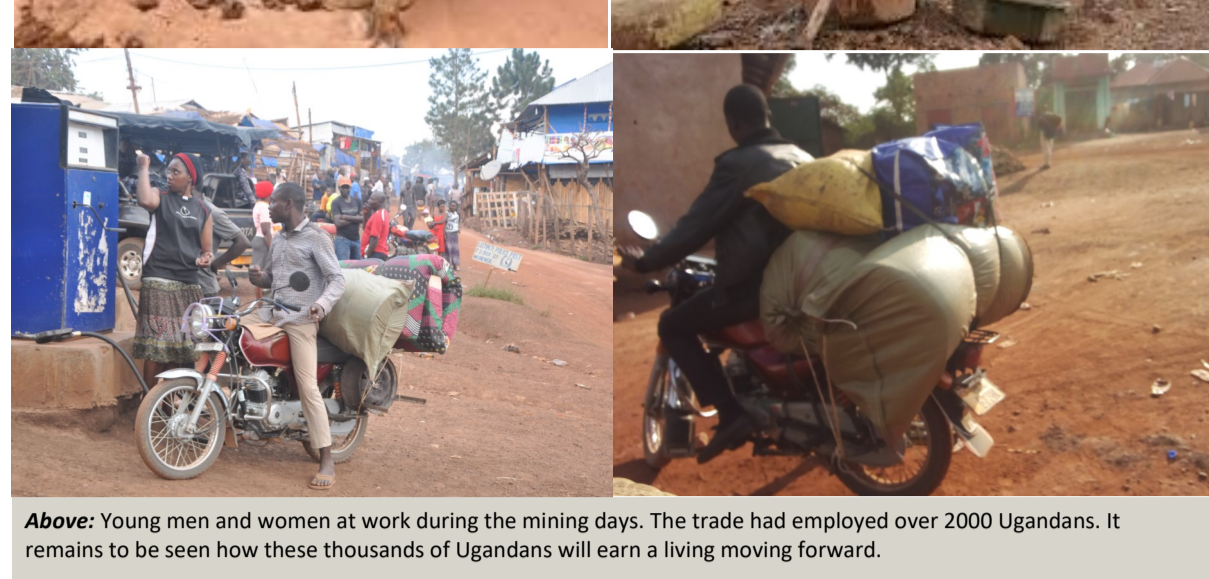




July 31 – 6 AUG

Arthur is back after a five months absence from Office. During that time, ActionAid office had four different Acting Country Directors, one Acting after another, yes, we enjoyed their leadership but welcome back in office Arthur!

Eviction of Mubende Miners an Injustice-ActionAid



Above: Young men and women at work during the mining days. The trade had employed over 2000 Ugandans. It remains to be seen how these thousands of Ugandans will earn a living moving forward.

Below: Some of the Artisanal miners with their property going home following the evictions. Many are however stranded while others are in Police cells following their arrests for attempting to question the evictions.

ActionAid has learnt that about 2,000 artisanal gold miners were last night still stranded at mining sites in Kitumbi in Bukuya Sub-county, Mubende District following their eviction on Friday by the police and army. The media reports indicate that many of those that have remained at the mines are Rwandese and Congolese.

Last Friday, security forces commanded by Col Joseph Balikuddembe, the UPDF 1st Division commander, descended on and ordered the gold miners to leave within two hours. Those from neighbouring districts such as Mityana, Sembabule and Wakiso swiftly packed their belongings and departed. Others stared in disbelief and confusion as armed police and soldiers charged on them and hollered orders.

Energy and Mineral Development Ministry officials stated during media interviews that the miners were making money without paying taxes and, as such, deprived the government of revenue hence the evictions.

However, the Policy and Campaigns Manager at ActionAid, Fredrick Kawooya told the weekly that the policy on mining recognises artisanal miners and no country has registered growth in its mining sector without the role of artisanal miners. Fred added that Government was aware of the mining activities in the area and asked the miners to apply for a licence. Unfortunately, the licence was never granted.

“What is saddening is the fact that the letter written by the Permanent Secretary to the miners stated that Government intended to conduct a registration process of all miners. It had nothing to do with evictions and yet the same letter was used by the forces to issue a two hour eviction notice. This is unfortunate and ActionAid vehemently denounces it,” he said.

