

BLACK MONDAY

Newsletter

Citizen Action Against theft of our money without SHAME!

EDITORIAL

It is 8 months down the road since the Black Monday Movement first greeted dawn on November 12th 2012. Humorously, you could say that this road has been a typical Ugandan one – full of potholes and reckless fellow traffickers; but we are getting there!

Since a broad-based group of concerned citizens got together and decided that Enough is Enough, the Black Monday Movement has achieved beyond what we could hope for. Millions of citizens across Uganda have read the seven issues of this publication; Of those, many share the publication with family and friends, come together and discuss or share their thoughts on social media; the number of Black Monday-related activities countrywide is counted by dozens, and civil society members and activists have encountered many public officials and politicians who often end up supporting the cause. The sad side to the latter is that those same officials often have to keep their opinions silent.

So, are we getting there? First of all, it is a very long road towards zero corruption. Black Monday is still a young movement and with time we will develop more tools to expose thieves who can be brought to justice. We also want to make theft of public money and corruption in any form, whether for personal or political gain, unacceptable in our society.

It is not such an enormous task as it appears to be. You just have to start rejecting the criminality that corruption is. Take personal responsibility; you will surely feel inspired by reading this Black Monday Newsletter, not least by some of the testimonials. If you are new to the movement and have questions or doubts about what it is all about, you will find some answers. Lastly, have a look at the back page with the scandals, let the figures speak for themselves, and act!

Eight months, eight editions ...and still going!



A skater shows off the sixth edition of the Black Monday newsletter. The campaign has been able to reach millions of citizens with anti-corruption messages through its publications.

Many moons ago, outrage over the incessant plunder of public funds brought civil society organizations and Ugandans alike to rethink the fight against this monstrous scourge and thus the Black Monday Movement was born.

The Black Monday Movement has continually grown by leaps and bounds. Citizens have gradually made the important connection between their abhorrent circumstances and the ubiquitous but previously distant theft of public funds with impunity. Ugandans have also been emboldened and are steadily doing away with fear insofar as confronting the State, incompetent institutions and the thieves are concerned.

It has brought a fresh dimension to civil society by providing a direct avenue through which institutions' boardroom de-

isions impact and allow for citizen participation. Most importantly, there has been response from some of the government officials that have taken sides with this campaign as one of the major avenues for addressing the corruption scourge through non-violent means.

It certainly has not been a rosy journey; the activists have had a few hiccups with security agencies through who should have instead supported their efforts. For instance, over 30 activists have been locked up for fighting corruption and released on bond. This has been shocking to many especially when the government is busy preaching zero tolerance to corruption.

Notwithstanding the teething challenges around coordination, funding and

TO PAGE 2

Inside this issue >>

- 2 | The journey through our eight months
- 3 | Interview with Uhuru Institute boss Leonard Okello
- 4 | A citizen's view about the Black Monday Movement
- 8 | Citizens' voices from around the country
- 11 | A vote of thanks from the Black Monday Movement

NOT FOR SALE

Eight months, eight editions ...and still going!

FROM PAGE 1

coverage, there have been the registered milestones in the blossoming stage of this growing social movement

The demand for the newsletter continues to grow as more citizens yearn for the information about theft of their taxes. The newsletter has for the past seven months highlighted the devastation that corruption has brought to bear on health, education, youth, police and the labour force and taxes in general.

The campaigners have not stopped at publishing the

newsletter but have also engaged in monthly public actions to remind the citizens that they have a role to play in this fight. For instance, the April publication where activists distributed food items to schools with children who could not afford lunch was an eye opener for citizens to reflect on their duty towards quality public education in Uganda. Several advocacy teams were born countrywide comprised of parents, teachers and activists to bring an end the wanton theft of funds meant for quality education.

Within the eight months lessons have been learnt, scores made and outcomes documented. The future looks bright-

er and there is hope that more citizens will gain courage to demand for accountability and the stolen funds. More publicity materials will be available and more innovative ways will be used to reach a wider citizenry. Remember there is power in numbers!

As Mahatma Gandhi said, "First they ignore you, then they ridicule you, then they fight you, and then you win." The Black Monday Movement intends to fight theft until it is dislodged, uprooted and expunged from our land.

