



Weekly
AUG 14— 20

Dear Reader, over 50 youth are on an agri-business caravan. They will be visiting farms in western Uganda for learning and inspiration. The caravan was flagged off yesterday and the first stop was in Mpigi at Kibinge coffee farmers Association . As seen in photo, it was all about learning!

I believe youth can, and should choose agriculture-Samanya!



At the farm, the youth were taken through the coffee production chain. They learned, were inspired but had the opportunity to smell and taste the coffee. Today, the youth will be in Mbarara visiting the Kazire health products.

On Saturday 19th August 2017, State Minister for Agriculture Hon. Christopher Kyebazanga assured the youth about government's commitment towards addressing issues of youth unemployment through agriculture. This was during the official launching of the Youth in Agribusiness 2017 Caravan at Pope Paul Memorial Centre in Ndeeba, a Kampala suburb.

"Government is committed to helping the youth transform their lives by using modern methods of farming," stated Hon. Kyebazanga.

He added that the youth are vibrant and dynamic and therefore can easily adopt improved farming methods to maximize production.

The Youth in Agribusiness Caravan under the theme, "Feeding the World, Changing Lives" is scheduled to take place between 18th and 25th August 2017 and was organised by ActionAid under the Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Self-employment for National development Project, funded by the European union in partnership with AgriProFocus Uganda and the UHURU institute.

According to the Knowledge and Innovations Facilitator at AgriProFocus, Mr. Richard Mugisha, the purpose of the caravan is to build a generation of youth in agribusiness whose active participation will lead to food security in the country.

"One of the objectives of this caravan is to motivate the youth to join agriculture for employment opportunities in agribusiness value chains," he said.

He also added that the youth in Uganda are at the center of change therefore government should put in place policies that are favorable to skilling them especially in agriculture.

ActionAid's Communication Officer, Samanya Rita Kyategeka tipped the young people not to shy away from agriculture when weighing career choices. She advised the youth to disregard the conventional belief that agriculture means an archaic lifestyle and a future with limited opportunities.

"Plenty of evidence shows us that agriculture provides youth a viable way to harvest success and grow a sustainable future. In other words, I believe youth can, and should, choose agriculture", she advised.

More than 40 youths from different regions across the country are currently traveling to different farms in Mpigi Masaka, Mbarara, Busheyi, Kasese and Fort Portal. The learning visits are and will provide the youth with a platform for sharing information and

ActionAid Myanmar wins on Community Mobilization



Harriet(front left) with the Myanmar team after the review process of the strategy paper.



Harriet(left) during the meeting with the female staff. They counted several gains from the women only



Partners and community members map out the key milestones of the Country Strategy



Harriet with the AAM male staff after their reflections on feminism

For the last two weeks, Harriet Gimbo, AAU's Director of Programmes has been in Yangon, Myanmar supporting the review of ActionAid Myanmar's (AAM) Country Strategy. The 5 year Strategy; **Empowering People for Change** runs until December 2017. The review aimed at checking progress of the set targets.

The review process took interest in the performance of programmatic elements such as Women Rights, Governance , resilience and livelihoods as well as the institutional components of the current strategy to guide the next strategy.

The review team interacted with the community, partners, peer organisations and staff.

"It was inspiring to see the strong community mobilisation with over 1000 community representatives called **Fellows** that have been trained and supported by AAM to annually develop the village book that guides the plans and budgets of the government at different levels and sectors", stated Harriet in an email.

Harriet and the rest of the review team noted the infrastructural development, stronger community voice and priorities in the National plans and budgets, enhanced relations between communities and the government as some of the wins of the soon ending strategy.

She took off time to meet both the female and male staff separately to get their position of feminism in the country. During the meeting with the male staff, Harriet emphasized the need for **women only spaces** for women to discuss issues that directly affect them across their public and private spheres. He urged the men to support this programme.

Just like the ActionAid Uganda Women staff, the AAM ladies in their separate meeting had strong testimonies which they attributed to the **women only spaces**. Many stated that they had got the courage to challenge several patriarchal injustices in their homes and communities.

Welcome back Harriet and we look forward to strengthening our own community engagements from your learnings as we look forward to Strategy Paper five launch and implementation.

