

Weekly



November 9—15

The Western Leg of the Anti-Corruption Caravan continues to attract the attention of Ugandans from all walks of life. The citizens have embarked on a name and shame project of officers involved in vote buying and all forms of corrupt tendencies. Capture all the highlights [Here](#) and more in this Weekly Edition.

In the photo is part of the crowd that welcomed the caravan to Mbarara.

Mayinja thrills as Caravan enters Day 7



Sheema; #No Vote Buying



When the caravan reached Bugongo Trading center in Sheema District, the residents spoke out without fear or favor.

"We are happy that in the recently concluded National Resistance Movement (NRM) primaries, majority of the politicians who attempted to buy off our votes lost in the election. They waited for us at the polling stations and would give us UGX 1000/= in exchange for our votes. We refused their money and voted for the candidates who presented plans of addressing our social challenges."

They also cited Hon Ephraim Kamuntu, who went to the voters with a lot of money, intended to bribe them. They rejected the money and asked him to use it to electrify the locality.

At Kitagata Trading Center, the lamentations went on like a story. Residents spoke about politicians who had bought off voters in the just concluded NRM primaries.

"Bribing of Voters was overwhelming in the NRM Primaries. Everybody who participated in the race for MP offered bribes to the Voters. Politicians gave out salt, sugar, soap and alcohol to Voters," reported Byesize Didas, an area resident.

Byesize added that the Politicians take advantage of the voters illiteracy to make all sorts of empty promises.

"They promise us heaven on earth. Thank you ActionAid for this wake up call. This time round, We shall scrutinize their manifestos and vote issues but not money."

The caravan managed to get the youths, Women, the elderly and even musicians like Ronald Mayinja to denounce vote buying and vote selling in Mbarara. #No Vote buying!

The 2015 Western Leg of the Anti-Corruption Caravan has gone into its 7th day with two massive Stopovers in Rubindi and Bwizibwera Trading Centers and a grand rally at Kizungu playgrounds in Mbarara District. Residents accused the Police, Politicians and Courts of Law of engaging in corrupt tendencies such as extortion of money, bribing voters, embezzlement, negligence and electoral violence.

At the first Stopover at Rubindi Trading Center, Bodaboda Cyclists openly accused the Kashari Criminal Investigations Officer, Ambrose Katana for allegedly costing police bond at UGX 25,000/= yet its supposed to be free. They also alleged that the same Officer usually extorts UGX 100,000/= from Cyclists to release their impounded motor cycles. The LC1 Leaders were also exposed for charging UGX 5,000/= for the official stamp. Local Courts were also on the spot over mismanagement of land cases where the officials are allegedly bought off by the rich parties.

Citing examples from the just concluded NRM Primaries, Residents accused their Local Council leaders and Parliamentary Aspirants of bribing them with only UGX 2000/= in exchange for their votes.

"Vote buying is the main business here. The competition in the political arena is so high that politicians see no way out of it other than buying votes," Observed Rugangura Dan, a Tailor in Rubindi

At Bwizibwera Trading Center, the story was not different.

"Corruption has taken over all the sectors; Schools, Police, Hospitals and Courts of law. Culprits with money will always go scot free. When arrested, they just spend a few days in prison and they are released. Our Leaders should have a conscience." Said Naziwa Rehema

The main rally was held at Kizungu play grounds on the outskirts of Mbarara Town. Residents raised concerns ranging from domestic issues, incompetence of the Leaders, harassment from Police and Crime Preventers, vote rigging, high costs of living and lack of quality services. They were later entertained by Star Artiste Ronald Mayinja who preached the anti-corruption gospel using his music.

Work-Life Balance!



Arthur and Richard at Namboole yesterday. They have clearly rolled out the life balance- patriotism charter.

Football is one of the most potent uniting symbols in Uganda. While many Ugandans are fascinated about European football and fanatically follow Barcelona, Chelsea, Arsenal, Manchester United or Real Madrid, thousands of ordinary Ugandans still pay allegiance to their local clubs and of course the National Team, Uganda Cranes!

