

RAINING HOPE

"And he will send showers of rain so every field becomes a lush pasture." Zechariah 10:1

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New Government Policies Deadline for Approval - October 31, 2018 Important Prayer Points

On October 10, 2018, Godfrey had an official meeting with the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) of the entire district and 40 represented organizations. The government officials emphasized the government's policy, strategy and plans for the protection, care and support of orphans and vulnerable children. (OVC). There is a national quality standard frame work which all organizations operate under. The following is separate from the community service projects program we launched last month. We are proposing those projects as part of our plan to help the community long term. Godfrey had one of the supervisors come unofficially as a friend to give recommendations according to the national policy of what they will be looking for in order for us to continue operations. This was a huge blessing. **Inside this edition is the result of what is specifically needed for Raining Hope to remain open.**

In previous newsletters beginning with the June/July 2018 edition, we have been publishing what we discovered was needed in the light of 569 homes being closed. Much of what it included in this edition we already had been working towards thanks to Godfrey .

Godfrey has worked over and above in compiling the many documents from the Ministry of Gender, national policy, and national quality standards documents for action plans and implementations. He had to read it all and then apply it to our context as Raining Hope.

Please take the time prayerfully to read over the enclosed information.

The two items that are financially needed to be fulfilled before October 31, 2018 to stay open are:

1. A fire extinguisher - \$125 (page 3, 3g)
2. The filing of annual report and auditor fees - \$1,320 (page 3, 4a)

All other items we must show the Chief Administrative Officer the plans to incorporate the proposed projects. Godfrey is working on budgets for these items. **On page 4 there is important information regarding the favor that God has given us as Raining Hope Ministries.** Please be in prayer the next few weeks as we wait on final approval to be one of the homes that will continue to operate in Uganda.

UPDATED LIST FOR APPROVAL OF RAINING HOPE TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS

1. **Move towards self-sustainability of the organization.** The government will not renew or issue any certificate of operation for any organization that has not presented its work plan and budget towards self-sustainability. This is a top priority for the government because they claim it leads to empowerment rather than dependency syndrome.

Prayer Direction:

Godfrey is working on a work plan and budget to present to us that would satisfy the new policy. This will be a long term work plan.

2. **The community should be the main beneficiary of the programs of the organization.** We need to benefit the people in the community by empowering them in Core Program Areas (C.P.A.). This includes education, health, social economic security, food security and nutrition, care and support, psycho-social support, housing, child protection and legal support.

Prayer Direction:

We would help two struggling families in our Ambercoart Community. We would help them where they are, not bring the children into our home. One family is a widow who is struggling to pay fees for her four children. Currently the widow is selling food items to sustain the family. The other family needs capital to be empowered.

Action Plan:

We can help empower the widow with capital so she can start a better business to support her children in school. In the meantime, we would pay the school fees of her children since they are young and fees are low. We will supervise until the widow is able to take full responsibility. By doing this, we are fulfilling the quality standard of the government.

The main beneficiaries and children we are suppose to be helping are from our surrounding community.

We had to submit a list of all our children including their villages of residence. The challenge we have is all our children come from other villages other than Ambercoart because of where we originally started from twelve years ago. The previous three communities were Kakira,, Waynange and Bukaya. This is why we have had to incorporate the new community service projects in Ambercoart. We need to show them what are plans are to benefit the children and families of our surrounding community.

3. **De-Institutionalization.** Children's Homes, orphanages, remand homes, boarding schools, children prisons, etc. that are poor in resources such as financing, personnel, training, infrastructure or environmental context are considered vulnerable and therefore needing re-integration into caring, adult headed families.

Prayer Points:

a. **The government would prefer children stay in their own homes with their families.** This is happening in other countries in Africa as well. Because of this new policy, we will not be looking to take in more children at our home as our current children graduate out. We believe we will be able to help more families in the community by allowing them to stay in their homes as we help them with the proposed community projects.

b. **Employing a full time nurse.** We are looking at our nursing students who will graduate this December as possible staff to satisfy this requirement.