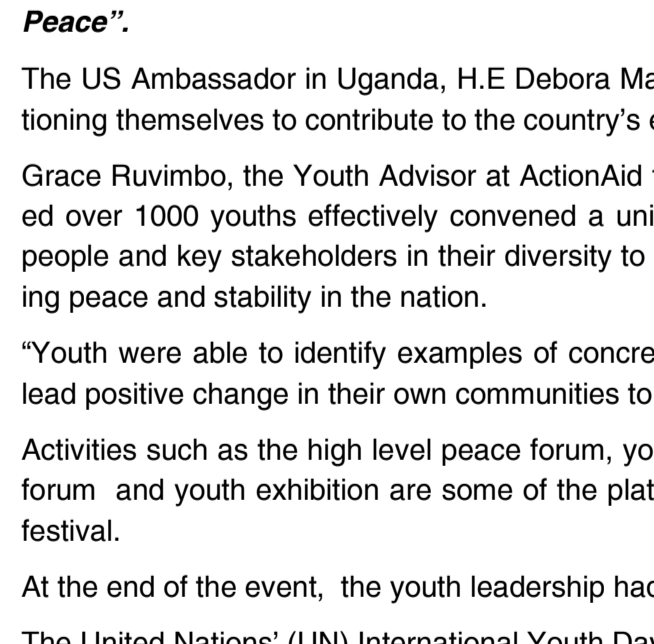
Lango Region Rejects amendment on article 26!



An Elder from Lango making his submission at the meeting.



The Lango legislators were tasked by their constituents to reject the amendment



The hundreds of people from Lango region during the meeting last Monday

Last week, the Lango Parliamentary Group in partnership with ActionAid and Uganda Land Alliance convened a consultative meeting on the proposed amendment of Article 26 of the 1995 Constitution. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2017 seeks to amend Article 26 of the Constitution to allow government take over land for development without compensating the owner first which is contrary to the letter and spirit of Article 26 of the Constitution.

The meeting which was attended by over one thousand people drawn from the eight Districts of Lango included 14 Members of Parliament, local council leaders, religious leaders, traditional leaders, Civil Society organisations and opinion leaders.

The participants decried the failure of government to respect and uphold their land rights under the current framework and called upon government to fast track adequate, fair and prompt compensation before any project begins.

The highly emotive meeting was concluded by a unanimous rejection of the inclusion of articles 3, 4 and 5 into Article 26 of the Constitution. Over 900 community members and legislators from the region appended their signatures to a resolution which will be tabled before parliament as a sign of their commitment.

The resolution reads;

We the undersigned people of Lango, here assembled at Uganda Technical college, Lira has this 14th day of August 2017,

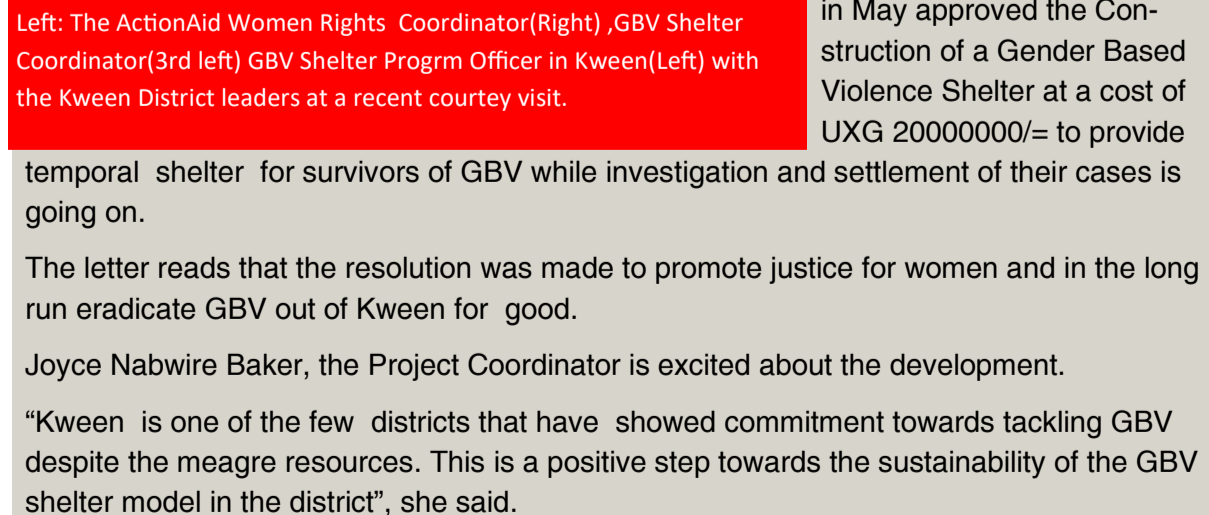
And, Having examined, analyzed and understood the proposed Constitutional Amendment Bill No. 13 of 2017, in particular the proposal to amend Article 26 of the 1995 Constitution have resolved as follows:

