



**Weekly**  
April 25—1 May

Two weeks ago, the Weekly broke the news of 11 year old Esther Nakitende, the Minister of Education that Uganda needs as per the reforms she proposed during her Mock speech as the Minister of Education. Nakitende finally met the Hon Minister of Education; they seem to compare notes on how to reform the Education sector. Read Nakitende's mock speech [here](#).

## 2.8 signatures in a week against MP Tax exemptions



After the press conference to brief the media on next steps for the 5million signature campaign, CSO leaders went to the streets and swept the road, in a symbolic demand for the cleaning of the taxation system to remove all forms of unfairness. If you have not yet signed the petition, please do. Demand for Tax justice today.

ActionAid and CSOs under the Tax Justice Network have to date collected over 3 million signatures in the move to frustrate the Legislators' move to dodge income Tax payment.

On 20th April 2016, a 5 million citizens' campaign was launched to petition the president to reject the new insertion by MPs under Sec.21 of the Income Tax Bill that creates Tax exemptions on the Legislators emoluments and allowances which are in Millions of shillings, and yet the same tax regime imposes taxation on emoluments and benefits of all other public servants and low income earners.

Speaking to the over 30 press men and women who turned up for the Press briefing last Friday at the AAU offices, Harriet Gimbo, the Ag Country Director stated that the campaign has registered overwhelming support by the citizens in just one week.

"We have mobilized citizens to append their signatures to this petition and in a period of one week, 2,821,909 citizens have signed the petition. These are Ugandans from 88 districts", she said.

Fredrick Kawooya, the Policy and Campaign Manager at ActionAid is optimistic that additional signatures will be secured in the course of this week before the petition is forwarded to the President

"The signature collection drive has been met with enthusiasm in all parts of the country. Parliament should therefore refrain from decisions that are going to frustrate Uganda's economy. We are losing billions of shillings in Tax exemptions. This trend must stop", he added.

Unfortunately, the Legislators have since threatened not to pass the 2016/2017 financial year budget, unless the president signs the bill into law. However, the President's press secretary Linda Nabusayi has said that the Head of State will not be blackmailed into signing some bills just to favour members of parliament.

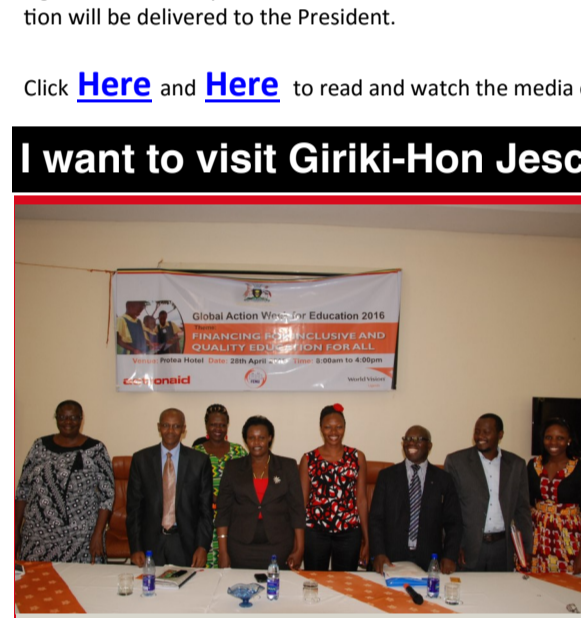
"The threat by MPs to block the #NationalBudget 2016/17 if the #President does not sign into law the recent Income Tax (Amendments) Bill 2016 passed by #Parliament is tantamount to #TREASON", she wrote on Twitter, adding that;

"The #MPs are being selfish and talking irresponsibly. Are they passing the Budget for the President's personal use or for the country to manage its affairs, including serving the people who elected them?", she wondered rhetorically.

