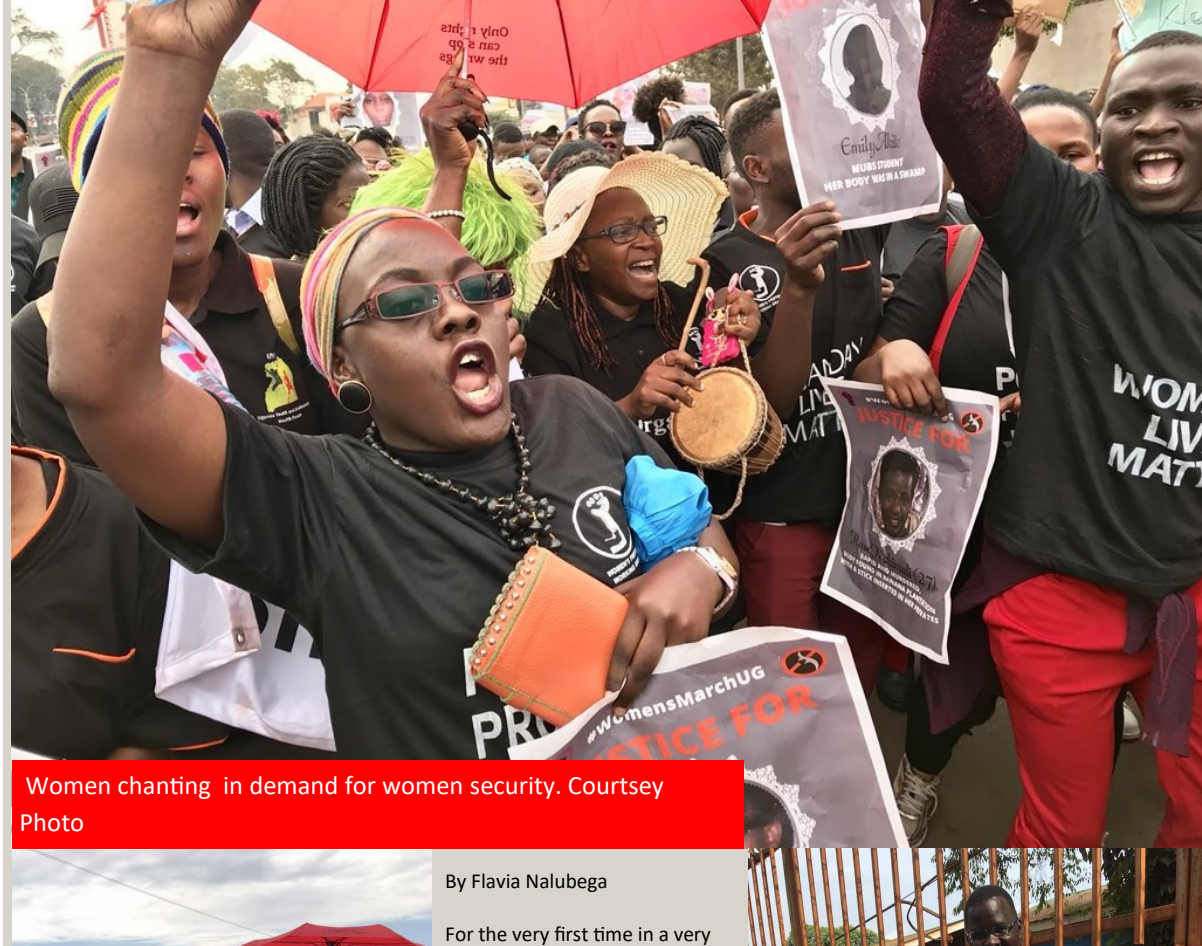


Weekly

July 02—08

The One Million March; Women Protest Femicide



Women chanting in demand for women security. Courtesy Photo

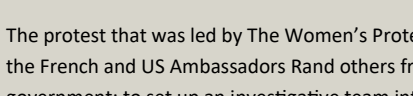
By Flavia Nalubega

For the very first time in a very long while, Police let a march take course! Of course with a lot of struggle and hustling.

On Saturday, Kampala city was almost impassable as hundreds of women marched from Centenary Park to the Railway gardens in demand for action and accountability for the femicides which include rampant kidnappings, brutalising and murder of women in the country.

The country, for the last close to three years has been awash with women disappearances and

AAU's Chipo sings her heart out in demand for safe cities for women.



AAU's Board Chair Nicholas Opiyo and Chipo Bangira pose for a photo before the march. Courtesy Photo

murders to a tune of 42 specifically in Entebbe, Masaka, Kampala, Wakiso and other parts of the country. Women and girl children are kidnapped with ransom demanded from their parents and later killed in gruesome ways and their bodies dropped in and around Kampala.