— By n.elone@ngoforum.or.ug

THE JOURNEY THROUGH THE EIGHT MONTHS

Month	Focus	What happened?
NOVEMBER, 2012	BLACK MONDAY MOVEMENT LAUNCHED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGOs offices closed countrywide to mourn the theft of public funds • Hundreds of civic activists assembled at Human Rights Network (HURINET) for prayers • Symbolic burial of corruption, impunity; and mourning the death of innocent Ugandans out of corruption inefficiencies • Official Launch of the Black Monday Movement 
DECEMBER, 2012	ANTI-CORRUPTION CONVENTION	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 1,000 citizens gathered at Hotel Africana to share their experiences and make commitments on fighting corruption in Uganda. • The gaps in the political and legal framework; new approaches and strategies for fighting corruption identified • First Black Monday Newsletter published online
JANUARY, 2013	POLICE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 50 CSO leaders vending the Black Monday newsletter on the streets countrywide. • Thousands of citizens received the Black Monday newsletter. • High media presence and attention about the campaign 
FEBRUARY, 2013	YOUTH	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth activists vending the Black Monday Newsletter in Universities and Higher Institutions of Learning • Countrywide debates about youth unemployment and corruption. • Millions of citizens received the Black Monday newsletter countrywide.
MARCH, 2013	HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Black Monday newsletter inserted in the Daily Monitor to reach a wider citizenry • Hundreds of citizens gathered at HURINET to pray for the lives of Ugandans lost to the dilapidated health system as a result of corruption in Uganda • Millions of citizens received the Black Monday newsletter 
APRIL, 2013	EDUCATION	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 6000 children fed with lunch by civic activists in support of the Quality for Education campaign • Religious leaders pledge to support the call for end to corruption in the education sector • The Black Monday newsletter inserted in the Daily Monitor to reach a wider citizenry • More millions of citizens received the Black Monday newsletter
MAY, 2013	LABOUR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pensioners stand with the Black Monday campaigners to demand for the return of the pension funds stolen by the thieves • Over 300 Audio CDs with Anti-corruption messages distributed by skaters around Kampala City • 500 audio cassette tapes with anti-corruption messages distributed countrywide • Millions of citizens received the Black Monday newsletter 
JUNE, 2013	TAXATION	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-corruption activists take on a Tax Payer's Journey to deliver a tax justice petition to the Minister of Finance. • 600 copies of the Black Monday Newsletter distributed through the skaters to citizens in Kampala • The Black Monday newsletter inserted in the Observer newspaper to reach a wider citizenry • Millions of citizens received the Black Monday newsletter • Increased demand for the newsletter countrywide

'Our motivation is to be the public face of Ugandans saying ENOUGH is ENOUGH to the thieves'

Leonard Okello, Executive Director, Uhuru Institute

The Black Monday Movement has grown through leaps and bounds. In this issue, we have an up close interview with Leonard Okello; a civic activist and NGO leader who has been part of the campaign since it started as he shares his views on its impact.

1 What was the motivation behind Black Monday?

The Black Monday Movement was and still is motivated by our absolute rejection of the incessant theft of tax payers' money by highly placed public officials in government with impunity, now standing at a colossal 3 trillion shillings. Our motivation is to be the public face of Ugandans saying ENOUGH is ENOUGH to these thieves, because we are also aware that the majority of Ugandans are scared of taking action because they fear police brutality that comes with public action in Uganda today. We are happy to be the champions against graft in Uganda. We can upon all Ugandans to STOP FEARING and SAY NO to the theft of our tax payers' money, because we need this money to finance our social service delivery in Uganda.

2 Some sections of the public have been made to believe you are a disguised extension of the walk to work protests, that you are financed to give the regime headache and discredit it?

Black Monday action started in November 2012 with a prayer and mourning action that was blocked by the Police at the UMA show grounds in Nakawa. I don't remember that at that time any of us consulted with anyone or any other group to start that mourning procession. We do not need anyone's permission or influence to take necessary action against thieves of public resources.

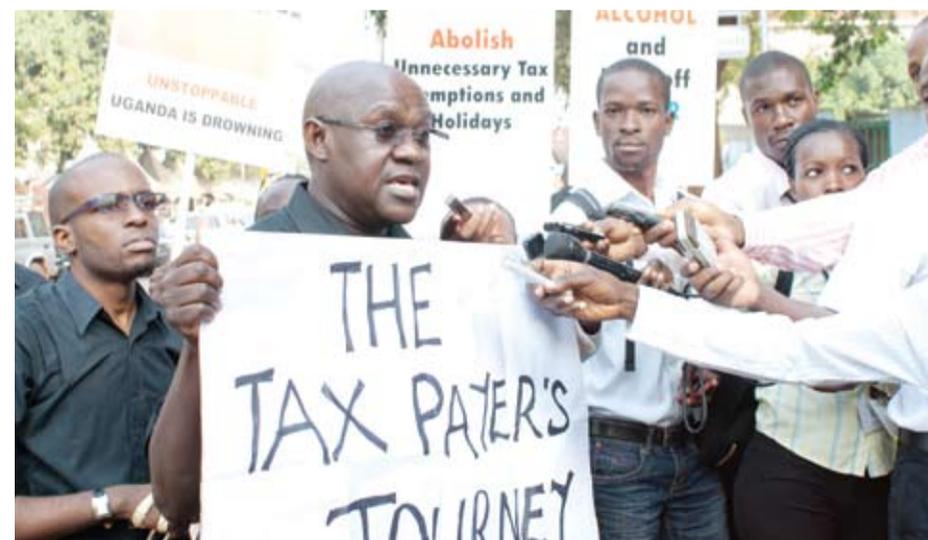
On the so called foreign funding to give the regime headache, the same donors are also asking us why we are not asking them for money for this great work.

