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ActionAid Uganda's Monthly Newsletter Issue, June 2012 Edition

FOCUS ON GOVERNANCE: People's Actions, People's Power

Editorial:



Governance - the art and science of managing society is without doubt critical for development, broadly defined to include improvement in material wellbeing as well as freedom and choice.

Uganda's development route has been heavily influenced by the manner with which the ruling elite have handled key issues in governance. While remarkable progress has been registered in the quest for good governance in all its dimensions (rule of law, citizen participation, transparency and accountability, responsiveness, consensus orientation, equity and inclusiveness and finally efficiency and effectiveness) in the last five decades, incessant concerns remain about recent trends both in governance and in the democratization process.

Civil society organisations are registering modest progress in spearheading civic mobilization work to reverse and prevent a further slide-back and erosion of gains from past costly citizen struggles against colonialism, dictatorship and bad leadership. In this newsletter, we focus on stories of ActionAid Uganda and its development associates who are working with ordinary women, men, youth and children in contributing to reshaping the governance agenda in Uganda. This ranges from the work of our Youth Activista in Amuru and Masindi Districts, women's efforts in West Nile to hold public officer's accountable, AAIU's involvement in pan civil society efforts to counter threats posed by a proposed legislation on Public Order Management to voices of children in Karamoja. Finally, we bring you a perspective piece on a debate raging in Uganda on the restoration of presidential term limits, among others.

You are welcome to a fest of short stories with big implications and potential to get the citizen's to the rightful governance seat in Uganda!

ActionAid and other CSOs respond to the Looming Threat of the Public Order Management Bill - POMB

By Sophie Kyagulanyi



Photo: Stephen Wandera / ActionAid

Women demonstrate on Kampala streets: with the passing of the POMB, such activities would be very difficult to organise

This article shares background, analysis, implications on the enjoyment of specific human rights and citizens' response to the Public Order Management Bill (POMB) 2011. The POMB was presented to parliament for the first reading in October 2011 which Bill among other things, seeks to: a) provide for the regulation of public meetings, the duties and responsibilities of the police, the organisers and participants in relation to public meetings; to prescribe measures for safeguarding public order without compromising the principles of democracy, freedom of association and freedom of speech; b) manage public order in partnership with the organisers and participants in assemblies, demonstrations and processions, the local authorities, owners or custodians of the venues at which public assemblies demonstrations and processions are held and the police; and c) specify the procedure to be followed when organising an assembly a procession or demonstration as well as the penalties and sanctions to be imposed upon those found in breach of the proposed law. There are a number of the provisions in the Bill that are noble and beneficial. However, there are also provisions whose essence and intent is a major intrusion into the fundamental rights to associate, assemble and express opinions.

On a positive note, the Bill sets standards for public order management and rightfully recognises that the principle of public order management rest largely on the notion of shared responsibility between the police, organizers and participants of the public meeting, local authorities and owners and custodians of the venues of public meetings. This partnership is the cornerstone of maintaining security but not a reserve for the state or the security agencies. This principle has to fully inform all the sections of the Bill. Police's strategic objective is to maintain public order, protect the target, uphold the right to protest, ensure the safety of bystanders, crowd, participants and those not concerned with the protest and enforce the laws. It becomes more complex for police to strike a fair balance among the competing interests.

While managing public order is complex, imposition of limitations on public freedoms in the Bill does not conform to the permissible grounds for restriction prescribed by international and regional human rights instruments. Human rights law demands for public order management actions in favour of people seeking to assert their right to peaceful assembly, unless there is strong evidence that this will seriously

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...ActionAid and other CSOs respond to the Looming Threat of the Public Order Management Bill - POMB

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undermine other people's rights. Therefore, in its current form, the POMB will detrimentally affect fundamental freedoms and the rights to assembly, association, expression and speech. Some of the contentious clauses of the Bill are highlighted below:

The wide definition of a public meeting: The Bill defines in **Section 6 (a)** a public meeting to mean, a gathering, assembly, concourse, procession or demonstration of three or more persons in or on any public road as defined in the Traffic and Road Safety Act or other public place or premises wholly or partly open to the air at which the principles, policy, actions or failure of any government, political party or political organisation, whether or not that party or organisation is registered under of any applicable law, are discussed; or where the meeting is held to form pressure groups to hand over petitions to any person or to mobilise or demonstrate support for or opposition to the views, principles, policy, actions or omissions of any person or body of persons or institution including any government administration or governmental institution. This definition covers meetings which CSOs hold when conducting their work like monitoring government performance, including through citizen platforms at community level. With the enactment of the Bill, we all would be required to seek permission from IGP. But they should also know the people who will come, if they don't then such a meeting will not be authorized by the IGP.

All this is not in tandem with Article 38 of the Constitution of Uganda that says '**every Ugandan citizen has the right to participate in the affairs of government, individually or through his or her representatives in accordance with law**'.

The reintroduction of a provision of the law that Court nullified: CSOs are concerned that this Bill re-introduces **Section 32 of the Police Act** which was nullified and held unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court in *Muwanga Kivumbi v. Attorney General* (Constitutional Petition No. 9/05). In this case the Constitutional Court noted that that the section 32 which required Ugandans to seek permission from the IGP before exercising their right to demonstrate and assemble was unconstitutional. Court further said that these powers to the IGP to determine the holding of an assembly were "**prohibitive**" rather than "**regulatory**". This means that parliament does not have the power to enact a law with a provision that court nullified as per **Article 92 of the Constitution**.

The Powers of the Inspector General of Police (IGP): The Bill gives IGP and the Minister of Internal Affairs overbearing powers over the management of public meetings. This is reflected in a number of clauses. For instance, According to Section 14 of the Bill, police is

granted powers to withhold or issue a permit, disperse a meeting if there are more persons stated in the permit or failure to comply with any of the conditions in the permit. For instance you can have a permit authorizing a meeting of only 30 people but when police come and find you have 60 people then they have the power to disband that meeting this goes against freedom of association and assembly. The Bill further says the evidence of the police officer on disbursement based on numbers is conclusive and final. In Section 14(1) of the Bill the Minister has the power to declare an area unlawful to conduct meetings of more than 25 people if the minister is of the opinion that it is desirable in the interests of public calmness, the Minister may, by statutory instrument declare that in any particular, area is unlawful for any person or persons to convene a public meeting at which it is reasonable to suppose that more than twenty-five persons will be present unless a permit is obtained. The opinion of the minister is important here but this provision can be abused by the minister forming a incorrect opinion about an area given the points shared already in the wide definition of public meeting.

