

Weekly

Aug 28— 2 Sept



Last week, the ActionAid Leadership team was in Royal Suites, Bugolobi. Key on the agenda was the development of Operational plans for the yet to be launched Strategy Paper five. In the Photo, the leaders were indeed taking a peep into the future. Enjoy this edition.

Getting ready for take off...



Moments from the leaders meeting at Royal Suites last week.

Last week, ActionAid Uganda leadership team met at Royal Suites Hotel to discuss the operationalisation of the 5th Strategy Paper. The key objective of the meeting was to reflect on current practices and learn from the CSPIV implementation as a spring-board for better delivery, outcomes and results.

In his opening remarks, the AAU Governing Board Chairperson, Nicholus Opiyo urged ActionAid to learn from Corporate organisations on how to brand and market her work.

“We need to think differently and come up with more innovative ways of letting the public know about what we do and the change we are making”, he said adding that we are living in a world of information overflow and the most aggressive takes the stage. Nicholus encouraged staff to keep writing about the work we do.

During the meeting, Participatory methodologies were used and these enabled the generation of actions, and activities that will feed into the operation plan 2018-2020.

The groups also developed **BIG IDEAS** for each of the priority areas and these will be used in the different fundraising drives.

Arthur Larok, AAU's Country Director at the end of the retreat encouraged staff to believe in the strategy and fight for the direction of the strategy because it is the right thing to do at the moment.

“If the this Strategy is to be a success, the leaders herein must inspire their colleagues, serve and wait to be served, should always come down at the altar and embrace their teams, should never blame any staff, should never take anything for granted among others”, he advised. Arthur added that leaders should take firm decisions and hold staff accountable, should perform and defend staff externally while holding them accountable internally.

The key actions, resolutions and next steps agreed upon during the 5 days meeting were;

Foundation 1: Completion of critical pathways for all priority areas and units by 10th September 2017. Heads of Unit will be responsible for this.

IASL manager to consolidate the critical pathway for all priority areas and units and share draft by 15th September 2017.

Foundation 2: Completion of M&E indicators and definitions for the 4 priority areas and organisational objectives by 10th September 2017. Heads of Unit will be responsible for this.

IASL manager to consolidate the M&E indicators and definition for all priority areas and organisational objectives and share draft by 15th September 2017.

Foundation 3: Clear campaigns and policy plan by 10th September 2017. Policy & Campaigns manager responsible for this with support from Fundraising Director, Country Director, Youth Advisor, Programs Director and Fair Green & Global Project Coordinator.

Foundation 4: Three (3) year operational plan. Template, revised guidelines for operational plan to be shared by Program & Finance Director by 10th September 2017 for teams to develop operational plans with detailed activities for 2018.

Foundation 5: Cluster coordinators will issue a memo by 15th September 2017. Cluster Coordinators responsible for this with Manager Partnership and Capacity Building as the accounting officer.

Foundation 6: Partnership issues. List of potential partners, revised partnership policy, revised MOUs and guidelines to be shared by 25th September 2017. Manager Partnership and Capacity Building responsible for this with support from the champions selected.

Foundation 7: Transition Plan from CSP IV to 5th Strategy Paper. HROE Director to share draft by 25th September 2017.

Foundation 8: Proposal development. 2 page concepts per priority area to be shared by the team leaders by 25th September 2017 and 8 proposals completed by Fundraising and Programs Director by 31st October 2017.

What can Uganda Learn from Kenya



Kenyans jubilate after the court rulling last Friday

a petition filed by challenger Raila Odinga who alleged widespread fraud in the election.

Following the judgment, the court broke into cheers, with Odinga raising his fists in the air in celebration. The Ugandan media, that was broadcasting the proceedings also apportioned time to commentaries on the subject.

“This is indeed a very historic day for the people of Kenya and by extension to the people of the continent of Africa,” he said outside the courthouse. “For the first time in the history of African democratization, a ruling has been made by a court nullifying irregular election of a president.”

For his part, Kenyatta pledged to respect the court's decision — but later assailed the judges.

“They have been paid by white people and other trash,” he told supporters, adding that his party would watch the court's actions. “Let's move on,” he said. “But they will know we are also men.”

It is rare for a court in any country to throw out the results of a presidential election. But the ruling was particularly striking on a continent notorious for fraudulent and manipulated electoral processes. Just last month, Rwandan President Paul Kagame got nearly 99 percent of the vote in an election [criticized as unfair by the United States](#) while the Observers in Uganda's Presidential elections noted that the election fell short of key democratic benchmarks.

According to AAU's Country Director, Arthur Larok, the ruling in Kenya was not only an act of courage and justice, not even an accident but aided by a context of political and institutional reforms that Kenya adopted over the years.

“This was not our *Namboole* via *Naguru* scenario. We in Uganda must strengthen our constitution and undertake positive electoral and political reforms instead of supporting silly plans like removing age limit to safeguard selfish interests”, he wrote in a blog.

We look forward to the developments in Kenya as we continue to work for Uganda's own democratization.

When Cranes, Kenya inspired my 2021!



Today, the communications Officer writes how she was inspired by the Uganda Cranes, who did not give chance to the Arsenal, West Brom and Liverpool Players in the Egyptian team to beat them at Namboole. This, coupled with the Kenyan judgement on the recent elections made her believe that **“this is the time”**

[Read her full blog here](#)

Perspectives from the Country Director



“For the record, I am as joyed as any democracy loving African and people across the world celebrating the unprecedented Supreme Court ruling. It was a momentous occasion that made Africa proud. The ruling was an act of courage, truth and justice. Uganda had a chance to set such a precedent in 2006 when in a similar election petition by Kiiza Besigye Uganda's Supreme Court had reached a decisive 5:2 majority in favour of the petition but it turned out to a 3:4 ruling when two judges changed their positions overnight, succumbing to fear and political expediency rather than truth and justice as their counterparts in Kenya did. Uganda is

worse off today, in part because of our cowardly judges”

[Read Arthur's blog here](#), and find out why he believes Courts should go beyond ordering fresh elections!

WEEK AHEAD:

- The Country Director will be in Dar el Salaam for a series of Global Secretariat meetings.
- ActionAid will convene a strategic planning meeting for the Constitutional review process this Thursday.
- We shall be receiving 5 Inspirators who will be placed in Nebbi, Gulu, Kumi, Katakwi Local Rights Programmes. The fifth will be placed with Recreation for Development and Peace