



Weekly
Mar 20— 26

Last Thursday, ActionAid, with funding from the DGF Flagged off the Northern leg and 4th edition of the anti-corruption caravan. Let us sing along...corruption corruption go away. Leave my country this I pray.....Bid farewell to corruption and hop on board!

Northern leg of our caravan flagged off!



Above: The caravan branded cars hit the roads of Northern Uganda. Below-Left: Part of the caravan Activista Youth in a photo moment before the flag off of the caravan. Right: is Justice Owiny receiving anti-corruption publications from AAU's Nickson Ogwal as the communications officer looks on.

High Court Judge Alfonso Owiny-Dollo warned Ugandans to immediately stop all corrupt tendencies or risk being prosecuted in heaven and on earth. Owiny made the remarks while flagging off the Northern leg of the 4th anti-corruption caravan at ActionAid offices last Thursday.

"No one is born corrupt. The same way you learn to practice corruption is the same way you should unlearn that vice", he prayed as he addressed the media, caravan crew and ActionAid staff.

Justice Owiny added that lives are lost everyday simply because money that was meant to procure drugs for the patients was embezzled by some selfish and greedy individuals.

"We may not arrest you today, but one day, you will stand before your creator and you will answer for the lives that were lost because of your actions", he warned. According to Fredrick Kawooya, the Policy and Campaigns Manager at ActionAid, the 2017 anti-corruption caravan couldn't have been more timely and the geographical location of its intended implementation more appropriate.

"This activity will provide an opportunity for the electorate to hold accountable the incumbent leadership on the pledges of " zero tolerance to corruption" and promises of better social service delivery amidst a normalization of graft as a culture", he stated to the media.

He added that the caravan will mobilize citizens to reinvigorate the anti-corruption campaign from the ordinary activities to citizen rallies to highlight the negative effects of corruption on quality of public service delivery in Uganda. This will build community oriented movements and initiatives to fight against corruption in the Teso, Lango, Acholi and Bunyoro sub regions in Uganda

The caravan will cover the districts of Kampala, Katakwi, Soroti, Dokolo, Amuru, Lira, Pader, Gulu, Nwoya and Masindi punctuated by a series of roadside events over a period of 7 days, today being its 4th day. Across the districts, the message is very clear, bid farewell to corruption and hop on a transparent and honest caravan!

Words and pictures of the caravan in Katakwi



ActionAid held the anti-corruption caravan maiden rally at Katakwi district headquarters. Miriam Cherukut, the cluster coordinator of ActionAid Katakwi said the venue of the rally was chosen to involve local leaders in the struggle against corruption by giving them time and space to demonstrate their roles and commitment in the fight against corruption.

"The citizens have played their role by reporting corruption cases. We now need to capture our leaders commitment because they have a superior role to play in bringing an end to corruption." she said adding that Katakwi has some of the most glaring cases of corruption reported in Uganda which justified the decision to carry out the rally there.

Citizens were rallied to report any corruption tendencies to ActionAid, I Paid a Bribe digital platform, and to utilize Corruption Reporting Boxes that have been put in place by AAU.

Ambrose Okwi, the LC3 Chairperson for Katakwi Town Council, complained about the government's limited level of transparency when fighting corruption.

"The government has set up various committees to investigate corruption cases. However, we never receive reports or hear about the end results if these investigations," he said.

He also advised that good leaders should not protect the corrupt but instead punish or get rid of them once they have been identified.

28 year old Juliet Akol, a widow and mother of 3 accused the Uganda Police of being the most corrupt institution she has ever encountered. Juliet narrated how her in laws grabbed her land after the demise of her husband in May 2014 and when she reported the matter to police, the officials were paid off killing her case to date.

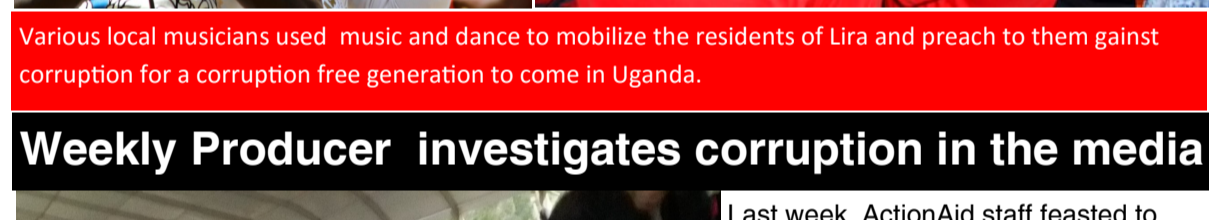
Whereas police has been ranked as the most corrupt institution in Uganda, Francis Tumwesigye, the Regional Police Commander(RPC) for East Kyoga said that measures have been put in place to bring an end to the corrupt tendencies that exist within the police force.

