

## On the road with the caravan-Day Nine

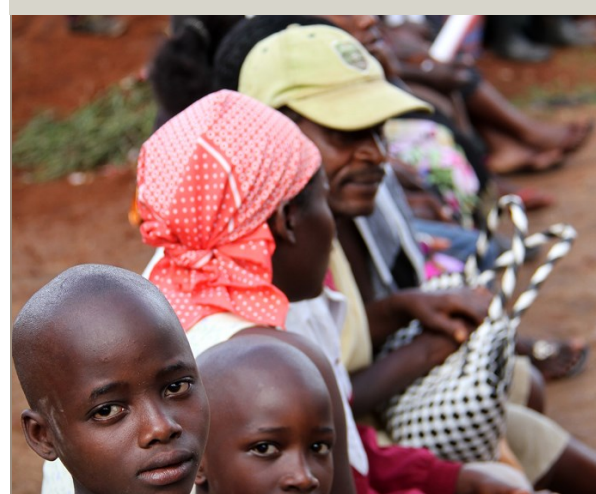


Yesterday, the caravan traversed Kasese District with a call to residents to reject material and monetary goodies in exchange for their votes. The residents, thrilled by the message promised to carry on with the anti-voter bribery campaign but called for the prosecution of all officials implicated in any form of corruption. Good afternoon!

### Food shortage and poverty-Kasese



The senior citizens called for the prosecution of all thieves of votes and public funds.



The children were not left behind. They joined the campaign to demand for quality education.



The women's call across the region is one, investment in maternal health.



The youths take off time to understand the anti-voter bribery message in Kasese yesterday.

Residents in Kasese district have blamed food shortages and abject poverty levels on the rampant corruption tendencies that affect service delivery in the area.

This was the general message delivered through different speakers at public gatherings organized at Kasese- Kizungu market and Rugendabara town council as part of the 2015 Western Region Anti-Corruption Caravan stops.

At Kizungu market yard, Abubakar Katera, the chairman of the Kasese Markets Traders' Association, said that the people of Kasese have been affected by food scarcity and the food prices are so high.

"People have no food. When the politicians come to buy off votes, its very difficult for the community to reject the money and other material goodies", he stated in reference to the recent NRM primaries in which massive vote bribery was recorded.

Katera disclosed that people were given as little as UGX 1000 and items including sugar, salt and soap in exchange for their votes.

Farida Muhindo, a fish vendor in a local market, said that politicians who have a lot of money take advantage of their poverty situation to bribe them and don't care to lobby for better services in the area.

"People contesting for these elective offices take advantage of us. They are hence willing to spend and buy off votes and pay back themselves with the huge salaries that come with the new positions. They consider their positions as jobs and not service points" Muhindo stated.

She also noted that they are faced with water shortages, drug stock-outs at Kasese referral hospital and poor roads, adding that every time she goes for treatment at the government aided hospital, she is informed that the drugs are out of stock.

All residents who had the chance to speak applauded ActionAid for taking the Caravan to Kasese. They vowed to carry on with the campaign against voter bribery in the coming elections. They also called for the prosecution of all public officials involved in all forms of corruption for the development of their district.

"Those caught bribing voters should be banned from participating in elective politics for life," suggested Katera.

After covering several districts from Kabale through Kanungu, Rukungiri, Ntungamo, Mbarara, Bushenyi, and Sheema among others, the Caravan makes a grand final rally today in Fortportal.

### Quote of the day!

"They are willing to spend and buy off votes and pay back themselves with huge salaries that come with the new positions. They consider their positions as jobs and not service points"-Muhindo



### Schedule for the day

The Caravan is currently conducting its last rally in Fortportal this afternoon.

All ActionAid staff, representatives from the civil society, embedded journalists and local artists on board are in good health. The caravan is expected back in Kampala tomorrow afternoon. We shall keep you posted to the last minute.