Mr Bukenya, a politician in the area also questioned Government’s lack of transparency and inconsistencies. “I smell a rat in this whole process. If their (ministry officials’) intention is to register them, where will they find them after the eviction?” he said.

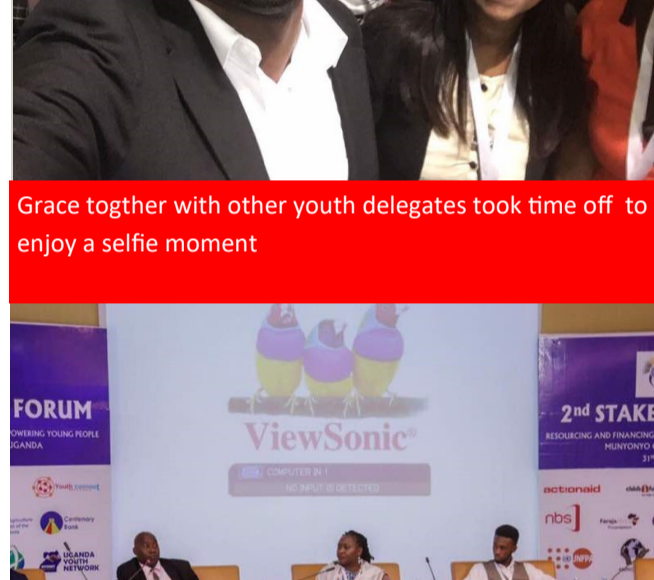
The Extractives Governance Officer at ActionAid, Nalubega Flavia has said that their unit planning to have what she calls **a mega media campaign** to speak against this **demonic, barbaric injustice against humanity**.

ActionAid and other CSOs have placed a legal team on ground to ensure that all those that were arrested for resisting the eviction are either released or decongested to avoid health complications that could arise as a result of the congestion. The team is also preparing to petition the Attorney General for wrongful evictions and seeking compensation for the miners.

Youth register wins on Paper-as they wait for Action



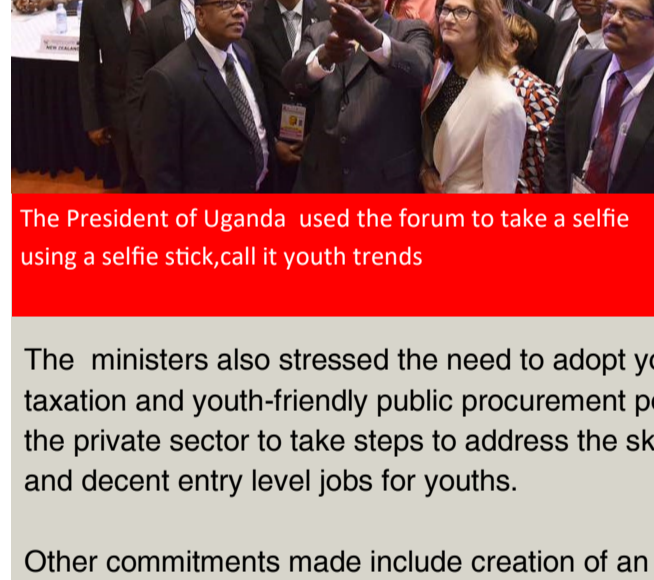
AAU’s Grace Ruvimbo called for youth policies and programs with specific gender targets



Grace together with other youth delegates took time off to enjoy a selfie moment



AAU’s Grace Chairing the session on Investing in young people’s economic rights



The President of Uganda used the forum to take a selfie using a selfie stick, call it youth trends

As the curtain drew on the week-long 9th Commonwealth Youth Ministers Meeting in Kampala, 20 ministers from the member states committed to resolve the myriad of challenges that youths within the Commonwealth face. Secretary general of the Commonwealth, Patricia Scotland stated that the ministers, during a closed meeting, unanimously agreed that youths are critical to national development.

“They pledged to redouble their efforts to mobilise adequate financing and resourcing for youth development and resolved to take concrete action to empower and address the specific needs of the marginalized young people,” she said.

The ministers also committed to improve young people’s access to health services and agreed to support their need for participation in national decision making institutions.

The meeting which is held once in four years was supported by ActionAid through the Uganda Youth Parliamentary Forum. It attracted a delegation of stakeholders and youth leaders from 32 countries.