- **We reject the constitutional Amendment in totality and entirely**
- **Call upon Government to withdraw Immediately the Bill**

- **Implore Government to pay all people whose land were given /acquired for public use including arrears**

The resolution will be used to petition the Speaker of Parliament not to consider amending the constitution. Follow this link for the [NBS Coverage of the event](#), and [Here for the article](#) in the Observer.

Annual Festival inspires and empowers youth leadership



Left to Right: Grace Ruvimbo speaks during the festival. Middle is HE Debora Malac and on the right are some of the youth who turned up at the festival

On Saturday last week, ActionAid joined the rest of the world to commemorate the International youth day at the Annual National youth festival. The event took place at the Makerere University Freedom square under the theme: **"Youth Rights, Employment and Peace"**.

The US Ambassador in Uganda, H.E Debora Malac urged the youth to work towards positioning themselves to contribute to the country's economy and democracy.

Grace Ruvimbo, the Youth Advisor at ActionAid told the Weekly that the event that attracted over 1000 youths effectively convened a unique platform that brought together young people and key stakeholders in their diversity to share and reflect on their role in maintaining peace and stability in the nation.

"Youth were able to identify examples of concrete alternatives of engaging themselves to lead positive change in their own communities to reduce violence" she wrote.

Activities such as the high level peace forum, youth parliament, sexual reproductive health forum and youth exhibition are some of the platforms that the youths exploited during the festival.

At the end of the event, the youth leadership had been inspired.

The United Nations' (UN) International Youth Day (IYD) is celebrated on August 12 each year to recognize efforts of the world's youth in enhancing global society. It also aims to promote ways to engage them in becoming more actively involved in making positive contributions to their communities. This year the theme was: **"Youth Building Peace"**.

Kween District allocates funds for GBV Shelter Construction

Left: The ActionAid Women's Rights Coordinator(Right) ,GBV Shelter Coordinator(3rd left) GBV Shelter Program Officer in Kween(Left) with the Kween District leaders at a recent courtesy visit.

After several years of lobbying, the ActionAid Women's Rights unit is celebrating the commitment of Kween District Local Government to the campaigns against Gender Based Violence.

In a letter addressed to the Coordinator of Gender Based Violence Shelter Project at ActionAid, the District Council in May approved the Construction of a Gender Based Violence Shelter at a cost of UXG 20000000/= to provide

temporal shelter for survivors of GBV while investigation and settlement of their cases is going on.

The letter reads that the resolution was made to promote justice for women and in the long run eradicate GBV out of Kween for good.

Joyce Nabwire Baker, the Project Coordinator is excited about the development.

"Kween is one of the few districts that have showed commitment towards tackling GBV despite the meagre resources. This is a positive step towards the sustainability of the GBV shelter model in the district", she said.

Joyce added that what is left is for ActionAid to carry out more fundraising drives since the allocated funds are not enough to complete the construction of the shelter.

Other districts that have allocated funds to the shelters include Gulu (UGX10000000). Currently, the GBV shelters are being funded by DFID until 2020.

Perspectives from the Country Director

In his new features dubbed perspectives from the Country Director, Arthur tips his readers to change their ways, let... He writes that:

"Last week, I mentioned in passing that owing to the expiry of my permit, I used, for a couple of days' commuter taxis to report to work. It was not the first time I have taken that decision as I have travelled to Nebbi LRP, Gulu Cluster and even Kapchorwa Cluster by bus or other public means that majority of people we claim to exist, work for and with, use"

[Read this blog here](#) and look out for the next edition next Monday, which he partially introduces in today's perspectives.

Week Ahead

- The Country Management team will hold a meeting on Wednesday to consider several management issues and build up to the leadership and Board meetings.
- Arthur Larok who is currently in Rwanda is expected to make a courtesy call to the ActionAid Rwanda Office
- The Youth in Agri-business caravan is taking place this week in Western Uganda. The caravan will close on Friday with a youth convention to be held at Hotel Africana