

“

THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE
IS SO MUCH STRONGER THAN

THE PEOPLE IN POWER. – WAEL CHEWIM

”

Weekly

Sept 11— 17

In a press conference conducted at the ActionAid offices last week, Ugandans were rallied to defend and build on whatever is left of the positive legacy that President Museveni still has and support his stated position that he would not seek another term after the age of 75 for in his own words, ‘... I think after 75, the vigour...there is some scientific evidence that the vigour will not be there...if you want very active leaders, you need those below 75 ... I will certainly not ...’ seek re-election after 75 years.’ This and more in this edition!

Ugandans Must Rise and Protect the Constitution-CSOs



CSO leaders without mincing words affirmed their resolve to ensure that the Constitution is not abrogated during a press conference last Saturday.

Last Saturday, ActionAid together with other CSO leaders during a press conference held at the ActionAid offices called upon the public to either rise up and defend the constitution or else risk being part of the conspiracy that will push Uganda back to anarchy and violence.

The well attended press conference attracted over 30 press men and women, and a section of CSO representatives who were all clad in white to symbolise their need for peaceful transition of power.

The leaders stated that the people of Uganda are being betrayed by some Members of Parliament who instead of focusing on more pressing issues in the country are adulterating the constitution.

“At a time when our country is bleeding from the unexplained murders of our mothers and sisters in Wakiso, at a time when our fellow citizens are being forcefully evicted from their land in Mubende and Amuru, at a time when Ugandans are suffering disasters in Bududa and Sironko due to landslides, and at a time when we see our economy weaken and the unemployment crisis deepens, Members of Parliament, instead of focusing on these important national issues and security threats decide that the most important matter to them is the further adulteration of the constitution - what a shame and betrayal of trust!” read Arthur Larok, AAU’s Country Director.

Hon Irene Ovonji, the CEO of FIDA Uganda added that no matter the threats and intimidation that any one opposed to the lifting of the presidential age limits will face, their resolve to prevent the country from sliding further into anarchy is unwavering.

Fr. Gaetano Batantenda, a re-known social justice activist and Parish priest in Kabale Diocese, on his part urged ministerial leaders to speak out against lifting of age limits or else risk having their silence misunderstood. The outspoken religious leader went on to advise that life presidency will lead to increased torture and violation of human rights by security forces, grand corruption, land grabbing, among other evils.

“Senior church leaders should tell President Museveni to model himself along the legacy of former Tanzanian president Julius Nyerere, who, when asked by some members of his political party Chama cha Mapenzi to rule for life, firmly and sternly rejected their advances,” he said adding that now is the time for senior religious leaders to come out openly and tell Ugandans whether they are on the side of the “oppressors” or the “oppressed”.

“You cannot afford to be neutral or lukewarm. As senior religious leaders in Uganda, we should emulate the heroic example of the Uganda Martyrs, the former Archbishop Jonan Luwum who said no to bad leadership,” Fr Gaetano said.

AAU’s Fredrick Kawooya called upon the public to oppose, reject, isolate and shame Members of Parliament and all other leaders who are working hard to destroy Uganda through their selfish schemes.

