



## Weekly

Mar 6 - 12

AAU's AG Country Director, Harriet, Finance Officer, Juliet and GBV Shelter Program and Legal Officer Florence took to the dance floor to celebrate the woman in them at Bukedde TV last Wednesday! How was your Women's day? Welcome to the Weekly!

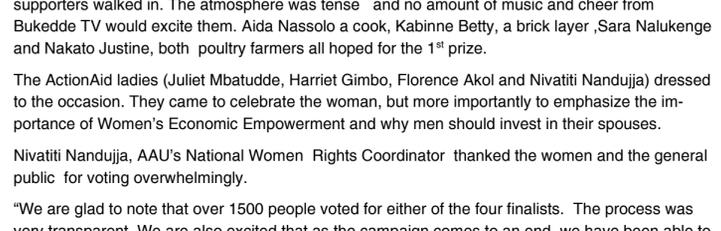
## Aida and Betty Win, MTN to further reward them!



Betty dances after receiving UGX500000/= . She took 2nd place. Right is Aida and her husband dancing after being announced winners.



Harriet danced as she gave gift humpers to sara. Right are the ActionAid ladies with Aida and Betty dancing to the win



Left( Aida shows of the UGX1000000/= . Right is Aida's husband and her supporters celebrating her victory.

Last Wednesday, a section of Women from Kampala convened at the Vision Group offices to Commemorate the International Women's Day. ActionAid and Vision Group used the occasion to award the winners of the four month long Model Man economic empowerment campaign.

As the day started, the contestants, clad to the nines in the traditional Gomesi together with their supporters walked in. The atmosphere was tense and no amount of music and cheer from Bukedde TV would excite them. Aida Nassolo a cook, Kabinne Betty, a brick layer, Sara Nalukenge and Nakato Justine, both poultry farmers all hoped for the 1<sup>st</sup> prize.

The ActionAid ladies (Juliet Mbatudde, Harriet Gimbo, Florence Akol and Nivatiti Nandujja) dressed to the occasion. They came to celebrate the woman, but more importantly to emphasize the importance of Women's Economic Empowerment and why men should invest in their spouses.

Nivatiti Nandujja, AAU's National Women Rights Coordinator thanked the women and the general public for voting overwhelmingly.

"We are glad to note that over 1500 people voted for either of the four finalists. The process was very transparent. We are also excited that as the campaign comes to an end, we have been able to emphasize the importance of men investing in the economic empowerment of their spouses", she said to the overly anxious audience.

The contestants were each given an opportunity to address the audience. Nassolo thanked every one who had voted her and prayed that she wins the competition. Kabinne prayed that she wins but also appealed to the public to go and buy from her bricks so that she strengthens her economic muscles. Nalukenge and Nakato prayed that they would be the best candidates.

Finally, the moment that everyone had waited for in the last four months came. AAU's AG Country Director, Harriet Gimbo and Finance Officer Juliet Mbatudde rose up to award the winners. Nassolo Aidah won the competitions with 789 votes. She was followed by Betty Kabiine with 596 votes. At this moment, the function almost came to a standstill as Nassolo and Kabinne's supporters celebrated the victory.

While awarding the winners, Harriet Gimbo emphasized that if the Government and all players devote their time and resources to invest in Women's economic empowerment, we would attain a Uganda where all children are in school and more importantly a violence free generation.

At that point, she handed over UGX1000000/= to Nassolo and UGX500000 to Kabinne. The winners and their supporters danced emotionally and excitedly. Tears of joy welled in Kabinne's beautiful eyes. They each counted the money to confirm the figure as they danced to the thunderous music and the wild cheers from their supporters.

Call it double blessing! After the event was televised on Bukedde TV, MTN Uganda contacted Bukedde TV and ActionAid for a partnership to profile and further reward the women. The four contestants are now in a bigger campaign with more powerful women and still count on your vote to win the competition.

This campaign was organised under the ActionAid Gender Based Violence Shelter Project supported by UKAid. Congratulations Betty and Aidah and we pray for more victory in the bigger competition.

## Use your own tools and spaces-Dr Stella Nyanzi



Dr Stella shares a light moment with some of the women who attended the conversation.



