

The ActionAid Uganda Weekly 1st -7th Oct, 2018

Dear Reader,

Just in case you missed the CD's story in the Daily Monitor, find it here. Xavier talks about what it took to work for AAU amidst government scrutiny. We also bring you highlights of a training of local government officials on service delivery, who also urged government to scrap cabinet allowances in the new financial year. Enjoy.

[New ActionAid Uganda Boss Takes Over Amid Government Scrutiny!](#)

Background. In September last year, police raided ActionAid offices in Kinsanga, a Kampala suburb, and took all the electronic gadgets, froze the bank accounts and eventually closed the offices in October.

BY FRANKLIN DRAKU
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New ActionAid boss takes over amid govt scrutiny

KAMPALA. Mr Xavier Ejoyi last week formally began his tenure as the new ActionAid Uganda country director, replacing the long serving Authur Larok, who was recently transferred to Kenya.

"I am aware of the struggles this organisation is advancing in standing against inequality, poverty, injustices and empowering communities to change this situation for better," said Mr Ejoyi on September 17.

"In Uganda today, it takes a bold but committed person to work in such an environment and I am grateful to you staff for taking on this mantle in all your different capacities," he added.

Mr Ejoyi said he does not need any different level of preparation to perform his tasks.

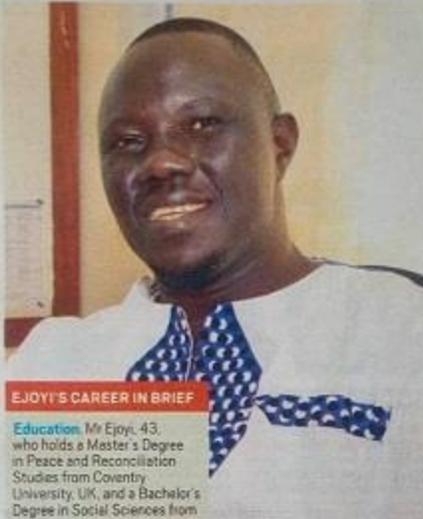
"There is really no special preparation I need to put in place to perform my duty. This is an organisation that looks at accountability with keen interest and, therefore, my duty is to make sure that we are accountable to Ugandans, to the regulatory authorities and to the partners we work with. I want Ugandans to know that we shall stand with them to see that poverty and injustice is defeated," he said.

Clash with govt

ActionAid Uganda is a non-governmental organisation that works directly with citizens and civil society groups to eradicate poverty.

Mr Ejoyi's appointment comes at a time when in September last year, police raided ActionAid offices in Kinsanga, a Kampala suburb, and took all the electronic gadgets, froze the bank accounts and eventually closed the offices in October.

The police had accused the organisation of bankrolling youth groups



EJOYI'S CAREER IN BRIEF

Education. Mr Ejoyi, 43, who holds a Master's Degree in Peace and Reconciliation Studies from Coventry University, UK, and a Bachelor's Degree in Social Sciences from Makerere University, Kampala

Career start. He started his career as a teacher at Christ School, Bundubugyo, where he provided psychosocial support to children affected by the armed conflict in Rwenzori sub-region.

opposed to the removal of the presidential age limit from the Constitution to demonstrate in the city. His biggest challenge will be

Determined. Xavier Ejoyi, ActionAid Uganda country director. PHOTO BY MICHEL SALAMBA

working with the government that views ActionAid with suspicion and has already suffered the ruthlessness of the regime.

At the time of closure of its office last year, the then country director, Mr Larok, said: "It seems that the Ugandan authorities are willing to sacrifice the needs and rights of its own citizens in order to maintain their grip on power. We must be al-

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XAVIER EJOYI, ACTIONAID UGANDA
COUNTRY DIRECTOR

lowed to continue to assist people living in poverty and facing marginalisation. We cannot allow harm to come to ordinary people.”

Mr Ejoyi, 43, has more than 17 years of development work experience at both national and international levels. His expertise are in peace building, democratic governance, human rights and civilian control of armed forces.

Until his appointment as the ActionAid country director, he was the senior conflict specialist and development objective coordinator within the democracy, human rights and governance office of USAID.

Prior to that, he worked as a researcher and training coordinator with the Institute for Security Studies.

He also worked with the Human Rights and Good Governance Office of the Danish Agency for International Development where he led support to the Juba peace process between the government and the LRA rebels including supporting a sensitive implementation of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement.

Mr Ejoyi also led the policy research and advocacy on education and protection of children in armed conflict in northern Uganda while working with the Uganda Child Rights NGO Network, and the Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative.

By Flavia Nalubega

The Country Director Mr Xavier Ejoyi told Daily Monitor in an interview that was published on Monday 24th September 2018, that he is ready to serve the nation through AAU.

Read the full story [here](#).

What's left of service delivery if Citizens Cannot Analyze Governments' Reports!



