

## Weekly



Dear Reader, last week, Arthur Larok and Fr Gaetano joined the rest of the civil society leadership to deliver the new year message. They had both flowers and frowns at the Government of Uganda. We bring you highlights in this publication. Welcome..

### CSOs commit to “clean their house” in new year message!



Left-Above: The CSO leaders commended the anti-corruption court for finding the three officials guilty of embezzling pensioners money. Right are some of the officials celebrating the Uganda Cranes qualification to the Africa Cup of nations. The qualification brought the country national pride.

Left –Below: Images from the 2016 presidential elections. The CSOs condemned the abuse of the elections characterised by violence and rigging. Right is an image from Kasese, another incident that the CSOs condemned.

The civil Society in Uganda has appealed to Government and other key stakeholders to be open minded and genuinely pursue meaningful national conversations to take the country forward. The plea was made last Monday when CSO leaders convened at the Uganda National NGO Forum offices to deliver their new year message dubbed; *Oh Uganda! May God Uphold Thee: Reclaiming our citizenship and Dignity.*

The leaders condemned acts that demeaned the integrity of the country in the past year mainly the election fraud as confirmed by several national and international observers.

“The number of the legal contestations to the 2016 electoral process was alarmingly high. While these cases are a demonstration of democracy at work, they also reveal a lot of under hand actions by various actors” read part of the document adding that several of the malpractices identified were a result of failure by Government to adopt comprehensive electoral reforms as suggested by Ugandans in the citizens compact.

Other issues that the CSO leaders identified as incessant failures in the past year include the threats to peace and stability citing the incidents in the Obusinga Bwa Rwenzururu in Kasese, the squander of public resources which has become a norm, dysfunctionality of institutions of state, climate change and food insecurity among others.

However, it was not only lamentations at the meeting. Together with other leaders, Arthur commended the Uganda Cranes who restored national pride that worked extremely hard to secure a place in the on going Africa Cup of Nations after 39 years of waiting.

“We also commend the Ant-corruption Court to finalize a number of cases especially the resolution of the pension corruption scandal” he said.

The CSOs on their part committed to be more accountable to the public by resolving internal Governance and accountability challenges that are currently undermining capacity to foster greater citizen led efforts to resolve the pressing challenges in the country.

“We are also going to strengthen our campaign against theft of public funds, push for political, electoral and constitutional reforms but more importantly fight for greater human rights in light with the growing violations of rights in the country”, they committed.

### AAU’s Andrew Karamagi takes his citizenship to another level



If you are not taking your citizenship seriously, you may need to rethink your stand and learn from Ugandans such as Lawyer , Andrew Karamagi.

The Shrinking Political Space Coordinator at ActionAid asked for leave from his office last week to lead a group of young people to file a petition at the High Court asking it to order 42 senior Government Officials who received the now famous **UGX6 billion Presidential Handshake** to refund it. Together with his colleague, Micheal Aboneka, Andrew challenged that there is no law under which the bonus payments were made.

“We are asking Court to declare the so-called handshake unlawful and bar all government institutions from making such payments until a working formula and method is stipulated by Parliament”, he said in an exclusive interview with the Weekly Production team.

The two lawyers are also asking Court to compel the recipients of the money to return it to the consolidated fund for the benefit of all Ugandans.

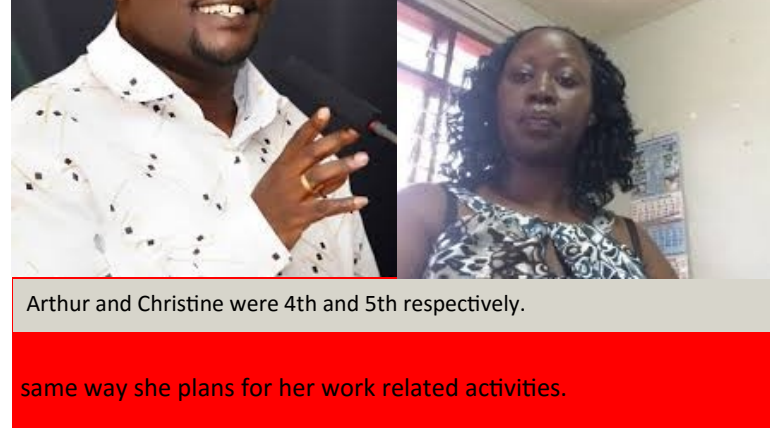
Look out for the hearing of this case; Andrew Karamagi and Micheal Aboneka vs Uganda Revenue Authority, Ministry of Finance, Auditor General and Attorney General, High Court Miscellaneous Application Number 9 of 2017.

