

## Weekly

July 4— 10



Dear Reader, for the entire month of July, we shall be celebrating GBV survivors who have been supported to break away from several Women Rights Violations and are now living better lives. Tune in every Sunday on Bukedde TV Program-Buli Mukyala at 4pm and get inspired, and challenged. Welcome to the Weekly

### Am your ally-Speaker of Parliament assures Cooperatives!



**(Left-Above) The Speaker of Parliament Hon Rebecca Kadaga pledges her support for the cooperatives movement. (Right-Above) The Speaker receives the Petition from Mrs. Okello of the Uhuru Institute. Below are the members of the different cooperatives throughout the country in a group photo with the Speaker of Parliament.**

Last week, ActionAid and several Cooperatives petitioned the Speaker of Parliament on the status of Cooperatives in Uganda.

“We cooperatives of Uganda pray that the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament causes the establishment of a fully fledged well funded independent Ministry of Cooperatives with Cooperative professionals and functional structures right from the sub country to the national level”, read part of the petition.

Fredrick Kawooya, the Policy and Campaigns Manager at ActionAid said that while the Government has tried to revive the Cooperative Movement through the appointment of a Minister of State for Cooperatives, a lot needs to be done to revamp the sector.

“The department of Cooperatives is poorly staffed and grossly under financed. The department is hence unable to efficiently meet the demands of the ever growing cooperative sector”, he said.

The Speaker of Parliament, Hon Rebecca Kadaga while receiving the petition promised that the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament will work towards the creation of a Cooperative Development Fund that will avail funds to be managed by cooperatives for cooperatives through the Uganda Central Cooperative Financial Services .

“This approach will mobilize more Ugandans into higher production and productivity levels. You have an ally in me”, she pledged.

Hon Kadaga also promised to ensure that a Parliamentary Committee on Cooperatives is instituted so that all concerns regarding cooperatives are channelled there.

Uganda has seen an increase in the formation and registration of Cooperatives despite the various challenges. A total of 16000 cooperatives have been registered to date.

The petition Spear headed by the UHURU Institute with funding from ActionAid also demands that Parliament legislates over putting in place the Cooperative Regulatory Authority to over see the functions of Cooperatives. The petitioners also appealed to the Speaker to cause the integration of cooperative education in Uganda’s National Education Curriculums at all levels.

### “AAU- a leader in Engineering Development”-EU Official



**Elizabeth (Centre) together with some of the ActionAid staff during her visit in Gulu last week. They crossed their hands in anticipation for stronger partnerships between AAU and EU**

ActionAid Gulu Cluster hosted Elizabeth Ongom, the CSO Operations Task Manager at the European Union and a few of her colleagues. Elizabeth was in the Gulu Office to familiarize herself with the work of ActionAid in the region for future collaborations and shared learnings.

David Moses Okello, the AAU Gulu Cluster Coordinator took the visitors through the ActionAid way of work, theory of change, programming and key thematic areas. The guests also visited the Gulu and Amuru Gender Based Violence shelters where they were amazed at AAU’s holistic approach to addressing Gender Based Violence in the region.

“This is amazing. What stands out for me at these GBV Shelters is the economic empowerment component. Quite often, women are locked up in a vicious cycle of GBV because of their low economic stand in the community. A woman who is empowered economically can ably say No to GBV”. She commended.

Elizabeth promised to link the other EU implementing partners in the region such as CARITAS and Advance Afrika to ActionAid for stronger partnerships and campaigns against the several injustices against youth, women and children.

While in the Community, the EU guests together with the ActionAid staff held a meeting with the Amuru District technical leaders. The District Development Officer spoke fondly about the ActionAid partnership with the district that has enabled them to attain substantive changes in the livelihoods of the community. He also highlighted some gaps that need to be filled incase an opportunity for a new project arises.

At the end of her visit, Elizabeth, on behalf of her colleagues acknowledged that her interaction with ActionAid staff, the Communities and District leaderships had confirmed to her that ActionAid remains a leader in engineering development through her approaches.

“ActionAid works with the communities to lead their own change initiatives and interventions. Its collaboration with the Local Government structures also gives it a comparative advantage”, she stated, adding that the EU is seriously considering the Organization for a grant and final communication on this will be made in due course.

### Moments from the AAU Women’s Forum



**At the Women’s Forum, the AAU ladies got to play, laugh, exchange presents but also layed foundations to career growth and financial independence.**

Last week, the Women staff of ActionAid Uganda embraced their Annual Women’s forum with energy, excitement, love and commitment to be better women both in the public and domestic spheres.

The forum that took place at Royal Suits in Bugolobi provided a platform for the women to lay stronger foundations for their career growth, financial independence, better health and stronger bonds with female colleagues.

Sheylla Kawamala, one of the facilitators of the two day event called upon the AAU women to strive to attain financial independence. She challenged the ladies not to fear to invest but at the same time strive to invest safe.

“At all stages in life, you should have a solid fall back position. If you died today, your children should be safe”, she challenged.

The ladies also hosted a Doctor from AAR Health services who challenged them to monitor their bodies and look out for any signs of any diseases and address them early. She particularly spoke comprehensively about the causes, signs and symptoms of Breast and cervical cancer. She advised the ladies to utilize their medical insurance cover and get screened for these cancers every year.

Arthur Larok, the AAU Country Director, while speaking to the women at the close of the forum said that the Women’s Forum is held annually to harness that which women have in plenty; great ideas and experiences; but to also support the women to tread the journey to financial independence.

“We want to build these great ideas for both individual and Organizational development. This is partly done during this forum through the peer to peer support, bonding ,inspirational speeches among others”, he said.

At the end of the event, the hopes of female staff at ActionAid rose to new heights, as Arthur reiterated Managements commitments to female staff in the organization. He challenged women to raise their voices on issues they feel strongly about, to occupy more spaces beyond the women’s forum and forge greater peer support among themselves, supporting each other to rise and focus on what unites all the female staff in ActionAid.

### WEEK AHEAD:

- The ActionAid Zambia Country Director will be in Uganda from the 14th to the 19th for induction in her new role as the Country Director. AAU is honoured to take on this role.
- AAU will also host the Deputy CEO of the ActionAid Federation this week. He will speak to line managers during the performance Management Refresher training this week. He will visit Kumi LRP and also interact with some AAU Governing Board Members.
- AAU is currently conducting the post Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRPs) and Strategy Development forum at Royal Suits in Bugolobi. AAU is currently developing its 5th Country Strategic Paper. The Current 4th Strategic paper comes to an end next year.