Charles Mulozi Olweny training young people on their need to participate in national and local governance process for improved service delivery. Photo by Media Factory

By

Joy

Namunoga

Delivery of the citizen aspirations on public accountability and adherence to processes for the greater enjoyment of rights through strategic spaces is provided for-by Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, citizens cannot effectively demand for accountability and engage in opportunities for influencing government actions with inadequate analytical skills on understanding key government accountability documents. As a result AAU last week trained 52 accountability champions(32 males, 20 Females) on practical and theoretical skills on National Report analysis. Champions were trained in public sector accountability; identifying commitments and standards, collecting and use of accountability data, amongst other topics. The training enhanced participants' skills in analyzing and simplifying government documents as appertains to different sectors. At the end of the training, participants were clustered in working groups using their geographical location and made regional action plans for advancing transparency and accountability objectives, which will contribute into the National CSO accountability working

group.

The success of this activity will only be felt when the champions consistently engage government from an informed perspective as opposed to an uninformed citizenry.

Local Governments and Service Delivery; How can ULGA Reduce on the Existing Service Delivery Gaps?

By Joy Namunoga

In Uganda, Local Governments have a constitutional mandate of delivering quality public services. However, they have been experiencing structural, budgetary, human resource and policy challenges which hinder effective delivery on their mandates, hence pointing to the deteriorating quality of public services and quality of Citizens in Uganda.

In order to improve Local Governments' responsiveness towards delivery of quality and gender responsive public services, ActionAid in partnership with ULGA conducted a three days sensitization with 40 selected LG officials in Kampala (31 males, 9 Females) . The officials reflected on strengths, weakness and opportunities of the current local government institution in Uganda; and were also trained in institutional governance; Policy analysis in local governments; and influencing engagements of central governments on the issues of budgets, amongst other discussions.

The Officials pledged to increase local government financing from 13% to 38%, involve the Ministry of local government in the implementation process of the project, establish modalities of engaging National government to achieve Local Government Agenda towards deepening and strengthening decentralization, and scan for actions that ULGA has not undertaken leading to growing loss of authority.

The Continuum; Young People's Plans to Remedy Uganda's Future!



By Joy Namunoga

At the eve of 2018, ActionAid Uganda repositioned itself programmatically to respond to deepening inequality of power, social and economic injustices, and effects and impacts of poverty. The ideology of this shift included consultations with the youth on interventions that address the immediate, mid and long-term basis on government policies and programmes that affect their lives directly, in their localities and at national level.

On September 24th, 2018, ActionAid Uganda held the young people's meeting converging 30 activists (24 male, 6 female) at Bugolobi Royal Suits. The meetings' objective was to discuss ways to embed youth participation in national and local governance processes; examine some of the key methods through which Ugandan youth have been engaging government Ministries, Departments and Agencies and how they can renew their actions and effectively play an active role implementation of commitments and monitoring of processes.

The youth highlighted that they have been advocating against marginalisation of women on property rights and leadership, electoral financing, widespread unemployment, devolution of patriarchal systems and tackling corruption.

The youth have plans on increasing civic engagement on a meaningful participation in good governance; continuously hold leaders accountable for what they do; take deliberate efforts to be informed and own government programmes that can lead to development ; practice personal responsibility and accountability by choosing to be change agents and restraining from non developmental habits.

AAU's Charles M Olweny urged them to define their values and purpose as citizens; write and produce knowledge products; build a constituency and synergies that will protect them and their causes; have facts right and acquaint themselves with local and national laws and policies amongst other mind openers.

Communities in King Fisher Oil Area Happy-Oil has Turned out a Blessing for them!



By Flavia Nalubega

In Hoima, residents of Kyangwali subcounty in Nsonga village applauded civil society for opening their eyes to the truth, and encouraging them to demand for rightful compensation rates, in a bid to be put to better positions, thanks to oil discovery.

As a result, they were able to demand for fair rates in compensation to China National Oil Company (CNOOC) that operates in the oil wells that lie in King Fisher.

The area Chairman LC111 confirmed that each household was compensated Shs100m while others were given new houses in relocation

They however query the delay in oil production that has affected their livelihoods as many

anticipated to access jobs at KingFisher site during oil production.

This and more human rights violations and recognitions are what were realized during a two weeks visit by investigative journalists to oil rich districts to unearth such happenings. Oil discovery has left many lives changes-many for worse and some for the better. The Western districts have more positive stories to tell as the major infrastructure for the project have been constructed here, including the Kabaale airport, oil refinery and oil pipeline while the oil districts in the North still grapple with so many human rights abuses arising from oil discovery.

AAU in the news

- [Interview with Xavier Ejoyi, the AAU country Director](#)
- [The deep story surrounding the Apaa land wrangles](#)
- [The People's Mining Conference](#)
- [CSOs task Cabinet Allowances to be scrapped off next Financial Year](#)