

Budget Speech-Another Round of Empty Promises ...

Agriculture, the country's backbone continues to ache

By Flavia Nalubega



On Wednesday 14th June, the Minister of Finance presented the budget for the FY 2018/19, on behalf of the President. Sadly, out of the total Shs32trillion, the biggest percentage is going to debt payment, while agriculture, the country's backbone is among the least funded.

With a paltry 914 billion, the agriculture sector that employs and feeds majority Ugandans is close to the tail end, a move farmers and policy analysts bashed at a budget review meeting at Hotel Africana in Kampala. Richard Chemtai, a farmer from Kapchorwa said that the budget is meant to boost the rich and push the poor further down the ditch as there is no hope of accessing agricultural inputs and extension services.

Julius Kapwepwe, Director Programs at Uganda Debt Network confirmed that Government's focus is on commercial farming and not small scale farming, which the minister re-affirmed in his speech. He said they would provide land, inputs and ensure market for large scale farmers who will feed Uganda's processing industries. The questions remain: **"Where is the small holder farmer? Where are the subsistence farmers? What is in for them?"**

"This operation wealth creation program is actually a poverty promotion program! If you say you are reaching out to the poor and yet we don't access these services neither do we access a few agricultural inputs to boost us, then how can we say we are transforming communities," Chemtai said.

However, all hope is not gone. According to Dr Fred Muhumusa of Makerere University, there is need to unpack the agriculture budget to find out the percentage that will go into human resources and that, which will go into agricultural inputs and other extension services.

ActionAid was part of this reflection about sector allocations and Flavia Nalubega emphasised the need to consider sector funding seriously since it affects livelihoods. "We believe that if agriculture is supported, grassroot communities that make up a bigger part of Uganda will access food, and access a livelihood, as food is a basic need and feeding is a right," She said.

Civil Society Engage with AU Ahead of the 2nd Bi-Annual Heads of State Summit



Delegation of Civil Society with officials of African Union Commission

By Primus Bahigi

Ahead of the 2nd Bi-annual heads of State summit in Mauritania, ActionAid and Civil Society partners mobilizing the citizens and civil society for the implementation of the African Charter on Democracy Election and Good Governance (ACDEG) across Africa engaged with African Union to Influence the agenda of the Heads of Government and States Summit.

The delegation that sat at the AU Headquarters in Addis Abeba engaged with the Department of Political Affairs of African Union, the Departments of Gender, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and the Permanent Representatives from all states who they called on to facilitate the domestication, popularization and full implementation of the Charter by Member States.

The meeting also afforded the delegation the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the AU leadership and its vision to ably engage them. The theme of this year's summit is **"Winning the Fight against Corruption"**

The chairperson of the Permanent Representative Committee a committee that brings all Ambassadors, Hope Tumukunde together called an on all states to end corruption because the young people on the continent are tired of corruption and its effects, and she said this is possible if they are sensitized about the charter

"Often, the AU passes good policies that are aimed at promoting good governance and ultimately ensuring development on the continent, but many citizens seem to know little about them. With this project being implemented, I believe a big vacuum will be filled in bridging the gap between citizens' awareness and a call for the implementation of the Charter.

This engagement was part of the efforts to rally the African countries to sign, ratify, domesticate, popularize, and report on the African Charter on Democracy, elections and good governance under the African Governance Architecture project that is support by the European Union and ActionAid Denmark.

KUMI LRP Conducts SASA! Methodology Training



A woman gives an example power issue at her home

By Ger Odock

SASA! Methodology as an approach is about making people acknowledge that there is a problem in the society. It applies an inward then outward approach where communities evaluate their actions, behaviors and thoughts in relation to how these manifest themselves negatively or positively in the society. Through this approach, communities are empowered to address societal problems by addressing power dynamics at different levels.

