

Launching Black Monday: Tax Evasion is Theft!



Arthur, Fred and Harriet, attending the press conference at the launch of the July edition of Black Monday this morning.

Today, civil society Organisations under the Black Monday Movement convened at ActionAid to launch the July Edition of the Black Monday Newsletter.

Under the headline "Tax evasion is Theft", we argue that Uganda needs an effective tax administration and a policy framework that ensures fair taxation of all citizens. This is crucial in our quest to eradicate poverty and for transforming the nation into a middle-income country.

While addressing Journalists this morning, the Civil society leaders commended the Buganda Prime Minister, Charles Peter Mayiga for his accountability and transparency during the ongoing fundraising drives in Buganda.

"I wish our Ministers were doing the same with our tax revenue," remarked Arthur Larok, the Country Director of ActionAid.

Mayiga was named as the icon of integrity for July.



Displaying Charles Peter Mayiga, our Icon of integrity for the month of July.

Community Monitors urged to ensure Quality service



The Deputy RDC of Katakwi addressing the Community trackers. He called upon them to ensure that citizens get quality services.

With a recent study conducted by AAU detailing the status of Social Services in North and North Eastern Uganda, AAU through the Katakwi LRP held a validation workshop with Resource Monitors and a training workshop for Councillors to augment participatory planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Government Programmes. The Monitors' findings emphasized the need for closer community participation in the areas of health where planning was a preserve of the Health Unit in-charges.

The Validation, officiated by the Deputy RDC Katakwi Walter Elakas ended with a call to the Monitors to work to ensure that citizens receive the best possible social services. ActionAid, with funding from DGF is building the capacity of community monitors and commissioning them to monitor the quality and quantity of service delivery in the various locations.

All programming without play makes Kalangala a dull island!



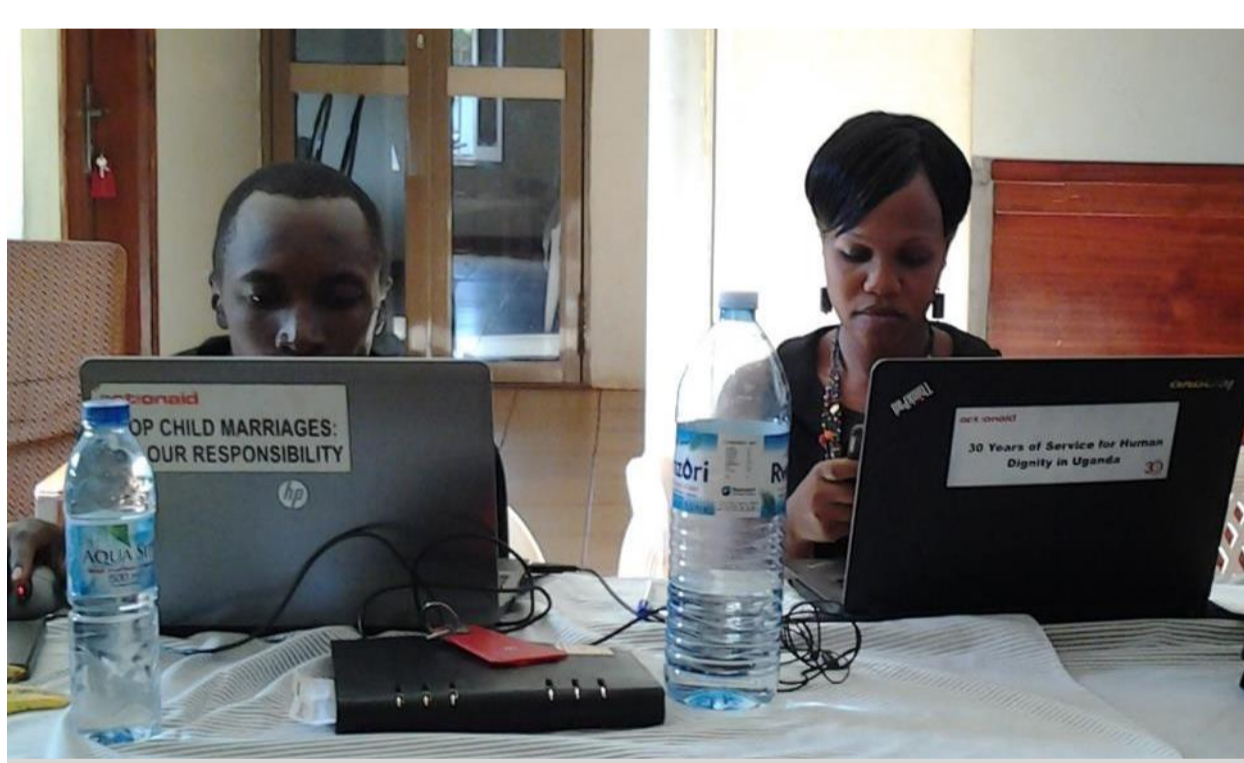
Staff from partner organizations and ActionAid Kalangala took off time to play and unwind. They said they were ready for the next half year with ready energy levels.

Kalangala Local Rights Program organised its half-annual Participatory Review and Reflection Process last week. The review process captured the LRP implementation progress as at end of June and provided learning for improvement in the second half of the year and forecast the issues for integration into the next years plans and budget.

While reviewing last year's action points, the participants expressed dismay that despite their efforts to report, the national annual report 2013 did not capture any action implemented in Kalangala. The PDM gave feedback to the partners and LRP staff to improve on their reports.

"Show evidence of impact but not just ticking the box for activities implemented, the process is so competitive from all the 10 LRPs", said Richard Olong, the program Development Manager. The participants later on rejuvenated their energy levels with games at the beach, committing to a successful second half of implementation of programs.

Half year program reporting review to Improve Quality of Reports



LRP coordinators taking time to analyze the work plans during the review.

In the week ending, the Impact Assessment and shared learning unit, together with LRP staff took part in the half-year program reporting review. The LRPs in the East met in Mbale, while those in the North met in Masindi. The different teams took off time to review the 2014 program targets and the aligned indicators, reporting templates and activity concepts.

"The exercise was the oil we needed to improve the quality of reports and ensuring that we have half year program performance reports with clear numbers," remarked Stanley Wobusobozzi, the IASL Manager.

Been wondering what Chris Byaruhanga is doing in Yale?



Relatives and line managers of the Yale fellows. Harriet, Chris's line manager looks forward to the Yale staff after the six weeks.

Last Weekend, the American Embassy organised a get together for the family and line managers of the Yale leadership fellows. Harriet Robina Gimbo was there as Chris's line manager. The team was briefed about the different activities that the fellows are involved in. These include leadership and community activities. The team are learning how to speak to key dignitaries, visiting key sights like Microsoft among others. They are also writing for the mainstream and other social media.

Harriet informed the gathering that much as it was not easy for her as a line manager to let Chris be away for six weeks, she hoped that after the six weeks, ActionAid will boast of a Yale fellow among its Action team of Winners. Looking forward, Chris....