



During the 12th ActionAid Annual General Assembly held at Hotel Africana last Saturday, members of the Assembly moved a motion to appreciate the AAU staff who had exhibited resilience, support and commitment to AAU during the siege of the organisation by Police mid last year and the several disruptions, threats and uncertainties that came with it. The AAU Governing Board Chair was particularly tasked with this role.

In the photo are the ActionAid staff at the Kampala office last year in high spirits despite the fact that the organisational accounts had been frozen at the time and a lot of uncertainty loomed in the air (file photo). Welcome to today's edition of the weekly

The 12th AAU general Assembly



Members of the AAU Governing Board, General Assembly and AAU leadership staff in a photo after the successful and well attended 12th General Assembly last Saturday.



AAU Board Chair, Nicholas Opiyo addressing the General Assembly last Saturday

Last Saturday, ActionAid successfully held its 12th Annual General Assembly at Hotel Africana in Kampala.

Nicholas Opiyo, the AAU Governing Board Chairperson thanked the members of the Assembly for making time for the meeting, which was extremely well attended.

"I thank each of you for the support you have given me in the last year and for your unwavering commitment towards ActionAid", he said.

However, the Board chair frankly informed the meeting that 2017 had been an overwhelmingly challenging year having been faced with an existential threat. Nicholas added that AAU registered a continued decline in income due to the changes in the operating environment.

Nicholas also communicated to the Members of the Assembly that 2017 was the final year of ActionAid's 4th Strategy Paper implementation.

"As we transition to the 5th Strategy, it is important that we take stock of the last strategy by evaluating its success, failures and pick learnings that we shall carry forward to improve delivery on our mission".

He further pointed out the three major challenges that the organisation is faced with currently. These include maintaining program relevancy, reduction in funding and the restrictive operating environment.

"We have therefore embarked on an organisational review and selection of partners that will support with focus, prioritization and efficiency", he reported adding that ActionAid has also put in place a fundraising committee to focus on resource mobilization.

Mr Opiyo also apologised to the Assembly for the delayed recruitment of the Country Director. He however stated that the last interviews will be held on 5th June and a Country Director would be selected then. He promised to communicate to the Assembly the selected candidate before end of next week.

Nicholas ended his remarks by introducing the day's convener, Mr. Benson Ekwee.

New Members of the Assembly

Twelve members, 8 from partner organisations and 4 individuals were brought on board bringing the total number of Assembly members to 39. These were successfully inducted and orientated into their roles and responsibilities a day before the General Assembly.

Some of the new members include Cissy Kagaba of Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda, Sylvia Namubiru of LASPNET, Florence Masuliya of TUSITUKIREWAMU, Eunice Musiime of Akina Mama Wa Africa, Stella Ayo-Odongo of Uganda Child Rights NGO Network, Dr Josephine Ahikire of School of Gender and Women Studies-Makerere University among others.

Global Secretariat Represented Present

Following the resignation of the AAU Board representative from the Global secretariat Ms Orietta Varnelli due to some personal difficulties, AAU went ahead to find another candidate for the position. Mr Ole Anand is the new Board member representing the Global Secretariat. He too flew in from Denmark for the General Assembly which he described as vibrant, engaging and accountable.

Finance and Audit Report

The AAU Board and chairperson of the Finance and Audit Committee, Ms Jennipher Bageya Mugalu reported to the Assembly that her committee diligently carried out its duties in regard to internal controls, financial reporting practices and the work of the internal audit department. Her report was further substantiated by BDO, the firm responsible for auditing ActionAid. These stated that;

"the accompanying financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the organisation as at 31st December 2017 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the international Financial Reporting Standards and the requirements of the Companies Act, 2012 of Uganda" adding that they were ready to defend this position in any space.

Annual Report

The members of the Assembly commended the quality of the annual report. John Mary Odoy, a member of the Assembly particularly commended the quality of photos used in the report which he described as talking and did not need captions at all. He also congratulated the staff of AAU for attaining the reported results despite the several disruptions in the reporting year.

Board members Appointed

Following the expiry of their four year term of office, motions were moved for the reappointment of Nicholas Opiyo, Charles Mwanguhya and Moses Opondo as AAU Governing Board members. These were voted in overwhelmingly and are now serving their last four year terms in office.

The Assembly also re-elected and appointed Ms Mary Oduka Ochan, Ms Jennipher Bageya Mugalu and Ms Irene Among as new AAU Governing Board Members.

Staff to be appreciated and Eunice Musiime 2018 convener

The General Assembly also moved a motion to appreciate staff for their resilience and unwavering commitment to serve at ActionAid despite the several disruptions, threats and risks that came with the police siege of the Organisation last year. The Assembly specifically directed the Board Chair to ensure that staff receive their appreciation message.

