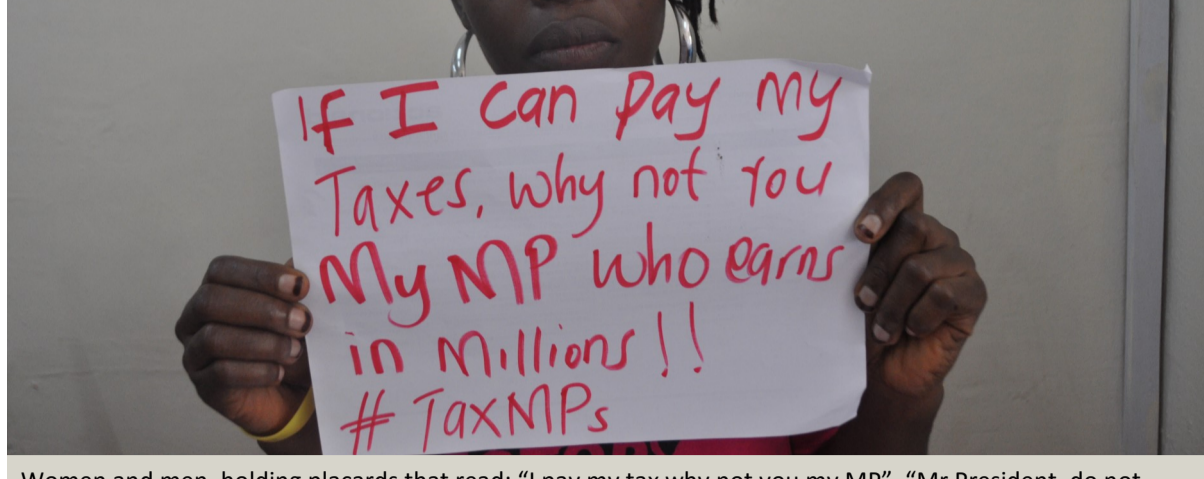


Weekly

April 18— 24



Women and men, holding placards that read: “I pay my tax why not you my MP”, “Mr President, do not assent to Income Tax [Amendments] Bill”, “MPs should be exemplary”, “there should be equitable taxation in Uganda” stood by at the launch of the Five million signature campaign to petition the president not to sign the bill. Our own Annet Namambwe joined the campaign. Welcome to this edition of the weekly.

MP Tax Evasion deal Vs citizens 5 Million signatures



(Left) Kampala City Traders’ Association, chairman Everest Kayondo (C) with other activists sign the petition. (Right above) Actionaid Uganda, AG-Country director Harriet Gimbo and Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group, coordinator Julius Mukunda at the launch of the 5million signature campaign. (Right below) Uganda NGO Forum, executive director, Richard Sewakiranga at the same event.

On Wednesday last week, Civil Society Organisations convened at Hotel Africana to launch the 5million signature campaign to petition the President of Uganda not to assent to the Income Tax(Amendment) Bill, 2016.

Members of Parliament on 14th April 2016 amended Section 21 of the Income Tax Act to have their allowances exempted from taxes. If the bill is passed in its current form, Uganda stands to lose UGX49.464 billion annually in tax revenue.

Harriet Gimbo, the AG-Country Director at ActionAid indicated that this money can be used to improve the quality of social services in the country.

“If the MPs don’t pay, the burden will obviously be pushed back to you and me because Government needs money to provide the social services. MPs need to avoid these egocentric tendencies and resort to leading by example through paying their fair share of tax as they are among the high income earning bracket,” added Harriet.

The chairman of the Kampala City Traders Association (KACITA) demanded that Government should limit its expenditure on public administration and intensify investment in production.

KACITA and CSOs downplayed the argument given by some legislators that by taxing their emoluments ,its double taxation adding that the matter is not unique to MPs.

The president of the Uganda law society told the gathering that their institution had already written to the president, asking him not to assent to the Bill.

“We are optimistic that the president will listen” he added.

By Friday last week, 1.5 million signatures of the five million target to petition president Museveni had been collected. Sign the petition today. With five million signatures, we shall demand that Tax justice be restored in Uganda. We count on you.

As earlier anticipated, other groups of Ugandans are now demanding that their allowances be exempted from Taxation as a result of the wrong precedent set by the Legislators.. Watch the medical workers demand for exemption [here](#)

and the CSO demand for Tax justice [Here](#).

AAU launches collaboration with the Uganda Police Force



Harriet and Phillip (Centre) with the Police leadership at the Police Headquarters in Naguru. The meeting agreed to the training of all Police commanders in the use of the Ipaidabrike platform.

ActionAid Uganda met with the Uganda Police leadership last week to launch a collaboration in the fight against Corruption in the county. This is a build up to the previous collaborations especially during the anti-corruption caravans.

The meeting that was chaired by the Deputy Inspector General of Police, Okoth Ocholla was attended by over 14 Assistant Inspector Generals of Police including Andrew Sorowen, Andrew Felix Kaweesi, Edward Ochom, Asan Kasingye, Asuman Mugenyi among others.