3 How different are you from the other causes we have seen in the country, Campaigns such as walk to work, for instance?

It is not in our business to compare ourselves with other citizen actions and or formations. We are a social movement against theft of tax payers' money in Uganda and will remain so. That is why when we are arrested we comply fully with police orders. We actually make it a point to always pray for and celebrate all those who love and torment us alike.

4 What do you say to sceptics who opine that civil society is only hoodwinking Ugandans and using Black Monday as one, a way of siphoning funds from donors and two, a form of accountability meant to prove a point to the donors? What is the true spirit of this movement in light of this?

It is a shame that such an allegation of siphoning donor money is coming from a government that found less than \$200M foreign aid record in Bank of Uganda at the time they started in 1986 and has since received over \$4Billion of foreign aid and has little to show for it. Who is more of a foreign agent here? Gandhi of India once said, of the Indian struggle for independence, something like, "in the beginning they will ridicule you, then they will start tormenting you and finally they will join you." Please tell those sceptics to watch this space. We are driven by our love for Uganda, our love for the dignity of our people and the knowledge that it is our patriotic duty to make it a better country for today's generation and posterity.



Leonard Okello speaks to press during the Tax Payer's Journey.

5 How sustainable is this campaign, coming from a background of a nation where fairly good causes, even from the state and civil society fail the test of time? Do we for instance see you around in the next five years?

You will see us around and growing in innovations every day until the impunity that characterizes the theft of our tax payers' money comes to an end in this country. So, if anyone or even you want to see an end to this, please help the thieves to stop stealing our (tax payers') money.

6 How do you measure your success since Black Monday's inception?

I am afraid I will not give you those details. But take note that every day that passes more and more Ugandans are contacting us and supporting us in this noble cause. More and more Ugandans are overcoming fear and are putting Black on Monday and they contact us to say, yes we are dressed in Black every Monday. They are taking action of all forms; more religious organisations are conducting anti-graft sermons in their churches, mosques and temples. We are surely growing by the day.

7 Talking of measuring success, what tangible impacts can you point out that the campaign has achieved?

Do you know what it takes to have the Daily Monitor and Weekly Observer accept to insert the Black Monday Newslet-

ter in their issues even with the media siege that we all saw recently? We are spreading the message and no doubt Ugandan citizens are responding.

8 Does your message resonate with the ordinary person at the grassroots or it is a urban audience you target and what has been the general response from the wider public a few months down the road?

Ugandans are increasingly getting conscious and asking for action against theft of public funds. Did you know that recently all councillors in Pader district reported to a council meeting in black? Did you know that there was a recent ecumenical prayer held in Fort Portal against graft? We work with the poorest, remotest and most excluded citizens of this country; we have the necessary institutional network to reach all corners of this country.

9 What assurance do you have for that old man deep down in Kisoro or Kotido that by wearing black every Monday, or even reading this newsletter, let alone listening to you on radio that his hard-earned tax will not be embezzled? Are you convinced that the Wanainchi connect with this campaign?

Tell Mwene Ruzaaza deep in the hills of Kisoro that it is just a matter of time and his cry will be heard in the highest offices. Tell him that we will work day and night to achieve that goal. I know that the Wanainchi connect with this campaign; just go to city markets and witness for yourself how people dash for the Black Monday Newsletter whenever we take copies to them.

10 As Black Monday, do you see corruption going away any time soon?

What is that one solution, if you had the power and means that would once and for all wipe out the evil?

Corruption can be reduced to a minimum if there was political will to take action against the thieves. That is the one thing that must happen in this country. It is a leadership crisis which the President still has to show that he is willing to deal with squarely. At this point we are not yet convinced he has done that to the best of the authority and ability of his Office which the Constitution refers to as the Fountain of Honour.

11 In a country largely seen as micro-managed by the president, in other words, he and a few cronies do the real decision making; does your message penetrate these crucial power centres?

There is only one political decision maker in this country and it is him who will take the final step that will stop the impunity that goes with theft of our money in Uganda. And he owes it to all Ugandans to do just that and this country will do better than it is today.

CAN BLACK FIGHT THE DARKNESS OF CORRUPTION?

In January this year, the Ugandan tri-weekly newspaper, The Observer updated its Facebook page status with a lengthy reminder of what seemed to be an endless list of corruption scandals that have rocked the Pearl of Africa.

The update seemed to be pointed towards stirring an urge of responsibility among readers to take part in the Black Monday Campaign. This refers to an anti-corruption campaign where activists dress up in black every Monday to mourn the theft of billions of money. Billions meant to benefit Ugandans which end up in the bottomless pockets of individualistic beings.

That over \$300 million is lost to corruption annually in this country which relies on donor nations to account for 29% of its national budget is a fact bold enough to send anyone into their wardrobe in search of Black attire with tears rolling down their cheeks profusely.

But like many people reacting to that update, “does dressing up in black drive the point home and how powerful would it be in terms of fighting this cancer?” I asked myself.

My answer: Very effective.

While there is no laid out best way to fight corruption, the costly malignant vice continues to eat into the well-being of society partly because we don't care. Yet we are the victims in the long or short run.

