

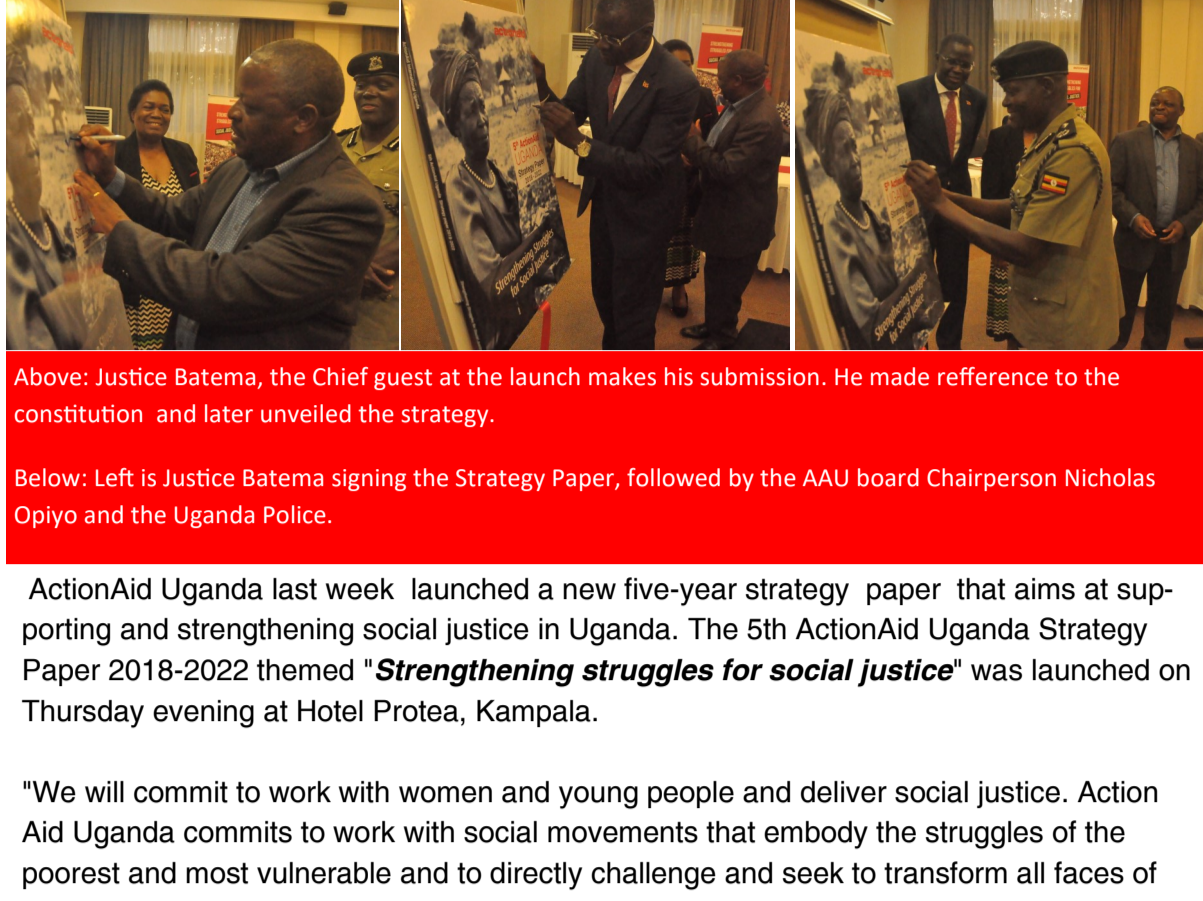


Weekly

Nov 27 - 3 Dec

After one and a half years of cooking, ActionAid finally unveiled the 5th Strategy paper: Strengthening Struggles for social justice. The colourful and well attended event took place at Protea- Kampala Hotel, last Thursday and was officiated by Justice David Batema. Congratulations ActionAid!

ActionAid unveils 5th Strategy Paper!



Above: Justice Batema, the Chief guest at the launch makes his submission. He made reference to the constitution and later unveiled the strategy.

Below: Left is Justice Batema signing the Strategy Paper, followed by the AAU board Chairperson Nicholas Opiyo and the Uganda Police.

ActionAid Uganda last week launched a new five-year strategy paper that aims at supporting and strengthening social justice in Uganda. The 5th ActionAid Uganda Strategy Paper 2018-2022 themed "**Strengthening struggles for social justice**" was launched on Thursday evening at Hotel Protea, Kampala.

"We will commit to work with women and young people and deliver social justice. Action Aid Uganda commits to work with social movements that embody the struggles of the poorest and most vulnerable and to directly challenge and seek to transform all faces of power," the strategy paper reads. The strategy paper further states;

"We shall assume the risks which arise from using innovative engagement methods, working with people's struggle of all types, standing with social justice activists and human rights defenders as part of a wide movement for positive change."

