

The ActionAid Uganda Weekly 13th-19th Aug, 2018

Dear Reader,
As our friends in Apaa warm up for the Commission of Inquiry to intervene in their land matter, they have vacated the UN offices today, with no response from any international agency. This however has opened great avenues for them in their struggle for justice as you will find out here. On brighter note, our own, Francis Akorikwin is standing for a political position! Find out what, where and how he is performing. Arthur's poem about Irene Ovonji is another interesting piece you ought to read. This and more in this weekly. Enjoy!

International Youth Day; Speaker Commits to Act on Pending Youth Bills!



By P. Bahigi & N. Nakyegeera

10th August 2018, will forever remain in minds of many young people, as day when the 1st ever youth parliamentary session took place in the Uganda Parliament. During the parliamentary session, the young people through Hon Silivia Akello Woman MP Otuke District presented a petition to the Speaker of parliament, that focused on four critical areas; Calling for the fast -tracking of the Sexual offences bill, reconsidering and removing the OTT tax from the exercise duty (Amendment)act 2018, Inclusive economic opportunities especially decent work for all Ugandans, provision of the political spaces for all especially lowering of nominations fees for members of parliament from current 3m Ugx in the parliamentary and elections (Amendment) act 2015 to 400000ugx , and importantly the ratification of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections, and good governance. The speaker of Parliament received the petition and committed to work on the issues raised especially; Sexual offences bills, the ratification of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and good governance, and lowering the nomination fees for inclusion of young people who cannot afford the current fees. The first ever Youth Moot Parliament was organized by youth lead and youth focused civil society organizations among them AAU, Plan International. Youth Aid Africa, Faraja Foundation, Westminster foundation, youth go green, the parliamentary youth forum to offer platform for young people to influence policy at the national level. [Video](#)

International Youth Day Celebrations; YOUNG PEOPLE DEMAND FOR SAFE SPACES!



One of the young people presenting on the floor of Parliament during a Youth Parliamentary moot debate

By

Chipo

Bangira

With the increased sexual harassment, exploitation, and insecurity as well as unequal economic and political opportunities in Uganda, last week young women called for increased efforts in ensuring safe cities that facilitate for their participation in development processes. While taking part in the Youth Day Marathon organized on 11 August at Makerere Freedom Square as part of the build up activities to the Youth Day, they emphasized the need for safe spaces for young people to realize their full potential. “By running in this marathon, I am calling upon all citizens of Uganda especially our leaders to come up with mechanisms on how best to ensure that young people especially young women in tertiary institutions and workplaces are protected from sexual harassment”, said Esther Tuhirwe a young woman from Kampala. The event which drew more than 100 participants was officially opened by the Minister of Kampala Hon. Betty Kamyu, who challenged young people to start thinking on how best they can ensure that spaces for youth are inclusive and safe. Global Platform Uganda supported 50 participants that came from the different parts of Uganda as far as Katakwi District. The platform will continue working closely with different partners in ensuring

that young people participate in policy dialogue discussions and they play leading roles in eradicating poverty, fight against social injustices and achieve sustainable development.

International Youth Day: Youth in Namutumba Advocate for Youth-friendly Health Services!



By Immaculate Awori Last week, young people in Namutumba District supported by Busiki LRP joined the rest of the world to commemorate International Youth Day under the theme “Safe Spaces for Youth”. It was the first time of its kind in seven years that the youth were celebrating International Youth Day.

They engaged in cleaning the Nsinze Health Center 1V and planting trees. There was a dialogue after the activities where they had an opportunity to engage the government officials on health service delivery. One of the youth leaders of Nsinze Sub County stated that young people in Namutumba District are changing the narrative on young people who are viewed as lazy people and not engaged in developmental processes

“We would like to change the perception that youth are idle and only good at making noise. Today we want to give back to the community by cleaning our health center and planting trees”, David Luke the youth leader of Nsinze Sub County.

Some of the major problems that young people pointed out during the dialogue were lack of youth friendly services and youth corners, lack of information on available health services, understaffing, attitude of health workers towards young people, lack of essential drugs and instruments, charges levied on testing of hepatitis, limited lighting and water in some health centers in Namutumba District.

Apaa Community Cries Out to Land Commission for Intervention!