UPDATED LIST FOR APPROVAL OF RAINING HOPE TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS

c. **Mobilize funds so that we fully finance our budget and ministry projects.** We also desire to have resources and necessary tools that will help in child development. Our monthly operating budget in Uganda is approximately \$1,700 a month for food, supplies, medical expenses etc. We currently send the funds twice a month as donations are received. We would like to have enough funding so we can send it all at the beginning of the month.

d. **Dining & Nursing Office Structure.** We are proposing to put a grass hatched shelter on the roof. It has a slab that can support this. This costs less and spares space on the land.

e. **Finish renovations** before this year ends if they license us to remain open.

f. **We are being asked to build a better kitchen and provide good, healthy food for the children.** The cook and whoever enters the kitchen will need proper kitchen attire for safety.

g. **Emergency fire extinguisher at the house in case of any fires. This is required before October 31, 2018** as all institutions such as schools, hotels, homes or orphanages have fire extinguishers. **This will be at a cost of \$125.**

h. Proper feeding, bedding and clothing was emphasized at the meeting. We have addressed these issues. **The children will be in need of new clothing.**

i. We currently have Raining Hope Ministries meeting on our compound on Sundays. This ministry has grown to an average of 150-175 on Sundays. **We need to pray and trust God for a separate piece of land for our church ministry.**

4. Filing of quarterly returns and annual reports to the supervising office and C.A.O. (Chief Administrative Officer). This has a deadline of October 31st.

a. To file reports, this requires auditors to come and audit our books of account. **The money needed to facilitate this process & pay the auditing company is \$1,320.** We have a lawyer and auditors who are going to do it cheaper and better as compared to another company that would have charged close to \$1,700. This figure includes penalties and delayed filing.

b. We are required to have a data center for all the services we are offering the children under our support and proper data for the organization of which can be accessed by the supervisory team to ensure effectiveness. We need a desktop computer to build our data as soon as possible. **A new desktop computer will cost us \$700.**

5. Collaboration among organizations. Organizations that serve the same purpose should coordinate to better serve the community since the goal is to be as one.

6. Empowering families approach. A family can have five children and yet the home or organization will take one or two and the rest will remain helpless. If a family is empowered in agricultural skill, vocational skills and with capital to do business then it can handle all the five children.

Prayer Point:

a. Empowering parents of our children in the long run will be the idea. We can see what they are doing and plan how to come in and support even those in the community.

Godfrey said these are the most critical areas that most concern us in what we need to remain operating. They were taken to visit the licensed homes as points of reference to see what the government requires of us. Godfrey said we are not far from what the government policy states if we by God's will and grace meet the remaining prayer points. We shall remain open to serve the purpose set forth by our God.

We are just one of the few homes that have been given the grace period to implement these policies before given the final licensing. Godfrey said that some were already closed after the meeting October 10th. As Raining Hope we have these advantages:

1. **We are registered on the National Level.** Godfrey had advised us to do that last year. We had no idea this was coming. It was in order for us to operate in all areas of Uganda not just in our surrounding community.

2. **With all of our current renovations, we have done so much already that shows our progress of moving towards the Orphans & Vulnerable Children (OVC) policy and standard.** The supervisor appreciated our efforts and recommended to move towards the rest of the requirements to give us grounds for licensing.

3. **The top supervisor of homes is known to Godfrey.** On a personal level he advised Godfrey to not take that for granted but to do what is needed. He is not the only official and a team makes the decision. It has been a huge blessing to have the advice to know what they are looking for. It is our job to be do what is needed.

The bonus is amidst all of this, **Raining Hope Ministries was appointed in that meeting as the Volunteer Committee Member of the "Child Support Forum" out of ALL the organizations represented.** They needed four organizations and we were among them. Godfrey said, "This is all God and partly because of our reputation in the community and more so the testimonies from the church. The only condition given to me to start being in the meetings is I need to **first file returns as we process being fully licensed by the local government.** This appointment gives us a strong ground and better hopes of being licensed. We are continually on our knees that the Lord will make a way for His work to be done in Jinja and the whole region through us. We pray that the Lord will open doors for the ministry and give us the grace in all our endeavors."

Please keep us in your prayers the next couple of weeks as we trust God in all areas to provide wisdom, discernment, funds and favor. Your support is valuable and precious to all of us. Thank you for caring for the children of Uganda and Raining Hope.



You can give by sending a check to our stateside office. If you are giving towards the Renovation Campaign, please mark your check "RENOVATIONS" or the money will go into our budget to cover regular monthly budget expenses. If you want to give to help with any of the items listed in this special edition, mark your check "NEW POLICIES." You can also make credit card donations on our website - www.raininghope.org.

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