It is because of this and other absurdities in the proposed legislation that AAIU has joined up with other civil society organisations to oppose the Bill in its current form. We shall continue to educate Ugandans to push for something better.

ActionAid in Uganda 1982 - 2012



ActionAid International Uganda (AAIU) marks its 30 Year Anniversary working for humanity having started operations in Uganda in 1982. Join us as we trace our history, document our experiences and recommit to remain steadfast in the quest to transform the condition and position of poor women, men and children in the quest to realize a world without poverty and injustice, one in which every person enjoys their right to a life with dignity.

The State of Governance in Uganda: 3 Surveys Report 1 Message - Citizen Disappointment!

By Job Kijja



A country monitor in Nyamburi inspects a school structure. Thanks to their vigilance, a new structure has since been built.

It is well over a year since President Museveni assumed a 4th term in office. In this article, I summarize key messages from 3 governance surveys and assessments and juxtapose them against a rather buoyant perspective of the state of the nation espoused in the President's latest State of the Nation Address to the National Parliament on Thursday 7th June 2012.

First, the Afro Barometer Round 5 Survey released in April 2012 suggests that Citizens are not only dissatisfied with the manner in which Government is managing the economy but also are fast losing confidence in the NRM Government. According to the Afro Barometer report, 74% of Ugandans feel that the country is heading in the wrong direction - an indictment to the country leadership. 80% think government is doing poorly in managing the economy, 77% say government is failing to improve the living standards of its citizens, while 78% think government is failing to create jobs.

Secondly, an opinion poll Research World International early this year suggests that an overwhelming majority of Ugandans (81%) felt economically worse off than they were before president Museveni won his current mandate in February 2011. It also shows that poor roads, poor standards of education and rising cost of living were the most pressing problems.

Thirdly, an Independent Audit commissioned by the Uganda Governance Monitoring Platform (UGMP) within the context of the Citizens Manifesto suggests that the NRM Government has been living with mediocre performance on the economy, Agriculture, Education, Health, Democracy and Rule of Law. The report indicates that Government has not only failed to put in place a number of measures promised in its 2011 Manifesto to fight corruption, but also backtracked on the already existing measures like support to the office of the IGG, and Anti Corruption Courts. In addition, a 2011 State of Governance Report for Uganda prepared by UGMP indicates that Uganda is backtracking on its governance course evidences of which include regression two positions lower on the current International Corruption Perception Index and 43 places lower on the International Press Freedom Ranking for 2011/2012.

It therefore goes without saying that seen from both the instrumental (process and practices) and substantive (outputs and outcomes) dimensions of governance, the country is not in a good state. However while the above state of affairs is clear for many Ugandans to see and indeed many have suffered the brunt of state response against differing positions or mobilization for the government to address the issues, the executive, or at least the President sees

it differently. In his State of the Nation address delivered to Parliament on 7th June 2012, the President presented a rather different picture: he reminded Ugandans of the dark days in the pre-1986 epoch in the enduring argument that while citizens complain, Uganda is better today than it was then. Punctuated with regular attacks on the opposition and all those that ruling elite claim are bad-mouthing or sabotaging government programmes, the state of the nation address recounts focus that government has put on infrastructure development, in energy and attracting investments in Uganda.

However many Ugandans who watched, listened to and read the State of the Nation Address argue that the address was simply a diversion from the realities in Uganda at present.

They contend that Ugandans are fatigued by the 1986 Liberation Narrative

and the relentless reference to Uganda's bad history. The continued reference to 1986 as the baseline for economic progress it is argued is stale. A lot has gone under the bridge since then that arguments based on 1986 cannot hold any longer.

What the country expected to hear were issues related to outcomes of implementing the manifesto in the last one year showing how government has focused on - human development indicators such as employment, food and nutrition security, mortality rates, technology acquisition, inequality levels, quality of education, agricultural productivity and good governance. May citizen vices say the the President either restrained himself from tackling or just glossed over them. From engagement in the different citizen discussions across the country, the voices of people indicate that our leadership seems to be in denial and recommend that it is time for them use citizen's efforts to re-engineer a governance paradigm that would deliver a better quality of life for all Ugandans.

The author works with the Uganda National NGO Forum and coordinates the Uganda Governance Monitoring Platform - UGMP

Experiences in Uganda Exposed me to a Broader Horizon

By Anja Katrine Søndergaard, a People for Change Intern at UWONET



I used to live in Denmark. I used to speak Danish 24/7 and to hang out with Danes only. I was committed to Danish politics and working with NGOs in Denmark. In February 2012 I put everything on halt: I gave up my positions in the Local Youth Council and my youth party. I said goodbye to my dear ones and boarded a plane for Nairobi. Reason? I wanted to know what goes on outside Denmark especially in the so called "third world". This became more important than the issues in my small country to me. Therefore I decided to dedicate my time to policy and organizational work outside my country. I joined the program called Global Contact which is an ActionAid Denmark's volunteer program. After a month of orientation in Nanyuki in Kenya, I was ready to join Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) as an intern.

Uganda Women's Network is one of ActionAid International Uganda's partner organizations. It is working for a Ugandan society free of all forms of gender based discrimination. My internship began on 10th March 2012 and the office in Ntinda was busy from day one. I have so far got exposed to a number of activities, people and places. Besides helping out here and there, editing the newsletter, doing research, administering UWONET's members across the country and things like that, I joined the campaign for the Nodding Disease and was a part of the planning of the Kitgum Karavan. The Kitgum Karavan is leaving Kampala in June to distribute

materials and aid for the families affected by Nodding Disease. I have also participated in national meetings of the HIV/Aids Coalition and on the Marriage and Divorce Bill. At FIDA Uganda and Isis-WICCE I have participated in meetings and press conferences on different matters which were relevant for my work at UWONET.

I went to Karamoja (Moroto and Kotido) with the Gender Based Violence-campaign under the programme called Policy Advocacy, Research and Information. In Karamoja region UWONET facilitated training on how to successfully conduct community dialogue to address GBV issues in the community. I realized how challenging it can be to respect culture/tradition and promote human rights at the same time. Sometimes the culture might allow for something which laws and international convention prohibits. Early marriage, FGM and courtship rape are examples of cultural practices taking place in Karamoja – practices which UWONET, as advocates for women's rights is working to eliminate.

