



## Weekly

Oct 2 — 8

Despite the continued Police Investigation of ActionAid and two others CSOs, the Organisation is still committed to embracing rights and transforming lives. In fact, in the yet to be launched 5th Strategy Paper, the organisation commits to work with women, especially young women and girls to advance the cause of social justice in the next five years. Welcome to this edition of the Weekly!

### Galagala-the dream school now a reality!



(Left-Right) Arthur draws water from the drilled borehole, Grand launch of the classroom block and a thank you to ActionAid for the work well-done.

Last week, ActionAid unveiled the new Galagala Primary school to the Pader District Local Government.

Arthur Larok, AAU's Country Director handed over a two classroom block, an administration block with offices and staff room, a children's play area and borehole to the staff, parents and pupils of Galagala at an event attended by both district technical and political leaders.

In 2012, ActionAid, at its 30 year anniversary in Uganda launched a fundraising drive to construct a classroom block for Galagala. At the time, the pupils were learning in a mud and wattle structure, with extremely dusty floors. [Click here to see Galagala at the time.](#)

With support from ActionAid staff and partners, money was raised and the first block was erected and unveiled to the pupils. While they were excited about it, they cried out for more funding to acquire more classrooms, clean water, furniture, textbooks and other school basic needs. [View the launch video here](#)

ActionAid Greece, on reading this humble story joined the campaign to build Galagala. They raised funds and travelled to Uganda last year to practically take part in the construction of an administration block. This year, the Greek volunteers were in Pader-Galagala to complete what they started. They provided funds and took part in the construction of another classroom block, a playing area and drilled a bore hole.

While receiving the different projects, the District LCV Chairperson, Residence District Commissioner and District Speaker hailed ActionAid for its immense contribution to Pader District and the pupils of Galagala.

"ActionAid has set the bar so high. Galagala is the only school in Pader district with an administration block and a land title. Thank you ActionAid for challenging us to do better", stated the District's Chief Administrative Officer.

The leaders committed to work at ensuring that the school becomes Government aided by 2018. Currently, the school has six teachers but only one (the head teacher) is on the government payroll. This has left the burden of paying the teachers to the parents, who also have to meet their children's scholastic needs.

Arthur, on his part emphasized the need to invest in quality education as the only way that different communities can address poverty and social injustices. He also used the occasion to thank the district leadership for the 3 class roomed block that they pledged to construct. He concluded by challenging the leaders to create an enabling operating environment for CSOs as it was the only way they (CSOs) could succeed in meeting community needs.

### Galagala-the humble beginning!



Back in the days; the pupils of galagala with their teacher in front of their classroom.

What do you want to become when you grow up? That was the question we asked the pupils of Galagala primary schools in 2012. Their dreams and aspirations were big.

"I want to become a president. I want to become a Minister. I want to become a teacher!" they responded.

Something had to be done to ensure that these young men and women attain their dreams. They were learning in a grass and wattle structure, sitting on a dusty floor. They had only one teacher to handle all classes.

The nearest school was over 6kms away, a distance that not many of them could trek.

ActionAid took on the fundraising drive to build for these pupils a dream school. Today, the school stands out in Pader and was unveiled last week. [Take a look at our humble beginnings here.](#)

### Police Siege updates!!

#### Police Summons AAU leaders

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations (CID) last week invited AAU's Country Director to Police Headquarters for further investigation. The letter also invited the organisation's Finance Director to attend the said meeting. Having had commitments in Pader where he was expected to hand over Galagala Primary school to the District leadership, Arthur asked that the meeting takes place today. Look out for updates on this in our next publications.

#### Daily Monitor Report

Meanwhile, the Directorate of Criminal Investigations has written to the Non-Government Organisation Bureau about the three civil society organisations it is investigating.

The CID is investigating ActionAid Uganda, the Uhuru Institute for Social Development and Great Lakes Institute of Strategic Studies (GLISS) for allegedly funding Opposition projects that the government believe are intended to cause unrest in the country. Investigators have demanded from Non-Government Organisation Bureau work plans and budgets of the three organisations. [All this, according to the Daily Monitor newspaper. Click Here for the full story.](#)

#### NTV report

NTV Uganda further collaborated the Daily Monitor story last evening. They reported that the Uganda Police decided to summon Directors of the three NGOs, including ActionAid to answer questions about sources of their funding. [View this story here](#)

#### Situation in Katakwi

The situation in the ActionAid office in Katakwi remains that of uncertainty. The Program Officer, Benjamin Tukei continues to receive information that the district security leadership is suspicious of the organisation activities in the district. The team has however remained focused for social justice in the district. The team has also embarked on a scenario building exercise to enable them identify risks and come up with mitigating measures.

#### Mixed Reactions in Pader!

After launching Galagala primary school, ActionAid invited the Pader district leadership to a dinner. Apart from discussing Pader's development agenda, the team engaged in a chat about the Police siege of ActionAid offices. The District LCV Chairperson was in full support of AAU approaches, having worked with the organization for a very long time. He hence condemned the police sieges of the offices. On the other hand, the RDC was in full support of the siege. He argued that there could be something that the organization is not doing right, which prompted the siege. However, both leaders agreed that there is need for dialogue between CSOs and the Government in case of any suspicion rather than a siege. They tipped ActionAid to remain as transparent as it has been in all its processes and finances.

### Bukuya thrills at mining debate



Bukuya students receive the award after winning the competition.

Bukuya S.S from Bukuya town council, a village within the gold mining camp of Mubende went against all odds to beat 7 Mubende town schools in a debate competition under the theme; 'Mining in Uganda; a blessing or a curse'

The debate was one of the many activities organized in the mining and oil rich district to enhance the knowledge of young people about the mining and oil sector to empower them to defend their stake in this sector. The winning school gave an unexpected defeat to the rest. According to Flavia Nalubega, the Extractives Governance Officer, the students' arguments were based on facts.

"It was clear in their presentations that they had researched and compared situations in Uganda's mining sector to cases around the world. They surely stood out", she said.

The inter-secondary school debates attracted 8 schools from sub counties within the gold-rich Mubende district and were organized to arise the power within the young people to be able to face those in power as far as good governance of the extractives sector is concerned

### AAU builds capacity in Gender responsive services



Participants during and interactive and participatory session last week.

Last week, ActionAid organized a training in Gender responsive Public services. The training held at Akello Hotel in Soroti was conducted with support from MS TCDC which provided the trainers.

The activity was attended by Budget trackers, Citizen Journalists, Programme Officers, Inspirators and some Partner staff.

According to Fiona Awili, the Partnerships Officer, the training provided participants with knowledge and skills in Gender Responsive Public Services as well as advocacy skills to enable them to monitor, track and advocate for better Gender Responsive public services in their communities.

"The participants were introduced to Gender Responsive Public Service, Public Service Governance, Public Service and Transformational change, Strategies for Engagement and Promotion of Collective Action for GRPS, Monitoring and Reporting for Gender Responsive Public Services (GRPS)", she wrote.

The 5 day training was interactive and participatory in nature which left the participants equipped with knowledge and skills to better their work in the communities with a focus of achieving better service delivery, putting into consideration the needs of women.

### WEEK AHEAD:

- The extractives Governance Coordinator in in South Africa for the Africa Oil week.
- The FGG Coordinator, Jennipher Achaloi is in Arusha for a training.