



During last Saturday's historical presidential debate, Incumbent Yoweri Museveni stated that Oil is an NRM discovery. Candidate Abed Bwanika challenged the statement, arguing that Oil belongs to all Ugandans. This is the reason you must sign the petition to end oil secrecy. As we go to the polls this week, vote for a candidate committed to transparency. #OurOilOurFuture!

#OurOilOurFuture-Twitter rally!



(Left) The Policy and Campaigns Manager, Fredrick Kawooya joins the campaign against oil secrecy. Right (above), newly appointed Finance Director, Bruno joins the campaign. Below is a staff of the sponsorship unit campaigning for an end to oil secrecy.

ActionAid's oil in Uganda project team in conjunction with other ActionAid partners organized a social media rally at the ActionAid offices last Wednesday to rally the public to join the campaign against oil secrecy in the country.

The half day event was a very powerful innovation that saw the entire East African region speak about Oil secrecy as a build up to the ongoing campaign; **End Oil Secrecy, Join EITI**. (Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative)

The campaign is demanding for transparency from the Ugandan Government in the oil sector by ending secret deals and joining the EITI. EITI is a global standard that promotes open and accountable management of natural resources like Oil, metals and Minerals.

During the social Media rally, the topical hashtag **#OurOilOurFuture** was the second best trending in Africa, as per results generated from South Africa. 1098 messages were shared on the same topic. Some of the trending messages were; Oil belongs to citizens not NRM, Oil should be used to build Uganda not to enrich a few families, Vote for leaders who commit to oil transparency, let oil be a blessing and not a curse to Ugandans among others.

Arthur Larok, the Country Director of ActionAid Uganda commended the organizers for the innovation that was impactful and cost effective.

"May I also take this opportunity to congratulate the Oil in Uganda Team for a wonderful innovation called a **TWITTER RALLY** which in my view is one of the interesting ideas I have heard this year. The CDs Awards for this year will, in addition to the criteria last year focus on innovation to reach out and build numbers, staff who excel in advancing our Mission, Vision and Values (MVV) and those who excel in effective documentation", he wrote.

Arthur was on Thursday morning hosted on NTV to further speak about energy and oil in relation to the forthcoming elections. While here, he emphasized the need for a corrupt free oil sector if it is to benefit all citizens.

"There are incompetence and inefficiency problems that need to be fixed. There's a lot of corruption in the energy sector which, if not curbed early enough, shall be transferred to the consumer. We need a government and leadership that cares about people, and that is accountable to the people," Arthur said.

The online petition seeks to hit the 20,000 mark of signatories among the citizens, let us all join the campaign by signing the petition [here](#). But more importantly, this Thursday, vote for the president and legislators committed to oil transparency in their manifestos.

Climate Change Evaluation Report launched



Dr Kisambwa Mugerwa launches the report. 3rd left is AAU's Fred Kawooya

More than 190 Parties met last December in Le Bourget, Paris for the twenty-first Conference of Parties (COP 21) and the eleventh meeting of the parties (CMP 11) to the Kyoto Protocol where they adopted a universal climate change agreement known as the Paris Agreement. In 2007, Uganda developed her National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPA) whose main objective was to address the urgent and immediate national needs and concerns relating to adaptation to the adverse effects of climate change

A study was commissioned by Environmental Management for Livelihood Improvement Bwaise Facility (EMLI) and ActionAid Uganda in partnership with the Ministry of Water and Environment-Climate Change Department with financial support from Australian Aid to evaluate the implementation of adaptation interventions in Uganda with special focus on implementation of the NAPA.

In relation to the above, the consortium of non-party stakeholders under Climate Action Network Uganda (CAN-U) and Environment and Natural Resources Civil Society Organizations (ENRCSO Network) through partners-ActionAid Uganda, ACODE, Environmental Alert, EMLI, IUCN and OXFAM working in collaboration with the Climate Change Department of the Ministry of Water and Environment organized the Post COP 21 Forum and NAPA evaluation study launch at Hotel Africana last week.

During the high level forum, outcomes of the COP 21 and the implications of the 2015 Paris Agreement to Uganda were discussed.

Fredrick Kawooya, the Policy and Campaigns Manager at ActionAid gave the background to the study, noting that commitment to NAPA was as early as 2007 hence the need to take stock of what has been happening. He argued policy players present to use the study to inform policy that will ensure a change on ground and improve the lives of those most affected by climate change.

The chief guest, Dr Kisambwa Mugerwa who represented the Water and Environment Minister highlighted the need to share and inform the public of what transpired at COP 21 as a way of promoting accountability and enhancing citizen participation, utilization of implications while allowing the localization and contextualization to Uganda. He further noted that although the Paris agreement was a step forward for the African continent, the need for climate financing towards vulnerable countries should not be underestimated as the Agreement is non-binding to those not signatory and therefore provides no guarantee of action.