After a week in Karamoja, I went back to Kampala to document by writing a report. But the field work didn't stop with that: we went to Kitgum, Pader and Gulu in the Acholi sub-region to facilitate training on Gender and Gender Based Violence. We also had to monitor the Justice Law and Order Sector's implementation of laws like Convention of Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the

Domestic Violence Act. In addition, UWONET conducted trainings on the existing gender laws and conventions. This field trip made it very clear to me that the poor implementation of the laws is a major issue in Uganda. So many good laws have been enacted and the members of parliament have got right intentions seen from a women's rights perspective. The issue is that the institutions responsible for enforcing the law fail to do it. Corruption is another major issue, but definitely also that many rural women don't know their rights and the existing laws and therefore they don't demand for justice. That is one of the reasons UWONET is present in regions like Acholi and Karamoja – to carryout rights awareness.

I have learned a lot from my three months as an intern at Uganda Women's Network and gained quite an experience on women's rights and developing work. I learnt that quite a lot of good things are going on outside the Danish borders. Unfortunately, I can't stay in Uganda forever; I am a Dane after all, so I will go home in June. I am going to speak Danish 24/7 and hang out with Danes only again. I will again be committed to Danish politics and NGO work in Denmark. My stay in Uganda and my work at UWONET has given me a broader perspectives and I now fully understand how we all depend on each other, affect each other and are responsible to each other across borders. There is so much more to care about than what is going on in Denmark. I will always keep this in mind.

When power indeed belonged to the people of Miirya sub-county in Masindi district

By Rebecca Kukundakwe



'Power belongs to the people...' is probably one of the most common phrases in the discourse around Uganda's 1995 Constitution. But whether citizens exercise this very important provision is another matter. There is a lot of apathy among Ugandans with many citizens confessing a feeling powerlessness, helplessness and lack of ability to change their unfavourable positions and conditions in society.

Despite Uganda's democratic 'credentials', serious challenges abound. Several studies indicate that majority of the citizens lack the knowledge on their rights and responsibilities required to enable them hold their leaders and public officers accountable and create conducive change.

This however was different with the citizens of Miirya sub county in Masindi district as a result of a local democracy initiative that AAIU and its partners are implementing. The citizens from Miirya would walk to Pakanyi Health III for treatment and access to basic laboratory services many kilometres away. Due to the glaring gaps in citizen participation and knowledge of their rights, Masindi District NGO Forum and Rec-

reation for Development and Peace (RDP) with support from ActionAid mobilised and raised critical awareness among the citizens on civic rights and responsibilities and basic budget literacy for improved accountability in social service delivery. The programme laid capacity building focus on enabling the right holders to demand for accountability by those holding positions of responsibility to live to their political promises, professional standards and respond to the demands of the people they lead.

Despite that this was the only available health centre in the sub county, the centre was ill equipped. This therefore meant that the sick persons had to move to the nearby health facility to access the services in a distance of close 5-6 kilometers- that is against the 2 kilometers radius as required. .

Before capacity building of the affected community using building local democracy programme, the community complains to the leaders were never responded to making the aggrieved community to looked powerless. The laboratories equipments and apparatuses had been parked

in boxes and placed on a filing cabinet. To the communities, this was a sign that the officer in-charge of the Health Centre was not ready to provide access to laboratory services.

The Miirya Development Forum watch group conducted a joint monitoring exercise to assess and understand drug management and personnel issues at the health centres. The citizens jointly analyzed the findings and produced a report indicating gaps in the health service delivery at sub-county and district. Through an interface meeting organized with leaders (political, technical, health unit management committee members) at sub-county and district level, the watch group members raised issues of inadequate staffing and ill-equipment of the health centres.

Following on the citizens' voices and actions under the auspices of Miirya Development Forum, in March 2012, the Laboratory Technician was deployed at the health centre. According to the Sub County Chairperson, the citizens are enjoying quality health services

What are Ugandan Citizens' Rights to 'their' oil?

By Chris Musiime, Oil in Uganda staff writer (chris.musiime@actionaid.org)

The opening (preliminary) part of the draft Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production) Bill 2012, states one of the purposes of the legislation as being "To provide for the optimal social and economic benefits with a long term perspective for the Ugandan society as a whole". In the second part of this same draft Bill, it is stated that "The entire property in, and the control of, petroleum in its natural condition in, on or under any land or waters in Uganda, is vested in the Government, on behalf of the Republic of Uganda."

These two statements immediately lay out the roles of government in protecting, developing as well as utilizing the oil resources, on behalf and for the benefit of, its citizens. The same statements also indirectly relegate the ordinary citizen to a mere observer and hopefully, a benefactor, leaving all the "hard work" to the mighty government.

There is no problem with this arrangement, after all, with the anticipated 1.1 billion barrels of recoverable oil, Uganda would earn in excess of one hundred billion dollars over the twenty or so years that we expect the oil to be extracted, before it runs out!. This figure has the poten-

tial of being multiplied exponentially if Uganda builds its own refinery. The ordinary Ugandan would thus not have to worry about his/her most basic needs, in this case, food and shelter. His/her children would not fail to go to school, every parish would have a health centre, and super highways would be traversing the entire country.

But in Uganda, the reality seems to be far from this ideal situation, for the meantime. The ordinary Ugandan is already having that very uncomfortable feeling that he may not benefit much from the billions of dollars that this oil will bring in. The first indicators were way back in 2008, when the oil companies and the government entered secret deals, and were reluctant to expose their contents, invoking the convenient "confidential clauses" there in.

I am not a politician, neither am I an economist. What I am, however, is a Ugandan, and I too expect that the foot paths in my village will be upgraded to super highways using the windfalls from selling our oil.

Oil money will benefit the rich: I have toured some of Uganda's oil-producing districts, like Nwoya in the North, as well as

Buliisa, Masindi and Hoima in the West. What I have seen there is absolute poverty and populations that need government's help. Children still walk around stark naked, not mentioning barefoot, there is no piped water, the boreholes are rusty, housing conditions are deplorable, agriculture has been terribly ignored, schools are dilapidated, the roads have been washed away, the youth are idle due to unemployment, preventable diseases are rampant, etc. The same can also be seen in various other parts of the country.

Even with such injustices raging on, many Ugandans fear that the government is not likely to use some of this oil money to rectify these situations. Rather, they believe that a handful of fortunate Ugandans are likely to accumulate, or have already accumulated, more money than God, from Uganda's oil. They are just stocking up on more luxury vehicles and putting up huge residential mansions with more bedrooms than the Buckingham Palace, but for what? Alongside some significant achievements, the NRM government has made several terrible mistakes in the past; but with this oil, it has a golden opportunity to help its citizens to live a life of dignity, however basic.