Stella Nabaasa of the Uganda Law Society makes her submission last week

On Women's Day last Wednesday, ActionAid organized a conversation on Gender inequality, taxation and wealth distribution at Hotel Africana. The conversation was moderated by Dr Stella Nyanzi, famously known for her nude protest early last year. The event attracted both women and men from the civil society, political parties, donor Agencies among others.

During the meeting, Stella challenged actors to use their different tools and spaces to fight all forms of Gender inequality that continue to undermine the dignity of women across the country.

"Don't try to be Nyanzi and stage a nude protest. You will fail because you don't understand it. If we all did something in our different spaces, I can assure you that abuse of women would be history in the world", she challenged.

Nickson Ogwal, the Fundraising Director pointed out that a woman is a supernatural being that should be respected. He shared personal experiences, growing up largely under the care of his mother and other female caretakers. He laid emphasis on the special innate abilities that womankind possesses in nurturing, protecting and raising communities.

The women at the conversation were however dismayed by the fact that while the Ugandan Parliament is made up of 35% Women, they seem to have betrayed the cause of women. Their priorities are elsewhere. They have instead escalated the consolidation of patriarchy in the country and this has crippled Women's empowerment.

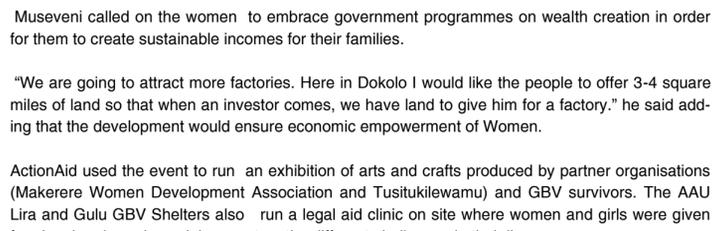
"There is a need for women in power and with power to support the women that need empowerment and address the key issues that have emerged in the wake of economic Oppression and land disparities" noted Stella Nabaasa, the Honorary Secretary to the Uganda Law Society.

Nabaasa added that Gender inequality should not be treated as a women's problem but a Societal and human Rights problem with a multiplier effect on economies, communities and nations.

"We need to have individual and a collective drive in assessing the needs and issues of women in Uganda. The men must also join the struggle to reduce on the parities that have left women as beneficiaries of change instead of agents of change as well", she guided.

The meeting closed with a call to women and women movements to be bold for change, demand for change and be radicle on issues that cripple women.

## ActionAid Joins Thousands in Dokolo for Women's Day Celebrations



The Executive Director of Makerere Women Development Association (an ActionAid partner), Nuru Nabunya attends to a client during the Women's Day celebrations in Dokolo

ActionAid joined thousands of people in Dokolo last week for the National Women's Day celebrations. The celebrations marking the 105th International Women's Day were presided over by President Yoweri Museveni.

Speaking to the Women, Mr Museveni stated that Women emancipation should not be isolated from other issues affecting society as a whole.

"The Issues of Women emancipation are inter-related with other development issues and should therefore be handled in close coordination" he advised.

"How will you empower women without security? When you talk of women you should remember security and all the other issues. You can't empower them without addressing the issues of the community", he added.

Museveni called on the women to embrace government programmes on wealth creation in order for them to create sustainable incomes for their families.

"We are going to attract more factories. Here in Dokolo I would like the people to offer 3-4 square miles of land so that when an investor comes, we have land to give him for a factory." he said adding that the development would ensure economic empowerment of Women.

ActionAid used the event to run an exhibition of arts and crafts produced by partner organisations (Makerere Women Development Association and Tutsukilewamu) and GBV survivors. The AAU Lira and Gulu GBV Shelters also run a legal aid clinic on site where women and girls were given free legal and psychosocial support on the different challenges in their lives.

## Corruption increases GBV- Students' Debate



Esther demanded that all forms of corruption against women must stop

A team from ActionAid was at Kabalega College last Wednesday to commemorate the International Women's day with the students. Under the theme; **Corruption has increased Gender Based Violence in Uganda**, the students argued that corruption has affected the quality of service delivery throughout the Country.

