



WEEKLY June 8 - June 14

AGM Ushers in new leadership

Today, I will use words and pictures to write the story of last Saturday's AAU Annual General Meeting that took place at Serene suits in Mutundwe. The day was full of cheers, serious business, laughter, dances and emotional moments. It was not business as usual.

The ActionAid Governing Board members, Members of the General Assembly and the leadership team all came under one roof to review the Organizational progress and challenges, but to also usher in new leadership.

The outgoing Board Chairman, in his closing remarks thanked the ActionAid family for enabling him to serve in this great institution.

"As I exit, I want to see ActionAid up there, shining above its peers. I have no doubt that with your corporation, Dr Consolata will sail us in that direction;" stated the emotional James, with tears welling in his eyes.

Dr Consolata on the other hand thanked ActionAid for the grooming and opportunity to serve as the new Chairperson.

"I cannot deliver all the aspirations that I have for ActionAid alone. Am counting on your hard work, support, criticism and energy to be able to sail ActionAid to greater heights" she remarked.

During the same meeting, Veteran journalist, Charles Mwangiye Mpagi, also the days convener was elected to the ActionAid Governing Board unopposed.

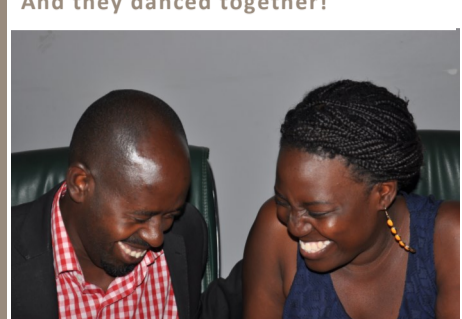
"I thank everyone here for electing me. It's an honor for me to serve on the AAU Board", he said in a very brief acceptance speech that for the first time revealed his emotional side.

Hellena Okiring, from FOWODE was also voted unopposed as next year's convener of the Annual General Assembly.

Look out for details on the AGM from the Board Liaison Office.



James Congratulates Dr Consolata

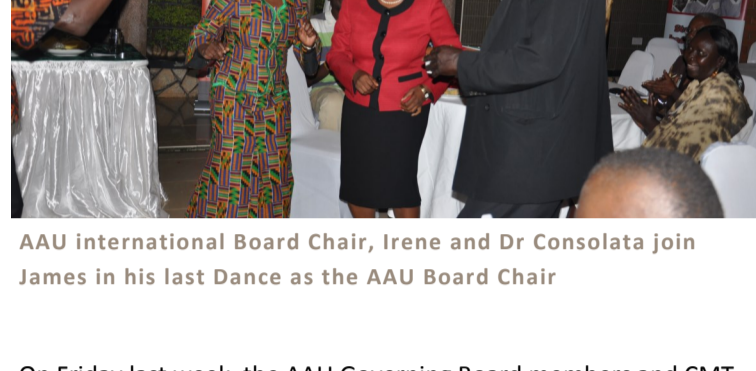


And they danced together!



Charles, new board member and Hellena, next years convener all couldn't believe it. They could only close their eyes and smile

AAU Bids Farewell to former Board Chair, James Otto



AAU international Board Chair, Irene and Dr Consolata join James in his last Dance as the AAU Board Chair

On Friday last week, the AAU Governing Board members and CMT came together to bid Mr. James Otto goodbye. James has been the Chairperson of the AAU Governing Board for the last six years, but also the longest serving board member.

One of the greatest achievements that James is proud of is AAU attaining an affiliate status.

"It was not easy, but it was worth it", he added.

James will however not enjoy his retirement until ActionAid Uganda gets its own home. He looks forward to that day.

Deo Yiga, a member of the board noted that he was astonished at how a former Foods and Beverages expert was so grounded into human Rights. Another member remembered James as one who always had a story for every situation, but with a moral lesson at the end. Caroline, also a board member remarked that how lucky James is, to hear all the nice things that were said that evening when he was still alive.

The event ended with dining, caking and a dance.