Traders in Kyapaloni market, Kabaale Parish, Hoima District within the proposed refinery area. The benefits of oil money for ordinary Ugandans is all about management of revenues.

Q&A with Arthur LAROK, the new ActionAid Uganda Country Director

On February 1st 2012, ActionAid International Uganda (AAIU) got a new Country Director, Arthur LAROK. Our Communications Team caught up with him to share his vision for AAIU. Below are excerpts from his interview:

Q: Tell us about yourself: Who is the person Arthur LAROK?

A: Well, if I passed on today, this is what is likely to be said about me: 'He was the 4th born, out of five children of Mr. Redento LAROK and Mrs. Josephine Ntawera, both teachers. He passed on at a tender age of 34 and was married to one wife, Rachel Nebaza - Larok, with 2 Children, Aaron Olara-Kuc (2½ years) and Aurelia Ntawera-Nyapolo (3 months). He was the Country Director of ActionAid Uganda and worked with passion, courage and conviction for human dignity especially for the underprivileged. Before he joined AAIU, he worked with the Uganda National NGO Forum. You may also be told that I loved football and was a fan of KCC FC in Uganda and Chelsea FC in Europe.

Q: Why did you leave the NGO Forum where you had made such a name for yourself? And what attracted you to ActionAid?

A: On the first question, I left when I was still needed but felt I had made my contribution and had to leave when I was still loved. I can and will continue to make a contribution to the work of the NGO Forum, but not as a staff. **[Q. It appears you have a message for some of our leaders...]** Oh Yes! Especially to our President who I believe has played his remarkable part in that position and can surely move on and become a respected statesman.

On the 2nd part of the question, I was most attracted to the development philosophy, vision and approach of ActionAid. There couldn't have been a better sync with my own passion and vision which presents immense opportunity for me to directly connect with the poor, marginalised, abused and vulnerable individuals and groups at the grassroots, something that had eluded me before. I am truly delighted that I joined this remarkable organisation.

Q. After 3 months at ActionAid, what has surprised you most?

A: I would say three main things: **first**, I am surprised that a lot is being done by this organisation, but not much of it is known out there. I understand that as part of our value of humility, we do not go out shouting about the change we are creating, but I think we are doing a disservice as there is a lot the world can learn from our work without us appearing to be up to cheap publicity.

Second, the number of policies in this organisation has surprised, if not shocked me. From Sexual Harassment,

Domestic Violence to Vehicle policies, there are well over 18 policies I have seen so far. But more to that is the fact that they are adhered to! It is certainly a different culture from the dominant.

Third and final surprise is the daily per diem for international travel which is USD 5 if on full-board accommodation for all irrespective of seniority. Where I was before, it was USD 100 per day and I understand in Government and Parliament, it is between USD 600 and USD 800 per day! And yet our staff still perform their duty diligently.

Q: What has impressed you most so far!

A: **First**, is the real change that ActionAid Uganda is making in poor people's lives from the women in Pallisa whose lives have changed as a result of our Women's Rights Centres addressing impact of gender based violence and HIV/AIDS, farmers in Katakwi whose livelihoods are being secured with our work on agriculture, to the youth in Amuru that are holding public officers accountable to delivery of government programmes including PRDP. Ordinary people are increasingly taking charge of their destiny.

Second, is the level of impartiality with which policies and rules are applied regardless of position! Just to give you an example: I made a request for an activity and I was told that I had to justify the activity by demonstrating how it links with our Country Strategy Paper and which mission objective the activity would fulfil. I respect this for it is different from what I know elsewhere in the public, private or even some civic/NGO sectors.

Third is the level of professionalism of the Board. Many NGOs and of course public agencies suffer a lot of interference from oversight bodies and politicians. At ActionAid Uganda, it is different and I find this truly remarkable and worthy of praise as a voluntary board.

Finally, I am impressed by the Development and Knowledge Infrastructure at ActionAid, from the valuable knowledge from our community and grassroots work to knowledge from other countries where ActionAid International has a presence.

Q: How and where do you see ActionAid Uganda in 5 Years?

A: I believe in building on what I found here and so the first thing to mention is that I will work hard to fulfil our commitments in the Country Strategy Paper IV (2012 to 2017). In addition, I want to work towards achieving the following:



- In addition to being known for our courageous commitment and results in working for human dignity, I hope I help AAIU curve out a niche and be known for it in the wider civil society fraternity and the development community.
- I want to see an organisation with highly motivated staff that feel valued and passionately demonstrate their value to the organisation.
- I want to see an ActionAid that is generating valuable knowledge and new insights in development.
- And finally, in 5 years, I desire to see an ActionAid Uganda with a more diversified funding base, with at least 15% of our funding derived from sources in Uganda.

Q: That appears a lot to expect of you, how will you achieve all that?

A: **First**, I will focus on improving the work environment as I believe a motivated Human Resource compliment is one, if not the most, important resource in an organisation.

Second, I will try to make as many staff possess two key attributes: a) believe in the cause of the organisation; and b) be solutions oriented and focused. The two attributes will enable us overcome obstacles that come our way with passion and conviction.

Third, I will focus on improving programme quality by strengthening an internal Quality Assurance Team and an external peer review mechanism.

Fourth, I will work with the country team to launch a local fundraising appeal by developing local products for the Ugandan market.

And **finally**, I desire to strengthen our networking and partnership with like-minded organisations especially in the increasingly difficult operating environment.

Q: What would you say are your achievements so far?

A: I would have been happier to hear what other staff say in response to that question because I they are better placed to judge. However, the agenda I set for myself for the first three months included: getting to be genuinely accepted by the team; ensuring the organisation remains stable even with change of leadership,

understanding the organisation in more depth, support to staff to achieve their own deliverables and defining my vision, among others. I do think I have made good inroads on all these fronts.

Q: What contribution is AAIU making to Uganda?

A: Our Human Rights Based Approach and Development Philosophy is about transforming the *condition* of life of poor people in response to their most basic rights and *their position* in the power structure so they take responsibility over as well as influence decision making processes that affects them. We are thus making a real difference in the lives of many previously excluded and poor women, men, youth and children.

Our action researches on topical issues from access to quality education, drought and climate change impacts, agriculture and livelihoods, and taxation and re-sourcing development, among others are all informing knowledge, policy and practice. We are also providing institutional development and programmatic support to over 79 Ugandan organisations at district, regional and national level and therefore opening up opportunity for thousands of Ugandans. Finally, we are a proud employer of over 100 Ugandans as staff of ActionAid and thereby improving their family lives, building their capacity in addressing root causes of poverty and contributing enormously in taxes to government revenue.