The protest that was led by The Women's Protest Group headed by Dr Stella Nyanzi attracted women from as far as Kenya, Ethiopia, the French and US Ambassadors Rand others from across the country, to demand for three deliverables from Uganda police and government; to set up an investigative team into these murders that shall deliver timely reports and punish the perpetrators, stop victimising and blaming victims for their murder and set up a fully fledged directorate to prioritise gender based violence.

The AAU Board Chair Nicholas Opiyo applauded the forces and said that the march should be the beginning of dialogue. "Women and authorities should discuss to resolve. Positive constructive engagements regarding kidnaps and murders"

The social media tax; It's here, it's real, DOOM!



Nicholas Opiyo speaks out against the social media tax during the NTV morning show. Photo by Flavia

Each user will part with 200shs per day, 6000shs per month, 72000 per year!

By Flavia Nalubega

About the taxation regime, it is not yet uhuru for Ugandans as yesterday, 1st June, a new tax was slapped on us; The social media tax!

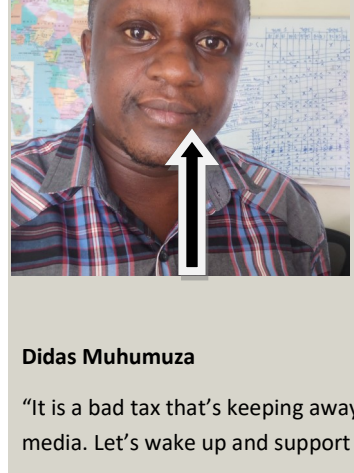
Last month at the National Budget speech day, The President in his remarks assured the country that a tax would be slapped on social media, which he queried, wasting precious time for most Ugandans who instead of working, use the platforms to spread rumours.

Alas, yesterday the joke became effective! We woke up to no access to whatsapp nor any social media platforms- they were blocked! And unless you paid, you were not able to use any social media platform.

From now on, for every single day, you have to part with atleast 200 (0.05usd) from when you access any social media platform. This expires at midnight, no matter what time of the day you pay it -not 24hours from when you load it as should be. The tax is an excise duty on over the top (OTT) services- which simply means taxing the transmission or receipt of messages over the internet. The specific channels that are taxed include facebook, messenger, twitter, skype, Instagram, snapchat, linkedin and whatsapp. Worse still, Mobile money transaction too are also taxed 1% per transaction-a typical vicious circle of taxes- to keep us in poverty.

A social media campaign against this tax was started early last month under the hashtag #socialmediatax calling on Parliament to kick out this proposal. A team of lawyers and activists among them Martin Kayondo and Saasi Marvin have petitioned the Attorney General for unlawfully imposing a selective tax on social media to gag its use. They are in Court today and AAU is in support of their move. Join the campaign #socialmediatax. Speak against this tax for it to be re-

Ugandans' take on #socialmediatax

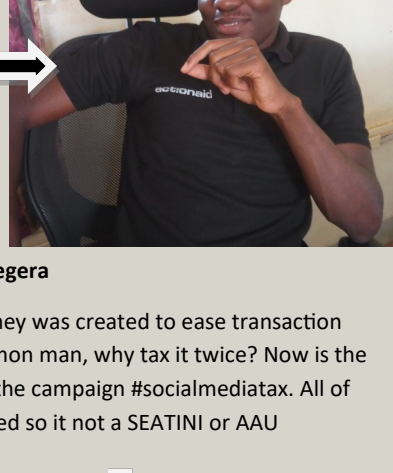


Phillip Kabuye

"This should act as a wakeup call for all Ugandans to participate in CSO campaigns. We start various campaigns against injustices and hardly get any response but when they get affected by bad laws, they call upon CSOs to intervene. Ugandans should know that this is not a CSO thing, it's a Ugandan thing!"

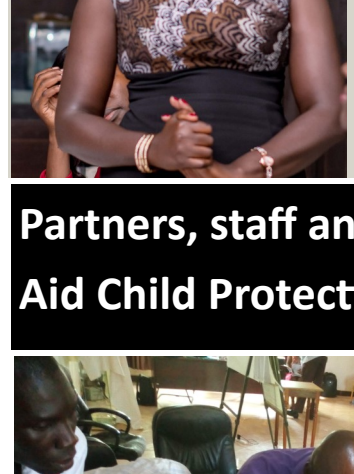
Didas Muhumuza

"It is a bad tax that's keeping away the public from use of social media. Let's wake up and support all efforts aimed at scrapping this tax!"