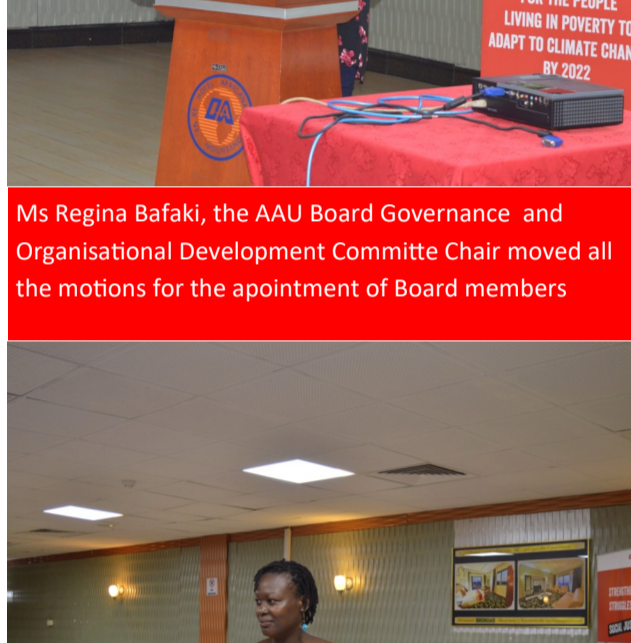
The meeting closed with the election of Eunice Musiime as the Convener of the 2018 General Assembly and Mr John Mary Odoy as the Co. Convener.



Ms Jenipher Mugalugeya, the AAU Board Finance and Audit committee Chair delivering her report.



Representative from BDO, the auditing company stated that they were ready to defend the stated opinion even in courts of law



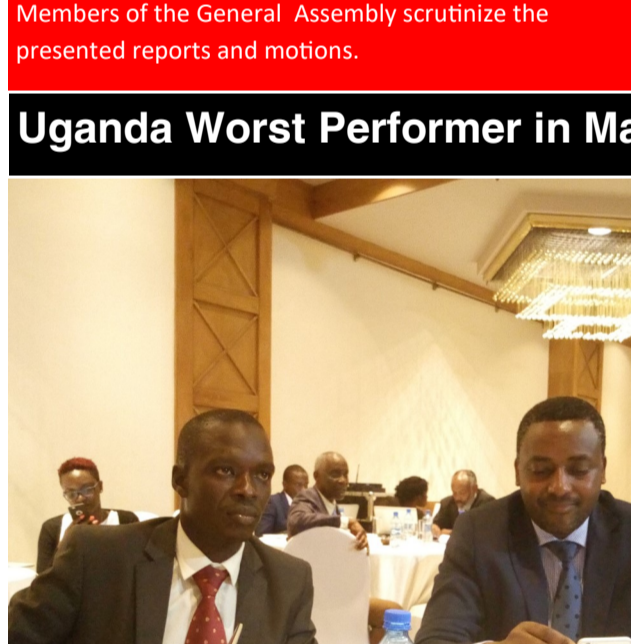
Ms Regina Bafaki, the AAU Board Governance and Organisational Development Committee Chair moved all the motions for the appointment of Board members



Introducing Eunice Musiime, a new member of the AAU General Assembly and convener of the 2018 General Assembly

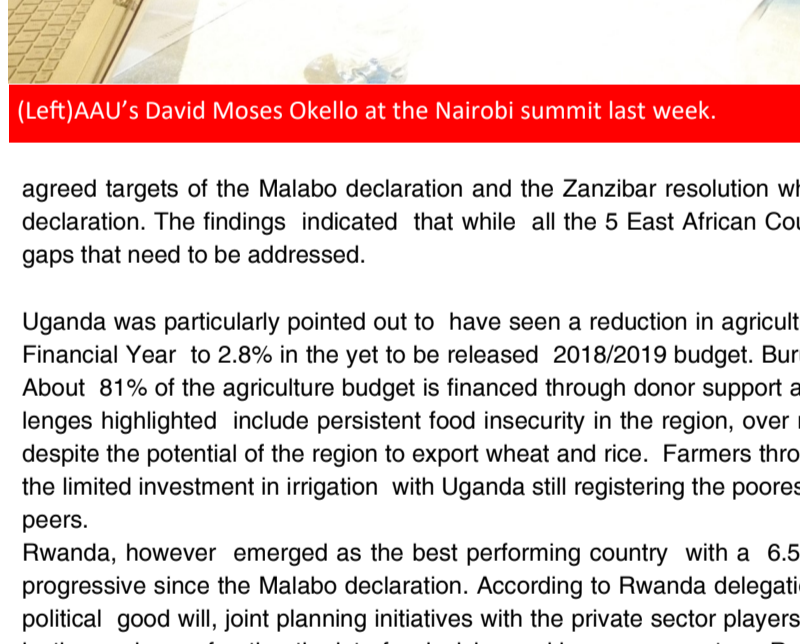


Mr Ole Anand, the AAU Board Global Secretariat representative. He came in from Denmark for the General Assembly



Members of the General Assembly scrutinize the presented reports and motions.