Linda concluded that President Museveni is going to scrutinise the bill and if found to be a bad law, he will definitely not sign it. To date, only a handful of MPs have come out to discredit the Bill. We shall keep you informed on when the petition will be delivered to the President.

Click [Here](#) and [Here](#) to read and watch the media coverage of last Friday's press conference at AAU offices.

## I want to visit Giriki-Hon Jesca Alupo



The Minister with the panelists at the Education week event last week.

The Minister of Education and Sports, Hon Jesca Alupo last week committed to ensure that the Government Primary school per parish policy is operationalized to ensure increased access to Education especially in the hard to reach areas. The Minister made these remarks at the Global Education Week event organized at Protea Hotel by ActionAid and World Vision.

"All the speakers have asked me to ensure that Greek River Primary school in Bukwo becomes Government aided. I want to visit Giriki and look at this school constructed by ActionAid. But as I consider the school for Government aiding, I want the policy to be operationalized so that all other communities are served", she said.

The Minister also stated that major progress has been made towards increasing access to education at all levels and increasing enrolment rates in schools particularly for women and girls.

"Basic literacy skills have improved tremendously, yet bolder efforts are needed to make greater strides for achieving universal education goals."

Sustainable Goal 4 aims at inclusive and quality education for all to promote lifelong learning which can only be done when adequate resources are allocated to the sector.

AAU's Fredrick Kawooya said that while the introduction of Universal Primary Education has resulted into an increased enrollment of 92%,(EMIS 2013), the 2013 UWEZO report shows that only 40% of the children are able to read and write at P3 and P6.

He added that Uganda's successes in the education sector are confronted by a number of financing challenges which affects the quality of education at all levels.

"The Government needs to improve the insufficient and misallocation of resources in the sector if we are to improve the unfortunate 40% statistic", he stated during a panel discussion.

During the meeting, different stakeholders in the education sector shared challenges in education financing and drew a roadmap towards strengthened advocacy for increased funding for the Education sector in the 2017/2018 financial year.

The Global Education week campaign is still ongoing. In a monthly series, we shall bring to you the different Education structures and tales that are in urgent need of increased allocation of resources to redeem the future of this country.

Keep reading the weekly.



AAU's Fred Kawooya (m) and World Vision's Country Director chat with the Minister



Nakitende Esther, speaks to the audience on improved education financing

## No drilling oil without our consent- Cultural leaders warn!



Rwot Otinga Atuka Ottoya, Lamogi's cultural Chief warned the Government against not consulting the local communities.

A meeting of cultural, religious and political leaders of the Oil rich areas of Hoima, Masindi, Gulu, Amuru, Nwoya, Buliisa and Nebbi gathered in Gulu last week, to devise means of how to work with Government, to bring an end to the unfairness in oil and land deals that are rampant in the Albertine.

Rwot Otinga Atuka Ottoya, the traditional Chief of Lamogi, who represented chiefs from Acholi sub region was furious at Government's poor consultative manner that does not involve the common man, local, cultural and religious leaders. He ranted that unlike Bunyoro where Government has gazetted oil areas without consultations from the locals who are the land owners, in Acholi sub region the locals will not look on at such unfair acts.

"We see them every now and then, they come in helicopters, move around the area and go back. We are waiting for them. If they come and start demarcating and drilling oil without our consent, we shall go up in arms. My people are ready for them", The Rwot told the meeting in Gulu.

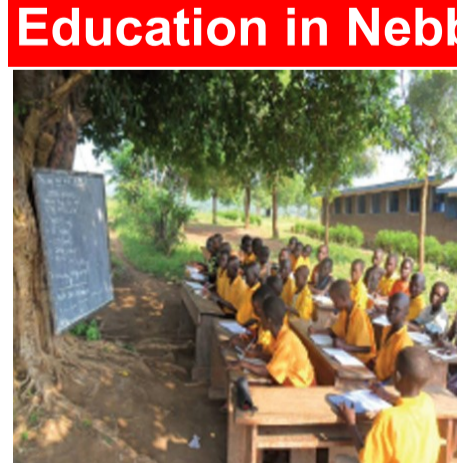
Rwot Pichu Oyeko Edward another Chief of Acholi based in Nwoya district said that they will not look on as the Government takes all their resources without giving back to the chiefdom.