ActionAid’s Youth Advisor, Grace Ruvimbo stated during the meeting that Gender inequality remains a major concern across the commonwealth countries. “Patriarchal tendencies still define the roles of young people across the development agenda and have a pullback effect on the enhancement of their rights”, she said.

Grace added that the effect of such notions is retrogressive in the advancement of young people’s economic, social, political and technological well being.

The Ministers committed to design Policies and programmes with this reality in mind and with specific gender targets attached to them to ensure equity and equality of the sexes in the long-term aspects of the financing of youth development.

Other issues such as investing in youths, impact of conflicts on youth and youth financing, were discussed under the theme, **Resourcing and financing youth development: empowering young people**. The Ministers committed to increased and sustained investments in youth development. They also promised to prioritise investment in post-primary education, productive employment and skills development of the youth.

The ministers also stressed the need to adopt youth-sensitive budgeting, progressive taxation and youth-friendly public procurement policies. They also agreed to encourage the private sector to take steps to address the skills gap and provide more apprenticeships and decent entry level jobs for youths.

Other commitments made include creation of an enabling environment for youth-friendly innovative financial instruments and create policies and strategies to promote youth access to affordable trade finance and support from the banking sector. It remains to be seen if the Governments will live up to these commitments.

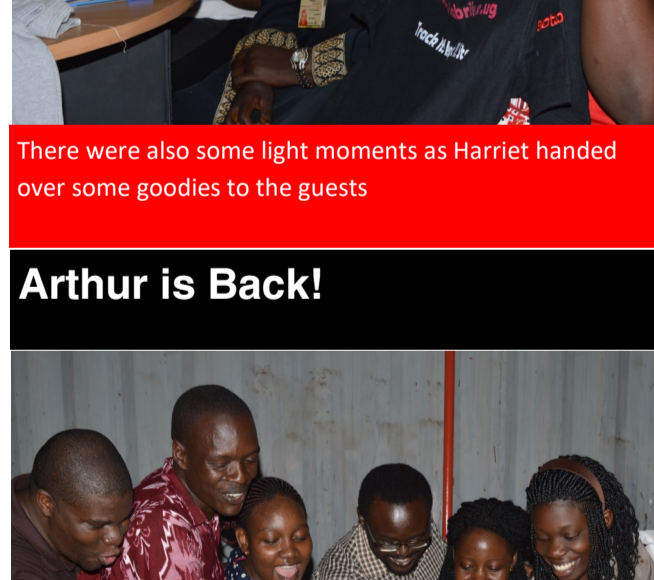
Vision Group Seeks Partnership with ActionAid!



The Vision team listens to AAU’s Harriet Gimbo during the meeting



The AAU team was also introduced to a new campaign concept by Vision’s Hajat Khadija



There were also some light moments as Harriet handed over some goodies to the guests

In the bid to strengthen our media relations, ActionAid met with the leadership of the Vision group last week. The team from Vision was led by David Mukhooli, the Group’s managing editor and Hajat Khadija Nabukenya, the Head of Televisions.

Harriet Gimbo, the Programs Director at ActionAid welcomed the team and thanked them for making time off their busy newsroom schedules to meet with AAU.

During the meeting, the guests and their hosts discussed a number of possible partnerships in the drive to attain a corruption free generation. David tipped that if ActionAid is to register wins for its campaigns, it should listen to their audience before campaign development rather than assuming that what they think is right or should be executed that way.

David was also amazed at the corruption statistics registered on the [Ipaidabribe](#), the digital corruption reporting site.

“We tried something similar at vision group but failed. We would like to work with you to further investigate the cases reported but also popularise the platform” he said.

Harriet welcomed all the technical guidance given by the guests.

“As Civil Society, we shall rely a lot more on your expertise. All your ideas are very creative”, she said.

Hajat Nabukenya advised ActionAid to also invest in campaigns that build integrity rather than the **name and shame** campaigns as these (name and shame) have been over done and don’t necessarily capture the viewers’ attention.

“We have highlighted several cases of corruption. We should also highlight the cases of integrity”, she guided.

