

ActionAid Uganda Weekly 16th - 22nd July 2018



Over 200 Akaa community residents camped at the UNOHCR Gulu Office.

7 days at the UN offices, Akaa community awaits International Intervention!

Nobert Mao and Area MPs join the team in solidarity

By: Flavia Nalubega

The site at the United Nation Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Gulu was an overwhelming one, but also a tearing one. Over 200 hungry and angry Akaa community members walked right to the gate and requested for entry to camp here-reason-demand for international intervention into their land matter. First the security was hesitant but in no minutes cooperated and let in the mass of people- it was like the Namugongo pilgrims, but this time, the 'walk to UN' protest was not for prayers, but, for demand for what

belongs to them-their land. Among the people were children, as young as 2 months, whose parents said this opportunity could not go by, as this was the only chance to have their land and property back -for their children. A few hours into waiting on Monday, the security at the UN office allowed in firewood and food for the community to access food, and they went on cooking and preparing it to be able to access a meal. Tauplins too were provided as evening drew closer for shelter. All this while, the community waited for High Commissioner who was set to arrive at 3pm from Kampala but he ever showed up, He only appeared later in the night and did not give a definite solution, but promised that something is being done to support them. This marked the beginning of a week long camp at the offices. Through this, the area MPs joined the community, and even threatened to sleep there, however they were denied entry by security. Hon Nobert Mao, The Democratic Party President and a former Gulu LCV chairman visited the people and encouraged them! MP for Kilak in Amuru Hon. Anthony Akol said; "All avenues have failed, this is the final move. We need international intervention because the Government has let us down. These people have suffered for way to long! The Apaa question should be resolved now!" The Apaa land that houses over 2000 people has had its ownership contested for a while, with Government alleging that this is public land that belongs to Uganda Wildlife Authority while the community members insist, this land has belonged to them since 1967. Government has since victimised the residents including torching their houses, killing and imprisoning residents.

What is this Apaa Land Conflict?



Journalists interview the Chairman of Apaa on day one of the peaceful demonstration at UNOHCHR

By: Flavia Nalubega

Apaa is a small village of approximately 827sqkm with the population of about 26,668 people and 4000 households. It is located in Andara sub- Parish, Labala Parish in Pabbo Sub- County, Amuru District.

Here, the Acholi people call home since 1924. However in 1963, the area was gazzeted as a game reserve. In 1972, it was degazzated by the regime of the self styled field Marshal Idi Amin Dada and in 1973 people were allowed to go and settle back in Apaa to continue staying there since there were no wild animals in the area any more. In 1996 during the LRA insurgency, people of Apaa relocated to Pabbo in the IDP Camp. When people were in the Camp the Uganda Wildlife authority (UWA) started claiming the area to be for game reserve and brought one foreign investor from south Africa Mr. Bruce Martine who was first chased away by President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe to settle in Apaa at Punudyang and open a sport hunting area or zone for investment in the name of Lake Albert Safari [Co.Ltd](#) . In the year 2006 when the Civil war subsided, the people of Acholi returned to Apaa and resettled there on the land as their customary land.

This time the Uganda wildlife Authority (UWA) intensified their barbaric act on the people of Apaa by burning houses in the area. Several attempts were made to quell the situation by asking central Government of Uganda to intervene and stop the confusion but nothing was fruitful the worst incident in the year 2012 when a combined force of the UPDF, the Uganda police force and the Uganda wildlife Authority Rangers mounted a military operation in Apaa commanded by one called Grace Turyanguawe who believed to be the Assistant Inspector General of police in-charge of operation in the Police Force. During this offensive operation so many grass thatched houses were burnt and properties destroyed by the forces one person in the name of Olanya Patrick was shot dead by the police, twenty five (25) persons were arrested taken to Adjumani District and charged with criminal offence but later on the case was dropped because of lack of enough evidence in the case and they were released this alone was a clear indication that the people arrested were innocent. Prior to that, the myself as the councilor of the areas and (Hon. Apio) community of Apaa instituted a civil case or took Attorney General and the Uganda wildlife Authority to court of law for the violation of human rights and destruction of properties since the case was registered in the year 2011 nothing was done and the case did not take off up to now. All in the Apaa problem is being fueled by some politicians like the first Deputy prime Minister of Uganda the Right Hon. Gen (Rt) Moses Ali (MP) who on the 2nd of February 2012 ordered for the illegal eviction of Apaa people. In the year 2015 there was a very serious incident that happened in Apaa when Government of Uganda sent to Apaa the Minister of internal affairs the late Hon. General Arona Nyakairima together with so many military personnel to help chase away the community of Apaa during the process of the exercise a group of unhappy women whose children were killed earlier undressed themselves before the minister and two people Opiyo Felix and Okumu Thomas were shot and injured by the UPDF. These women undressed themselves to show their anger to Government of Uganda for what was doing to the community. Another worst and bloody incident happened last year 2017 during March to June where several lives were lost as a result of land wrangle between Acholi and Madi tribes and the 12 people were killed.