Dr Consolata Kabonesa takes on this great work from James. We wish her great success.

[Click here to view James Otto's farewell video!](#)

Day of the African Child

Did you know that tomorrow, the 16th of June is the Day of the African Child?

The day of the African Child is a commemoration to remember the 1976 uprising in Soweto. The school children then took to the streets in South Africa to decry apartheid, specifically in the Education sector. There was a brutal response by security officials resulting into hundreds of deaths of the children.

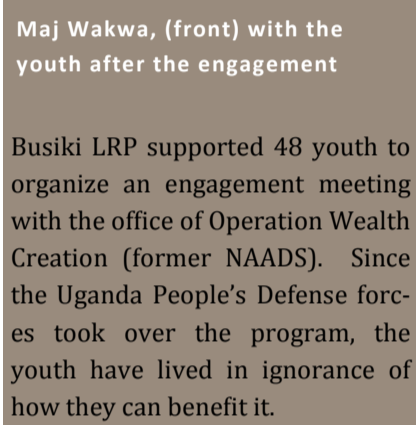
The day is celebrated annually. This year's(2015) theme is "25 Years after the Adoption of the African Children's Charter: Accelerating our Collective Efforts to End Child Marriage in Africa" and will bring together those affected by and working to end child marriage such as community leaders, traditional, religious leaders, girls affected by child marriage and key stakeholders.

Uganda has a young population majority of who are children. 40% of girl children in Uganda are forced into early marriages annually despite policies and guidelines aimed at protecting girls from forced marriages.

Look out for details of AAU and partners' engagements on this issue in the subsequent Weekly bullet-ins.

Show love and protect all the children under your care. Together we can end early and forced child marriages.

Busiki Youth meet Operation Wealth Creation



Maj Wakwa, (front) with the youth after the engagement

Busiki LRP supported 48 youth to organize an engagement meeting with the office of Operation Wealth Creation (former NAADS). Since the Uganda People's Defense forces took over the program, the youth have lived in ignorance of how they can benefit it.

During the engagement, an officer from Operation wealth Creation, Major Wakwa Halid was tasked to explain the program's plans specifically for the youths and how they can access and benefit from it.

However, Maj Wahwa blamed the youths for failing to attend meetings whenever called upon.

"You must realize that the youth are at the forefront of this program. However, when we call for meetings, youths don't respond. The same happens during distribution of inputs'

The young men and women were challenged to stop wasting time in gambling, be proactive and seek out for that which belongs to them.

David Lule, the youth leader in response stated that the youths keep away from these meetings because of the army presence.

"With this brief, we can assure you that during the next planning meeting, we shall be there, at the front row." he promised.

AAU Communications officer wins!



A winners smile, the AAU communications officer is awarded for her exceptional performance at the skills share!

Our own Samanya R. Kyategeka, the Communications officer at ActionAid did us proud when she won an award at the just concluded communications and campaigns skills share that took place in Bangkok Thailand. The meeting brought together over 80 communications and campaign managers from the Federation.

The skills share provided a platform for communications team to share and learn from each other. This was delivered through guest speakers, testimonies and practical exercises.

The competitive exercises included peaching stories to international media, conducting interviews, innovative campaigning strategies, writing a winning campaign message, speaking to the media, Crisis management among others. AAU Communications officer was voted unanimously as the most outstanding campaigner and communications personnel, beating country programs such as Australia, UK, Brazil and Senegal that were all lined up for the award. She also won several exercises including peaching of stories to international media, speaking to the media and developed the best campaign message at the exercise.

Speaking to the Weekly, Samanya could not hold back her excitement.

