

Weekly

November 16—22



(L-R) The Policy and Campaigns Manager, Fred Kawooya, AIP Asimwe, Meddy Ndifuna (the HURINET Executive Director), Richard Sewakiryanga (UNNGOF Executive Director), Sydney Asubu (Director –Finance Intelligence Authority) and Timothy Kabaale (Governance Officer) on arrival from the western leg of the anti-corruption caravan. Richard received the Caravan back home. In the back ground is the entire caravan crew.

The Caravan Comes Home



Pictorial showing the caravan arrival back home. Staff sung, danced and ululated as the caravan arrived. It was received by civil society leaders.

Business came to a stand still in the busy Kabalagala-Kansanga suburb as the Western Leg of the Anti-corruption Caravan made a safe landing back home. With Vuvuzellas, whistles, music, dance and ululations, the ActionAid staff and neighbors from Kampala International University lined up on Gabba road to usher in the caravan in style.

The caravan was received by Richard Sewakiryanga, the Executive Director of the Uganda National NGO Forum, Meddy Ndifuna, the Executive Director of HURINET and Sydney Asubu, the Director of the Finance Intelligence Authority.

Speaking about their 10 day journey, Fredrick Kawooya, the Policy and Campaigns Manager at ActionAid informed staff and invited guests that the caravan had successfully traversed Kabaale, Rukungiri, Kanungu, Ntungamo, Mbarara, Sheema, Bushenti, Rubiriizi, Kasese, Kabarole and Kanungu districts.

“We reached over 3million Ugandans with the anti-vote buying and anti vote selling messages. We are happy that they listened and committed not to vote in exchange for money but in exchange for quality social services for their communities.”

Richard Sewakiryanga, on his part thanked ActionAid and the Caravan crew for the meaningful engagement with the Communities in Western Uganda.

“The journey is still very long. We call upon all Ugandans to task the political aspirants to conform to the citizens manifesto. Let us say no to voter bribery. It is taking this country to the dogs. Power belongs to the people. Together, we can cause the political aspirants to bring about the change that this country desires”, he added.

Richard used the opportunity to announce the upcoming citizens manifesto caravan that will traverse the entire country.

Sydney Asubu, added that the voters always get the leaders they deserve.

“ While the Financial Intelligence Authority will be monitoring to see where the money that the politicians use to buy off votes is coming from, they cant do much without evidence. I want to challenge Ugandans to report cases of voter bribery to the relevant authorities for action.”

ActionAid and its partners have been organizing a series of Anti-Corruption Caravans since 2013 when the first leg was officially launched in Luwero. The second leg took place in August last year and covered 15 districts in the North East and Eastern Uganda.

Even when the Caravan is back home, the election season is just taking off. We call upon all of you to influence those around you to vote for politicians who present the best manifestos to address our social challenges rather than those who abuse our integrity by equating our votes to monetary and material goodies.

Look out for the detailed report on the western leg of the anti-corruption caravan in our subsequent Weekly publications. However, for particular information about a given locality, please drop us an email and we shall get back to you in the shortest possible time.

What next after the Caravan?



According to Fred Kawooya, the Policy and Campaigns Manager at ActionAid, the campaign against Voter bribery and corruption has just started.

“As civil society, we are looking at February 18th 2016, the National Election day and beyond. We have had voter bribery in the last 20 years. We cannot get rid of it in just two months”, he said, adding that the civil society alone cant win the war against voter bribery.

For that reason, ActionAid and its partners are going to carry on the campaign using the local media (community radios and TV stations) to rally the people to vote in leaders who will address their social issues in the long run. ActionAid is also going to launch the virtual Platform; the **I paid a Bribe Website**.

The website will be internet based but integrated with a mobile phone application. Ugandans are hence called upon to track the corrupt transactions, voter bribery inclusive and report it by posting it directly on the website or through their mobile phones.

This will shame the corrupt officials but also provide evidence for action and prosecutions. ActionAid will be working very closely with the Ugandan Electoral Commission, the Uganda Police and the Office of the Inspectorate of Government.

Speaking about the just concluded caravan, the Policy Manager informed the Weekly that the just concluded event revealed that people’s perception about leadership has totally changed.

“Its looked at as a way of earning and not the service leadership that this country needs. This is because of the huge remunerations that come with the different leadership positions. The expectation that the leaders will improve the social services is not there. The voters hence look at the small monetary and material goodies that the political aspirants give them as the only reward that the leaders can give them.”

This, he said must change if the country is to move forward.

ActionAid calls upon you, to mobilize your households to vote for political aspirants that present the best plans for the development of the country and not those who invest the largest sums of money in buying the votes. Be part of this change to bring back sanity to Uganda’s leadership.

ActionAid Wins at FiRe Awards



ActionAid Finance staff celebrate the win at the AAU offices. Excellence is standard, they say.

On Thursday last week, ActionAid Uganda took home the first runner up award at the 2015 Financial Reporting Awards.

The prestigious event was organised by the Institute of Certified Public Accounts of Uganda took place at Serena Conference centre.

ActionAid was represented by Finance Officers; Denis, Jamila and Juliet and the Human Resource Officer, Hellen.

ActionAid was second to BRAC Uganda in the Not for Profit category, beating 42 other organisations in the same category, including UHMG, compassion International, Stromme Foundation, The Hunger Project Uganda, SNV among others.

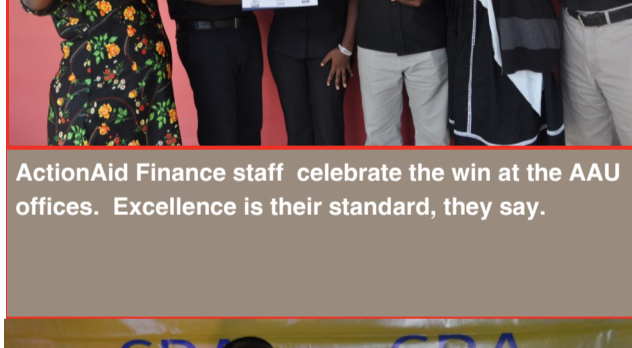
The Weekly spoke to the ActionAid Finance team for a comment. However, the team indicated that the win did not come as a surprise.

“We would have actually been surprised if we hadn’t won. Quality and excellence is our standard in all daily transactions. We are happy that this has been independently verified for the last four years that we have participated in the awards. We have continued to win year after year,” stated Juliet Mbatudde, a finance officer.

Juliet added that in this era of reductions in donor funding, the donors are looking for a credible organisation to entrust their finances with for the betterment of the lives of people living in poverty and disease. This award hence sets ActionAid ahead of all other NGOs, boosting its financial future.

ActionAid program staffs are hence congratulated for always spending the money in a transparent and accountable manner and accounting for it to the dot. If they mess up the process, then the Finance team cannot do much.

Congratulations ActionAid. We look forward to being the overall winners next year.



(L-R)Hellen, Denis, Juliet and Jamila receiving the award at the FiRe Awards on Thursday at Serena Conference Center.



Juliet(Right) being congratulated by colleagues from the Not for Profit category. Juliet shared with them best practices behind ActionAid’s win



Juliet(Right) being congratulated by colleagues from the Not for Profit category. Juliet shared with them best practices behind ActionAid’s win

WEEK AHEAD:

- The rollout of the Citizens manifesto continues throughout the whole country.
- ActionAid continues to meet with partners who are affected with the new Organizational structural changes throughout the country.
- The media campaign against vote buying continues this week.
- ActionAid will be flagging off its 16 days of activism against GBV this week. Look out for the several activities lined up.