RECOMMENDATIONS / APPEAL

- That the UPDF, the Police and the Rangers should be withdrawn completely from the area of Apaa in order to pave way for peace to prevail.
- That government of Uganda should compensate for the loss of lives of the people killed by Madi and Police plus the properties destroyed.
- That Government of Uganda should stop inciting Madi tribe to disturb or fight Acholi who

are in Apaa simply because the land in Apaa belongs to Adjumani District.

- The Government of Uganda should abandon the issue of the demarcation of administrative boundary between Amuru and Adjumani Districts.
- That Government of Uganda should now embark on promoting the good relationship between Madi and Acholi which is now being tempered with.
- That Government should allow and institute an independent commission of enquiry in to the affairs of unnecessary killings and destructions of properties in Apaa.(The international NGOs).
- That the people or community living in Apaa humbly appeal to His Excellency Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni the President of the Republic of Uganda to quickly intervene into the problems in Apaa and make a lasting solutions.

The #NoSocialMediaTax Campaign Enters Week 3



MP Kyadondo East, journalists and musicians during a protest against taxes on social media

Matia Kasaija to present a proposal to cabinet today with regards to taxation.

By: Flavia Nalubega

The social media campaign that started as a people's campaign has entered week three, and the results are visible. The campaign that is spear headed by Kyadondo East MP Robert Kyagulanyi set out last Monday, following a consistent fight put up by mobile money agents and social media users the week before.

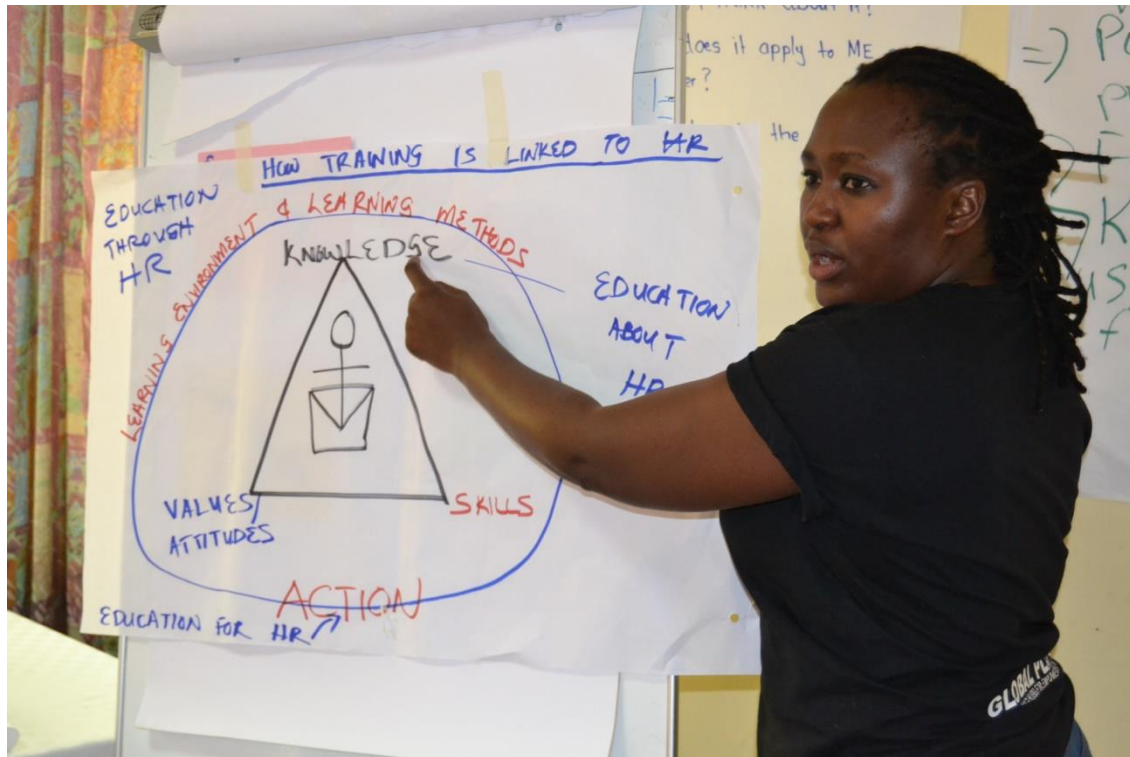
The MP walked into the streets clad in red with other artists, social media influencers, journalists and CSO members in demand for scrapping of the tax. He escaped arrest narrowly while his colleagues were tested jail for some hours. This however did not deter their quest for a just tax system and Bobiwine was had telling the police