Members of Apaa community registering their case at the office of the Commission of Inquiry into Land matters in Kampala

By Brenda Namirembe Last week, four community representatives from Apaa including Hon. Omony Geoffrey held a meeting with Dr Douglas Singiza, the secretary to the Commission of Inquiry into Land matters to seek for a speedy inquiry into the Apaa crisis. On filing their case, it was considered urgent and made priority for intervention, which the commission promised to address within two months. This follows numerous failed attempts by the community to attain back their land from Ugandan National Authority. They have petitioned Government and the international community among others but all these have failed to support them in the struggle for justice, including camping at the UN offices in Gulu and having meetings with delegates of different embassies. There have previously been a lot of calls from the Civil Society fraternity and government leaders for the Land Commission of Inquiry to prioritise the Apaa Land Conflict which has negatively affected thousands of people. AAU has courageously stood with the people of Apaa right from 2012 when the Government of Uganda gazetted their land as a National Park while the people were living in Internally Displaced Persons camps.

CSOs urge Government to pass the Mining Law !



Members of Parliament, CSO members, Small scale and artisanal gold miners and other participants at the Mining Legislation review meeting at Royal Suites Bugolobi.

By Flavia Nalubega The Extractives Governance unit organised a meeting to put Government to the spot over the delay in enacting the Mining Act 2003 that has been under review for the last four years. Small scale Miners , CSOs and Members of Parliament questioned Ministry of Energy over the delay which has resulted into suffering and unfair treatment of artisanal and small scale Miners. “Why delay a law that is supposed to help exonerate mining communities? The people feed off mining and of recent many have been chased from the mines because the law does not recognise them! Fasten the law review process, and ensure that it gives back to host communities!” Hon Francis Mwijukye told the commissioner from Ministry of Energy; Eng Francis Kedi

The Extractives Governance Coordinator Didas Muhumuza reemphasized the need to hasten the law to help uplift the livelihoods of mining communities. He pledged AAU’s willingness to work with Government to sensitize the miners on the online registration- a new form of registration that has been introduced by the Ministry to avoid bureaucracy backlog and Follow this [link](#) for more information.

AAU Conducts Regional Training on Taxation!

By Brenda Namirembe Last week, AAU conducted a regional training on taxation to enhance experience sharing and learning by different organizations working on tax in East Africa. It was attended by AA Tanzania, AA Burundi and AAU partners. The training revolved around gender responsive public services, tax treaties, progressive taxation and fair Tax Monitor. Participants discussed problems that cut across the entire region like the debt problem, heavy reliance on Foreign Direct Investments and corruption. Participants also had an opportunity to share experiences about tax systems in the different countries. The team agreed to undertake a regional study on taxation policies in different East African countries and share learnings by the next meeting slated for 2019.

*LOCATING THE WAKANDA QUEEN OF THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN UGANDA

A Tribute to Irene Ovonji



By Arthur Larok: Let's say we have four kinds of people...and try to locate the marvel called Irene Ovonji-Odida.

The 1st, are *those who watch while things happen* . A bit like spectators or bystanders. Irene is allergic to injustice. Irene can't sit and keep quiet when something is wrong. So, in truth you can't find her in this category.

The 2nd Group are *those on whom things happen...* sometimes just like that! Irene's track record and hard work speaks for itself. Irene doesn't really need anyone's favour to succeed. Irene never waits for anything to happen on her.

So clearly, you can't find her in this category either.

The 3rd category of people are *those who do not know what is happening.* The kasta twebaka otuulo type.

Irene has amazing abilities to connect the dots to the bigger picture. Irene connects people of every kind. Because she is very knowledgeable, Irene connects struggles to a common purpose.

For sure you can't find her in this group.

The 4th kind of people are *those who make things happen✓.*

Irene is a leader who has my three magic attributes of good leadership: Belief in the cause, Solutions orientation and taking responsibility for decisions including when they are wrong. Irene is very generous in helping people and cause achieve. Irene challenges us to be the change we desire to see. We do not need another liberator for Uganda...we need to liberate ourselves, she often challenged us. So, by all accounts Irene is on the front pack of this group. Look no further...we have located the Wakanda Queen.

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Write to Arthur.Larok@actionaid.org for more about this poem.

Did You Know??



Did you know that AAU's former staff, Akorikin Francis is standing for LCV Chairperson in Kapelebyong District? The good news is that he has great support from the communities! He is among the few candidates who do not use a car when campaigning but rather, walk door to door, through water-logged roads in search for votes! Let's us stand with him until the end.

WEEK**AHEAD**

1. Apaa Community to officially vacate the UNOHCHR office on Thursday 16th Aug, after almost a full month of occupancy! Let's keep them in prayer.
2. Fair Green and Global Strategic Annual Review Meeting with all FGG implementing countries is taking place at Garuga starting 14th August 2018.

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