

ActionAid is one of the few NGOs in Uganda that runs Shelters for survivors of sexual and gender based violence across the country .

Services offered are temporary accommodation, counselling, medical, skills and access to justice.

On Friday 13th 2017 the state closed down it's bank accounts. Additional 25 other NGOs received letters requesting for their details.

Solidarity messages continue to come in from partners and beneficiaries of the work that ActionAid has been doing in Uganda for the last 35 years. This follows the Bank of Uganda Directive to freeze five ActionAid Accounts. Join the citizen call to #FreeActionAid #Unfreezeaccounts.

In solidarity!

CD Interrogated, Staff meeting energises staff!



(Left-Right) Grace Ruvumbi shares here experience from Zimbabwe as staff listen in. At the end of the meeting, they (staff) were energised to keep the spirit alive.

Last Week, the Country Director together with the Finance Director appeared before the Criminal Case Tracking Task Team for a three hour interrogation. The two (Arthur and Bruno) later recorded statements.

According to Arthur, the three hours were nothing compared to the over eight hours that were spent interrogating Godber Tumushabe, the Executive Director of the Great Lakes Institute for Strategic Studies adding that the organisation will continue to cooperate with the police but urged them (Police) to desist from interfering with our operations.

"We remain open to further lawful demands of our time but urge the police leadership to desist from interfering with our work in the field as they have done in Hoima and Kawempe," he wrote.

Staff meeting

ActionAid management convened a meeting of all National and field staff. The well attended meeting saw the field staff and even those that were out of the country join through skype

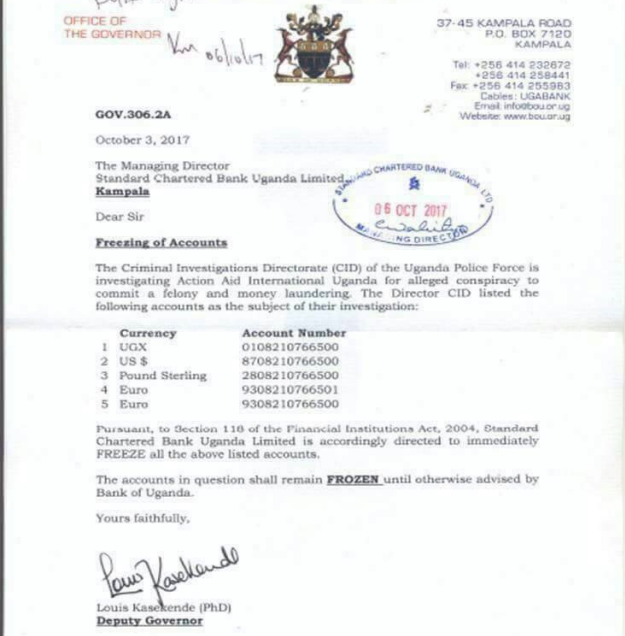
Arthur Larok, the Country Director briefed the staff on the developments following the September 20th Police siege of the Head offices. He assured them that management with the support of the Global Secretariat was doing everything possible to resolve the matter with the relevant authorities. He urged the staff to carry on with ongoing activities and processes.

Arthur also urged staff to take all necessary precautions in all personal and work related engagements and ensure that the integrity of the institution is not compromised.

Christine Aboke, the Director of Human Resource and Organisational efficiency promised staff regular updates on all developments as they (management) do everything possible to normalise the situation.

At the end of the meeting, it was evident that staff were not only energised but determined to carry on the work against the social injustices in the country.

AAU Accounts Frozen!



Bank of Uganda has frozen some bank accounts belonging to ActionAid Uganda, following a police investigation of alleged money laundering.

In a letter dated October 3rd, to the Managing Director of Standard Chartered Bank Uganda Limited, Louis Kasakende, the Deputy Governor Bank of Uganda explained that the Criminal Investigation Directorate CID of the police is investigating ActionAid for alleged conspiracy to commit a felony and money laundering.

Kasakende listed five bank accounts belonging to AAU held at Standard Chartered Bank. These include a

Uganda Shillings account, US dollar, Pound Sterling and two Euro accounts are held at Standard Chartered Bank. Pursuant, to section 110 of the Financial Institutions Act, 2004, Kasakende directed Standard Chartered Bank to freeze all the listed accounts.

"The accounts in question shall remain frozen until otherwise advised by Bank of Uganda," reads part of the letter.

Arthur Larok, the Country Director at AAU, has described the act as unfortunate and erroneous. In a response to the letter from Bank of Uganda and several media reports on the same, he asked the public to treat the allegations against ActionAid with the contempt they deserve.

"Anyone with the slightest of understanding and knowledge about ActionAid's work would know that the reality cannot be any farther from the truth." He added: "We shall push back, together with our numerous partners the sad trend in our country that the allegations against ActionAid symptomize."

On September 20th, police raided ActionAid Uganda offices in Kampala, where they conducted a cordon and search operation. Police accessed and searched computers, mobile handsets, money transfer related documents and bank related transaction documents where they carried some. In the weeks that followed, Police summoned the organisational Country Director together with the Finance Director for further interrogation. The police has also demanded that the organisation submits to them a number of documents including the annual work plan, Strategy Paper, Plans and Budgets, annual reports among others.

However, in a staff meeting held last Friday, staff were encouraged to carry on with the activities and management works towards normalising the situation.

Police Siege media scan



The news of the bank of Uganda directive to freeze the ActionAid accounts has been reported on extensively both in national and international media.

Reuters News agency reported that the decision to close ActionAid's accounts came a few weeks after its offices were raided by police in the run up to the debate over the scrapping of article 102 (B) of the constitution. Details of this report [Here](#)

Chimp Reports run the same story under the headline; **We shall push back, says ActionAid after accounts Freeze.** [Click for full story](#)

Eagle online reported the story under the headline; **ActionAid to drag government to court over frozen accounts.** Find out whom they quoted in their story [here](#)

The Observer run the story under the headline; **Bank of Uganda freezes all five Action-Aid Accounts.** However, the details of the story were not any different from those of eagle online and Chimp Reports, as you will read [here](#)

The Ugandan diaspora News [reported the story here](#) while Watchdog Uganda reported the same story [here](#)

The UKs Daily Mail run the same story [Here](#) while soft power communications run the story [here](#)

During the weekend, AAU's Country Director featured in several news interviews and was hosted on the 4th Estate last night. These stories are not yet online and will share them as soon as they are uploaded.

The ActionAid countries across the globe have since spoken out against the closure of AAU's bank accounts both on social and mainstream media. ActionAid USA particularly released [this statement demanding for an immediate unfreezing of the accounts](#)

The ActionAid global secretariat has also issued a statement following these developments. [Read full statement here.](#)

WEEK AHEAD:

- The ActionAid leadership is in Royal Suites this week, reviewing plans and budgets for the year 2018 year of implementation. As you can read, the freezing of the accounts has not stopped work from continuing.