The Petroleum Act states that locals of an oil rich area as well as recognised Kingdoms are entitled to less than 1 percent of the total oil revenues which is too little compared to the effects suffered by these communities.

Religious leaders at this Forum however appealed to fellow leaders to use peaceful means to engage Government in order to attain justice.

The meeting organised by AAU's Extractives Governance Project attracted over 50 religious, cultural and political leaders. These devised means of how to handle the steaming anger resulting from unfairly announced Presidential elections outcomes and the ongoing discontent on matters of oil discovery in the Albertine region. This in the long run will ensure that good governance is upheld in the Albertine region.

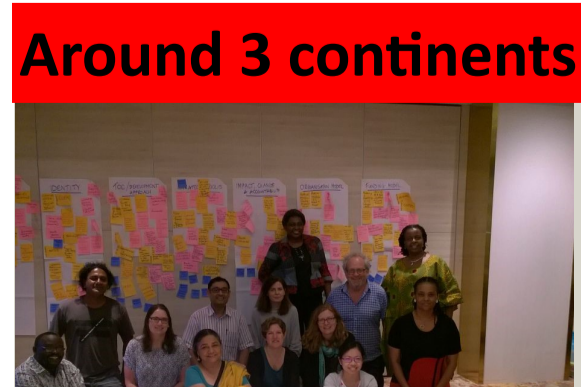
## Education in Nebbi-The story that must change



It is evident that some primary schools in Nebbi, particularly Pubindhi Primary School, have inadequate classroom infrastructure to accommodate all the pupils. Many of them are Studying under Trees which implies that the pupils can only study during the dry season. In the event that it is a wet season, then pupils will most probably miss lessons. In addition, some primary schools do not have adequate sanitation facilities for both boys and girls, which poses a health risk for the pupils and the communities at large. In fact, 68 girls and 77 boys share one pit latrine stance respectively.

While there have been efforts to address these challenges by Nebbi District local Government, they have been constrained due to limited funding of the sector. As we commemorate the Global Education week, we demand for increased financing of the Education sector for inclusive and quality education in the district.

## Around 3 continents in 24 Days-AAU's CD



The CD, left (seated) with other members of the AAI Strategy Drafting Team.

Our CD is on the road for what he has termed his longest working trip in which he will traverse three continents - Africa, Asia and Europe, all in 24 Days! First he was in Bangkok, Thailand where he attended a Feminist Leadership Transformation workshop for selected ActionAid Leaders. He sent this comment after the training:

'...this is perhaps one of the most impactful trainings I have had in my life. From the reservations I had about feminism, I am now committed to its cause which is really about the fight for a more equal society for all. I have deeper understanding of power and how it works and sometimes destructively and now even more determined to challenge patriarchy...an ideology that has enslaved humankind and its institutions for thousands of years...'

The CD has since then attended the Africa Country Director's Meeting where he represented the Africa Region as well as the maiden AAI Strategy Development and Drafting Group (SDDG) face-to-face meeting. After the SDDG meeting in Bangkok, he

had this to say:

'... I am deeply honoured to have been selected to be part of an incredible team from the across the Federation given the unenviable task of leading the development to its next strategic frontier. This is a really tough time for development and NGOs, especially International NGOs and ActionAid must rise to the occasion and re-affirm its place as a relevant organisation in the wake of serious financial and development challenges.'

The CD is now in London where he will attend 2 International Platform meetings for Democratic Governance where he represents AAU and then for Women's Rights where he will be hoping to effectively step into Harriet Gimbo's big shoes!

We wish CD the best and look forward to the returns from all these important meetings!