He added that the Professional Standards Unit(PSU) of police works and disciplines police officers who handle contrary to the police ethics by engaging themselves in corruption. He advised citizens to read the name tags of officials who ask them for money and report them immediately such that these cases can be investigated and forwarded to court for necessary action.

It is easy to conclude that corruption cannot be fought single headedly. According to Justice Owiny Dollo, corruption that takes place in one area affects the entire country. This calls for the need for government, civil society, non government organizations, and all Ugandans to join forces in the struggle against corruption.

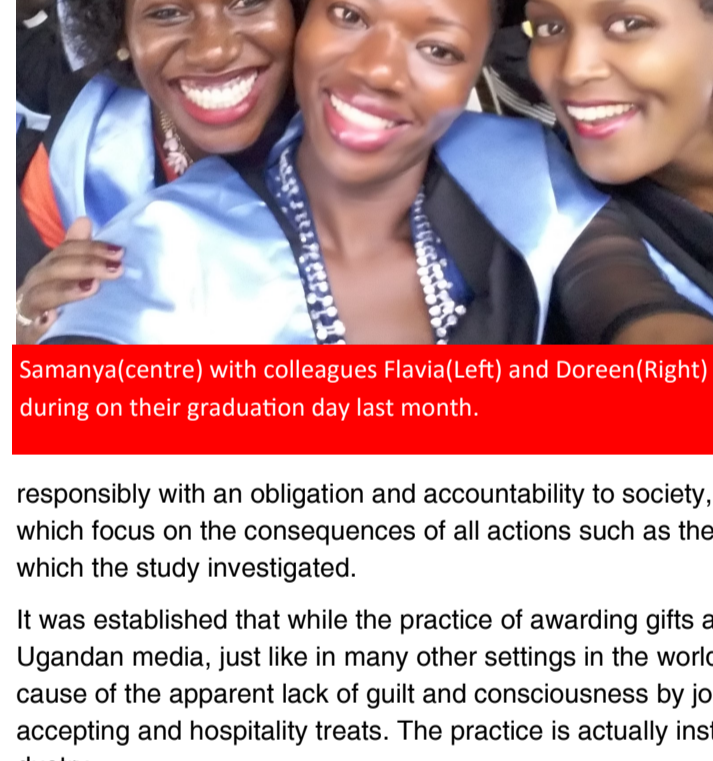


Pictorial of the caravan in Lira



Various local musicians used music and dance to mobilize the residents of Lira and preach to them gainst corruption for a corruption free generation to come in Uganda.

Weekly Producer investigates corruption in the media



Samanya(centre) with colleagues Flavia(Left) and Doreen(Right) during their graduation day last month.

Last week, ActionAid staff feasted to cake to celebrate the value addition of their communications Officer Samanya. Samanya, who was recently awarded a Master of Art in Journalism and Communication from Makerere University could not hold back her excitement.

"ActionAid gave me time to pursue my studies. They made this happen, she stated hysterically."

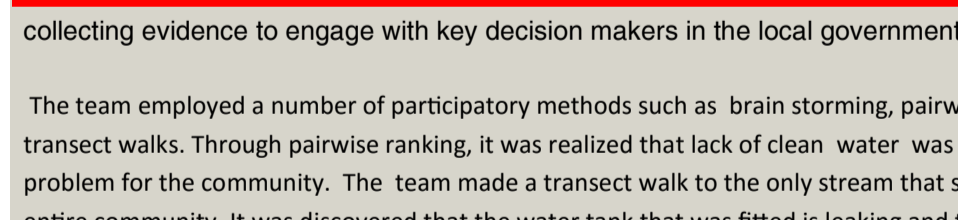
For her Master's thesis, Samanya investigated the effects of gifts and hospitality treats on best practices in journalism, using the 2016 presidential elections as her case study. The research was qualitative in nature and was based on the social responsibility theory of the media which emphasizes that media freedom should be enjoyed

responsibly with an obligation and accountability to society, and the teleological theories of ethics which focus on the consequences of all actions such as the giving of gifts and hospitality treats which the study investigated.

