



Children from Amudat celebrate after winning the football and netball matches. This was during the Day of the African Child commemoration in Kapchorwa two weeks ago. However, Female Genital Mutilation remains one of the biggest child rights violations in the district. [Click Here for full story.](#)

Galagala Primary school to become Govt Aided!



It was not a holiday but work for the Greek volunteers. They mixed aggregate, fetched water and constructed an administration block for Galagala last week.

Last week, ActionAid Uganda hosted 47 Greek volunteers in Pader, Northern Uganda. The guests, mobilized by ActionAid Greece were in the Country to learn about Uganda and its people but most importantly to support the construction of Galagala Primary school administration block.

The guests were welcomed to Galagala with ululations and traditional dances by the pupils and community members. They went straight into business; fetching water, mixing aggregates, collecting sand and actual construction. By the end of the week, the building foundation was complete and the wall was one metre high.

Amidst work, the visitors were hosted for lunch by different families in the village. The Greeks enjoyed the local dishes amidst the experience sharing from their hosts.

Sofia Delenika, the Greeks team leader stated that the sharing of the lunch with the community was an amazing and exciting moment for them.

“ During lunches, we learnt a lot about the Ugandan Culture, got to understand the community’s ways of life and greatly appreciated the diversity. We shall never forget this experience”, she said.

The host families shared the similar sentiments. 62 year old Adong Balbina, a widow stated that having the volunteers dine in her humble home is a memory she will hold on to dearly for the rest of her life.

The guests also visited the Apiary(Bee keeping project), met small holder farmers and some of the ActionAid sponsored children. The children sung, danced and recited poems for the visitors.

This visit and the work that the volunteers did at the school greatly challenged the district leaders. At the send-off ceremony, the leaders committed to build a two class room block and supply 58 desks to the school in the next financial year starting on 1st July 2016.

The LC V chairperson on his part committed to post seven teachers to the school and promised to ensure that in the next 3years, the Galagala becomes a model school in the district. On their part, the volunteers and ActionAid Greece team committed to continue raising funds for the school.

However, the greatest win for the community was Governments’ commitment to take on the school as a Government aided school effective July 1st 2016.

During its 30 year anniversary in Uganda, AAU embarked on a fundraising drive to construct a classroom block for Galagala Primary school that was housed in a mud and wattle house. [Click](#)

Mentorship camp inspires Pupils to stay in school



At the end of the camp, the children(pictured above) committed to pass on the knowledge gained through debates, music, dance and drama to inspire their peers to demand for the respect of their rights including the right to stay in school.

ActionAid Katakwi held a peer educators camp to mentor children to reach out to their peers in and outside of school. The camp brought together 56 children from 20 primary schools and out of school peers from Toroma Sub County. The camp that was organised to prepare the young-stars to reach out to their peers through Drama, debates and other creative activities on several child Rights Challenges was also attended by District Education Officials and teachers.

“We employed a variety of games and participatory methodologies to build teamwork and ensure that all voices are heard during the camp”, said Miriam Cherukut, Cluster Coordinator.

While speaking to the children, the District Inspector of schools; Mr Patrick Ongwali stated that ActionAid should support the rollout of several mentorship programs for the pupils since the district was recording alarming rates of school dropouts.

“We need similar platforms to inspire our girls to aim at completing their education. They must say no to early and forced marriages. The boys too should be empowered to stay in schools”, he added.