Q: What do you see as the greatest challenges ActionAid Uganda faces?

A: **First** is our ability to marshal the courage to engage with underlying power dynamics that perpetuate injustice and indignity that poverty is. In other words coming to grips with the real root problems that Uganda faces and not just implementing projects. **Secondly**, we need to work to overcome over dependency on donors and **finally**, generating and documenting what works in building the capacity of the poor people's knowledge and power so as to influence policy and practice.

Q: And what do you think are the challenges Uganda as a country faces?

A: They are many, but the key ones according to me are: a) *inability to build a*



Photo: Jacob Rosdahl / ActionAid

socioeconomic, political and policy regime that guarantees inclusive and equitable development for Uganda's diverse peoples; b) short-termism and political sloganeering instead of long-term development planning...but even in the case of good policies and plans we have, we lack the discipline to implement them; c) failure of leadership to get our priorities right and lack of will to deal with systemic problems such as poverty, the demographic challenge and attendant problems like unemployment and a high dependency ratio; corruption, impunity, poor quality public services and leadership transition especially at the top; and finally d) potential instability in the region that poses threat of eroding whatever modest gains we have made.

Q: How do you see Uganda in 5 years?

A: I see a country in which citizens their roles and responsibilities and therefore re-assert their power to redirect the state of affairs. I have hope and personal belief in what ActionAid and many other civil society organisations are working for – people centred approach to good governance, justice and poverty eradication.

Q: One final question, how long will you stay at ActionAid Uganda?

A: I could stay for very long because I believe in what this organisation stands for. However as Country Director (CD), incumbent on satisfactory performance I look at serving my two 3-Year Terms and move on. Owing to the centrality of the position of CD, the organisation has instituted a 6 year term limit, and I will not amend that to suit my selfish interests. I could however serve thereafter in a different capacity at the organisation.

Inside ActionAid Uganda

Programmes

- Two programme staff, Irene Kharono - Program Director and Sophie Kyagulanyi - Governance Coordinator attends 3-week Course on Aid Effectiveness in Denmark.
- M&E Baseline Process suffers a setback as the consultants hired for the job withdraw. An alternative process has commenced to complete the assignment in the next 7 weeks.

Finance

- Board Approves 2011 External Audit Report which gives a clean bill of financial health to the organisation.
- AAIU fund reserves continue to grow and stood at 5.5 months by end of 2011. Efforts are in place to manage this by ploughing the excess reserves in programme work and strategic institutional investments.

Human Resource and Organisational Development

- AAIU develops a staff retention strategy in response to growing concerns over staff turnover. The Board will discuss in its meeting of 2nd of June 2012 this before it is implemented.
- Two Senior Staff, Micheal Taremwa, our Finance Manager and Ssanyu Kaliballa, our Communications Coordinator moved on to take up other senior assignments and we wish them well. We shall be recruiting their replacements soon.

Funding and Sponsorship

- Henry Nickson OGWAL appointed as new Director for Partnership, Funding and Sponsorship replacing Florence Auma Apuri who has joined UNFPA Uganda Office.
- The Country Director of AAIU - Arthur LAROK becomes a Child Sponsor and will contribute an equivalent of 300 Pounds per year. In his words, *'Africans are traditionally very generous givers --- they make contributions to all manner of social needs from burials to weddings. It is high time we harnessed this trait in us to make a contribution to the common good. I am delighted to become one of the over 19,000 links for AAIU'*

Internal Audit

- Mr. David Tibekinga Mbarekye, the Audit Manager is in Somaliland as part of the AAI support team helping ActionAid Somaliland.

Governance

- Ms. Maryanne Nabankema was appointed as the new Board Liaison Officer, replacing Ms Lucy Ojiambo who is now a staff of ActionAid Kenya.
- The 6th Annual General Assembly for AAIU will be held at Silver Springs Hotel on 16th and 17th June 2012. A notice appeared in the New Vision and the Monitor on 23rd June 2012.

Women in Arua demonstrate how Leadership for Positive Change

By William Ejoyi, Gender Officer, MANYANK Anti Corruption Coalition (MACCO)



Women are increasingly providing leadership in citizen led actions.

It was like a dry wind blowing across Arua District when MACCO and ACCU (Anti Corruption Coalition Uganda) supported ordinary women as Public Expenditure Trackers (PET) to monitor service delivery to the citizens of Uganda. What perplexed me was the negative first impression from the duty bearers mostly public officers from the health sector that these women would never live to the task.

I tell you, these women have moved through the valleys of intimidations, threats, abuse and mountains of impossibility to the side of victory and smiles. The common neglect of duty, abuse of office, stealing of drugs through forgery, harassment by nurses and other medical staff have drastically reduced as a result of monitoring by the women PET of Arua District. Time has now spoken loud to the formerly doubting duty bearers that "Yes. These women PET can effectively manage!"

Representatives of these women PET from Rhino Camp sub-county challenged one of the nurses whether government service in a public facility like Rhino camp health centre IV should be at a cost. This was a follow up of a case where a nurse at the same health facility had demanded for and got paid UGX 6,000 by a poor mother before rehydration drip was administered to her child who was suffering from acute malaria.

The "gods" of this corrupt nurse saved her and her job when a nurse in-charge demanded for an explanation from the aggrieved mother, the women PET and the accused nurse. This led to the recovery of the UGX 6,000 by the mother in the presence of the PET and other

medical workers. The women PET reassert to the medical workers and the public that get services from the Heal Centre that quality service delivery is an obligation by those who have committed themselves by taking an oath of allegiance, professionalism and being ethical in whatever business they transact on behalf of the government of the Republic of Uganda. This message has since spread in Arua District leading increased transparency and accountability in health service provision.

Lessons from the successes of women PET in Arua to you my dear citizens of Uganda is that you must as a duty demand for accountability from your leaders and public officers at all times. One of the most effective means of doing this is by engaging yourself in monitoring service delivery and tracking public expenditure in your locality. Therefore, we all need to know that change does not come from far, it all starts from within you and moves to others.

We must together continue to fight corruption to improve quality of service delivery to respond to the rights of the poor for improved livelihood and justice for all. While I say bravo to MANYANK Anti Corruption Coalition (MACCO) and Anti Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU) for your efforts in ensuring good governance, transparency and accountability in this country, I also urge you to keep to your vision and mission statements. To the government (Legislators, Executives and Judiciary), do not frustrate the efforts of our women in their fight against corruption! Women are the real agents of change for improving service delivery to our citizens.

