



Today, we interrupt normal layout of our ActionAid Weekly to launch a 10 day campaign against sexual harassment. Yes, this monster happens every day at home, in the taxi, on the streets, and even our workplace. Its simple and clear, if its not wanted, then its harassment. Watch this space and follow us on social media. Together, we can kick sexual harassment out of our workplaces Forever.

2016-2017 planning and budgeting flagged off



(Left) The country Director in a focus group discussion at the planning retreat last week. (Right-L-R) Job and Fred, LRP Coordinators for Pallisa and Kalangala respectively share notes at the retreat

ActionAid Uganda's leadership team spent the whole of last week planning activities and preparing budgets for the last two years of our current Country strategy: "Embracing Rights! Improving Lives". The five year strategic paper IV will be coming to an end in 2017.

Country Director, Arthur Larok while opening the meeting called on the team to think outside the box and try to do things differently to better the lives of the poor and marginalised communities in the country.

"Business as usual is not an option. Let us reflect and learn from past experiences. Let us get out of our comfort zones. Let us not do business as usual" he echoed.

The country Director also added that some of the changes in the next two years will be driven by a new organisational structure that among others will move some of AAU work from Kampala to regional offices or "super LRPs", as an ActionAider dubbed them. This way, more decisions and programme work will be done in collaboration with right holders.

The meeting also evaluated ActionAid Uganda's performance so far in 2015. This exercise unfortunately revealed that AAU is behind schedule in both expenditure and program implementation. This was to a large extent attributed to whispers in the corridors due to the uncertainty about the new organisational structure.

The planning sessions were centred around ActionAid Uganda's three thematic areas of women's rights, Sustainable livelihoods and Participatory governance. The meeting ended with the official flag off of the budgeting and planning period.

The AAU Deligates to Parliament

A week ago, AAU sent a total of 10 delegates to parliament to witness the debating of the NGO Bill. Tabled by the then Minister of Internal Affairs, General Hon Aronda Nyakairima,(RIP) ActionAid and the rest of the civil society were opposed to certain clauses and had been engaged in several dialogues with legislators on this.

The team to parliament consisted of an auditor, a finance manager, an IT expert, an Editor from ActionAid's Oil in Uganda Project, the Secretary in the Office of the Country Director, the Sponsorship Coordinator, the writer of the Weekly among others. According to the Country Director, the team was carefully selected so that every office attains representation but most importantly for them to appreciate the lobbying and engagement that is often left to the Program team.

After a long day of waiting, AAU and the rest of the civil society representatives in the gallery were glad to have the Ministry of internal affairs conceding to the deletion of clauses that require NGOs to register with an NGO body within the Ministry of Internal Affairs which then would be able to revoke a permit at any time if it is in the "public interest ." Other clauses under contest include those requiring organizations "not engage in any activity which is contrary to the dignity of the people of Uganda." The bill also dictates, that leaders of organizations that operate without a permit are subject to fines, or up to eight years in prison.

These vague formulations and harsh penalties in the bill which give the government power to treat the civil society as it pleases were to further be debated on Thursday that week as the legislators only handled 9 clauses on the first day. However, the Bill was not discussed further on Thursday as earlier arranged. Find out why in [this blog](#) by our finance manager.

However, AAU and the rest of Ugandans woke up on Saturday to the unfortunate news of the passing on of the Minister of Internal Affairs, Hon Aronda Nyakairima. Aronda died on a plane from South Korea to Uganda through Dubai.

Rest in peace General Aronda Nyakairima. You were one of the most disciplined, composed and humble legislator that the team saw during their two days in parliament. Until we meet again!

"Tribute to Gen. Aronda Nyakairima

On Thursday 3rd of September, Hon Aronda Nyakairima, the Minister of Internal Affairs made his last statement in parliament of Uganda on the Security situation in the country. As expected, his statement attracted a lot of criticism, complaints, boos and murmurs from the legislators. Sitting in the gallery(where I had gone as an ActionAid delegate to listen to the debate on the NGO Bill), I expected an outburst from the army General. He shocked me. He was not arrogant in his response, nor was he sadist. He did not even cover up for his bosses. He clearly responded to all issues raised respectfully and with a lot of humility. He must have had some genes of an ActionAider.

He categorically promised to handle groups such as those of Kakooza Mutale and the several crime preventers.

"We shall not allow any militia, armed or not to disrupt our elections. This is going to be handled and I will get back to you all in due cause to give you an update on this."

I turned and whispered to my neighbor, Nicholus Atwine, that Aronda is a gentleman. Nicholus agreed to this, citing the Tuesday debate on the NGO Bill where Aronda had conceded to the several clauses in the amended NGO Bill, for the good of the NGO Fraternity. I will miss the Gentleman I saw that week.

Kitemba P/S appeals for your financial Trigger



Mukarukundo Beatrice,15 enjoys water from a borehole. The girls however need a separate latrine and bathroom.



The pupils are now growing cassava and potatoes in their school garden. They feed on them during midday meals



Richard Olong, the Program Development Manager (L) and Nickson Ogwal (R) visited the school last Thursday. In the middle is the Head teacher, Mr Onyango.

24th August 2001 will forever be remembered by the Madudu community in Mubende district. On the fateful morning, the residents were invaded by army men who came to secure the community land for a German investor. The Government had, without consent from the community awarded the over 2521 hectares of land that were homes to over 500 households to the Kaweeri coffee group to establish a coffee plantation and a processing factory. The coffee would then be sold back in Germany. During the process, the army ruthlessly destroyed property but also assumed ownership of some.

Kitemba Primary school did not survive. The school premises were taken over as offices for the Coffee estate. The fate of over 300 pupils was left in balance as the school was relocated with no infrastructure to serve the pupils.

"As compensation, the investor constructed for us only two classrooms. That was not enough to house all the pupils. We were conducting classes under tree shades. The sun and the rain did not make the learning conducive and interesting. The sanitation was also very poor. The girls were sharing a latrine with boys and the teachers. We had no water," states the Head teacher of the school, Mr Onyango

However, ActionAid through its supporters came in. AAU has since constructed a classroom block and drilled a bore hall to supply clean water to the school. The school's football and netball pitches have also been improved among others.

"Today, Kitemba has been labeled to be a class beyond ordinary. Our performance has greatly improved. We are now registering first grades in Primary leaving exams" adds Onyango.

However, the school sanitation still requires attention. The girls in the school need a bathroom and latrines to themselves since they are currently sharing with teachers. Construction of these had started but stopped along the way due to lack of funds.

Mukarukundo Beatrice, a pupil in the school informed the Weekly that the girls feel very uncomfortable sharing a latrine with teachers. It gets worse during menstruation.

"We appeal to you all to support us financially so that our latrine and bathroom are completed. Many times, we miss school, especially during menstruation because we have no bathroom and latrine for our convenience." She said.

The project requires about 12 million UGX to be completed. For details on how you can support the Kitemba pupils, please contact Nickson.ogwal@actionaid.org.

WEEK AHEAD:

- The livelihood team is in Munyonyo for the 5th Joint Agricultural sector Annual Review Workshop. Peter Clever Kalule, the Livelihoods Coordinator and Charles Mulozi, the Public Financing for Agriculture Project Coordinator will use the platform to share AAU's analysis of "Fertile yet Fragile" report on DSIP performance.
- Arthur Larok, the AAU Country Director is in USA for the UN Day Activities. He is expected back in office on Thursday this week.
- The Country Management team (CMT) will meet this Friday for the final review of the change management plan following the recently concluded Organizational Efficiency review process. Members of staff will then be informed on next steps in the next two weeks.