Harriet Gimbo, the AG-Country Director at ActionAid, together with Philip Kabuye, the Ipaidabrike platform Manager and research assistant represented ActionAid at the meeting and introduced the Ipaid a bribe concept to the Police . Launched last year by the Deputy Chief Justice Stephen Kavuma, the digital platform was developed to track both corruption and integrity incidents across the country paying close attention to the sectors and time frame.

The Police was informed that the platform would help the unit to track discipline and professionalism of its officers but also to track crime and apprehend citizens in the habit of giving and accepting bribes.

Mr Felix Kaweesi was not convinced about the accuracy of the reports. He argued that some officers may reject bribes at some point and be appraised as honest officers but accept bribes at different times and be appraised as corrupt officers.

Harriet however informed the meeting that all cases reported were treated as allegations to be proved later after investigations have been conducted.

Mr Kasiima, the Director of Traffic however suggested that in further development of the platform, the different sectors implicated should be informed so that investigation into the allegations are instituted on time.

Mr Asuman Mugenyi advised the AAU team to write a letter seeking for an induction of all District and Regional Police Commanders on the same.

I feel Like an Agriculture University Graduate-Constance

In Pallisa last week, ActionAid rolled out a Training of Trainers (TOT) on Farmer Field School approach for small scale farmers from the districts of Pallisa, Kibuku and Budaka.

The training attracted 32 participants including District extension workers, Reflect facilitators, Active and model farmers and staff from AAU and partner civil society Organizations. The training was organized to equip these resource persons with knowledge and skills to scale up the Farmer Field School approach in the community to boost agricultural productivity.



Participants during one of the exercises during the training last week.

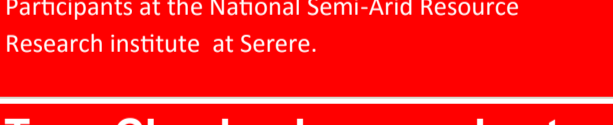
Farmer field school (FFS) is a Platform and “School without walls” for improving decision making capacity of farming communities and stimulating local innovation for sustainable agriculture .The approach gives farmers an opportunity to make a choice in the methods of production through a discovery based approach. It also teaches basic agro-ecology and management skills that make farmers experts in their own farms.

The Participants were extremely excited about the approach and appreciated AAU for this innovation which will boost their agricultural productivity for improved livelihoods in their communities.

Namusisi Constance, a Reflect Facilitator from Buseta could not hide her excitement.

“Thank you ActionAid. With these skills, I feel like a University Agriculture Graduate. It has been very practical. Am going to use the skills to improve my household Agriculture production and that of my village”, she said.

Constance added that the exposure visit to the National Semi-Arid Resource Research institute Serere equipped them with hands on experience for implementation of farmer field schools and its concepts like Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and Agro-eco system analysis (AES). We look forward to Pallisa becoming Uganda’s food basket.



Participants at the National Semi-Arid Resource Research institute at Serere.

Teso Clan leaders resolve to protect Women and children



The DPC of Katakwi warned that if the clan leaders don’t abide by the land policies, they would be arrested.

Ray of Hope (ROHo), an ActionAid partner in Katakwi LRP Cluster conducted a Dialogue on Women Land Rights with 45 cultural leaders drawn from Omodoi, Toroma and Kapujan Sub counties in Katakwi District.

According Fidel Oluka, the Programme Officer of ROHo, the meeting aimed at changing attitude of cultural leaders and other community members on the rights of women to land and property ownership.

“ We wanted to influence cultural leaders because many of them ignorantly support cultural practices that perpetuate land grabbing and discrimination of women and children’s rights to land access, control and ownership”, said Oluka.

Fidel added that in the long run, it will lead to a just and poverty free community since women and children are at the forefront of production.

The cultural leaders confessed that they were not aware of the existing land policies and Laws and that their actions are usually guided by clan precedents that are not in conformity with the law. The clan leaders agreed to take lead in demanding and advocating for women’s rights to Land and property. They also committed to adopting the multi-stakeholder approach in supporting women and children to enjoy their right to land ownership, access and usage.

In the bid to operationalise these resolutions, the Police officer in charge of the land desk, the District Community Development Officer and a representative from the Iteso Cultural Union(ICU), Akwang Niko were hosted on Joshua FM’s radio talk show.

Niko stressed that clan leaders should play a protective role in ensuring that Women and Children’s rights are upheld and respected in all clan decisions.

“The Iteso Cultural Union offices are open. If you find that the clan leaders are instead perpetuating Women Rights Violations, come and tell us”, he called out.

WEEK AHEAD:

- The five million signature collection is still going on. Please visit any ActionAid office across the country or any of our partner Organisations and sign the petition to the president not to assent the Bill exempting Legislators from paying taxes on their allowances.

- AAU is today holding a dialogue with 100 leaders in Acholi Sub region to draw an agenda to improve service delivery in the region.

- Today Marks the start of the Global week for Children. ActionAid together with other actors working on the right to education are going to generate evidence and engage in policy influencing activities for quality public education in Uganda.