



The Government last Thursday banned the live press coverage of a protest movement against the disputed February Presidential polls. "This serves as a last warning," they said, adding that media outlets that defy the ban risk having their licenses revoked. Today, we shall all converge at the Uganda National NGO Forum offices to mourn, for the theft of the freedom of expression, where freedom of the media is grounded. See you there.

The care roles-Where are the Ugandan dads?



(L-Above) AAU's Nickson Ogwal shares experiences on ActionAid's unpaid care work project. The weekly producer took off time to go through the Swedish dad photo exhibition. Here are a few shots. Be inspired and enter the Ugandan Dads photo competition. Let us recognize, redistribute and reward the unpaid care roles for the development of Uganda.

During the parenting and Career Choice Dialogue Organised by the Swedish Embassy last week, it was made clear that the prevailing patriarchal norms in the country have caused women and girls to put up with the bulk of care roles such as nursing, parenting, cooking, cleaning, preparing food among others. This has continued to undermine their right to paid employment, education and leisure. The Swedish Ambassador to Uganda stressed that Parenting and Career Choice-Striking the right balance between work and family is a challenge to many people, both in Sweden and Uganda. He added that the dialogue venue (Makerere University) was selected because, for the graduating students who will soon step out of the University, the topic will become even more important.

One of the Panellists, a Swedish father informed the meeting that Sweden was the first country in the world to replace maternity leave with parental leave, financed through the tax system, in 1974. This was a deliberate political decision meant to encourage men and women to share responsibilities at home and enable women to engage in paid work.

"Half a million women entered the labour market. Women had not fully been able to do this earlier because of (unpaid) household work, and in part, because of expectations that women should give up work when they got married", he said.

Hon Miria Matembe, a Women Rights Activist stated that these family friendly policies are crucial for the growth of Uganda's economy and development of the Country.

"Unfortunately for us, we have all these very good policies. However, their operationalisation has totally failed. This is where we should focus all our energies", she appealed.

Other panellists included the Dean of the Women and Gender studies at Makerere University, ActionAid's Henry Nickson Ogwal, Award winning blogger-Rosebell Kagumire among others.

The ambassador together with all participants viewed the photo exhibition; Swedish dads.

The photographer wrote that;

"During my own paternity leave, I had trouble finding information about parenting from a father's perspective. From reading and seeing other dads who share their thoughts and ideas about parenting, perhaps more men will start to think about their role as a father and as a partner. I think that is an important step on the road towards a more equal society."

The Embassy also declared a photo Competition for Ugandan Dads. Please submit your entries of the men who are involved in parenting and other care roles to me or to the Swedish Embassy. You could be the next Ugandan dad icon.

Together, let us recognise, redistribute and reward the Women's care roles.

4.2million signatures Delivered-Rugunda promises to consider



AAU's Harriet Gimbo (Right) with other CSO leaders delivered the signatures to the Prime Minister (in red Necktie) below.

On Friday last week, ActionAid and the CSOs under the Tax Justice Network delivered the 4.2 million signatures to the Prime Minister of Uganda Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda.

"We bring you this petition because as citizens, we find the move of MPs amending the Income Tax Act to evade tax on their allowances deplorable. If all Ugandans paid their fair share of taxes, Uganda's Tax GDP ratio would increase greatly to meet the growing demands for quality service delivery," Ambassador Nathan Irumba said.

The CSOs informed the Prime Minister that Citizens appended their signatures to the petition with a request to the President not to assent to the Amended Income Tax Bill, 2016.

"We have collected 4,201,098 signatures from over 80 districts across the country. The citizens request the President to use his powers under Article 91 of the Constitution to return the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2016 to Parliament for reconsideration", the CSO leaders added.

In his remarks, Rugunda, was happy to receive the signatures and commended the CSO leaders for the "constructive engagement".

"I am happy with this kind of interface. We need to graduate from the confrontation way of doing things to constructive methods," he said.

He assured the team that the citizens' views will be considered and the necessary action shall be taken.

"Cabinet is going to sit and review this. I assure you that the decision will shall make will be in the best interest of these 4.2m citizens and the whole country."

The submission of signatures to Rugunda follows a campaign that was launched on April 20, 2016 to mobilize 5 million signatures to petition the Prime Minister and the President over MP's adamant stand on exempting their allowance from being taxed.

Thank you to every one who has and is still part of this campaign.

Seven Committees set to transform Acholi Sub region



(L-R) His Grace-John Odama and His Highness Rwot David Onen (ii) share a moment with other leaders. Middle is the Gulu Woman Mp making her submission. Right is MP-Elect Ogenga Latigo interacting with his Highness the Rwot.

Last week, 78 leaders from Northern Uganda met in Gulu to set an agenda for tackling perennial challenges to service delivery in the region. These included religious, cultural, political, local government technocrats and opinion leaders.

In his opening remarks, His Grace the Archbishop of Acholi, John Baptist Odama likened leadership in Northern Uganda especially Acholi sub region to the Christian leadership after the ascending of Jesus Christ to heaven.

"After Jesus had just been killed, Christians were looked at as rebels. The Christians had to remain united as the only way to overcome persecution and intimidation. If we don't unite today and speak about our challenges with one voice, we shall not be successful", he warned.

Having suffered from the 20 year Lords Resistance Army rebellion, the meeting unfortunately learnt that compensation of the war victims was not completed due to embezzlement of over UGX10billion that hit the program. The state Attorney in charge of Compensation said that the leaders of the affected families embezzled funds forcing the compensation process to stop midway.

"The President has however directed that all victims are compensated. We are currently conducting a validation exercise of all claimants so that compensation is made directly on their accounts to avoid fraud."

In the bid to improve service delivery in the region, the leaders came up with seven committees to provide technical investigation and scrutiny of the issues standing in the way of good quality social services in the region. The committees constituted include; Health, Education and skills development, Unity and accountability of leaders, Climate change and environmental degradation, Attitude and social change, Compensation and reparation, Resource mobilization and productivity committees.

His Highness Rwot David Onen Acana II, the Acholi cultural chief in his closing remarks summoned all elected leaders in the region for a meeting where the chiefdom will agree on the regional demands that they should push for in all their respective offices for the development of the region.

Uganda Police Embraces the Ipaidabrike Platform



He has pledged not to pay or receive a bribe. What about you?

Following a meeting with the Uganda Police leadership, ActionAid conducted an induction of the Kampala Metropolitan Police commanders on the Use of the Ipaidabrike platform.

The meeting that took place at Hotel Triangle in Kampala last Wednesday attracted 40 District Police Commanders and CID commanders from Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono.

Phillip Kabuye, the Ipaidabrike Platform manager engaged the officers on how to use the platform to promote transparency and accountability in the police force, but more importantly how to track corrupt tendencies in Kampala Metropolitan.

The Police Officers appreciated the AAU innovation and pledged to work with the organisation. They however appealed that information on the functionality of the platform be taken to the communities and merged with the community policing component for better results on the fight against corruption.

ASP Mugabi Ronald however appealed to AAU to come up with an application that can be used by those without internet and mobile phones.

In response to this, Phillip informed the meeting that AAU will soon introduce the Ipaidabrike boxes in the communities where people without any communication gadgets will report the corrupt and honest officers, as well as their corruption experiences.

At the end of the induction, the officers were excited by their new capacity to track and report corrupt tendencies. We look forward to better enforcement of the law against corruption.

Please log on to the website [Here](http://www.ipaidabrike.or.ug) and record your experience on corruption.

WEEK AHEAD:

- Arthur Larok is in London taking part in the Women Rights International platform.
- Harriet Gimbo is in Arusha for a training.