



Weekly

April 11 – 17

She spoke with authority, and yet, her face expressed disappointment and hopelessness. It was clear that she is disappointed with the current education system. Her teachers are demotivated. Her peers are dropping out of school as a few people continue to take home more than one salary; Meet Esther Nakitende, the Minister of Education and sports that Uganda needs [Here](#)

Pupil's Mock Speech causes action!



(Left) Pupils of Nakasero primary school with their teacher, Mr Kabanda. They said that they look forward to coming to school every day because Mr Kabanda is not just their teacher but their second dad. Right Above is the Amazing Nakitende Esther. Below is samanya, AAU's communication officer documenting the children's experiences with the UPE system and how it can be improved. Their future aspirations may never be attained if the quality of UPE is not improved.

Last Saturday, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education and sports pledged 20% of his monthly earnings towards the renovation of the girls sanitary facilities at Nakasero Primary school. This followed a mock speech by 11 year old Esther Nakitende as the Minister of Education and Sports.

Esther among others spoke about the poor welfare of the teachers in the country, the failed Universal Primary Education system and the challenges that the girl child goes through while at school.

"I want to announce here that am not only a cabinet Minister but also a member of Parliament. Am going to offer all my monthly earnings as a legislator to schools for the construction of girls sanitary facilities and a small allowance to the senior Women teachers. Am calling upon officials, who earn more than one salary to follow suit. Let us invest this money in education for the future Uganda deserves", she mocked, to a thunderous applause.

After her speech, the Permanent Secretary and a few other dignitaries present stood up and pledged to support the construction of a girls sanitary facility at Nakasero Primary school. While the school currently has a population of 2500 pupils, its still using facilities constructed in the 1950s during colonial rule, when the school population was barely 100 pupils.

The above events unfolded during the Music, Dance and drama festival organised to promote quality learning in schools. The event was organised by the teachers who won last years teachers' competition of teachers ensuring a safe learning environment in schools. The competition was one of ActionAid's 16days of Activism activities.

The festival was attended by Nakasero , Buganda Road, Bat valley and Kitante Primary schools, Members of the Uganda National Teachers' Union, KCCA officials and other dignitaries from the Ministry of Education.

Mr John Kabanda, the winner of last years competition pledged to ensure that they hold similar events in all schools around Kampala aimed at improving the quality of education but also maintaining a safe learning environment for the pupils.

Samanya, the communications officer at ActionAid, who represented the Policy and campaigns Manager thanked the teachers for the campaign.

"ActionAid is proud that the three teachers that were recognised are now rolling out a campaign to improve the quality of education in Uganda."

Samanya appealed to the Policy makers present to take Nakitende's speech very seriously and work on the issues that are raised there in.

"Let us not just state that she is a brilliant pupil. Let us take on the issues raised in the speech to redeem the future of our country", she appealed.

Read about the teachers competition [Here](#).

AAU for More funding from Australia



AAU's Oil in Uganda Editor, Flavia Nalubega shares with colleagues AAU's strides so far in the mining sector. AAU won more funding from Australian aid for the projects.

In a meeting of Australia NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP) member countries held in Bangkok, Thailand last week, Australia confirmed renewal of funding to Uganda worth 100,000AUD through its Department of Foreign Affairs and trade (DFAT).

The funding is aimed at boosting and supporting the Extractives Governance and Livelihoods work, specifically looking at expansion of the Mining governance and Women land rights in Northern Uganda projects. This funding will continue for the next two years with releases of up to 100,000 AUD per year for other countries and a slightly higher value for Uganda which has two projects.

The project will mainly target women in the mining areas of Karamoja and Mubende to promote safe mining and recognition of small scale and artisan miners in Uganda. It will also be implemented in Northern Uganda to improve the livelihoods.

Sally Henderson, the Senior Program Coordinator at ActionAid Australia, also in charge of these two projects acknowledged the Ugandan team represented by Peter Kalule, the Livelihoods Coordinator and Flavia Nalubega, the Oil in Uganda Editor for showcasing the strides made with the women as a result of Australian Funding.

She added that with these two projects, they look forward to further empowerment and improvement of the Women's livelihoods in the country.

Other countries present included Bangladesh, Palestine, Pakistan and Australia. These are all implementing similar programs; empowering women farmers.

On the Road to Kilimanjaro-Eastern Uganda!



One of the participants expressed her thoughts with pen, paper and a smile.



Participants show off their commitments in a group photo at the end of the forum.

ActionAid Katakwi together with the Livelihood unit convened the Rural Women Farmers Forum (RWFF). The meeting brought together prominent women farmers and Women Rights Activists from the 32 districts of the Eastern Ugandan Sub regions of Teso, Bukedi, Bugisu, Sebei, and Busoga.

The meeting aimed at enhancing women's participation in Agriculture and land Decisions Making is the first in a series of actions building into the *Kilimanjaro initiative*. The Initiative is a campaign action which will bring together over 1000 women from all over Africa to collectively proclaim their demands and commitments on the desired future of women rights. The women will end the campaign by climbing Mt Kirimanjaro.

One speaker regretfully stated that Men own the biggest chunk of resources thus barring women from engaging in resourceful production.

"Men have increasingly become fraudulent, often making decisions such as sale of family land or property behind the backs of their spouses/wives. Unfortunately, Women shy away from formal settlement of domestic conflicts for fear of repercussions like imprisonment of husband who could be the sole breadwinner", she said.

Miriam Cherukut, Cluster Coordinator of Katakwi explained that the RWFF is working towards forming a strong movement of women at local, national, regional and continental level. This, she said, would be achieved through networking women at various levels to discuss issues that affect them and offer solutions.

"The forum nurtures the voices of rural women farmers in the formulation of practical policies. We should note that most of the Government policies impact directly on the livelihoods of rural women. They should hence play an important role in their formulation", she said.

At the end of the meeting, the women set up a nine member committee to coordinate their issues and over see their representation at the regional, national and continental levels while linking up with the forth coming Kilimanjaro Project.

For updates about the activity and also the buildup to the Kilimanjaro project-October 2016, follow the conversation on twitter [Here](#)

Minister Commits to kick Corruption out of Teso



ActionAid Uganda with financial support from Democratic Governance Facility (DGF) facilitated a regional dialogue on the state of public service delivery and performance of government affirmative action programs in Teso Sub region.

The dialogue was organized under the theme "Inclusive Planning and Participation for a transformed North Eastern Uganda."

The Forum was attended by 121 participants representing the Office of the Minister of Teso Affairs, Local Government officials, community members, religious and cultural leaders, youth, media, farmers and civil society organizations representatives.

The issue of corruption was high on the agenda. Participants called for punitive measures both at local and national level to avert to anomaly. Participants also advocated for effective decentralization for efficient and effective resource utilization to improve service delivery. Members also called for restoration of the unconditional local government grant for the realization of true affirmative action in the area.

At the end of the meeting, a seven-point demand communique was generated and presented to the Minister of Teso Affairs for submission and engagement with the central government.

The Minister of Teso Affairs, Hon Amongin committed to support this campaign and share the Teso position contained in the communiqué with the cabinet.

"My office will also work closely with the central and local governments to kick corruption out of Teso region to realize improved quality of public service delivery", she committed.

The project team on the same occasion launched a campaign to petition Government on the poor state of service delivery and performance of Government affirmative Programmes in North and North Eastern Uganda.

WEEK AHEAD:

- ActionAid and other CSOs have today launched a 10 million signature campaign against MPs exemption to pay taxes. Sign the petition coming to you shortly. You pay taxes. There is no reason why your legislator should not pay. Watch this space for details.