Kumi LRP conducted the first training with Community Activists(CAs) on the START phase of this methodology which was conducted by Program Officer Kumi, Benjamin Tukei. This phase of SASA! basically looks at the problems the society is having and the people. These

developed short skits of some of the situations that apply in their communities every day. These ranged from alcoholism, HIV/AIDS to Gender Based Violence (GBV). In evaluating the skits, they appreciated how localized and powerful this methodology is since it applies local approaches such as drama and conversations as tools of identifying and finding solutions to problems.

According to Akora Simon, one of the CAs, "from the group activity, I have learnt that I should not always take advantage of my position to influence outcomes in my house or community"

The team visited a neighboring community to give them an opportunity of seeing how to engage at community level. This was a 30min session where the community members were excited about the discussions and how they were conducted.

"You cannot START engaging the community on AWARENESS before you START with yourself and then, change how you do, understand and respond to situations" Asserted Mr Tukei.

The CAs will now embark on planning days when they will have meetings with their community members. There was a SASA training of trainers in Kampala, while the first community training of the same was carried out in Katakwi and now Kumi clusters, to empower communities, as we move towards strengthening struggles for social Justice.

Ministry of Gender Commends AAU's Interventions in Ending GBV

By Nivatiti Nandujja

ActionAid Uganda is a member of the High level GBV reference group at national level coordinated by the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development. On 13th of June 2018 during the task-force meeting, it was agreed that there is a damming need for safe spaces at the different police stations to handle gender based violence cases.

AAU's women rights coordinator Nivatiti Nandujja emphasised at the meeting that if this is to be achieved, police officers and health workers need training how to provide quality services to GBV survivors at different levels. Drawing lessons from ActionAid training conducted in collaboration with the ICGLR on collection, preservation and management of forensic evidence during investigation and prosecution of sexual gender based violence cases, Ms Nandujja said building the capacity of officers will contribute towards delivering justice to vulnerable women and girls in the country.

The Support to Uganda's Response to Gender Equality (SURGE) GBV Manager, Beatrice Mulindwa echoed the fact that the different institutions need to coordinate trainings of the police officers in handling forensic evidence for improved efficiency.

The task force committed to allocate time regularly to reflect on the sustainability of the women protection centres. It was at this point that the former member of the East African Legislative Assembly Hon. Dorah Byamukama commended the work that ActionAid does under the women protection centres and specifically the shelter in Kween district. She called upon other actors handling GBV to

BoysForMenstrualHealth (B4MH) clubs kick off in Namutumba



Pupils in Namutumba joined the campaign to support their sisters.

By Immaculate Awori

In order to effect change and tackle stigma surrounding menstruation and ending period poverty in patriarchal societies like Namutumba District, Busiki LRP held a two day Menstrual Health literacy training under the theme "#BoysForMenstrualHealth (B4MH) targeting primary school boys.

The training was attended by 30 boys (mostly sponsored children) and 3 Male teachers drawn from schools in 3 sub-counties of Kibaale, Ivukula and Nsinze. It paved way for the boys to have a deeper understanding of the challenges that girls face during menstruation and the implications on girls' education, access to economic and political opportunities and the role that boys can play as advocates for change.

They were taught how to make reusable sanitary towels and how they are managed. They were also taught social entrepreneurship and how they could start making the reusable sanitary towels for sale to sustain their clubs.

During the training, it was noted that boys' attitudes towards menstruation had a great effect on the girls. Cultural beliefs around menstruation are rooted in gender inequality and compromise girls' ability to manage men-

Duty bearers pledge to fight against GBV



Religious and Local government leaders during the meeting

By Donald Tafadzwa Chidoori

ActionAid Uganda Kween GBV Shelter held an engagement meeting last week with duty bearers to enhance the working relationship between the two parties on GBV laws and social norm change.

The duty bearers from traditional leaders, religious leaders, political leaders, health officers and the police shared their progress towards GBV prevention and response. They also shared their challenges and proposed recommendations to prevent and respond to GBV.

Amongst one of the top most challenge was the lack of awareness amongst the community on GBV laws and the role of the community in fighting against GBV.