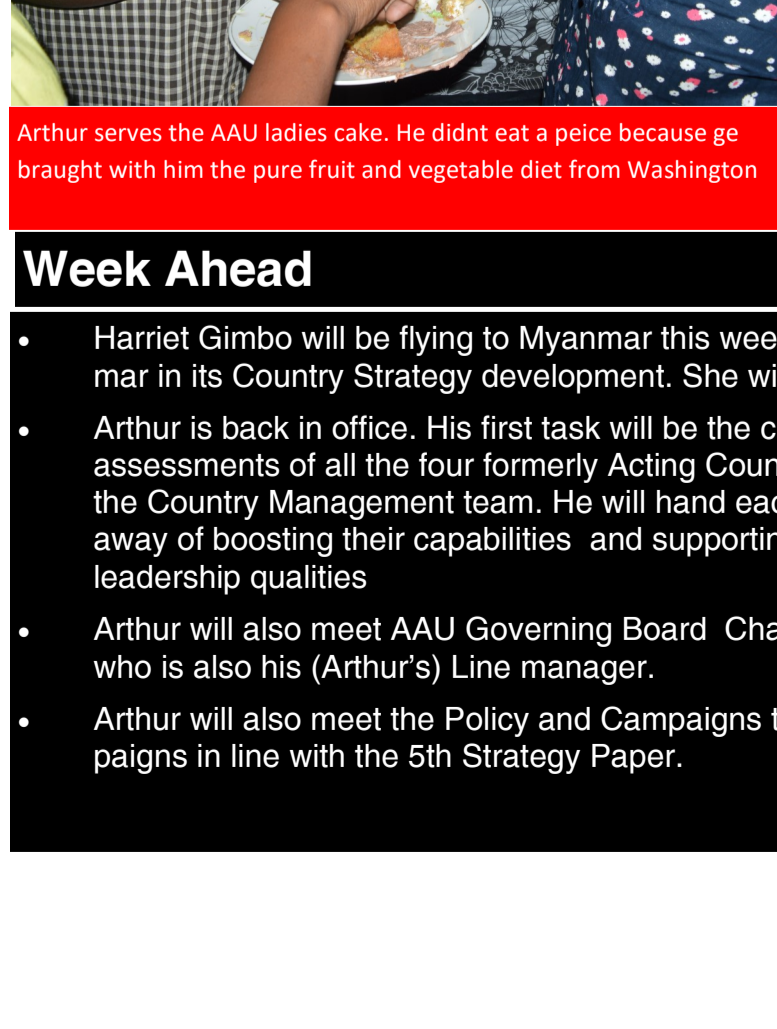
The guests also introduced several creative concepts to AAU for possible further development and rollout.

Look out for ActionAid’s project with Vision group that the teams agreed on.

Arthur is Back!



Arthur was joined by staff at AAU to cut cake to welcome him back!



Arthur serves the AAU ladies cake. He didn't eat a peice because he brought with him the pure fruit and vegetable diet from Washington

Arthur is back in office from Washington, where he spent the last five months pursuing a NED fellowship. Arthur delivered to you a blog every Monday in a column that the **Weekly** producers names **Reflections from Washington**. Congratulations Arthur.

During a debrief with staff last Friday, Arthur stated that he came back to Uganda and to his Office as the Country Director of ActionAid fulfilled, inspired, spoke about the so many achievements that came with the fellowship. He became more spiritual, partied a little more, learnt better presentation skills (PowerPoint) and completed a pure fruit and vegetable diet for 21 days hence weight loss. In fact, the fruit and vegetable diet was carried over to Uganda and this was the reason he missed tasting his welcome cake.

Today, Arthur will not deliver a blog, not even a poem but something between a blog and a poem. While he dearly misses his host family, he is happier to be home, as there is no place....like home....[Read on here](#)

Week Ahead

- Harriet Gimbo will be flying to Myanmar this week to support ActionAid Myanmar in its Country Strategy development. She will be with them for two weeks.
- Arthur is back in office. His first task will be the completion of the performance assessments of all the four formerly Acting Country Directors, all members of the Country Management team. He will hand each of them a report card as a way of boosting their capabilities and supporting them address gaps in their leadership qualities
- Arthur will also meet AAU Governing Board Chairperson, Mr Nicholus Opiyo, who is also his (Arthur’s) Line manager.
- Arthur will also meet the Policy and Campaigns team to strategize on campaigns in line with the 5th Strategy Paper.