

Weekly

July 09—14

ActionAid, CSOs, MP Bobiwine and Social Media Influencers Make their Stand Against OTTs, MM Tax!



Above: MP for Kyadondo East Robert Kyagulanyi(L) flagged by his colleagues during a press conference to announce the campaign against social media tax and MM tax

Below: Left: Soroti residents in a demonstration against Social media R: CSOs members of the Tax Justice Alliance during a press briefing at AAU offices to address the unfair tax on social media and Mobile Money.

By Zurah Namusisi & F. Nalubega

Starting today 9th/07/2018, every Monday shall be a no-data-day to mark the beginning of Stop Social Media tax campaign.

ActionAid Uganda, SEATINI and other tax justice organisations under their umbrella body- Tax Justice Alliance, announced yesterday as they added their voice to the so many Ugandans to detest the Shs200 social media tax and 1% mobile money double tax. AAU's Campaigns Manager Fredrick Kawooya expressed his disregard for the tax on social media, for it is limiting access to information for especially the young people, while mobile money tax is kicking many out of employment.

"The number of people using mobile money has gone down- this was one of the biggest forms of employment and now many have been left unemployed!" he affirmed.

Mobile money transfer system is the biggest driver of financial inclusion. As of 2017, the UCC report noted that mobile money subscriptions stood at 23.6 Million Ugandans, with 61 percent transactions below Shs45,000. Kawooya thus confirmed that MM tax is going to hinder financial inclusion while SEATINI's Jane Nalunga declared that unless Government changes the way it allocates its resources, tax collection will continue to burden the poor while uplifting the rich.

What started as an order from the President, later turned law, may need repealing as the pressure among the country men and women towards the law makers increases daily.

On 1st July, a new tax was announced On Mobile Money and OTT services. Sadly this law was debated in Parliament and majority of the legislators voted in its favour, with the forecast of having their allowances as parliamentarians increased.

Since then, the countrymen went up in arms, mobile money agents across the country staged demonstrations while Member of Parliament for Kyadondo Hon. Ssentamu held a press conference with artists, journalists and social media influencers calling upon the public to desist the tax by abandoning use. In Soroti and Kampala, MM agents have been rioting while university students headed by Makerere University are meeting the Speaker to explain this action.

Youth Celebrate Cooperatives Day with Pomp in Jinja



Top Left: Cooperators matching during coop day celebrations in Jinja. Top Right: Pupils of Ootspan Sch in Bwaise plant trees to celebrate the Int. Coop week

Below: Ministers tour stalls on Coop. Day. Photos by Zurah



Minister makes case for cooperative Bank

By Brenda Namirembe: The Minister of Finance, Hon. Matia Kasajja has urged Cooperators to have their cooperative bank that once existed revamped for friendly loans.

He told them to get organised, approach his ministry and government for support.

"Get the boss of the cooperatives bank, the one that killed it to pick up the remaining rouges, work with all of you to have the bank revamped," he said.

He was speaking on behalf of the President to millions of young people and co-operators who staged in Jinja to celebrate the International Cooperatives Day. The celebrations attracted youth from Nwoya, supported by AAU's YESSEN project (Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Self-Employment and National Development), among others.

Cooperators however blamed the slow growth of the sector on rampant corruption, which they said is a character trait of most SACCO chairpersons and their boards. The Minister Of Trade and Cooperatives Amelia Kyambadde however urged them not to lament but to rejoice the great miles stones, among them having a Ugandan as the head of African Confederation of Cooperative Savings and Credit Association- Ms. Josephine Nabuyungo, the first Uganda chairperson.

In Uganda, cooperatives contribute 2.9 percent to the national GDP, while in Kenya over 40 percent. Ugandans were urged to work hard and be like Kenya, to be able to influence governance.

AAU Rallies National Union of Women Living with Disability (NUWODU) to Push for Law Reforms



Participants who attended the meeting at Royal Suites Bugolobi in a group photo. Photo by David Moses Okello

By David Moses Okello

The Women Rights to Land, Peace and Justice Project in Northern Uganda with support from Australia NGO Corporation Program under DFAT supported a policy dialogue on women with disability.

Key gaps on access to justice for Persons Living with Disability (PLWD) were articulated by the MP for PLWDs Hon. Safia Nalule Juuko which included lack of friendly facilities for PLWDs including in courts, failure by government to employ sign language interpreters, high costs of equipment and thus lack of prioritisation of PLWDs budget at regional levels as parliament continuously fails to appropriate funds for disability despite annual submission of budgets by Equal Opportunities Commission.

They also pointed out the unfair clauses in the law; "there are even flaws in the existing laws especially the penal code which refers to some categories of disability as imbisels. This is very wrong for justice," She noted

On a positive note, we were informed that Parliament has established a Parliamentary Checklist on Human Rights which is meant to assess the level of adherence to human rights standards including rights of disabled persons.