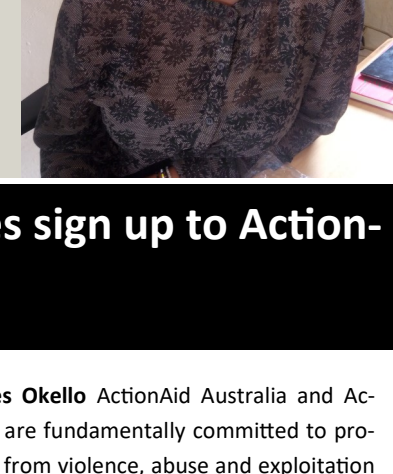
Norah Nakyegera

"Mobile money was created to ease transaction for the common man, why tax it twice? Now is the time to join the campaign #socialmediatax. All of us are affected so it not a SEATINI or AAU



Jennifer Achalo

"The Tanzania Revenue Authority boss once told us that the country's tax base hasn't increased but responsiveness has increased since President Magufuli takeover, because people are seeing results. But here, all we see are sigiris in hospitals for incubators, a role that was previously.



Partners, staff and community structures sign up to Action-Aid Child Protection Policy



AAU partners and staff confirm their allegiance to protecting children. Photo by DMO

By David Moses Okello ActionAid Australia and ActionAid Uganda are fundamentally committed to protecting children from violence, abuse and exploitation in all forms and to promoting children's rights as set out in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989).

To make this a reality, a two day training was organised on the child protection policy to safe guard children from violence, abuse and exploitation by staff, partners, sponsors and other organisational representatives who have contact with children.

Sheila Bukirwa, Sponsorship Coordinator highlighted key components that make up child protection. These include; reducing risks, making children's rights a reality, restoring hope and dignified living and creating enabling environment. Sheila noted that; "Child abuse may not be easy to see or may be ignored by adults who even have a stake to stop it."

The co-facilitator - Ndumeya Moyo, the Inspirator at Gulu Cluster asked participants to always look out for physical abuses among children. She noted that; "you should always take interest on injuries, complaints of pain in body parts like bums, breasts and around the genitalia, these can be signs of abuse. Bedwetting, thefts, constant hunger, under-nourishment, inadequate care, being sleepy in class could be signs of abuse, don't ignore".

Corruption Reporting Boxes at Police Stations Opened; Alarming Cases Found!



OC station Kabalagala and Police Officer from the Legal and Human Rights Department check out cases reported. Courtesy

By Philip Kabuye

Last week, Ipaidabiribe Uganda together with Uganda Police Force embarked on an exercise to open the Corruption reporting boxes that were installed at over 10 police stations within Kampala Metropolitan. Mukono, Kawempe, CPS, Kiira Division and Kabalagala out of the 10 stations were the ones with reports in the boxes. As a means to increase usage of the boxes, Division Police Commanders opted to involve AAU during their area Community Policing meetings to inform the public about usability of the boxes.

Find out what cases were reported on www.ipaidabiribe.or.ug and their status. Meanwhile an online campaign is ongoing to alert the public about the existence of these boxes where cases can be reported/dropped. Tell a friend, follow the campaign on social media at @Ipaidabiribeug.

WPC Team energized for AAU SURGE Management Phase



Above: ActionAid WPC staff pose for a group photo with teh Interim Director and Program Director.

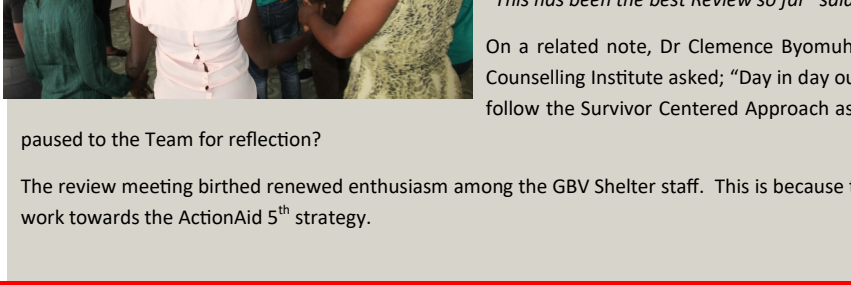
Below: WPC staff during a work out session headed by the gorgeous men who believe there can be a violent-free space for women in Uganda. Photos by Chidoori Donald

By M. D Lwanga C. Tusime, S.Bahizi, JB Nabwire

From 26th to 29th June, 2018 the WPC team met at Garuga to review the Support to Uganda's Response to Gender Equality (SURGE) progress since March 2017.

It aimed at taking stock of the achievements, learnings and critical recommendations for post June 2018 period when ActionAid takes on the Project Grant Management function, a role that was previously.

The Interim Country Director Christine Aboke emphasized the urgency of all staff to be aligned, acquainted and embrace the 5th Strategy Paper that gives the strategic direction for the organization. She also cautioned staff to safeguard policies that are key in protecting the staff, and all categories of people we work with at



all levels.