After achieving an away 1:0 away win in the 2018 World Cup Qualifiers in Togo on Thursday last week, the first stage was set for an ecstatic return leg at the Mandela National Stadium Namboole.

Two of our staff took off time from hectic demands going about at office and joined thousands of Ugandans to support the Uganda Cranes on Sunday afternoon. Thirty five thousand Ugandans roared and blew their vuvuzelas as Uganda beat Togo, one of the finest teams on the African continent 3:0.

For our 2 staff, the Country Director - Arthur Larok and Programme Development Manager, Richard Olong that were in the crowd with other Ugandans, we say well done, both for taking time off work and fulfilling Work-Life-Balance Charter and secondly for being Patriotic!

Next time, I am sure many others will pick a cue from you!

Civil Society launch citizens Manifesto



(Left) Arthur Larok, the CD at AAU unpacks the citizens manifesto to a fully packed Nile Hall at Hotel Africana last Monday

No other day could have been more apt to launch the 2016 – 2021 Citizens' Manifesto than the black Monday of 10 November 2015. While political parties were launching their 2016 General Election campaign trails, citizens chose to come together and launch their Manifesto in Kampala.

Running under the banner; "Power belongs to the people: governing for equal opportunity and shared prosperity", the manifesto was unveiled by Reverend Father Pascal Kabura.

The launch was a culmination of a long and protracted period of consultation and collation of views from the entire nation.

The Executive Director of Uganda National NGO Forum, Richard Ssewakiryanga, in his opening remarks emphasized the need to ensure that citizens embrace the manifesto as their own and ensure that every word written in it is carried down to grassroots.

"The Citizens manifesto is an expression of citizens' continued commitment to seek a better future with leaders are accountable. It is a commitment to ourselves – a commitment to reclaiming our future through action led initiatives." He said.

Clad in a resplendent black outfit synonymous of the black Monday movement's fight against corruption, Arthur Larok, the Country Director of ActionAid Uganda took to the podium as he unpacked the Citizens Manifesto.

The fiery Larok said the manifesto can be best understood as an output and a process.

"Instead of focusing on the symptoms, the citizens' manifesto is much more inclined towards an emphasis on structural obstacles hence the need to assign citizens a duty."

He emphasized the need to capitalise on Uganda's entrepreneurial spirit which is the best in the world.

"We need to move beyond security and stability to peace, prosperity and a happy citizenry. Equal opportunity in national development is also pivotal. Yet in all this, we need decent employment that upholds the dignity of our people and have strong institutions that work independently and professionally," concluded an inspired Larok.

Delegates who came from Teso region working with the Kumi Local Rights Programme expressed satisfaction with the manifesto as it captured most of their concerns and pledged to go back to Kumi and make sure that the manifesto reaches the people of Kumi.

Arthur was on Capital FM this morning as part of the nationwide roll out and campaign for the citizens manifesto.

AAU Responds to Donor Cuts with plan B



Last Friday, a team of ActionAid Staff sat at the Royal Suites Hotel in Bugolobi to critique, discuss and plan for the roll out of the ActionAid Fundraising strategy. The meeting that was attended by the AAU leadership and a few junior staff generated enthusiastic commentary and ideas as to what the strategy should entail if we are to achieve the strategy objectives.

The Country Director –Arthur Larok emphasized the need for all staff to embrace and play their part in ensuring that this strategy is a success, despite the numerous challenges that come with it. The Fundraising Strategy seeks to transform fundraising in Uganda.

The developed principles, approaches and key actions will ensure that ActionAid Uganda's fundraising vision and goal are achievable within a 5 year slated time frame (2015 – 2021). The roll out of the strategy comes at a time when the ActionAid federation is experiencing a drastic reduction in donor funding and hence a call for plan B as AAU is doing.

WEEK AHEAD:

- This week, the caravan will complete its 10 day journey in Western Uganda. We shall keep you on board with our Daily caravan updates.
- There will be several public engagements to roll out the citizens manifesto.
- The Ministry of Gender will disseminate the standard Operating Procedures for the National Gender based Violence Data Base at Esella Hotel in Najeera