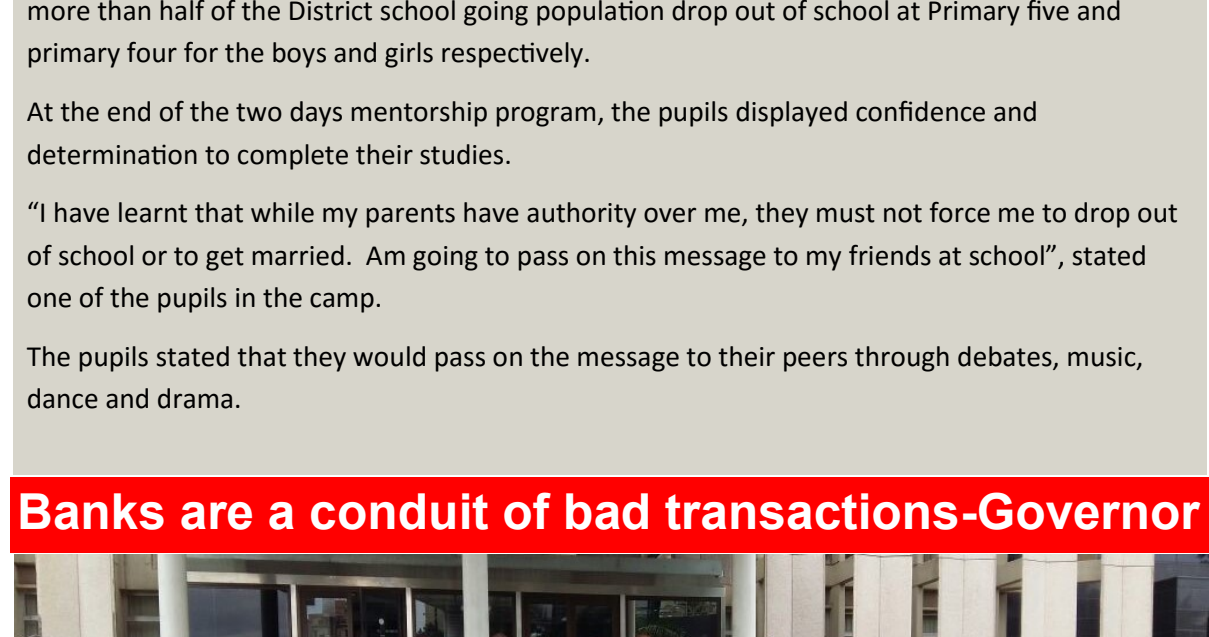
Statistics obtained by the Weekly editorial from the Uganda Bureau of Statistics indicate that more than half of the District school going population drop out of school at Primary five and primary four for the boys and girls respectively.

At the end of the two days mentorship program, the pupils displayed confidence and determination to complete their studies.

“I have learnt that while my parents have authority over me, they must not force me to drop out of school or to get married. Am going to pass on this message to my friends at school”, stated one of the pupils in the camp.

The pupils stated that they would pass on the message to their peers through debates, music, dance and drama.

Banks are a conduit of bad transactions-Governor



ActionAid Uganda’s Programs’ Director, Harriet (Extreme Right-Standing) together with the Governors of the Central banks in Africa in Arusha last Monday.



Harriet during her presentation; Winning some battles but loosing the war: The fight Against Corruption in Africa.

Harriet Gimbo, the Director of Programs at ActionAid Uganda was in Arusha-Tanzania last week for the Central Bank Governors’ Forum.

The meeting was organised by the Macro Economic and Financial Management Institute of Eastern and Southern Africa (MEFMI) and hosted by the Bank of Tanzania.

The meeting was attended by Central Bank Governors from Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

According to the Organisers, there have been several reports and corruption scandals within the banking sector hence finding it crucial it include a slot on the subject during the Forum.

While speaking to the Governors, Harriet stated that corruption is a cancer at the heart of several problems globally and yet it has been ignored with those in authority pretending not to know what is going on.

“Corruption has led to stunted growth and impoverishment of many states” she said, adding that according to the Mbeki report on Illicit Financial Flow, Africa loses over 50 Billion US-Dollars annually to illegal transactions.

Harriet also spoke about the Black Monday campaign against corruption in Uganda aimed at mourning the losses due to corruption in the country and demanding for Action against the thieves of public resources among others. She ended with an appeal to the Governors to build resilience to fight against corruption as the world does for climate change and other world problems.

In reaction to Harriet’s presentation, one Governor stated that,

“It is interesting that Central banks have started a discussion on corruption directly, way from establishing structures and systems. Corruption has not been a common debate among us. We should take on from today and make it our daily discussion because banks are a conduit of bad transactions”

However, it was not only about corruption in Africa. The Governors also spoke about the possibility of taking on the Chinese Yuan as part of the International Monetary Fund special drawing Rights basket of currencies.

The Impact of Harriet’s Presentation

One of the participants in the Governor’s forum wrote to Harriet this morning;

“...It was great having you at the Forum. I am wearing black today in support for the anti-corruption Black Monday campaign. I found your presentation insightful and hope the Governors took heed of your message...”

If you had stopped wearing black every Monday or were contemplating to stop, think again. As you can see, the campaign is just beginning.

Bloggers of the Week

Nivatiti Nandujja, the National Women Rights Coordinator writes about the Social spaces and how they can be used to address GBV [here.](#)

Vellin Nyama, an inspirator from Pallisa Cluster puts his thoughts [here](#) on the budgeting process and why people living in poverty must be listened to.

WEEK AHEAD:

- This week, ActionAid will be hosting the Partners’ Forum at Collin Hotel in Mukono. The event is also expected to inform the ongoing Country strategic paper development.