

March 12, 2012

Lt. General Kale Kayihura  
Inspector General of Police (IGP)  
IPS Building: Parliament Avenue,  
Kampala, Uganda



Dear Sir,

### **TWAVEZA IMPOUNDED CALENDERS**

The foregoing refers;

Twaweza is an East African initiative housed by Hivos and headquartered in Dar es Salaam with offices in Nairobi and Kampala. Twaweza promotes access to information, citizen agency and improved service delivery. For more information see [www.twaweza.org](http://www.twaweza.org).

I write now because, for over two weeks, 700,000 copies of our 2012 public education calendar have been impounded by the Uganda Police. The Police collected the entry from customs on 17 February, 2012 and transported the consignment on 23 February from Mutukula border point. We have not been formally informed the reason for impounding calendars save for media reports quoting the Police Deputy Spokesperson Ms Judith Nabakoba as having said 'calendar message have potential to incite the public'. Twaweza Uganda Program Manager Morrison Rwakakamba made a statement on the matter at Special Investigations Unit, Kireka on 28 February 2012 clarifying that the calendars had no such intention whatsoever.

The text of the calendar asks 'Who will change your world in 2012?' above photos of 10 Ugandan (ruling party and opposition) politicians on one side and 14 international personalities (including statesmen, royalty, footballers and musicians) on the other side. Below the photos the text reads 'Will you wait all year for someone else? Or will you take action today?' and provides a place for the reader to place his or her own photo. The message is clear: people themselves are responsible for their own development.

The calendar intends to convey the point that the President, Ministers, Parliament, Opposition or football stars cannot solve all your problems; that development comes through our own efforts and initiatives. It is essentially a message promoting individual and community responsibility.

The Twaweza initiative works across Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. Close to two million copies of similar calendars have been distributed, without incident, across Tanzania and Kenya. The calendars have also been posted on our website for over one month.

Twaweza is fiercely independent and is not affiliated with any political party. The very point of depicting photos of leaders across the political spectrum and contrasting them with the place for citizens' own photo is to demonstrate that this is not about this or that leader, but about the people.

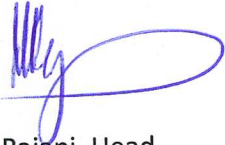
Housed by Hivos Tanzania  
Registration No. 63966

**imagination | citizen agency | public action**

We believe there must be a serious misunderstanding that has led to the calendars being impounded. The purpose of this communication therefore is to request that you release the calendar, without further delay, so that the people of Uganda like their sisters and brothers in Kenya and Tanzania can enjoy the message and discuss how they will promote their own development. A calendar is perishable, with a shelf life of 12 months. More delays will negatively affect its use by citizens of Uganda.

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rakesh Rajani, Head  
Twaweza East Africa

cc. Morrison Rwakakamba, Country Manager, Twaweza Uganda