The meeting was closed with the launch of the NAPA evaluation study report.

Uganda Meets Haiti-Betty Namatovu



Betty (in blue) with Esther (Finance Officer) during the 2014 staff cultural gala (file)

23 hours of flight time with a 26 hours' overlay in Paris saw me arrive in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. With the temperature soaring at 25° C as announced by the flight crew followed by cheers from fellow passengers, it was clear that there was relief from the excruciating chilly weather in Europe and for me, it was excitement that I had finally made it to what was going to be home for the next six months. My role at ActionAid Haiti will primarily focus on overhauling the Sponsorship mechanism, strengthen capacity of sponsorship practitioners and institute sustainable new ways of working, which is a pretty exciting role.

For a country that was hit by a massive earthquake six years ago, Haiti and her people are a force to reckon with for the resiliency. Driving through Port-au-Prince, one will not fail to notice cracks through walls of some buildings and heaps of debris by the road side because this is a city which is still under construction. These and more, are reminders of how mean nature can be, sometimes. While am in awe of how the city got rebuilt again with speed, a colleague with whom I am having a ride, isn't. She tells me that so much money was injected into the country in the wake of the earthquake but due to rampant corruption, not much was done with it. She tells me that some areas especially in the countryside have never had schools and hospitals or health centers rebuilt, which in my opinion is partly responsible for rural-urban influx and the issues that come with it including increase in crime rate and insufficient housing, leading to development of slums.

During the first month of my stay, I had an opportunity to travel to one of the LRPs which is in the countryside. The green scenery reminded me of home! On the way to the country side, vendors sell fresh vegetables and fruits on the road side markets at different centers. One will also not miss catching a glimpse of young men seated by the verandahs of buildings, engrossed in conversation and laughter – this resonates well with the situation in Uganda.

The LRP where I travelled to is located in Vallue, which is in the Southern part of the country. The area is mountainous so we had some walking to do especially when we got to places where the vehicle couldn't pass. This was such an experience for someone who has lived in no other area other than the central part of Uganda, which is known for its low-lying lands. So while I go about achieving my objective for the Secondment, I am planning to make most of my time – enjoy Haiti and its rich culture. I wish you all a peaceful stay and come 18th Feb, go exercise your right.

(As written by Betty Namatovu, ActionAid Uganda)

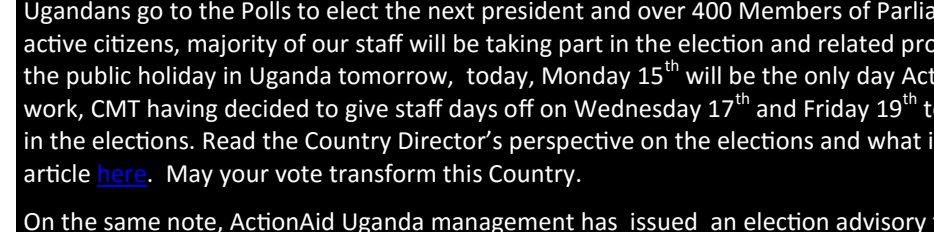
Story of change for the week!



In a region long criticized for harmful cultural practices such as female genital mutilation, one programme (WORIA, implemented by ActionAid with funding from Australian Aid) in the Sebei region is empowering women, economically and socially

Click [Here](#) and know how carrots are changing lives.

Farewell Maryanne, Denis and Olivia



Olivia(2nd left), the Sponsorship officer, Denis (third left) a Finance Officer and Maryanne(2nd right) the Board liaison Officer are leaving ActionAid Uganda.

During the farewell lunch organised in their honour, they all pledged to uphold the ActionAid spirit by remaining true to the ActionAid values. Arthur, AAU's Country director spoke passionately about their contribution to the organisation and wished them success in their next endeavours.

WEEK AHEAD:

Ugandans go to the Polls to elect the next president and over 400 Members of Parliament this Thursday. As active citizens, majority of our staff will be taking part in the election and related processes. Coupled with the public holiday in Uganda tomorrow, today, Monday 15th will be the only day ActionAid Uganda will work, CMT having decided to give staff days off on Wednesday 17th and Friday 19th to allow them participate in the elections. Read the Country Director's perspective on the elections and what is likely to play out in his article [here](#). May your vote transform this Country.

On the same note, ActionAid Uganda management has issued an election advisory to staff and all ActionAid partners and clientele. Click [here](#) for the Document and act as advised.