The Kween GBV Shelter Project officer englightened participants about the GBV Laws in place. These included; the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995, the Domestic Violence Act 2010, the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act 2010, the Marriage Act 251, the Divorce Act Cap 249, the Penal Code Act Cap 120 and the Succession Act Cap 162.

The duty bearers encouraged AAU to do more awareness programmes on community policing of GBV.

While acknowledging the recommendation by the duty bearers, AAU Kween Shelter Project Officer Deborah Lwanga said that the fight against GBV "was not only AAU's fight but a fight for everyone as such duty bearers should also be actively involved in sensitizing and creating awareness on GBV and its impact on society."

The Kween GBV shelter psychosocial support officer, Sisco Cherukut, elaborated to participants about the existing social norms that enhance gender inequality and imbalance.

This generated a discussion as participants were eager to hear and learn more about how to change from negative social norms to positive social norms.

After the discussions the leaders pledged to work together with AAU towards achieving the project outcomes so as to eliminate GBV from Kween District.

Kween GBV Shelter is engaged in Gender Based Violence(GBV) prevention and response to persons within Kween, Kapchorwa and Bukwo Districts. In-order to achieve the fore-mentioned, the shelter project works with various duty bearers such as the police, community development officers, probation officer, cultural and religious leaders well as the district leaders.

Meet Your interim Communications Officer

Starting today, I step into very hard shoes that I shall try hard to emulate and even surpass-communications officer shoes of this great organisation. Beauty is I am not new to the communications work. I have been at it for a while, although more specifically I have been and still doing it for the oil, gas and mining sector in Uganda.

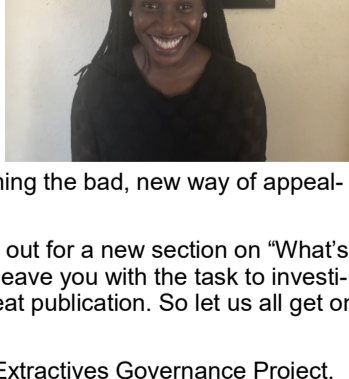
Communication, journalism, writing and talking are just part of me, they make me complete. I love talking to people, and relaying exactly what they have said. So while you do 'lugambo' with me, be sure it will appear somewhere in the weekly!

I am a freak of social media, I am certain you have seen abuzz of activity on the ActionAid social media pages in the last one week. So if you are not on social-media-we shall shame you. It is the new thing, new way of fundraising, new way of meeting, talking to and influencing the powerful, new way of shaming the bad, new way of appealing to communities! You can not afford to stay in the background.

We shall not let this great publication die, we are going to keep it ablaze! Look out for a new section on "What's cooking"- which will bring you the most surprising 'unconfirmed' updates, and leave you with the task to investigate further. We shall also attribute our stories. Imagine your by-line in this great publication. So let us all get on this bus and contribute.

As interim Communications Officer, I shall still remain a project officer for the Extractives Governance Project, for two tasks I enjoy doing. I thus call on your support and positive criticism as we continue strengthening struggles for social movements!

@flanalubega



WEEK AHEAD:

All is Set for Teso Public Service Delivery Day Celebrations

By Benjamin Tukei

Do you know about the International service delivery day? It is celebrated on 23rd June of every year. On this day, we celebrate the value and virtue of public service to the community. This year, Government through the Ministry of Public Service shall mark the day under the theme "Combating corruption in public institutions through involvement and participation of public servants for improved public service".

In the same spirit, ActionAid Uganda in partnership with DGF and 8 Local governments in Teso region have planned to commemorate the day under the theme "Teso United against Corruption for Improved Public service delivery". We shall start with a public dialogue for duty bearers and rights holders which will be held on 22nd June in Soroti. This shall be followed by Agog Music festival a marathon and cycling competitions as well as blood donation drive which will all to be held on 23rd June at Soroti independence grounds.

The Chief Guest will be the Minister for Public Service Hon. Mululi Mukasa while the guest runner will be world medalist Joshua Cheptegei. Come let's run to demand for Better Services for Teso. Join the conversation on Twitter and Facebook under the hashtag #Tesorun #4publicservicedelivery