



## Anti-corruption music extravaganza unveiled!

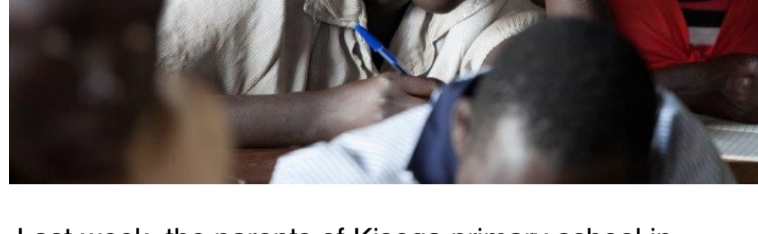
Last week, ActionAid launched corruption rhythm's music extravaganza in Northern Uganda. The music and poetry contest attracted over 18 upcoming musicians and poets. Musicians used their lyrics to describe corruption as impunity and injustice to women, children and youth.

Local Musician, the Black Ghost chorused a prayer;

'Our Father, Hallowed be your power, lead not the corrupt to heaven BUT deliver them to Hell!'

The anti-corruption music extravaganza will be launched in Kampala next month. Look out and sing corruption out of Uganda forever. Watch this space.

## Our Children are not learning; Namutumba parents report



Last week, the parents of Kisega primary school in Namutumba petitioned the District Education Officer over the poor performance of the teachers in the school. The parents noted that there was habitual absenteeism of teachers from duty while the few who turn up are always late.

'We send our children to school, but when they get there, they are sent to work on the personal gardens of the teachers. Can you imagine!,' remarked a parent.

Parents also decried the manner in which the teachers continue to impose fees on pupils – asking them to pay for tests that are never administered. According to the parents, no class on the school has ever completed its termly and yearly syllabi.

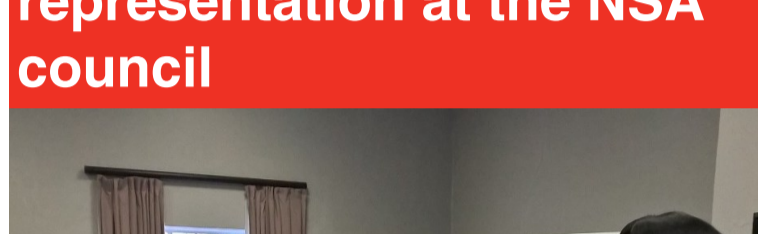
The District Chief Administrative Officer, the Inspector of Schools, and the District Education Officer were among the officials attending the meeting.

The District leadership thanked the parents for bringing the issue to their attention. They further asked them to make a formal appeal to the District Education Officer, which would be used to address the issues raised and forwarded to the Ministry.

The District Education Officer was excited at the parent's bold move:

"We thank ActionAid that has empowered the community of Namutumba to demand for what rightfully belongs to them. With this zeal exhibited by parents, we can be sure that education in the district will be transformed for the better," he said.

## Rural women secure representation at the NSA council



Ms Poly Apio makes the powerful remarks that saw the rural women farmers secure representation.

ActionAid Uganda participated in the 11th CAADP Partnership Platform (Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme) meeting was held last week in Johannesburg. The African Union Secretariat and NEPAD organized the meeting that attracted over 550 smallholder farmers, government representatives, development partners, and the private sector. The meeting raised the tempo of working towards delivering on Malabo commitments on agriculture for women empowerment and development.

H.E. Mrs. Tumusiime Rhoda Peace, Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, in the African Union Commission who officially opened the meeting urged African heads of state and their governments to commit to the principle of CAADP by allocating a minimum of 10% of their national budgets to the agricultural sector.

"We should not at agriculture as a component of those living in poverty, but as the only noble sector, which can be used to promote inclusive growth," she added.

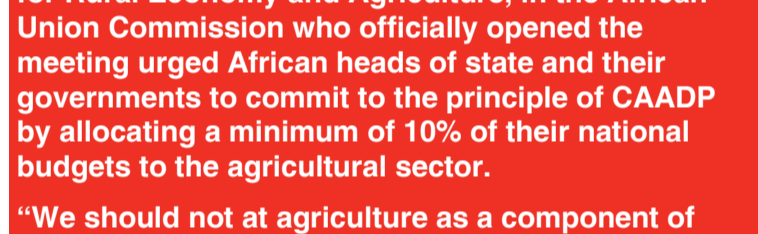
Ms Apio Poly, a rural farmer from Katakwi used the platform to demand for the establishment of strong women farmers movements if CAADP commitments were to be realized by 2025.