Uganda Worst Performer in Maputo Declaration



(Left) AAU's David Moses Okello at the Nairobi summit last week.

Last week, ActionAid participated in the 3rd East African Community People's Agriculture Summit held in Nairobi Kenya. The summit was organised to review the progress on the commitments that East African countries signed to in the famous Maputo Declaration in 2014.

In the state declaration, the states under the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) committed to a 6% annual growth in agriculture GDP and allocation of at least 10 percent of public expenditures to be invested in the agricultural sector.

ActionAid was represented by David Okello, the Gulu Cluster Coordinator and five small scale holder farmers.

The summit comprehensively reflected on commitments made by partner states in responding to the agreed targets of the Malabo declaration and the Zanzibar resolution which are in line with the initial Maputo declaration. The findings indicated that while all the 5 East African Countries are on track, there are several gaps that need to be addressed.

Uganda was particularly pointed out to have seen a reduction in agriculture financing from 3.7% in 2017/2018 Financial Year to 2.8% in the yet to be released 2018/2019 budget. Burundi was another country pointed out. About 81% of the agriculture budget is financed through donor support and this is not sustainable. Other challenges highlighted include persistent food insecurity in the region, over reliance on imports especially cereals despite the potential of the region to export wheat and rice. Farmers throughout the summit complained about the limited investment in irrigation with Uganda still registering the poorest performance in this area among its peers.

Rwanda, however emerged as the best performing country with a 6.5% budget allocation which has been progressive since the Malabo declaration. According to Rwanda delegation, their Country achieved this due to political good will, joint planning initiatives with the private sector players and CSOs as well as the collection and use of authentic data for decision making across sectors. Rwanda has also been able to establish an effective National Agriculture Export Board.

Participants in the meeting used the platform to demand that the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) mounts pressure to member states on commitments made during the Malabo declaration. The summit was able to hold a mock session with EALA and made resolutions for adoption by the East African Community parliament.

Young Women tipped on leadership



The young women listen to AAU's Ms Moyo

ActionAid in the week ending conducted a two days regional women's dialogue aimed at inspiring them to take on leadership positions.

The dialogue was held at Hotel Free Zone in Gulu and attracted participants from Lira, Pader, Agago, Amuru and Nwoya Districts.

During the meeting, young women were inspired, mentored and coached to rise up and challenge the patriarchal nature of society. They were told that their position is not only in the private spheres of their homes and gardens.

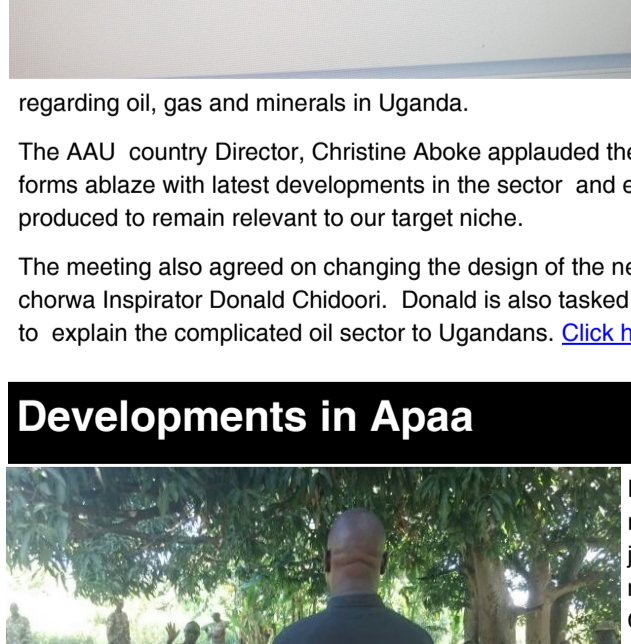
"You need to come and sit on District and sub country councils and make decisions that will elevate the place of women and girls in society. Enough with the abuse of women and girls' rights", stated the AAU Inspirator- Ndumeya Moyo.

Ms Moyo added that a good leader should strive to be objective, a good listener and make good judgement. She urged the women to consult and gain knowledge on key policies and laws so that she always speak from an informed point of view.