In 2000, 1 billion shillings was lost in police ghost payments. That figure seemed to double twenty times when in 2003, 20 billion

shillings was lost in training ghost soldiers. That same year, the infamous 1.6 billion GAVI funds were stolen. Years later in 2012, all suspects are free.

The figures just kept on growing each passing year. The 2006 numbers stand out; 600 billion shillings stolen from the Global Fund, 782 billion meant for the government education program, UPE disappeared that same year not to forget the 20 billion shillings lost in the so-called AGOA scam. Just to mention but a few.

When the Queen of England visited this country in 2007, someone braced me for the future when they forecast that after all the visitors and the storm that came with them evaporated, the level of theft was to wow the world. Two hundred and forty seven BILLION shillings!

That is the available amount said to have been lost. From ghost cars, lights that only shone for as long as the Queen stayed to everything shoddy work, just like those before, the CHOGM scandal matured into committee investigations, acquittals...and the day ended leaving the door open for more.

And more did come. Temangalo, Umeme subsidy fees, NSSF, NAADS, Posta Kenya, IGG's office...the thieves just got better at what they were doing.

At present, more money is to be spent on national IDs even after 205 billion shillings was lost in 2011. That year was not done delivering the corruption headlines. 169 billion was paid to one businessman as compensation for



ActionAid International Uganda staff pose for a photograph dressed in Black on Monday in solidarity with the campaign.

losing the deal to develop city markets, money for local council leaders' bicycles amounting to UGX5 billion was stolen.

And who will forget 2012?

As though reacting to the false Mayans' prophesy that the world was ending, thugs at the Public Service Ministry created ghosts who even had pictures through which they siphoned 150 billion. Ironically, two men who had served as part of the president's security detail were among those affected by the theft of the pension funds.

A further 375 billion was lost somehow at the Ministry of Education. And teachers continue

to wallow in disappointment due to poor pay. And who can easily forget the freshest wound of them all? The Office of Prime Minister over 50 billion scandal where tale has it that 74 million of the money to rehabilitate communities coming out of decades of war was spent to film 54 homes that had not been built at the time the film was made!

For 2012, the Ministry of Finance sets the record. This time, ghost firms swallowed 400 billion just like that. And as you can notice, all figures are billions!

And now civic activists are calling upon Ugandans to dress up in black one day of the week just



to show frustration towards such level of sheer white collar theft. Can black fight the darkness of the cloud of corruption that hangs over this nation?

My answer is YES.

After reading those figures that are not new to me over and over again, my mind raced. I closed my eyes for a second and imagined Kampala streets reflecting the mood of towns across the country. Women rushing to work in Black, a man making final touches to his black tie on an all black suit as the light shines Red, youth crossing the road...all dressed in Black. A town painted in Black. A country in mourning. I can hear the excuse

'I own nothing black' in the murmurs. Somewhere in the Bible, residents wore sacks to mourn.

While the man with the gun still has all the power, the one that mourns in a silent audible way raises awareness to fill the earth. The thief has built on the weakness that no one asks for accountability; that no one seems to pay attention to ways on how to fight corruption not at the maturity stage but right from the grass roots. Anything goes. And sadly, that society looks at the few adorned in Black with the question, 'Can that fight corruption?' yet they are doing nothing.

The black attire does not deter

the thief from stretching out their hand into national coffers to create 2013 scams. But it reminds everyone be it the judge about to pass a ruling or even those assuming highest offices that the world is watching. That the mother who just lost a child because the drug that could have saved her offspring is not available in the government hospital is watching. Is aware.

I have a dream. That one day, some people will wake up to streets full of people dressed up in black. People that are aware that the theft going on in their country affects them directly. That while some can fly to anywhere to have their ears cleaned, the

sunken health system is all they have. I dream of the day when our greatest tool will be how much we know; the awareness that every single coin unaccounted for affects every one of us in one way or another.

Next Monday, I am ready to be part of the Movement. I may not be part of the crowd but if it does anything to add my voice, Monday is an all-Black day for me.

And yes, black can fight the darkness of corruption.

— By Songa Samuel-Stone
Follow @SongaStone or son-
gasamuelstone.wordpress.com

The Journey so far...

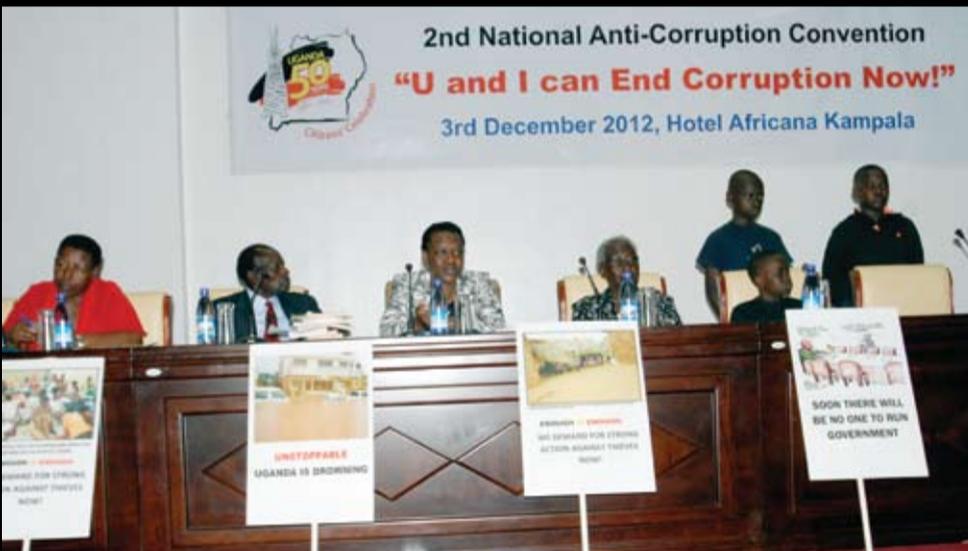
You too can be part of this Journey!