"We also ask that NEPAD provides space for engagement between rural women and African heads of state for inclusive development and meaningful transformation of the African continent."

Ms Apio's powerful presentation resulted into the creation of a position for a rural women representative in the Non state Actors executive council.

The meeting was closed with a commitment from all participants to deliver and walk the talk.

## Running for Maternal Health!



The ActionAid team at the marathon.

On Sunday, nine ActionAid staff braved the early morning rain to participate in the Maternal Health Marathon. Organized by ACFOD, the marathon attracted over 200 participants from government, civil society and the business world. The ActionAid

Kiprotich, Bruno Semaganda and Dina Mirembe took the day.

While flagging off the marathon, the Chief Runner, Asuman Mugenyi, who represented the Inspector General of Police, commended all runners on their commitment to save lives of mothers despite the chilly weather.

The Executive Director at ACFODE added that every day, 16 women die while bring life to the world:

"All proceeds from this Marathon will be used to construct maternal health facilities in Kisoro. We picked on Kisoro because it has over the years registered the highest number of deaths as regards to maternal health."

In the fundraising drive, over 40 million shillings was raised. The Kigezi representative at the marathon committed to mobilize all legislators and other dignitaries who hail from the region in a mega fundraising drive to raise the 60 million deficits. ActionAid made a contribution of UGX1,000,000. Well done ActionAid team!

## DGF calls for evidence based reporting



Some of the partners in soroti

ActionAid participated in a day's review and coordination meeting of DGF partners in Eastern Uganda. The meeting that was held in Soroti brought together ten Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) that implement the Voice and Accountability DGF program in Teso, Sebei, Lango and Karamoja regions.

In his opening remarks, the Component Manager at DGF emphasized the importance of building synergy and results reporting as a way of strengthening visibility, accountability and solidarity among CSOs.

He noted that DGF is grappling with poor and underreporting which usually affects their deliverables in their own work frames.

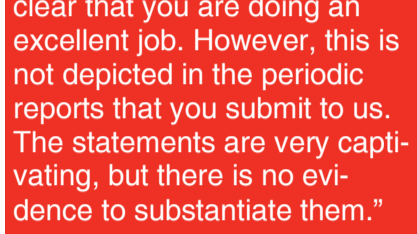
Martin Muhereza, the Deputy Component Manager added that:

"When we interact with you and the work that you do, it's clear that you are doing an excellent job. However, this is not depicted in the periodic reports that you submit to us. The statements are very captivating, but there is no evidence to substantiate them."

DGF recommended that partners working in the same districts should work together to avoid incidences of duplication and to demonstrate solidarity.

ActionAid Uganda is implementing a 3 year DGF funded project; Information! Voice! Accountability! Service Delivery. Under the project, ActionAid is working with civil society organizations to set up and implement an effective citizen monitoring, feedback and engagement mechanism to ensure value for money in the delivery of public services in Uganda.

## Improved hygiene to boost girl's education in Namutumba



Learning how to make sanitary towels.

Busiki LRP, through the partner organization, Nachwola, trained over 30 senior men and women teachers in menstrual hygiene management last week.

The four-day training taught the teachers how to make soap and sanitary towels. The training also emphasized the importance of menstrual hygiene, and advised on how to handle it in school.

Poor menstrual hygiene accounts for several cases of girls dropping out of school

The teachers trained are going to pass on the training to the rest of their colleagues in their respective schools. These will eventually roll out the training to the pupils.

According to Nachwola, they expect that the training will improve the situation of girls' hygiene hence increased enrollment, regularity and retention in school.

"And after the girls and teachers have made enough soap and sanitary towels for own use, they will sell off the surplus to the community and this will strengthen their economic muscle", stated a Nachwola Official.

## WEEK AHEAD:

- The Black Monday movement will hold prayers during the Easter period to pray against Vote buying, Selling and Stealing.

- Harriet Gimbo, the AAU Programs Director is in London for the Women Rights International Platform meeting.