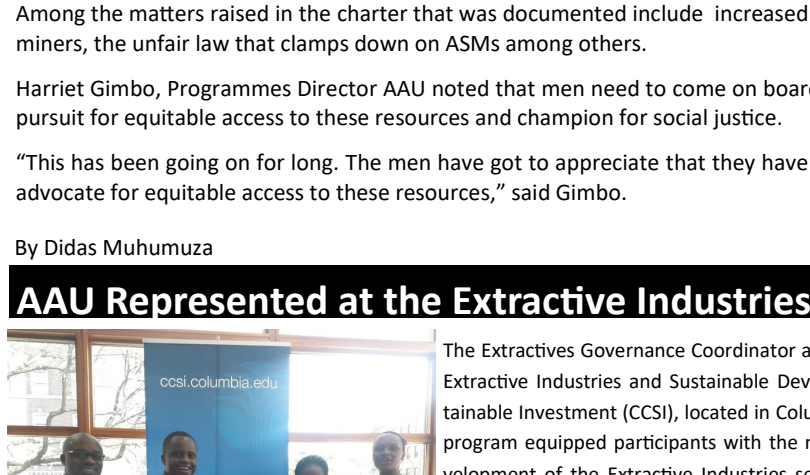
The Program Director Harriet Gimbo emphasized the need to think and get involved in the various fundraising initiatives of the organization for financial sustainability.

"This has been the best Review so far" said one participant.

On a related note, Dr Clemence Byomuhangi from the East African Professional Counselling Institute asked; "Day in day out we interface with survivors, but do we follow the Survivor Centered Approach as one of the principles?" Was a question paused to the Team for reflection?

The review meeting birthed renewed enthusiasm among the GBV Shelter staff. This is because they clearly understood how to link their work towards the ActionAid 5th strategy.

AA in the struggle To End Injustice Against Women in Mining



Artisanal and small scale miners and ActionAid staff from SA, Ke, Ug, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi & DRC during the meeting to develop the People's Mining Charter in Mukono, Uganda. Photo by F. Nalubega

By Flavia N. & Sunday

African Mining countries gathered in Uganda to brainstorm on how to tackle the emense problems affecting Ugandan miners, particularly women.

The meeting that took place in Mukono, organised by the Extractives Governance unit attracted miners and ActionAid staff from SouthAfrica, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi, Australia and Uganda.

Because of its inclusivity, mining is one of those sectors that is hoped to uplift the local populace out of poverty. As such the African Union recognized Artisanal and Small scale mining(ASM) formalization as one of its six areas of engagement under its 2011 Africa Mining Vision. Uganda being a member of AU deserves to benefit from this and it is upon this that the AMV was explained to Ugandan miners who accepted to write a Ugandan declaration to present to Government on the same.

Among the matters raised in the charter that was documented include increased cases of rape, unsafe spaces for women miners, the unfair law that clamps down on ASMs among others.

Harriet Gimbo, Programmes Director AAU noted that men need to come on board and support the women's cause in the pursuit for equitable access to these resources and champion for social justice.

"This has been going on for long. The men have got to appreciate that they have to champion the struggle for women to advocate for equitable access to these resources," said Gimbo.

By Didas Muhumuza

AAU Represented at the Extractive Industries Training

The Uganda team in New York for a training on the Extractive Industry.

The Extractives Governance Coordinator attended a two weeks Executive Training on Extractive Industries and Sustainable Development run by Columbia Centre on Sustainable Investment (CCSI), located in Columbia University, City of New York City. The program equipped participants with the necessary skills to promote responsible development of the Extractive Industries sector in resource-rich developing countries and to encourage a rich dialogue about best practices from around the globe. AAU's participation was sponsored by the Ford Foundation and it is based on the firm partnership the foundation has with ActionAid Uganda.

Other participants in the training from Uganda included the National Content Manager of the Petroleum Authority Ms. Betty Namubiru, the Executive Director of Global Rights Alert Ms. Winnie Ngabirwe, a journalist from the Observer Mr. Pius Katunzi

WEEK AHEAD & IN THE NEWS

Cooperative Week is Here

The long awaited week is finally here and a number of activities are lined up for the both the co-operators and non-co-operators

- i) 2nd July 2018 - blood donation exercise at city square
- ii) 3rd July 2018 - Cleaning the Bwaise market from 10am
- iii) 4th July - launch of the cooperative profiling report I.K Musaaizi lecture at Makerere University
- iv) 5th July - Tree planting at Outspan primary school Bwaise for inclusive green growth.
- v) 7th July - The Coop day celebrations at Civil Service College Jinja to be graced by President Museveni under the theme 'Sustainable consumption and production of goods and services'

Join the conversation on twitter #coopday and #coopweek.

In the news;

i) The Marathon

<http://www.monitor.co.ug/News/National/corruption-public-service-minister-Karubanga-Action-Aid/688334-4632336-14w1vsi/index.html>