NOVEMBER: CSO leaders perform a symbolic act of burying theft and impunity at HURINET



NOVEMBER: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH! Civic activists marching in protest of the wanton theft before launching the Black Monday Movement

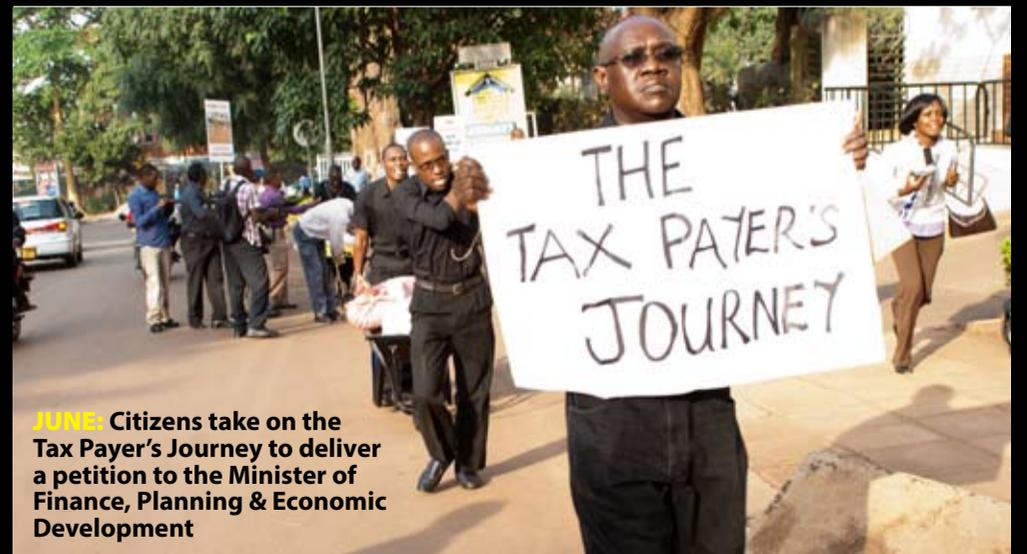


DECEMBER: The IGG and other CSO leaders listen to citizens' views at the Anti-corruption Convention at Hotel Africana, Kampala

FEBRUARY: Anti-corruption activists arrested by Police while distributing newsletters



JANUARY: NGO leaders distributing the Black Monday newsletter on Kampala streets



JUNE: Citizens take on the Tax Payer's Journey to deliver a petition to the Minister of Finance, Planning & Economic Development



My Black Monday Audio CD is here! A citizen shows off his audio CD with anti-corruption messages distributed by skaters in Kampala.



MARCH: Religious leaders stand with the anti-corruption activists by leading prayers for those who have suffered because of the theft of public resources in the country



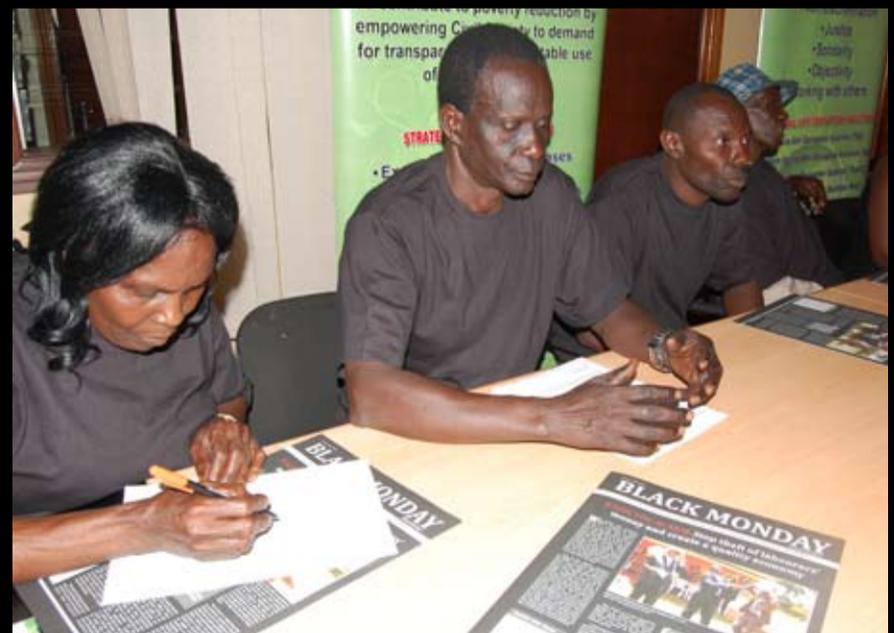
I have my copy already! A senior citizen ready with his copy of the Black Monday Newsletter