"Often times, women take children to health facilities but fail to get services because they cannot afford to bribe the health workers. When they go back home, they are abused by their spouses for wasting time and neglecting their homes"

stated the proposers.

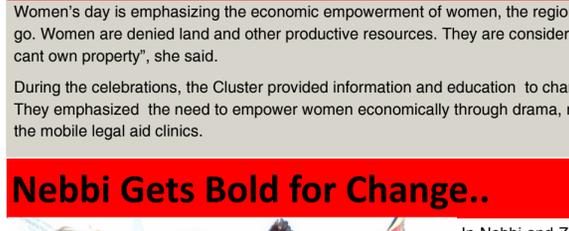
The event was graced by the District Education Officer, Mr. Francis Kyomuhendo, members of the Uganda Police, the students and ActionAid staff. Mr Kyomuhendo stated that Corruption is not only about government but can also be found at personal, family, community and even religious circles. He emphasized the need to fight corruption at the family level as the beginning of attaining a corrupt free generation.

Twijuke Esther, a proposer argued that boys are prioritized during education and this disadvantages the girls leading to gender based violence.

"This sort of corruption should stop if women are to be empowered", she debated.

The team explored the possibility of setting up an Activista Chapter at Kabalega College and the students responded with overwhelming glee at the opportunity of owning their voice and power to transform their lived realities.

## Kapchorwa Subregion challenged to change mindset on women



A police Officer listens to the women in a legal aid clinic during the Women's Day celebrations in Kween

The ActionAid Kapchorwa Cluster and Kween GBV Shelter joined the rest of Sebei Sub region to commemorate International Womens Day.

According to Sisco Zaituna, the Psychosocial Officer of Kween GBV Shelter, over 75% of the GBV cases reported at the shelter are related to land and property.

"While the theme for this year's Women's day is emphasizing the economic empowerment of women, the region has a long way to go. Women are denied land and other productive resources. They are considered property which cant own property", she said.

During the celebrations, the Cluster provided information and education to change this mentality. They emphasized the need to empower women economically through drama, radio talk shows and the mobile legal aid clinics.

## Nebbi Gets Bold for Change..



The Minister of State for Northern Uganda joins the women and girls in the bold dance moves

In Nebbi and Zombo under the ActionAid Nebbi Cluster, Women from all walks of life gathered to celebrate women's day with a commitment to stand bold and work for the much desired change. At the event graced by Hon Kocwiny, the Minister of State for Northern Uganda, women leaders decried the low completion rate and poor performance of girls in primary education.

According to the 2016 Primary leaving Exam results, no girl child from Nebbi and Zombo passed with a first Grade.

"How shall we attain economic empowerment without basic education", they wondered.

The Minister challenged the women and girls to get out of self pity and work towards restoring the place and dignity of the women in the region.

"The message is very clear to all of us, let us be bold for change", the Minister emphasized.

## Update from Arthur !

I don't want to say update from the Country Director because he is not. He gave away all his powers to Harriet Gimbo who is now the Country Director of ActionAid. So I will call them updates from our colleague, Arthur.

Last week, he celebrated his birthday. In a blog, inspires us to aspire to inspire before we expire... whmmm. Happy belated birthday Arthur. [Click to read the blog here.](#)

He did not stop at writing about his birthday. Our colleague(not the Country Director) also joined the world to commemorate International Women's day. In what he calls a social media Frenzy, he writes that "Each one of us, needs to think about the real meaning of this day and if your activities did not push back the powers that hold women behind, if your actions did not lead to concessions or new commitments for gender justice and equal opportunity for women, then use your next 11 months to identify a real transformative action you can take beyond forwarding posts online" [Click read the blog.](#)

## Week Ahead

⇒ ActionAid Uganda is hosting Sally Henderson from Australia. Sally is going to Northern Uganda to monitor some of the Australian Aid funded projects in Northern Uganda.

⇒ Nickson Ogwal, the Fundraising Director and Harriet Gimbo, the AG-Country Director are in Nairobi taking part in a meeting Organised by Ford Foundation.

⇒ ActionAid is currently organising the flag off of the Northern Leg of the Anti-Corruption caravan.