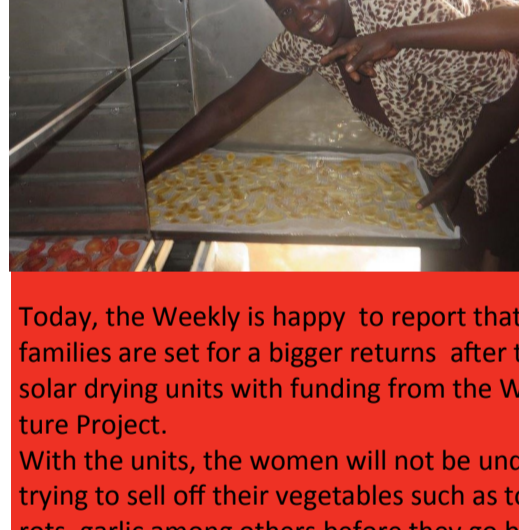
"The entire exercise was a motivation for me to do better. All participants were asked to vote, and I couldn't believe that everyone else considered me as their best!"

Samanya adds that AAU Uganda campaigning and communication will not remain the same.

"I look forward to rolling out all the campaign and communication tactics that were shared by colleagues from the federation, of course tailored to suit the AAU environment.

We look forward to these tactics Samanya!

Kapchorwa Women Embrace Value addition



In August last year, the Weekly broke the story of the 150 women vegetable farmers in Kapchorwa whose lives are undergoing economic and social transformation. This was said to be being accelerated by the construction of an irrigation scheme that was enabling them to produce throughout the year.

Today, the Weekly is happy to report that the women and their families are set for a bigger returns after the construction of the solar drying units with funding from the Women Rights in Agriculture Project.

With the units, the women will not be under the usual pressure of trying to sell off their vegetables such as tomatoes, mushrooms, carrots, garlic among others before they go bad.

Caro Chelengat, the vice chairperson of the women's group reports that although they have been reaping large sums of money from the harvest, they have several times compromised the prices in the bid to sell off the vegetables before they go bad or due to bumper harvests from other producers

"With this innovation, we are going to add value to our vegetables. We shall dry them and sell them at the best prices. We are even considering exporting them into the East African community countries", she said.

Children take part in the PRRP

About 130 children in Gogonya Sub county in Pallisa got the rare opportunity to participate in the Participatory Review and Reflection Process (PRRP) last week. According to Job, the AG-LRP Coordinator of Pallisa, they felt it important to get feedback from the children on the different programs implemented in the community that target children.

Some of the child centered programs in the district include Child sponsorship, improving household livelihoods for the good of the children, ensuring an end to Gender based violence that mainly affects children wellbeing among others.

GOREDO, an ActionAid partner operating in the sub county accounted to the children by presenting a breakdown of all activities that have been rolled out to date but also presented their plans and budgets hence forward.

The children, in response were very grateful for the opportunity presented by ActionAid to interact with the "Big People".

"We kindly ask ActionAid to increase the number of sponsored children so that our friends can also benefit from the program"

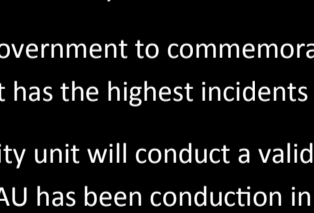
The children were however grateful that even then, the entire community was benefiting from the different programs and not just the sponsored children. To crown off the day, the children were treated to a mini sports gala and the best players in both netball and Football were awarded prizes both for their schools and to take home.

CSPIV and Organisational effectiveness Review update

ActionAid Uganda management thanks all of us who have actively participated in the CSPIV and organizational Effectiveness review processes. By this morning, all the data for the CSPIV review was in, awaiting analysis. The firm undertaking the Organizational Effectiveness will however complete the data collection today with an interface with the Managers and Directors.

All results are expected to be announced by end of July.

[READ ABOUT THE CSO REACTION TO THE BUDGET SPEECH HERE](#) AND [THE MAIDEN ANTI CORRUPTION CARAVAN HERE](#)



WEEK AHEAD:

- AAU and other CSOs will hold a meeting with Members of Parliament under the Forum for Children's Affairs and Education this Thursday.
- AAU will join Bukwo District Local Government to commemorate the Day of the African Child. Bukwo was chosen because it has the highest incidents of Child and forced marriages.
- The Women Rights and Gender Equity unit will conduct a validation of the findings from the Transitional Justice Research that AAU has been conducting in Northern Uganda.