APRIL: Anti-corruption activists serve lunch to pupils of Namungoona Orthodox P/S as part of the Quality for Public Education Campaign weekly activities



Black Monday in diaspora! International civic activists excited after receiving their copies of the newsletter



MAY: Pensioners address the press, calling on thieves to return their stolen retirement funds



YOU TOO CAN BE PART OF THIS! CSO Activists well dressed in black on a Monday

From Our Regional PARTNERS

Bring us Black Monday but don't tell my boss – Bushenyi

When a prison warden calls asking for copies of Black Monday so that he can share them with inmates, but quickly adds, "please don't tell my bosses," you know as civil society, the cause you are championing is bearing fruit. It is such morale from Bushenyi residents, since the first issue of Black Monday that has kept us moving from Bushenyi town to prisons, municipal offices, district headquarters and vocational institutes. We are preaching the gospel of Black Monday, keeping our flock informed and intellectually engaged, converting the doubting Thomases and proving to the Judas Iscariots that nothing can stop the fight against corruption in Uganda, once citizens take action.



The prison warden was so excited with the idea but after reading through the first page of the newsletter, he got scared and came back to inquire if we are anti-government. We explained to him that we are anti-corruption but not anti-government. Not sure if he was convinced, we moved to Bushenyi municipal council office which continues to show immense support for the cause. They have since kept asking about the CDs they heard were being distributed detailing the infamous corruption scandals.

From the grass-roots, residents who suffer the deepest sting of corruption have now started to share passionate disappointments with theft of monies and their role in stopping the leakages. Every month they are looking forward to the Black Monday newsletter.

— kakongea@gmail.com

Lango not shaken by arrest of activists

Lango sub-region has risen to clamp down on corruption. We are saying enough is enough, we have had immeasurable misery from rebels, cattle raiders, natural disasters and we shall not take in more anguish from fellow human beings stealing what is meant for us all. Watch the space!

Already 18 governance and accountability based CSOs in Lango sub-region have agreed to stand with the communities and be counted as stewards of good governance. There could never have been a more strategic ally than the Black Monday Movement which the Lango have embraced with open arms. To stamp out corruption and not to destabilize the regime as some of our own fellow activists, for reasons best known to them, unfortunately claim. Of course we are

not to demoralized.

Yes, we have seen, felt and heard of consistent intimidation of activists, some resulting into arrests, often times engineered by known thieves of this country. We shall not relent, those arrests only remind us of the most annoying, untold story of the loss of PRDP funds meant to facilitate the recovery of the war torn northern Uganda. Those arrests only tickle us to remain strong and focused on our cause. Those arrests, afande, are testimony of the fact that our cause is a good cause, a noble cause, a cause you should join as soon as yesterday. Long live Uganda, Long live Black Monday.

— dan.okello@yahoo.com



Black Monday at Bigando Primary School Masindi

Since Black Monday Movement was launched in Bunyoro sub-region, the partners have been distributing the black Monday newsletter and leaflets within the region. There have been engagements with the media especially talkshows that amplify the information given through the newsletters.

Two radio talk show were conducted; one on radio Kitara in Masindi and another one on Radio Spice in Hoima. These were meant to justify and appreciate key activities, components and mode of





citizens participation in the Black Monday Movement.

Communities are increasingly becoming aware of the campaign and a number of people have been approaching the offices of the Citizens Manifesto partners to inquire more on the campaign.

A loose informal community led initiative (group) code named "Concerned Citizens" has taken up the campaign and its offering to distribute the newsletters, popularise the Black Monday Movement and also wear Black every Monday.

The April regional Black Monday public action was organized differently from the other activities initially engaged

in. The Pupils, parents, teachers and CSOs embraced the occasion where we organized a forum theatre skit on the misery of missing lunch by school pupils.

The event generated meaningful debate and concerns from the participants especially pupils. From the debate, it was realized that there was need for consistent research of the state of education situation in Masindi and the entire Bunyoro region.

Black Monday newsletters were distributed to the participants and speeches from the CSO leaders were made.

— micod2008@yahoo.com

Black Monday inspiring Pallisa youth into corruption fight

The Black Monday Movement newsletter in Pallisa is on high demand mostly among the citizens who can read and write to the extent that even government officials demand for them, Pallisa Civil Society Organisations Network (PACONET) has managed to incorporate the Black Monday activities in its program work where it has gone an extra mile to sensitize the public using the Black Monday Newsletter on the effects that the incessant theft of public fund has on their life.

The challenge however remains the delay in receiving the Black Monday Newsletter, with the youth in particular demanding for identification materials like branded T-shirts.

