



Weekly

Oct 27 - Nov 3

Anti-Corruption Caravan restores Josephine's dignity

When the Maiden Anti-Corruption Caravan reached Moyo last year, Josephine Bayowa 70, a retired midwife was one of the residents who joined it to speak about corruption in public Service. She had spent over thirty years chasing for her pension and gratuity all in vain. During the process, several people had extorted money from her, promising help to fasten the process, and yet this help never materialized. When the media crew on the Caravan ran her story, there was an ease from the duty bearers. The Minister of State for Northern Uganda, Hon. Rebecca Otengo decided to pursue the matter.

We are glad to report that Nancy, last week not only received her gratuity but also her pension arrears. As an icing on the cake, Hon. Rebecca is constructing a descent house for her. When contacted on phone, Hon. Rebecca expressed gratitude to ActionAid for unearthing what she called 'real issues'.

"If it was not for your efforts to preach the gospel against corruption in remote areas, people like Josephine, who gave their dedication in serving this country would continue to be treated un fairly. Let us work together to bring out the real issues with evidence, instead of making noise. Let us be evidence based," she said.

The Weekly was unable to reach Josephine on phone but ActionAid takes pride in her breakthrough.

ActionAid sets stage for women involvement in oil issues



Last week, Oil in Uganda held a one day consultative meeting in Hoima in an attempt to draft a policy statement to petition government to involve women and youth in decision making processes especially on policies relating to land compensation and acquisition in the Albertine region following the discovery of Oil and gas.

Following numerous cases of unfair compensation for land and property, forced displacements, and environmental damage in the Albertine region, the district leaders and local representatives suggested that it was time for ActionAid and other civil societies to join hands and call on Government to reverse the negative impacts of oil activities in the Albertine region.

It was agreed that there is need to support the district task force on Oil and gas and work closely with the cultural institutions to ensure that the issues are forwarded to the respective agencies in government.

Meanwhile, Oil in Uganda also organized a one-day workshop with Artisanal and small-scale miners in Mubende to introduce fundamentals to free, prior and informed consent. We are happy to note that the miners have now organised themselves



Advocacy and policy analysis training

In the Week ending, ActionAid organized an advocacy and Policy analysis training for all staff in leadership positions and selected staff from partner Organizations. The five-day training introduced staff to the advocacy methodology, the different forms, and tactics of advocacy and broke down the policy analysis subject comprehensively. At the end of the training, staffs was able to comprehensively analyse the health sector, the agricultural sector, and NGO Policies.

Speaking to the Weekly editor, Simon Peter Walumeli, one of the participants said that the training has built confidence in his ability to review policies and analyse gaps that often lead to inefficiency in their application.

And as the policy and Campaigns Manager, Fred Kawooya Added,

"The training retooled his team with skills in analysing policy and generation of evidence based programs and advocacy strategies."

In the same week, ActionAid trained over forty staff of its staff and Partner Organizations in the Human Rights Based Approach. Trainers from MS.TCDC in Arusha also facilitated the training that recognized human rights as a part of all programming. We look

CD challenges political parties to learn from civil society

Our Country Director appeared on the popular talk show Capital Gang on 91.3 Capital Radio. The topic of discussion was the crisis in political parties in Uganda with a specific focus on the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) and the largest Opposition - Forum for Democratic Change (FDC).

The CD observed that the crisis of political parties is a crisis of contemporary politics in Uganda as it reflects deeper problems Uganda faces. These include the centralization of power in the executive and within parties, personal rule being stronger than institutional cover, weak citizen engagement in government and party processes, thus alienating parties from ordinary citizens and the elite. Finally, he analysed the challenge of transition, especially from one leader and order to another.

On the question of transition, the CD argued that this is the post critical question for parties and Uganda as a whole. Both the NRM and FDC are struggling with the question of transition while the older parties Democratic Party (DP) and Uganda People's Congress (UPC) are stagnating because of a failed or protracted transition process.

Board approves 2015 plans and budgets



The 37th Ordinary Meeting of the AA Uganda Board took place on Saturday 1st November at the Head Office boardroom. The meeting had all but one member attending and had an expanded agenda that included approving several critical organizational documents.

The highlights were: a) the approval of the 2015 Plans and Budgets; b) approval of the revised HR policy; c) approval of the maiden IT policy for ActionAid Uganda; and d) a presentation and discussion of the fundraising strategy.

Management was applauded for the hard work and much improved performance about delivering quality documents to aid board decisions. The areas of challenge that the Board expects Management to do better include: documentation and results reporting; rollout of a robust fundraising strategy and finally improving project performance and fund absorption.

The next and final Board meeting for 2014 will be held in the 2nd week of December 2014!

To read more about CDs comments on this, please read a short blog [here](#).

EVAC partners shared progress at yearly meeting

The EU funded EVAC partners working to end violence against children had a successful reflecting and sharing meeting facilitated by Rebecca Kukundakwe. At the meeting, the partner organisations shared their achievements and discussed goals. Several partners shared success stories about how their interventions have changed the attitude of girls who now want to avoid early marriage and instead acquire a higher education. The attitude in the families and villages are also slowly changing so girl's right to education is recognized. The EVAC partner organisations seek to empower girls and communities to address harmful practices and violence against children in Eastern Uganda.

WEEK AHEAD

- The Communications unit together with the Governance unit have organized the Anti-Corruption Caravan media follow-up in Eastern Uganda. Watch out for the latest developments on several scandals unearthed.
- Edward Iruura, the Head of Finance at ActionAid is currently in Ghana. He is participating in a peer review for ActionAid Ghana.
- The IASL Manager and Programs Director are working tirelessly to ensure that the 2015 country work plan is submitted to the international secretariat.
- Harriet Gimbo, the Program Director will be participating in the Country peer review of ActionAid Malawi.

ActionAid Uganda hosts Deidre Treacy



KYAKA DEAF PUPILS - CANDIDATE class with Deidre Treacy-see story.

The sponsorship unit at ActionAid hosted Deidre Treacy from Ireland. Treacy is the Fundraising Executive - Sponsor Care & Marketing, ActionAid Ireland. Together with Sponsorship Coordinator Saida Bogere, Treacy visited Amuru LRP to lay ground for the Community/Village sponsorship program to be rolled out before the end of the year. Unlike the usual sponsorship, in the village sponsorship, there are no children involved. Sponsors are attached to villages, so the fund benefits the entire village.

Treacy among others came to do ground work, find out the demographics of the Village (Amuru), the political environment, the working relationships among others. She was amazed by the work and impact of ActionAid. She also described the ActionAid partners and their board members as brilliant.

She was however appalled at the alarming numbers of defilement and forced early marriages in the district. She could not stop thinking aloud at what more can be done to save the situation. Treacy took off time to visit the Kyaka school for the deaf where she interacted with today's P.L.E candidates. She gave them geometry sets to support them in their exams.

We look forward to the signing of the MOU.

Farewell Anders

Last Week, ActionAid and SEATINI bid farewell to one of their staff, Anders Reimers Larsen. Anders has been the Local Tax Advisor at ActionAid, working closely with SEATINI. Anders has worked very hard with the team to ensure that the subject of tax is broken down to the ordinary Ugandan. We totally agree with him when he wrote that;

"I think the most important thing is that tax is now on the agenda. The public and media are discussing it, as could be seen in the aftermath of the budget speech. If you people are smart, you will continue to carry on and expand the tax justice agenda, within you and as programmers. From what I can see in the stars and global policy trends, tax is here to stay. In my humble view, this is the key to political change."

Family and another job pulled Anders back to Denmark. We shall miss you Anders