ActionAid Uganda's Country Director, Arthur Larok, said the noble contribution that organisations such as ActionAid can do is to support social justice movements. He said social justice movements in Uganda have always been peaceful, and that they only become violent when provoked by the state machineries. Larok added that ActionAid views government not as a static entity but one that can learn and adopt.

"In the present circumstances, government is suppressive of dissenting views but these struggles can never be suppressed forever". Larok said that ActionAid will welcome government whenever and wherever it's part of social justice movements.

The launch of a new strategy comes two months after police raided the organisation's head offices, situated in Kansanga on allegations that it was funding illegal activities with the aim of destabilising the government.

ActionAid Uganda's Chairman Board, Nicholas Opiyo, while addressing the over 250 guests at the launch stated that the organisation continues to operate because of good will and support of its partners. He hinted that they (management and board) have had several engagements with government and hopeful that the situation will normalise soon. Mr. Opiyo called on Government to recognise and appreciate the contribution of civil society organisations rather than branding them as foreign agents or promoters of subversive activities.

The chief guest of the day, Justice David Batema called on ActionAid to avoid confrontation with Government but rather explore alternative engagement mechanisms that will lead to social justice as opposed to social injustice. He urged the organisation to shield itself in the law and ensure that all its activities are constitutional at all times.

ActionAid used the event to award donor agencies that have supported its work over the years. The others recognised were the promoters and original subscribers of ActionAid.

The event closed with a ceremonial launch and signing of the strategy by the chief guest and ActionAid Board members followed by a cocktail that allowed greater networking among the invited guests.

ActionAid awards its Funding Partners!



As ActionAid launched its 5th Strategy Paper last Thursday, it took off time to recognise the various donors and funding institutions that have supported the organisation's work for the last 35 years.

The European Union was appreciated for its outstanding support in promoting and protecting the rights of children, young people and women. DFID was also awarded for its support in promoting good governance, gender equality and the right to quality education in the country while Ford Foundation was awarded for its outstanding support in promoting leadership of women and young people in shaping governance and community benefits in the extractives sector.

Others include Democratic Governance Facility in appreciation of its outstanding support towards deepening Governance and accountability, Embassy of Denmark in appreciation for the outstanding support from DANIDA in institutional building, deepening local democracy and accountability and the Embassy of Ireland in appreciation of support from Irish citizens through child sponsorship towards the right to quality education for the deaf.

Others institutions and agencies awarded include the Embassy of Italy in appreciation for the support from Italian citizens through child sponsorship towards the food security and right to quality education, Embassy of Sweden in appreciation of an outstanding support towards expanding civic and political space and gender equality, the Embassy of Netherlands in appreciation of an outstanding support towards corporate accountability in Uganda, UNFPA in appreciation of an outstanding support toward Gender Equality in Uganda, Australian Government appreciation of support to Gender Equality and Extractives Governance in Uganda, Alistair Foundation in appreciation of an outstanding support to Women Land Rights in Uganda and Maxwel stamp PLC for your outstanding support in managing the SURGE Program in Uganda.

ActionAid looks forward to continued financial and technical support to attain social justice in the next five years.

ActionAid Bids Farewell to Outgoing Board members.



Last Thursday, AAU held a farewell dinner for its outgoing board members and welcomed new board members. The dinner was attended by the outgoing board members, the new board members, staff and friends of AAU. The outgoing members expressed their joy and fulfilment in serving on the AAU board.

Prof. Kwesiga in particular was impressed that despite the need to resign from the Board and relocate to his upcountry home in Kabale, the staff and other Board members still check on him. He emphasised how AAU has built a strong and resilient team exhibited by their continuous zeal to work relentlessly despite the closure of the organisation's accounts.

Dr Consolata Kabonesa, who handed over to Mr Nicholas Opiyo as Board Chairperson thanked the Management of ActionAid for the support during her tenure and prayed that the same support and cooperation is granted to Nicholas so that he can steer ActionAid to greatness.

Other members who retired from active service of the AAU board are Caloline Ekobu who served for 8 years first as a member and later as the Chairperson of the Programs Committee of the board. Ms Jude Kamanyi and Evelyne Mugenyi also leaving have also served for 8 years as members of the Board and later Chairpersons of Board, Governance and organisational Development and Finance and audit committees respectively