The young women took time to reflect on the challenges they often encounter and resolved not to let these stand in their way as has been but rather challenge them as a group by supporting each other.

The women participants from each district draw action plans that they will be following to ensure that they don't slip back but work towards their full representation and participation in local and national leadership.

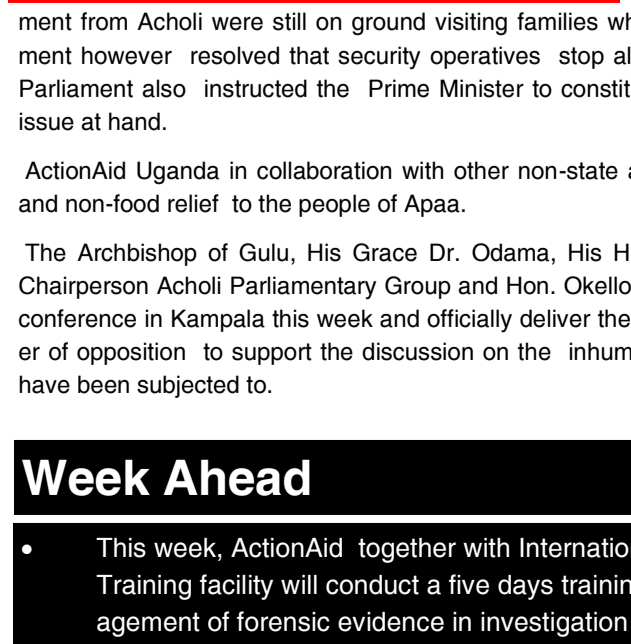
According to Samuel Acellam, the ActionAid Program Officer in Amuru, the activity was aimed at harnessing young women's leadership and economic empowerment skills which is in line with the



Ms Moyo used a photo illustration to drive the point

AAU 5th strategy paper.

Oil in Uganda Readers double



regarding oil, gas and minerals in Uganda.

The Oil in Uganda website readership has risen to about 3million people. This has been attributed to the consistent, timely and quality stories generated on the oil developments. The unique visitors who internalize stories increased from 70,000 to 133,000 over the last one year.

These statistics were revealed by an external contractor during a review meeting aimed at face-lifting the project information tools; the quarterly newsletter and website.

With the changing trends in the oil, gas and mining sector, AAU's Extractives Project is working towards changing the face of its flagship and information products to become more relevant among communities and sector players, and retain its position as number one stop centre for information

The AAU country Director, Christine Aboke applauded the project team and journalists for keeping the platforms ablaze with latest developments in the sector and emphasized the need to improve quality of the stories produced to remain relevant to our target niche.

The meeting also agreed on changing the design of the newsletter, an exercise that will be steered by Kapchorwa Inspector Donald Chidoori. Donald is also tasked with supporting the development of infographics to explain the complicated oil sector to Ugandans. [Click here to visit the oil in Uganda website](#)

Developments in Apaa

A religious leader faces off with the soldiers. They however refused to talk or listen

Following the joint Acholi leaders dialogue that was reported about in last week's edition of the weekly, a joint visit to Apaa was conducted by the Acholi Parliamentary group, Archbishop Odama, King of Acholi, CSOS and media. The team found the soldiers and served them with a copy of the communique. The soldiers however refused to speak to the delegation. They claimed that their job description is to work and not to talk.

Later in the day, the soldiers received a call from an un disclosed person who ordered that they withdraw, which they did. Until today, Apaa remains relatively calm with peaceful nights and no more destruction of people's property.

On 30th May, 2018, the leader of Opposition in Parliament tabled the Apaa land question as matter of national importance. Unfortunately, she did not have enough backing as majority of the Members of Parliament however resolved that security operatives stop all activities until the President visits Apaa in person. Parliament also instructed the Prime Minister to constitute a team to visit Apaa to assess the gravity of the issue at hand.

ActionAid Uganda in collaboration with other non-state actors like Caritas will this week provide some food and non-food relief to the people of Apaa.

The Archbishop of Gulu, His Grace Dr. Odama, His Highness Rtwot Onen Acana II, Hon. Ogenga Latigo, Chairperson Acholi Parliamentary Group and Hon. Okello Okello, Chairperson Speaker OO will hold a joint press conference in Kampala this week and officially deliver the communique to the speaker of parliament and leader of opposition to support the discussion on the inhuman and degrading treatment that the people of Apaa have been subjected to.

Week Ahead

- This week, ActionAid together with International Conference of the Great Lakes Region Training facility will conduct a five days training course on collection, preservation and management of forensic evidence in investigation and prosecution of SGBV cases.