The meeting promised to ensure that the following are achieved; Re-introduction of the Mental and Psycho-social Disability Bill that was withdrawn from parliament and fast track the Elderly Persons Bill by Ministry of

Remodeling AAU Partnership Approach

By Fiona Awili

Actionaid Uganda with support from the Partnership and Capacity Building Unit held a 2 day national partners' Inception meeting last week -27th/06/2016 at Royal Suites Bugolobi. The purpose of the meeting that attracted a total of 25 partner organisation was to enable both parties in the partnership i.e.



AAU Partners during an Inception Meeting at Royal Suites Bugolobi.

AAU and the partners, have a good understanding of one another, learn about each other's cultures, work ethics as well as their strategic direction, in abid to harmonize each others' expectations.

Among the different issues tabled and discussed during the inception meeting were; Understanding AAU's 5th Strategy, Understanding the concept of social movements, Fundraising and Resource mobilization.

Following a presentation on skype from Our Federation Director -Arthur Larok, AAU and Partners were tasked to define what change they want to achieve together and how they will work jointly to ensure this change is harnessed. The partners were also tasked to challenge and point out where we are going astray for a better and mutual working relationship

FGM Fight Still On; Kapchorwa Launches Another Year of the Struggle!



Participants of the 'Enhancing Approaches to end FGM' project inception meeting in Kapchorwa.

By Donald Chidoori

ActionAid Uganda engaged from Kapchorwa, Kween and Bukwo for an inception meeting on the ActionAid Funded project on "Enhancing Community Approaches to end Female Genital Mutilation."

The Women Rights coordinator, Nivatiti Nandujja engaged the team on the objectives of the project.

"FGM has not been defeated it has just gone underground, people are now mutilating the girl child during child birth and people are not reporting such cases," said one of the participants.

"What is needed is to have anti FGM advocates is a buy in from the grand mothers and grandfathers plus setting up FGM responsive clubs to empower the girl child," said another one participant.

Nivatiti said that AAU was looking forward to working with the community as partners and was ready to support community initiatives for a Zero tolerance towards FGM.

Reflection Action Facilitators from Amuru and Pader LRP in refresher training



Participants in the training session. Photo by Job Jonathan Bua

By J.J Bua and M. Ndemeya

"It was in 2015 that we last had a refresher training" noted by one of the participants and this training couldn't come in hand for the facilitators to revive Reflection Action groups in the two LRPs; the training attended by 35 Reflection Action Facilitators from Amuru, Nwoya and Pader LRP aimed at reorienting them on the concept of reflection action, joint peer review, experience-sharing and learning.

Reflection Action Facilitators were encouraged to promote the use of participatory approaches within their

Circles as a mechanism to challenge unequal power relations, inequality and structural barriers to the realization of community rights. And gender equity being integral to social change, the training provided participants skills to analyze the causes of inequalities, create a process for examining social stratification, addressing conflict as a reality, and evolving process that embraces innovation, recognizing the importance of individual transformation, and seek an equitable practice of power at all levels in the process.

As part of the practical sessions, the participants had a field visit to one of the Reflection Action circle that presented the facilitators an opportunity to test their skills, see what and how other circles are operating and, to motivate the facilitators from other circles.

When AAU Soccer Team 'UNDERDOGS' became Unmanageable

By Yuda Rwakogo

Football is a game that is known awareness tool being a typical to symbolize the partnership be-greater Teso sub region local gov-Teso and demand for improved vices .



The game took place after the on 23rd June, 2018. It kicked off at Mins. The team was flagged off Bruno Ssemaganda.

for uniting differences and a great team sport. A match was organized between ActionAid Uganda and the ernment to kick corruption out of and gender responsive public ser-

marathon at Soroti sports ground 2:30PM and each half was for 35 by the Acting Country Director -

The ActionAid team was captained by Robert Okello and constituted of Grace Chirenje, Olweny Charles, David Moses Okello, Rwakogo Yuda (team Manager), Okello Robert, Mandiba (Grace Chirenje's son), Aggrey Kibet , Benjamin Tukie. These were complimented by other players from the partner organizations.

It was indeed another world cup in the local context, a lot of untapped talent and football gymnastics were unleashed, courtesy of AAU players. The technical bench was manned by Emma Wafula and Fiona Awili among others.

Whereas the AAU team showed a lot of resilience and readiness to throw out the L.G team, their hard work hardly paid off. They had great defence tactics but those too didn't leave their opponents sited. The L.G team was well trained and well endowed to take us on fully, and indeed they hit us hands down. The game ended with 4: 2- Soroti L.G to AAU. ActionAid goals were both scored by the captain of the day Robert Okello with assistance from Charles Mulozi Olweny. It was a great day and good cause to advocate for better public service delivery in Teso Sub region!

WEEK AHEAD

What: Lunch with Arthur, The Federation Development Director AAI

When: Friday 13th July 2018 starting 12:30 noon – 2:00pm

Where: Head Office Compound Kansanga

Come We Find out What He Misses About Us!