Because of these monthly Newsletters, the youth in Pallisa are organizing themselves to form a pressure group to demand for accountability from their leaders.

Last month's issue, despite a two week long delay, was received with even more enthusiasm,

with PACONET staff clad in black visiting Pallisa District offices and Uganda Red Cross Restaurant where most government officials have their breakfast and lunch. The Issue's central theme on taxes caught the eye of the Chief Administrative Officer who acknowledged that high taxes have been put on essential commodities consumed like kerosene and water.

The Black Monday newsletter mobilizes people together and as they read it, debates are opened regarding the nature of service delivery and it also creates avenues for community engagement with their leaders on topical issues raised in the paper over meals and whenever some one is seen wearing Black on Monday. Actually, in Pallisa Mondays are now filled with discussions on Black Monday Issues, corruption and the way forward.

— paconetco@yahoo.com



FEEDBACK

from Black Monday Online Followers

"Hey! Thanx for this movement! United we stand, divided we fall."

Simon Godslave.

"Today, I am buying my black shirt which I will be wearing ever Monday to show that we need to fight corruption in Uganda."

Amooti Jubilee

"I salute you people! Thanks for the heart you've got for our lovely nation Uganda! I am more than willing to join because I believe if we had no corrupt government officials, Uganda wouldn't be what it is today."

Friday Muwanguzi

The work you doing we appreciate. For the great job, keep on. Don't give up. We have to keep the move forward for the right destiny. We're the front of the rights of Uganda, from the youths to elders. As youths in Uganda we need to empower everybody with the current information, going to villages, funerals, burials, school clubs. We stand together for the better Uganda and we need the heart to work for the love of our nation and to keep Uganda to the way Uganda is supposed to. Mike Kalyesubula.

Chairman, Uganda Youth Front

"There is not a more justified cause in Uganda today than to be part of this effort to reverse the single most impediment to better lives for the majority of the women, men, girls, boys and children of Uganda. Thanks to all those who are and have been part of this action."

Peter Kamalingin

"I call upon all Ugandans to stretch all their hands to Black Monday Movement to overcome Uganda's problems."

Owamumpaire Ronald

"Hello BLACK MONDAY how best can we continue to get the Monday reports as earlier received, i am of a view of picking mine every Monday or Sunday how possible is that and a few for my colleagues and also the shirts would sound good wen worn on Monday Thank you for standing for the truth am with you"

Atwenda Zarura Daniel

"We are doing and talking about corruption, but frustrated by the parliament. When it comes to question the big fish, PAC activity is stopped."

Moses Earthe

"Huh...I missed my copy of Black monday, I went early 4 work, bt oops, not all is lost...am going to have my share online!"

Noah Ssemakula



Citizens seek God in prayer to rid the country of wanton theft of public resources

HOPE DELIVERS FRUITS TO THOSE WHO

Across Uganda, citizens have taken up actions to end theft with impunity but so much more can be done if we unite and fight. An inspiring event happened in Rwenzori sub-region where civic activists and CSO leaders gathered for a church service to commemorate the day of the African Child. A symbolic action was then undertaken all the children who attended cried out loud against the shame of corruption in the region. The action code named, “The morning loud cry day” was one of the activities where the activists engaged the community to protest the high levels of corruption and poor service delivery.

“The morning loud cry day was very essential, unique and

the only way to awaken the community to show them their responsibility towards fighting corruption. It gave us the opportunity to mourn the misuse of the tax payer’s money by the thieves,” reported Alex Kamugisha, KADIVIDO, Kamwenge district.

Reports countrywide indicate how citizens have risen up with several innovative ways to take the fight against theft in their constituencies and the country at large to another level.

Apollo Kakonge, Coordinator Western Ankole CSO Forum, recounts that every Monday morning, taxi drivers camp at his office to collect the free Black Monday newsletters to circulate to their colleagues and disseminate information

about corruption in the entire districts.

The Black Monday Movement seeks to contribute to a longer term goal of a dignified life for all Ugandans, a goal that is unattainable if the enormous theft and mismanagement of tax payers’ money with impunity is not apprehended.

Citizens have the mandate to take up key actions that will lead to the ultimate goal of crashing the wanton theft and achieving a more dignified life. At the heart of the Black Monday Movement is the concept that citizens have got the power and owe it to their country and to posterity to take individual and collective actions in situations of institutional breakdown and poor service delivery.

However, citizens tend to view themselves as powerless and in the long term resign into apathy and despondency as it should not be surprising that people resort to statements like “abantu bakoowu.” This feeling of hopelessness will not bring an end to the challenges but will only give the corrupt more ground to steal.

In Mahatma Gandhi’s words, “It’s the action, not the fruit of the action, that’s important. You have to do the right thing. It may not be in your power, may not be in your time, that there’ll be any fruit. But that doesn’t mean you stop doing the right thing. You may never know what results come from your action. But if you do nothing, there will be no result.”

