

The ActionAid Uganda Weekly 24th -30th Sept, 2018

Dear Reader,
Did you know that it is a year since the police siege? Arthur recounts and shares the positives to take home and the negatives to ponder about. This and more in this weekly edition
Enjoy!

One Year Later, Police Yet to Release Investigation Report on AAU!



By Arthur Lwiza

On 20th September, we made exactly one year since the police under the auspices of the Criminal Case Tracking Taskforce raided ActionAid Uganda and detained over 30 staff, as

country and conspiracy to commit felony. This unprecedented move was part of a well-executed attack on NGOs that saw a similar siege of three other organizations: The Great Lakes Institute of Strategic Studies (GLISS), The Uhuru Institute and Solidarity Uganda, all of them partners of ActionAid! The impact of this crackdown has been mixed - on one hand, there were negative consequences such as halting of our activities as ActionAid bank accounts were frozen by the Central Bank and later Finance Intelligence Authority, propaganda against the organization meant that new funding opportunities were halted because donors feared their money would be confiscated by government, but, there are also positive stories to tell. <http://www.actionaid.org/uganda/2018/09/one-year-later-police-yet-release-investigation-report-actionaid> Arthur's blog says it all.

A Gender Just Society Begins with Self!



Global Platform Uganda team at the new offices in Apac.

By

Chipo

Bangira

Last week Global Platform Uganda conducted five-day training on Young Feminist Leadership, which challenged young people to position themselves and lead processes that challenge and confront oppressive power dynamics in their communities. The training, which attracted participants from across Uganda unpacked feminism, transformative leadership, feminist knowledge management and feminist movement building in the 21st century. Throughout the training, participants were challenged to reflect, unlearn and learn new ways of thinking that connected the self to the collective political vision of a gender just society. Young men who participated at the training noted that the training had helped them address the fears they had about feminism. The training sought to build a critical mass of young people who are capable and committed to feminist values and principles. This is in line with ActionAid's Country Strategy that emphasizes on building young people's leadership skills that are inspirational, positive and shift power imbalances at the root of gender inequality.

School Clubs Championing Anti- corruption fight in schools!



Jordan Pride SS Masindi jubilate; They emerged best in the Inter-school debates competitions on corruption.

The *ipaidabrike* platform is gaining steam in form of anti-corruption clubs that were designed to inculcate the culture of fighting corruption in schools “to nip it in the bud”. Student anti corruption crusaders who are model of cultivating good governance, championing transparency and demanding accountability in select schools in Hoima last week shared experiences of their activities during a review session at Trisek Hotel. “It is a noble cause that the students are putting their bodies on the line to weed out corruption cases in schools,” said Barnabus Bahemuka, the anti corruption club patron of Strive SS. He was reacting to a case where students are whistle blowing on absentee teachers in their schools which has put them on a collision course with the culprits. Juliet Nakayanzi, a human rights lawyer anti corruption activist, speaking to the students, could not emphasise enough that what the students are doing at their level builds into the bigger picture that plays out in the fight against corruption in public institutions and governments.

The students were cautioned that fighting corruption has never been an easy feat as often times ‘big people are the targets’ which has implications. AAU’s Phillip Kabuye reiterated their support of the anti corruption clubs and pledged to engage the schools’ administration more to make the students work easy. “Your work as anti corruption crusaders builds into our cornerstones of good governance, accountability and transparency and championing these at an early age in your setting is highly commended,” he said. The students meanwhile pledged to grow their club membership

SURGE Inception Meeting; Project Implementing Team and Partners Urged to Document Successes in time!



SURGE (Support to Uganda's Response to Gender Equality) implementing staff and partners in a learning session by Stephen Bahizi. Photo by **Catherine Tusiime**

Oil Rich Communities Unhappy!



By **Flavia** **Nalubega**

The Extractives Governance Project staff along with journalists discovered last week that communities in Nwoya, Nebbi, Packwach and Panyimur are unhappy as they are suffering at the cost of oil discovery. In Nwoya, elephants have taken over people's homesteads as they run away from the national park-thanks to the noise resulting from seismic works, while in Panyimur, many homes went uncompensated in the areas where oil companies operated and hit dry wells.

They spoke to investigative journalists on what oil means to them, many though, very pessimistic! Here are some of the findings. They have called upon Uganda Wildlife Authority, Total E&P and the Government to intervene and ensure that them as host communities are the first beneficiaries of this oil.

University Students Engage in Debates on Democracy & Good Governance

By

Primus

Bahigi

Makerere University emerged the winners of this year's inter debate championship that was organized by Action Aid and Uganda dialogue Arena. The national Inter-University debate competition that brought together 48 teams from over 20 universities from across the country was organized under the theme; '**Youth Political and Economic inclusion; the Africa we want**' The 48 teams debated on various issues around Pan-Africanism, Electoral accountability, youth political participation, peace and security and ratification of the African Charter on democracy Elections and good governance. The process was managed by 24 experienced Judges with chief Judge coming from the Republic of Rwanda.

The participants in the Debate appreciated the issues around Pan-Africanism and debate motions like; *This house would establish the United States of Africa, This house regrets the migration of African youth to the Western world **inter alia***) raised contentious issues that the students felt needed attention amongst states debating on the vision of a united Africa and the Youth involvement. The major question being whether or not to adopt the African Agenda 2063, that was developed in 2012 to lead the development of Africa. The Winners of the competition and the best Female Speaker and the Male Speaker will join the rest of the young people from across the East African Region who will be debating and presenting critical issues affecting young people's political and economic inclusion and ratification of the Charter in Arusha on the 17th of November 2018.

AAU in the news

- [CSOs workl should be political but not partisan - Fredrick Kawooya](#)
- [Elephants Disturbing Livelihoods in Nwoya](#)
- [Nwoya Resident's Tales of Elephants; Thanks to Oil Activities](#)