

On the road with the caravan-Day one



In the presence of cameras and Ugandans, the Western Leg of the anti-corruption caravan was flagged off yesterday by Justice Owiny Dollo. "In the name of God, Go and spread the message against vote buying and vote selling. We need to fight corruption the way we fight malaria and HIV. Just like the two, corruption is infectious, wide spread and even kills." Welcome to this special edition, On the road with the caravan.

People's Rights Not for sale-Justice Owiny



AAU staff say: A vote sold is a service denied. Reject Vote buying Now

Yesterday, ActionAid with support from the Democratic Governance Facility flagged off the western Leg of the anti-corruption Caravan. The theme for this year's caravan is; **A voice sold is a service Denied! Reject Vote buying now.**

The flag off event and press conference was presided over by Hon Owiny Dollo, a High Court judge in the country. Hon Owiny re-branded the caravan to **Anti vote buying/ anti vote selling caravan**, adding that ActionAid and its partners be hailed for this effort to protect the rights of the people .

"People's rights are not for sale", he said.

Hon Owiny added that without supernatural powers, we cannot end corruption, which is like a cancer by simply saying let there be no corruption. He called on the nation to act since the power belongs to the people.

"As you traverse western Uganda, remind the Ugandans that it takes two for vote buying and vote selling to thrive. If politicians offer them soap, let them reject it and demand for manifestos that address the prevailing social issues."

The Judge also called upon the media present to spread the message against vote buying and vote selling in their respective media houses.

A nationwide opinion poll conducted by Research World International in July this year revealed that 59% of Ugandans sell off their votes in exchange for sugar, salt, matchboxes and very small amounts of money, usually less than a dollar with the western region ranked highest.

Today, the Caravan will hold its official opening rally in Kabaale, western Uganda. ActionAid and its partners will be calling upon Ugandans in the district to abandon this shameful and dehumanizing practice of exchanging their votes for monetary and material goodies.

ActionAid and its partners have been organizing a series of Anti-Corruption Caravans since 2013 when the first leg was officially launched in Luwero. It was followed by the second leg that took place in August last year and covered 15 districts in the North East and Eastern Uganda. These focused on unveiling the extent and impact of the corruption scourge in the country and to identify icons of integrity with a move to promote accountable leadership.



The caravan fleet of cars that is traversing the western region of the country. Its in Kabaale today.



The Policy and Campaigns Manager speaks to the Nation in front of voice recorders and cameras



Hon Owiny (in suit) joins AAU staff to address the press conference at the AAU offices yesterday

Qoute of the day!

"We are not God to end corruption by simply saying Let there be no corruption. We Must Act!" Hon Owiny Dolo



Schedule for the day

Speaking to the writer on phone, Timothy Kabale, the Governance Program Officer stated that the entire caravan crew arrived safely and is in good health despite the very cold Kabaale weather (also referred to as the Switzerland of Uganda)

Today's activities will start with a procession from Buhanga Trading Center to Kabaale Municipal Grounds. Some of the Chief guests expected include Hon Banyenzaki, the Minister of State For Economic Monitoring, Proff J.B Kwesiga, a civil society activist but also a member of the AAU Governing Board, and a number of Political, Religious and technical leaders of Kabaale.

After the rally, the caravan will proceed to Kanungu, where they will spend a night. We shall keep you posted.