Youth Activism and Entrepreneurship

By Albert Mwesigwa, RDP Uganda



Uganda has one of the youngest population in the world with over 78% below the age of 30 years (UBOS, 2010). Challenges faced by the youth range from unemployment, disease, ignorance, poverty to illiteracy. Stakeholders including government have played in solving them but have been noted to be insufficient to cause a significant impact.

As a key player in the youth fraternity, RDP Uganda based in Masindi together with ActionAid International Uganda through Activista has embarked on mobilization and empowerment of the youth in Masindi and other districts. We have a belief that the biggest problem is fear, slumber and apathy which lead to the above vices among the youth. To solve structural causes of the challenges, the youth must be know their responsibilities and rights to effectively demand of state and non-state duty bearers; and work hard .

The youth budget advocacy and Activista groups mobilizes the youth to monitor expenditure and implementations of government to share their findings. Currently, the youth are monitoring the youth entrepreneurship scheme which to-date has not yet benefited the youth.

Young people make themselves count:

RDP Uganda through the Youth Budget Advocacy Group (YBAG) and Activista organized a public dialogue on 23rd April 2012 at Hotel Aribas Masindi which was attended by 300 youth in the district (210 males and 90 females), the district leadership, the Commissioner for Youth and Children Affairs, and the secretariat in-charge of the Youth Fund in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD). The youth were informed that the funds' guidelines were not yet finalized but they will be out in May 2012. The youth from Masindi have petitioned the Western Youth Member of Parliament to follow on the matter. In the same way the Commissioner used the opportunity to visit the Kabalye Youth Resettlement Scheme whose land had been grabbed by some selfish members of the society. The youth through the YBAG had demanded for the gazetting of the youth land to which the Commissioner directed for its hand-over to the department of community affairs through which the 150 youth will benefit.

The YBAG from Masindi have written to the Commissioner on the guidelines and the select committee to which he promised to be in place by the end of May 2012. The same group has written to the community Development Officer reminding him to effect the handover of the land to the youth to undertake income generating activities on it. There is community belief that through the Youth Budget Advocacy Group and the Activista platform, we can realize "a just and equitable society in which young people count in decision processes that affect them and therefore live a fully dignified life".

Mr. President, A Promise is a Debt, not a Doubt!

You told us there was plenty of money and machinery ready to work on our road but we are still in waiting

By Miriam Cherukut, Programme Coordinator - Kapchorwa Civil Society Organisations' Alliance (Kacsoa)



Every time President Museveni comes to Bukwo District during campaigns he promises us that work on the road will start the following year. The last time he came was in December 2010 when he once again told us work on the road would start in January 2011. Based on Candidates Forum organized by Kapchorwa Civil Society Organizations' Alliance (KACSOA) in Bukwo town council to give an opportunity to the Citizens' to engage their aspiring political leaders ahead of the 2011 elections, the voters lamented that because they have not seen any road constructed, they concluded that the President and other politicians make promise only to solicit their votes and never deliver!

People of Bukwo reported that the President contradicted himself when he told the people of Sebei that money could not be excavated like murrum while commenting on the issue of construction of Kapchorwa-Bukwo road. He made this comment on Liberation Day celebrations at Sebei College Senior Secondary School on 26th January 2012. To the People of Bukwo, this statement was a direct contradiction to the promise President Museveni made during the campaigns where he was quoted to have said "Government has plenty of money and machinery ready to tarmac the road come 2011." The people are now wondering if he could have forgotten his own promises. This was a blow to the people of Sebei who were optimistic that the President's choice of their land for the celebrations was a guarantee that the road was going to be constructed and a present for their unwavering support to NRM Party in the last general elections.

Roads are a nightmare: The issue of poor road infrastructure and communication especially during the rainy season is always top of any discussion on poor service delivery in Sebei region. Many articles by journalists, activists, visitors and concerned citizens have featured Bukwo-Kapchorwa highway. This is because in Sebei, connecting from one place or district to another has become a nightmare. Everyone who uses Sebei-roads (apart from the 24 km tarmac stretch between Bulambuli and Kapchorwa District) has a pack of bad memories and experiences to share which include getting stuck in the mud for many hours, spending nights in a car in the middle of the road, or patients dying because relatives could not get them to a nearby health centre.

According to the residents of Bukwo, it is easier to access other parts of the country, including Kapchorwa district which is just 77 km from Bukwo through Kenya via Kitale and Malaba in Kenya than to several other districts in Uganda to Kapchorwa. The worst part of the road is in Kween district which is located between Kapchorwa and Bukwo districts. The journey is risky especially in the forested area with wild animals (leopards) and frequent mudslides that

are common between April and September. The mudslides sometimes block the road for weeks or months. Because trucks that carry fuel to run booster generators fail to make it to Bukwo for days during rainy season, the telephone networks are off. Because of the poor road, there are no banks in Bukwo and Kween Districts. People in Bukwo buy essential commodities including bread, sugar, seeds and other merchandise from Kenya. Because they listen to Kenyan radio stations, watch Kenyan TV stations and use Kenyan phone networks. They are cut off from Uganda and their relatives in Kapchorwa and Kween districts. "We consider ourselves more Kenyan than Ugandan and would think Ugandan authorities officially should annex us to Kenya," said one resident during a Candidates Forum in 2011.

A return journey to Kapchorwa through Kenya costs a minimum of UGX 80,000 return journey excluding the expenses on accommodation and meals. One can imagine the expenses incurred by citizens, businessmen, the civil servants (comprised mostly of Primary School Teachers), and others who have to travel to Kapchorwa from Bukwo to access banking and other services. "Sometimes we give our ATM cards to one colleague to go to Kapchorwa and withdraw for us our money to cut on the expenses, but this is very risky," commented a teacher from Bukwo.

The potential of Bukwo District is big. It has got a good tourist potential given the beautiful scenery and streams, fertile soils that can feed the whole country and its neighbours. It is home to Uganda's golden athletes including Kipsiro. All these opportunities are impossibilities with the impassable roads. The people of Bukwo know it is their right and want to connect with their neighbours and the rest of the country, they want banking services and more NGOs in their district, they want to access better health services in nearby districts considering the fact that their health care system is also in very poor state, with just one doctor doubling as the District Health Officer!

They want to use a good road to access their markets, they want leaders who are committed to their needs among others. This can be made possible if the President and leaders begin to feel the pain the people go through daily and act. The unfulfilled promises and failure of government to construct the road to Bukwo is a betrayal by our leaders including the President himself. A promise has become a doubt, not a debt!.