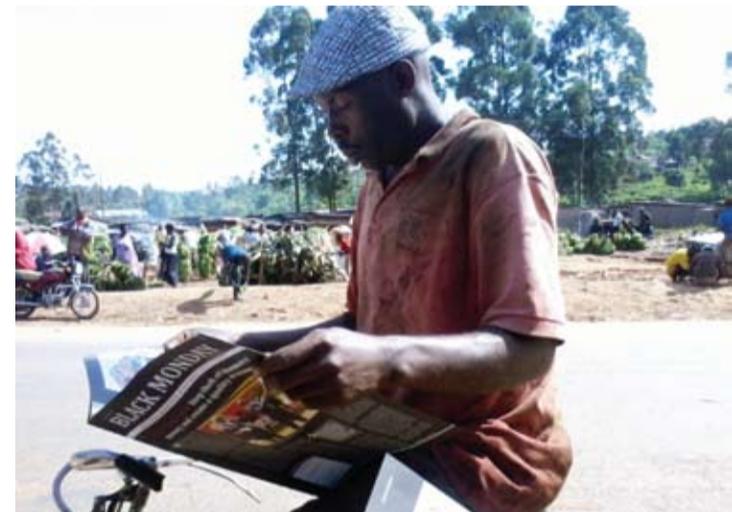
That is why Black Monday Movement calls upon every citizen to take up the following actions as their individual contribution against the theft of public funds with impunity:

Wear Black Every Monday

Wear Black to show your discomfort with the lack of decisive political action against the theft of public funds. Black is an expression of mourning. We mourn the loss of thousands of precious Ugandan women, millions of children and other citizens every year to preventable diseases, birth-related complications, an antiquated transport system and several other inadequacies.



*Thank You from
Black Monday Movt*



A citizen takes time to read the Black Monday Newsletter. The support of the citizens has helped spread the message to millions.

In life, each person can take one of two attitudes: **I**to build or to plant. The builders might take years over their tasks, but one day, they finish what they are doing. Then they find they are hemmed in by their own walls; life loses its meaning when the building stops.

Then there are those who plant. They endure storms and all the many changes of seasons, and they rarely rest. But, unlike building, a garden never stops growing. And while it requires the gardener's constant attention, it also allows life for the gardener to be a great adventure. Gardeners always recognize each other because they know that in the history of each plant lies the growth of the whole world.

Just like gardeners, we the Black Monday movement have met and grown together, and we cannot help but give thanks for thus far we have come. The thinkers who have thought out every detail, the planners, the strategists, the implementers, coordinators, journalists, fore-runners, advocates, critics, writers, , , analysts, youth, women, men, children, clerics, and the list is endless, yet all citizens. We could not have made it thus far without your unmerited efforts and passion in yearning and desiring an end to theft whether flauntingly or not.

We take not for granted all the efforts of every person who has supported and given up much to this cause to fight theft. Civil society, the police, media houses, medical teams, legal teams, the psychologists, every citizen that has dared to take the risk with us, celebrated with us, mourned with us and shared knowledge, time, finances and every effort put in.

Thank you for not merely being builders who give up on life the moment the building stops but rather going a step further to become gardeners who are willing to give this cause constant attention and be part of every growth moment of this endeavor to fight theft. The journey still goes on and we shall all continue to water this garden of hope towards a corrupt free Uganda, the fight against theft shall win.

— penelope.sanyu@gmail.com

izens. As a means of increasing the risks associated with the theft of public funds, Ugandans must collectively boycott properties owned by the thieves so that they do not gain from their criminal acts.

The power to fight the theft of public funds with impunity rests solely with the people of Uganda. Our dear motherland has paid too high a cost of loss of human and capital resources as a result of this vice. We owe it to our children and the generations thereafter to ensure that we bequeath to them a nation that is at peace with itself.

It is our country, it is our duty... it's your call!

— n.elone@ngoforum.or.ug
& karamagiandrew@gmail.com

Reject and Shun All Acts of Corruption

Since this is a citizens' action against this scourge, it is incumbent upon the citizens to actively reject the solicitation and giving of bribes, participation in the theft of public funds and also report all incidences to the key anti-corruption agencies like Police and the Inspectorate of Government.



Shun All Those Who Steal Our Money

Every citizen ought to isolate thieves from all social gather-

ings, functions, events and places. We must express our reservations about the presence of thieves at our weddings, funerals, graduations and places of worship. Additionally, we should reject financial contributions - "brown envelopes" - from leaders whose source is not clear.

Boycott All Commercial Properties Owned By Thieves

It is common knowledge that stolen public funds are often converted into hotels, supermarkets, shopping malls, filling stations, etc.. The thieves are made richer and more powerful when innocent citizens transact with their commercial properties. This gives the thieves more leverage to further social injustices to the ordinary cit-

MAKE AN ATTEMPT!

SUMMARY OF CORRUPTION SCANDALS TO LOOK BACK AT



What must we do to get our money back?

Wear only black clothes every Monday to show you are tired of theft.

Demand political action from the President

Isolate every thief implicated in a theft scandal. Don't invite them to your burials, weddings.

Do not buy goods or services from businesses owned by thieves. Support Ugandans working honestly to make a living.

Until all the thieves have returned our money.