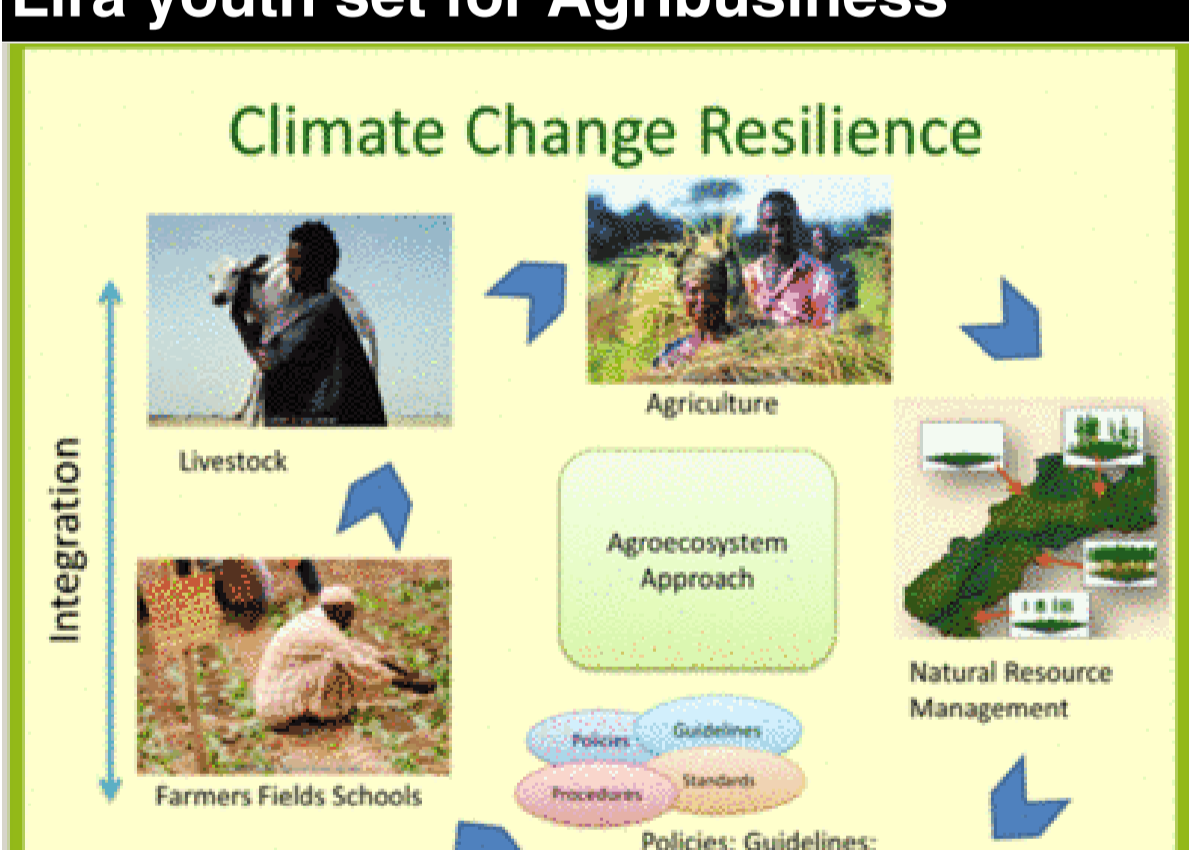
“Church leaders and Muslims clerics should stop giving these leaders special seats in churches and mosques, and I want to assure the Members of Parliament that they will have a lot to regret if they go ahead and lift the Presidential age limits,” he said.

Crispy Kaheru, the Executive Director of CCEDU added that CSOs are going to mobilize and organise Ugandans in their diversity to work for the peaceful leadership change and political transition in Uganda. “We want president Museveni to complete his last term and retire and live happily in Uganda”, he concluded.

The conference ended with a call to all Ugandans from their diverse political persuasions, religious affiliations and ethnic configurations to join the struggle with whatever resources and imaginations they possess, to safeguard peace, security and prosperity.

In a related development, the religious leaders are set to issue a statement in regard to their stand on the Presidential age limit debate. We look forward to the content.

Lira youth set for Agribusiness



ActionAid Uganda with funding from European Union is implementing a four year Youth Empowerment for Sustainable self-employment and National Development (YESSEN) project in North-Eastern and Northern regions of Uganda. This is part of the wider socio-economic reconstruction effort in the Northern and North-Eastern region of Uganda.

Lira project area conducted a Climate Resilient Sustainable Agriculture (CRSA) District rollout training last week. Over 491 members of 8 rural youth farmers’ groups were present.

According to Edmond Olowo, the AG- YESSEN Program Officer in Lira, the training was conducted to support the youth to achieve sustainable development and a green economy by focusing on sustainable management and use of land and water resources owing to the high dependence on natural capital.

The youths were urged to promote land use planning and limit land use change especially the conversion of forests and wetland areas to other uses. At the end of the training, the youth were not only equipped with knowledge and skills on CRSA approaches but also inspired to tap into agribusiness opportunities and form a basis for collective production and marketing.

The EU-funded YESSEN project will consolidate this training by supporting the establishment of 8 demonstration sites for the 8 rural youth farmers groups in the sub-counties of Agali and Amach.

Perspectives from the Country Director



Today, Arthur writes about what every one is talking about, the power in young people. He guides that in order to unlock the potential of young people, we must overcome three main obstacles.

He concludes that, “So, to be of value to young people’s struggle for transformation, an environment for their rise must be created in all spaces where they exist - formal and informal and they themselves, should claim their rightful spaces by resisting co-optation.”.

[Read the full blog here.](#)

WEEK AHEAD:

- The ActionAid Fair, Green and Global Project will conduct a partners meeting to review implementation progress and plan for the last quarter of the year.
- ActionAid in partnership with SEATINI have analysed the investment code Bill 2017 and shall be making proposals and recommendations to parliament on Wednesday.