Optimism for the future as Children in Karamoja show the way through CREST

By Nangole Jennifer, Project Officer Karamoja Peace Building Project



Throughout the history of Karamoja, conflict emanating from cattle rustling banditry and road ambushes have accounted for the long term development problems and rights abuse including loss of lives in the region. Availability of small and light weapons trafficked from across the porous borders (with Kenya, Ethiopia and Southern Sudan), unresolved grievances between ethnic groups, clans and communities, competition over scarce natural resources and control over large numbers of livestock resulted into the Gun Culture that served to consign millions of people into abject poverty characterized with no or limited prospective social economic development, poor social services, rights abuse and injustices.

Children and their families have often found themselves deprived of basic necessities of life and have been exposed to all kinds of rights abuse and vulnerabilities. Coupled with this is the harsh climatic condition including persistent drought worsened by the climate change impacts resulting into chronic food insecurity, perpetual situation of insecurity arising from the endemic cycle of cattle raids, and ongoing government disarmament exercise, have all created devastating consequences on the protection, development and well being of vulnerable groups of children in the communities. A visit to the region greets you with worn out faces of women and children flushing nothing but fires of distress, grief and hunger as a result of vulnerability and violence that has robbed them of their rights to freedom of expression, participation, involvement in conflict resolution

processes and decision making processes that affect them.

Hard to break the cycle: This prolonged conflict has affected the children and the youth negatively by drawing them into chronic poverty and rights abuse. The strong cultural attitudes towards access to formal education and women and child rights have stifled the opportunities for the children and youth to explore and attain their full potential as well as enjoy rights to protection and development. Many attempts have been made by both development agencies and government to resolve the ongoing armed conflicts with less attention paid to children who are themselves victims and primary actors in the conflict mitigation and management.

Child empowerment transforms culture:

CREST (Children's Reflection and Empowerment for Social Transformation) is a participatory public education approach introduced by ActionAid International Uganda two years ago in Karamoja (Kotido district) to mobilize children to contribute to changing the culture of violence in the region.

Through this approach, ActionAid mobilized and formed 14 groups of children (8 community peace groups and 6 school peace groups) trained them in child participation, conflict resolution, child protection and group dynamics. Having gained these skills, the groups have been able to carry out over 50 sensitization meetings which increased community awareness of impacts of conflicts and negative

cultural practices on children and youth, and the contribution of children to peace building in Kotido and neighbouring districts of Moroto and Napak. The CREST groups have developed into child rights and peace advocates who command respect of the elders. Amutae Norah is one such child CREST activist that eloquently expressed herself in front of a big crowd of Karimojong and Turkana elders:

"We the children in this region of Uganda are tired of losing our friends, relatives and above all our prospective lovers to baseless conflicts. I challenge you elders to tell me what you need in order to stop "blessing the Karachuna" who carry out havoc in communities. Even if it is at the cost of my life, I am willing to be sacrificed for peace to prevail in Karamoja!"

Norah also made the elders know that she is proud of CREST introduced by ActionAid which gave her the knowledge, skills and therefore empowerment as a child to be able to advocate for peace and talk about other important subjects on rights and development. She painfully shared that she had previously been denied by the cultural norms yet all along she had the burning desire to do something to stop these senseless killings through raids.

Observations by the local people through community reviews indicate that the attitudes responsible for endless conflicts among the Jie clan members are changing for the better as a result of CREST circles their activities in the community. After attending several events by the CREST groups, Mr. Paul Lonino a prominent elder from the Jie clan became a staunch and an enthusiastic supporter of CREST circles. Elders like him are now working with the CREST circles to address the root causes of conflicts for a lasting peace, access to services and justice for all in the region.

However, children are still faced with numerous challenges including chronic poverty, discrimination, isolation from main decision arenas, negative cultural practices, denial of right to attend school, and exploitative child labour which may draw them back to raiding related upbringing. Despite these challenges there is still room for the continuation of the children peace building initiatives through CREST. It calls for adoption and expansion of CREST as an approach by the stakeholders in Karamoja, more funding allocated to CREST, investing in alternative livelihood options and education initiative to create lifelong solutions to the Karamoja problem in partnership with the children.



Photo: Jacob Rosdahl / ActionAid

Karimojong children act in a drama about cattle rustling: Children are becoming increasingly influential in the region.

THE BIG DEBATE: Should Presidential Term Limits be restored in Uganda?

A key debate that has recently occupied media and public attention has been the demand by a section of Ugandans that Term Limits for the President be restored in the Constitution of Uganda. This discussion was given a big boost, when in their Easter Sermons, several Religious Leaders preached on the subject. A Citizen Action on the Restoration of Term Limits has been formed to spearhead this campaign. While ActionAid International Uganda is not yet formally part of the Coalition, a number of its staff are part of the campaign. Because of the critical position civic and political rights occupy in participatory governance which is one of our strategic focus, we share the key justifications for the campaign as defined by the Citizen Action for the Restoration of Presidential Term Limits in this Newsletter.

1. Introduction

The popular demand for term limits in contemporary times can be traced to the constitution making process. The Odoki Commission after consulting Ugandans recommended that presidential term limits be instituted in our Constitution in 1995. Accordingly, the Constituency Assembly debated the merits of this proposal and agreed to it, and the two 5 year terms for the *important office of the President* was put in the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda. In 2005, when the 7th Parliament betrayed the nation and passed an amendment to remove presidential term limits, several citizen petitions and submissions were written by various civil society groups including the women's movement, the Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC) and several other stakeholders.

In the light of the negative impact of the 2005 Constitutional amendment that removed presidential term limits from the Constitution on the overall democratic governance of Uganda, various groups and initiatives have called on the Government to initiate a processes to review that amendment with a view to restoring the term limits. Notable among many others are: the *African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) Country Assessment Report (November 2007)* and subsequently *Uganda Country Review Report*, released in January 2009; the *Citizens Manifesto*, published in 2010, the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU), at its post-2011 Elections Conference identified the issue of Presidential Term Limits as one of the outstanding contentious governance questions in Uganda, the Citizens Coalition on the Electoral Democracy in Uganda (CCEDU) on its part has placed the restoration of *presidential* term limits the number one issue in its post-2011 Citizens' Elections reform agenda. A number of MPs have added their voice and asked their colleagues to expeditiously work towards amending the Constitution to restore Presidential Term Limits.

