently the Minister for State for Udoma Country who is the most powerful minister died in a road accident. At the time of his death, he had a wife and 6 children. The minister was very instrumental in fighting for democratization in the country and many people admired him for his work to the country. Unfortunately, it emerged after his death that he owed the local bank Tshs. 200,000,000.00 and the family only had one three-bedroom house that was not appropriate for the family.

The government decides to pay his debts and buys him an 8-bedroom house in one of the prime plots of the city. The house has two swimming pools and is set on a 10-hectare plot.

In the meantime, a group of residents from Udoma who ran away from the country following land clashes 4 years ago have just returned from a neighboring country and have no land to settle in. They have returned with their children aged from between 5 to 16 years. They have gone to various government offices where they have been camping for the last 2 months but they have been informed they can not get any assistance. They hardly have any food and medical care.

However, a local NGO has been providing them with informal education under a tree. It focuses mainly on attaining basic literacy (reading and writing skills) but does not follow the school curriculum.

You have also just seen in the paper today, an article stating that two orphan children who have no one to carter for them and no home to take them as most government run homes are full. You have been asked to contribute to these children's upkeep and the returnees have also been camping outside your office for the last two days for assistance.

Issues for case study:

1. Identify whether there are any rights violated in this case and the persons responsible for each violation;
2. What can you do as a journalist for these children?
3. Is there any remedy for such a situation under Tanzania laws and if not, what can you do about it?