It was established that while the practice of awarding gifts and hospitality treats is common in the Ugandan media, just like in many other settings in the world, the Ugandan situation stands out because of the apparent lack of guilt and consciousness by journalists in relation to the practice of accepting and hospitality treats. The practice is actually institutionalized in the Uganda media industry.

Unique in the Ugandan social and political context is the nature and sizes of gifts and hospitality treats. It was established that Ugandan journalists and media houses receive and accept plots of land, cars, motorcycles, advertising contracts, branded items and hard cash, among others. The sizes of gifts indicate that these are bribes given for coverage, disguised as forms of appreciation and facilitation by the news sources. In addition, there is an apparent competition among news sources in terms of who awards the biggest gifts. Unfortunately, journalists and media houses appear to be shrouded in authoritarian ignorance in as far as the negative effects of gifts on best practices in the profession of journalism are concerned. Contact Samanya for her full research. Congratulations.

Kapchorwa residents to advocate for clean water!



Mary Achom, the Kapchorwa Cluster Program Officer leads the community in a transect walk to the water stream!

Kapchorwa cluster together with their Partner KWIPI conducted a quarterly community baraza with stakeholders at the sub-county level to track service delivery gaps. The community baraza was conducted to support the community members in identifying and ranking their community priorities. The meeting also aimed at

collecting evidence to engage with key decision makers in the local government.

The team employed a number of participatory methods such as brain storming, pairwise ranking and transect walks. Through pairwise ranking, it was realized that lack of clean water was the most pressing problem for the community. The team made a transect walk to the only stream that supplies water to the entire community. It was discovered that a water tank that was fitted is leaking and the water is contaminated. The team collected evidence that will be presented to the local government. The team agreed to roll out an advocacy drive to ensure that the stream is rehabilitated.

The weekly will be following up this story for any strides made in addressing the water issue.

ActionAid meets Parliamentarians on GMO Bill



Members of the Parliamentary standing committee on Science and Technology listen to ActionAid's submission on the BBT bill

Last week, ActionAid interacted with 11 members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology to discuss concerns on the Biotechnology and Biosafety Bill 2012. In his presentation, Fredrick Kawooya, the Policy and Campaigns Manager stated that the discussion was timely since Uganda is exposed to GM foods and related products from a number of trading partners and this warrants a law to regulate such transactions.

In addition, Uganda is a signatory to a number of international treaties particularly the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and subsequently the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (CPB), which mandates the country to review and align its policy and legal frameworks to facilitate the implementation of the protocol.

Fredrick told the committee that after a thorough analysis, 57% of the provisions in the Bill should either be deleted or completely overhauled. 27% of the provisions should be amended and only 16% of the provisions of the bill in its current form are ok and can be passed as they are.

There were a number of concerns highlighted in the presentation including the vagueness in a number of clauses which may lead to abuse. The Bill does not also provide for clear labelling GM products as a way of warning likely users. Others include the poor provisions on risk assessment, health risks due to exposure and the weak oversight mechanism proposed in the Bill. For further reading of AAU's analysis of the Bill, [Click here](#).

During the meeting, the MPs shared some of the lessons picked from Brazil and Argentina whose economies have thrived from the early 1970s when they started embracing GMOs hence increasing food production and reducing food insecurity. These however are rolled out with the right regulations. Such lessons are vital for Uganda but must be considered within context of a developing nation among other factors.

The committee made commitments to incorporate the issues that were presented in their report which will be tabled before parliament in the near future. The issues presented will form part of the discussions by the Committee and the house for discussions.

Reflections from Washington



"It is perilous to divert the transition –succession debate"...whmmm. Are the words familiar to you? I mean Perilous an succession....

Well, Arthur is at it again, getting to the gist of his fellowship. In this blog, Arthur seeks for answers from some political commentators on the succession debate in Uganda.

He writes,

"I have been following exchanges, especially on the succession question most lately in articles by Prof Bar-yamureba who argued that this debate should focus, not on the president but leadership within political Parties and David Mafabi....Mafabi should tell Ugandans why the NRM after 32 good years has not created the conditions for the qualitative leap from 'backwardness' to 'modernity'?"

[Click here](#) for this very insightful blog, its allowed to carry your dictionary along!

Week Ahead

⇒ On Thursday this week, Come and be part of the Face citizens debate at Nsambya sharing hall as we welcome the caravan back home. I will be there to receive you all!