2. The Essence and Justifications for Presidential Term Limits in Uganda

According to the Citizens Action for the Restoration of Term limits, the restoration of presidential term limits in the constitution is one of the fundamental building blocks for a stable, peaceful and democratic country with a prosperous people. It is motivated by the mission of *Restoring hope and guaranteeing a future for a peaceful and prosperous Uganda through Transforming Leadership and Governance*. The immediate goal of the Campaign is to ensure that: *Parliament Passes a Constitutional Amendment to Restore Term Limits by Independence Day of 2012*. The coalition espouses justifications for the need for presidential term limits in Uganda using considerations informed by history, current affairs, public debates, as well as future hopes and aspirations grouped under 4 broad areas: a) Correcting Historical Mistakes;



President Museveni visits an Activista stall: There are ending calls for term limits to be restored and high expectations that he should support the efforts.

b) Fulfilling Citizen Aspirations and Building Active Citizenship; c) Overcoming Present and Future Challenges in Politics and Governance, and finally; d) Reclaiming Uganda's Reputation and **Fit** in the East African Community.

2.1 Correcting Mistakes in our History

- **Lifting Presidential Term Limits was a mistake.** The removal of *presidential* term limits in 2005 before that provision could even be tested was a mistake that has to be corrected. The contentious Ushs 5,000,000 that was given to Members of Parliament ostensibly to 'consult' their constituents remains a dark spot on the integrity of the institution of our Parliament. By restoring *Presidential* term limits, the 9th Parliament can go into the annals of history for good and reclaim the reputation of the institution of Parliament.
- **Restoring Confidence in our Constitution and Institutions:** Historically, institutions of the State and our various constitutions have been hijacked by presidents who don't respect them. Presidential term limits will therefore restore

the sanctity of the 1995 Constitution and raise confidence of the citizens in the institutions of the state.

- **Managing Leadership Transitions:** The unpredictability of leadership transitions in Uganda and the extremely high cost of violent change from one president to another in chaotic episodes have led to the unenviable record where none of our ex-presidents lives happily when out of power. The restoration of *presidential* term limits in our constitution will present an incredible opportunity to all future Presidents to hand over power peacefully, thereby guaranteeing peaceful transition that has hitherto eluded Uganda.

2.2 Fulfilling Citizen Aspirations and Building Active Citizenship

- **Implementing People's Will:** Ugandans have consistently spoken about and demanded for term limits in the Constitution. By responding to the calls to restore presidential term limits, Parlia-

...THE BIG DEBATE: Should Presidential Term Limits be restored in Uganda?

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ment will have discharged its ultimate role as the guarantor of the constitution and the will of the people in accordance with Article 1 of the Constitution. Restoration of Presidential term limits will be a fulfillment of people's aspirations as demanded in the constitution making process, as articulated in several petitions on the same, as well as expressions in the *Country Assessment Report of the APRM in (November 2007)*, *Citizens Manifesto*, CCEDU's Electoral Reform Agenda and other initiatives as reflected in opinions pieces in various media.

- **Empowerment and Active Citizenship:** The process of citizen mobilization to demand for the restoration of *presidential* term limits is conceived to be an empowering venture that will instil belief in citizens that they can reclaim their power and safeguard public interests. The restoration of term limits will consummate this symbol of active citizenship and define the supremacy of citizen power as the only source of legitimate authority exercised by leaders.

2.3 Overcoming Present and Future Challenges in our Politics and Governance

- **Mitigate Regime Longevity:** When leaders overstay in power, they tend to undermine institutions and undo the positive things they have tirelessly earlier worked for. This is not just evident in Uganda, but in many African countries such as Zimbabwe, Equatorial Guinea, Angola, Cameroon and Togo as well. Restoration of *presidential* term limits will institute controls against adverse effects of overstaying in power. It will also ensure the emergence of new leaders, with new energy and ideas just like we see in countries like Tanzania, Kenya, South Africa and Botswana or the newly emerging democracies and economic power houses in Latin America.

- **Building and Strengthening Institutions:** For a fragile state like Uganda with weak institutions, term limits will institute the much needed constitutional guarantee against the consolidation of personal rule and patronage politics in the face of poverty and a weak citizenry.
- **Instilling Political Discipline and Stability:** The restoration of *presidential* term limits will instil political discipline in the office of the president as leaders that occupy that office will be cognizant of the day they exit and need to leave a positive legacy. This in turn will give confidence and hope in citizens who may not necessarily agree with a particular president because a known exit timeframe is determined. This is likely to reduce the temptation to forcefully remove a sitting president there by promoting peace.

2.4 Securing Uganda's Reputation in the East African Community

- **Achieve Harmony in the East African Community:** The restoration of presidential term limits will ensure that Uganda leadership transitional legal framework is in tandem with the rest of the member states in the East African Community, all of whom have presidential term limits.
- **Strengthen Uganda's Leadership Role leading towards a federated and stable East Africa:** Uganda has played a significant role in the restoration of the East African Community as well as shaping the agenda of its future. The restoration of presidential term limits will not only enhance this role but prevent the possible spread of 'no term limits' practice in the East African Region. Conversely, the advent of life presidents in the region is a recipe for instability which in turn will undermine development and make the region susceptible to imperialist interests.

3. How will we achieve the immediate goal of restoring Presidential Term Limits?

Many options for achieving the goal have been advanced: holding a referendum; organizing peaceful protests; and, pursuing legislative amendment of the Constitution by parliament. There is no doubt that the most cost-effective and realistic option is amendment of the Constitution by Parliament. According to the coalition, there is no need for a referendum on this issue, for not only would it be too costly a venture, but it is unnecessary because: **first**, it was through parliament that presidential term limits were removed and so it should be the same avenue through which it is restored. Moreover, all citizens were not consulted in a referendum when term limits were being removed and **secondly**, Ugandans have already spoken on this matter and there is therefore no need to waste tax-payers money in a referendum adventure. It is therefore essential that:

- **Citizens** formally demand of their MPs by speaking to them and writing petitions on the same to deliver on this goal;
- **Non-state institutions and all Civil Society Organizations** - religious and cultural, trade and commerce, professional associations and trade unions take their stand in support;
- **The President** pronounces himself in support of the restoration of term limits campaign and the immediate goal of restoring term limits in the constitution by the time of our 50th independence anniversary on 9th October 2012;
- **All members of Parliament and Political Parties** commit to restore Presidential Term Limits; and finally;
- Parliament amends the relevant act by 30th September 2012, the anniversary of the date when Presidential Term Limits were removed from the Constitution.

For more information, the following organizations can be contacted:

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