'I am not fighting you, I am fighting for you'

The fight is so far so good as results are visible; First a 0.5 percent cut was made on Mobile money tax, although this is yet to be effected.

Then the Finance Minsiter is overwhelmed by the protests and is planning present his view about this tax to cabinet today, let's await what comes of this meeting.

Global Platform Uganda ToTs starts with a bang!

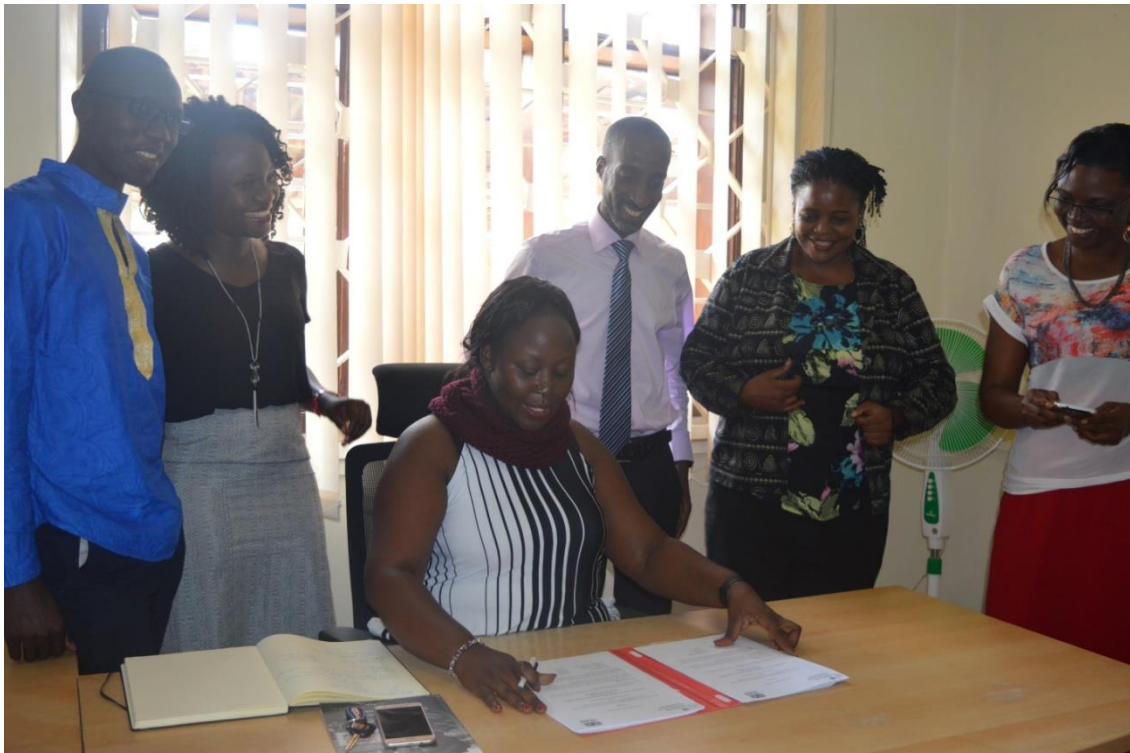


By Chipo Abangira and Donald Chidoori

The first Global Platform Uganda Training of Trainers (ToTs) kicked off last week in Seeta, at Rider Hotel with 30 young participants drawn from across Uganda. Officially opening the training, Policy and Campaigns Manager Fred Kawooya, who was speaking on behalf of the Interim Country Director emphasized the importance of young people in shaping the development and democratic processes in Uganda and worldwide. "At this crucial moment it is key to note that young people's voices, influence and contribution to the development and democratic processes is important and that is the reason why ActionAid Uganda is investing in such spaces as the Global Platform," he said and further explained, "For the next two weeks, you are going to work closely with the trainers in unpacking the basics of training in creative ways. ActionAid believes in empowerment sessions that build on lived experiences and we forge ways on how best to engage with young people for transformative leadership. Through the training, we envision to build a strong team of trainers that think critically about development issues." At the ToTs, participants are being taken through an introduction to the framework of Global Platform training principles, ActionAid's theory of Change and the Human Rights Based Approach. Key concepts being unpacked include transformative feminist leadership, pedagogy of the oppressed, empowering training and conflict management. Acting Global Platform Uganda Manager Grace Chirenje said the training is aimed at ensuring that participants gain new knowledge, skills and attitude to conduct trainings within political areas and in