On another note, the two lawyers have also asked the court to compel the deputy Chief Justice, Stephen Kavuma to vacate his office, which they say he is occupying illegally.

### Have you been appraised??



Teddy (Left), Stella (centre) and Joyce (Right) all working for the Gender Based Violence Shelter project were the first three staff to complete their appraisal. Did you notice that they are all ladies?



Arthur and Christine were 4th and 5th respectively.

Today, the Weekly publication is awarding flowers to Joyce, Teddy, Stella, Arthur and Christine. These five staff take the flowers home for being the first five staff to complete their annual appraisals in record time.

Teddy, the psycho-social officer of Kumi Gender Based Violence Shelter who took first position, said that she usually plans for her appraisal the

same way she plans for her work related activities.

“I always look forward to this one time in the year when I can sit down and have a lengthy discussion with my supervisor about the different challenges and opportunities that my job has created. It’s a priority”, she said in a phone interview.

Stella Atunyo, the Pallisa Gender Based Violence Shelter Project Officer who took the second position said that she always works to ensure that she is appraised in time to enable her set goals and work to ensure that she restores the dignity of the GBV survivors that she works with. Joyce Ajilong, the Kumi Gender Based Violence Project Officer who took the third position shares the same thought.

The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> positions were taken by Arthur, the Country Director and Christine the Human Resource Director respectively.

Mathias Nyombi, the Human Resource officer stated that his office has unfortunately received less than 20 out of the 98 expected appraisals.

“So the big question is, what are people working on when they have not set their performance targets? We need to know where we are coming from and determine where we are going”, stated Arthur Larok.

All staff are hence encouraged to ensure that they have completed their appraisals by the end of this week .

### A peep into the CD’s annual message

Every year, the CD releases an Annual Message that reviews the year and sets priorities for the year ahead. The 2017 Annual CD Message will be featured fully in next week’s weekly but here is a peep into what it will focus on. First the rallying theme for his Annual Message will be Fundraising and Sustainability in which he will highlight the critical situation the organisation is at with regards to fundraising and the need for us to work together to overcome the serious funding difficulties that many NGOs are facing and also think creatively about sustaining our mission beyond just money.

The other priorities that will feature include: critical internal governance transitions at the Board and Annual General Assembly for ActionAid Uganda; a rallying call for strengthening internal controls in the face of severe scrutiny of the NGO sector on transparency and accountability issues; and finally, and not surprisingly the CSPV development and delivery process as this year marks the end of our cherished CSPIV - Embracing Rights! Improving Lives.

Look out for the details in the next edition of the Weekly!

### In solidarity with Joyce..



In a solidarity move, over 60 ActionAid staff joined the hundreds of mourners to pay tribute to Apollo Jaramogi, the LCV Chairperson of Tororo district last Saturday.

Apollo, the late husband to Joyce Nabwire Baker, the Gender Based Violence Shelter Coordinator at ActionAid became the first Chairperson in the history of the district to die while in office, having served for only seven months.

Joyce is the woman behind Apollo’s recent political success having got leave from office to go and canvass votes for her late husband. Let us all stand with Joyce, and encourage her to look ahead for her own healing and a fulfilling life ahead.

Rest in peace Apollo.

### Happening this Week..

The following are some of the critical activities that will occupy ActionAid Uganda staff this week:

- A team from the WPC supported by the Programs Director are working hard to complete WPC Shelter Assessments in preparation for the SURGE Program rollout early this year.
- The CSPV Drafting Team will be meeting on Wednesday and Thursday this week to take stock of what has been achieved so far and fast-track next steps to Country Strategy Completion in the first quarter of 2017.
- Individual and Team 2016 Performance Appraisals and 2017 Target setting continues. Next week we shall profile the next cohort of stars of this important process.