contexts where people living in poverty can claim and protect their rights. The Global Platform Uganda (GP UG) is a newly established Youth Hub for innovative and creative pedagogies within Uganda. The GPUG will utilize the TOT educational framework that are based on the tradition of non-formal education, with a clear and ambitious focus on providing young people with knowledge, skills and attitudes to realize their potential as active citizens and agents of social change. The GPUG will definitely be instrumental in ensuring that the implementation of CSPV Objective 4 is well harnessed as AAU seeks to make a difference with young people “For God and Our Country”.

Gender Equality Efforts Get a £3.9M Funding Boost!!



The Interim Country Director speaks to the project team, to whom she expressed gratitude for their hard work towards attaining funding towards the struggle to fight GBV

SURGE (Support to Uganda's Response to Gender Equality) is a four-year programme, 2016-2020, supported by UK aid to the Government of Uganda (GoU).

The Program's overall aim is to strengthen efforts towards achieving equal access for women and men to opportunities, and, a life free from violence, and ultimately gender equality.

It intends to address gender inequality through: building GoU capacity to lead on integration of gender and equity in public financial management; improving public awareness and progressive change in social norms away from gender inequality and gender based violence; increasing access to safe spaces/shelter, legal, health, psychosocial services and economic opportunities for GBV survivors; and, ensuring that effective programme management arrangements are established to achieve programme outputs and objective.

The programme will be implemented by three civil society organisations namely Mifumi, Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP), and ActionAid Uganda. A total of 13 District Local Governments spread in all four regions of Uganda will be reached by this programme. These are Kampala, Kween, Moroto, Gulu, Lira, Masaka, Mbarara, Kumi, Katakwi, Amuru, Pallisa, Nebbi and Mubende.

The key stakeholders of this programme include; Ministry Gender, Labour and Social Development, Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, Parliament, Ministry of Health, Justice, Law and Order Sector, and Equal Opportunities Commission among others.

The current funding covers the period 1st July 2018 to 31st August 2020

It's time for AAU to shine-Arthur



AAU Kampala staff with Arthur after a sumptuous lunch

By

Flavia

Nalubega

Old wine in a new jug is what Arthur is. Same old energetic, zealous and forward looking leader! He is the Federation Director. While catching up with AAU staff last Friday, he re-assured them that the times are perfect for ActionAid to support social movements for a better Government. This he attributed to the declining governance system, exhibited through increased taxes, the failing security system, the failed constitutional amendments that have largely been challenged in court. 'These resent opportunities for us and now is the time we should shine! Uganda needs organizations like ActionAid Uganda, more than ever before and the successful execution of our 5th Strategy Paper will make a valuable contribution to making our country a better place for posterity,' he emphasised. He said to attain this, there is a need to support the leadership and new country Director- and specifically give him as much support as we gave Arthur. While at lunch, which he offered staff in thanksgiving, Arthur appreciated the free spirit among staff, but more so the strides AAU has made since his departure, among them the financial stability

of the organisation.

"I am glad AAU is rising, and if we rise higher, I will take responsibility more than ever before. That is what they call legacy. I will be glad I left a trail, a good trail," he said. He also clarified on the extensive falsehood about what instigated his departure from AAU which most media houses said was as a result of firing. He said this matters less as people choose what to hear, but promised to write more about this and more developmental issues when the new leadership sets in. He is still overjoyed by the send off and the gift- a book he reads every day, everywhere, over and over again!

'I was sincerely overwhelmed. I read this book when I am feeling happy, I read it when I am feeling low, I read it everywhere!'

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APAA COMMUNITY DEMONSTRATION IN THE NEWS

1. <https://ugandavanguard.com/news/apaa-evicted-families-petition-un/>
2. https://youtu.be/jBg9_E_-jeM
3. <https://youtu.be/ameP7WY9sbE>
4. <https://youtu.be/q1Nb7TCD6u8>
5. <http://indnewsug.com/traders-gave-another-17800-apaa-residents-to-be-evicted-soon/>



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