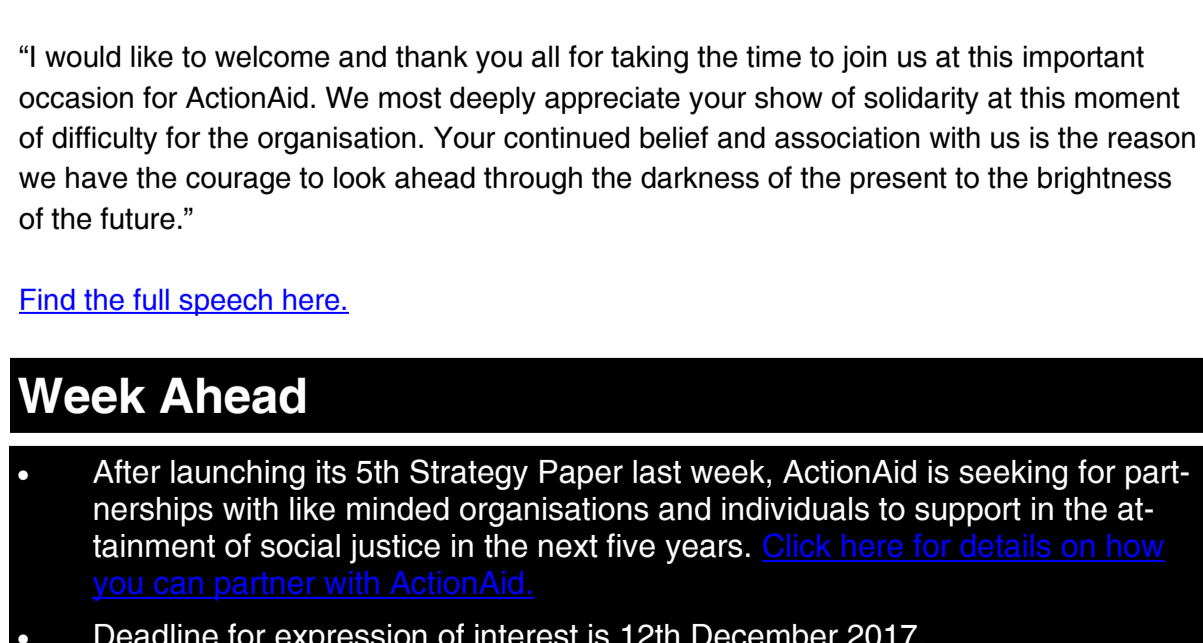
Ms Judy has also been a member and Chairperson of the Board Audit committee of ActionAid Malawi Governing Board while Ms Evelyne has been a member of the ActionAid Sweden Governing Board up to the time of their retirement.

All outgoing members took home awards in recognition of their excellent service on the board.

The new Board members include Ms Mary Oduka 'Ochan who is the vice Chairperson of the Board, Jennifer Bageya Mugalu, the incoming Board Treasurer and Chairperson of the Finance and Audit Committee. Other members are Regina Bafaki and Rita Achiro.

The event closed with caking, wining, dining and dancing!

DFID Review Team Impressed by Impact of UK Aid Money in ActionAid Gulu



The consultants during a meeting with Gulu District Officials, ActionAid staff and partners.

Last Friday, ActionAid Gulu Cluster hosted a meeting between ICAI consultants, local government officials, representatives of women and youth who benefited from UK Aid programs, the Police and other partners.

ICAI is an independent body set up by the UK Government to provide scrutiny of UK aid, reporting directly to the UK Parliament. It focuses on the delivery of value for money for UK taxpayers and maximizing the impact and effectiveness for recipients of the UK aid budget.

The purpose of the meeting was to assess relevance and effectiveness of DFID's governance portfolios in Uganda between 2009 to 2015. The consultants were looking out for emerging evidence of sustainable impact of the UK funded projects.

The district Gender officer and the Child and Family Protection unit of the Police all commended the UK funded projects implemented by ActionAid for the positive impact they have had in the community.

"Issues of gender based violence have been made very loud in Gulu District, thus attracting debates and justification for budgetary allocation at the district council meetings. This is a result of the advocacy of ActionAid with funds from the UK", stated the District Gender Officer.

The Deputy Chief Administration Officer who also chairs the District GBV (gender based violence) Task Force revealed that there is integration of gender issues in sectoral discussions. He cited the water and sanitation sector that has focused on rest rooms and changing rooms for girl children in schools.

She added that there is a growing demand to streamline recruitment of female officers, citing a recent controversy that was resolved in favor of appointment of a female candidate for the highly competed for position in the district.

The representative of Ker-kwaro Acholi (the Acholi cultural institution) also reported that as a result of the project, they had successfully developed and distributed the Acholi Cultural Gender Principles books. This has resulted into attitude change but by cultural leaders.

In her final remarks the lead consultant expressed her gratitude to what she described as an amazing work that the district officials, and ActionAid are doing.

"We have only been reading reports of the great work you do but this really demonstrates impact because, discussions have not just been on "we were trained to do this and that" but you guys have presented the practical evidence of what you have done, thank you very much"

It is at times of darkness , that little light shines brightest- Blog!

During the launch of the 5th Strategy Paper, AAU's Country Director made one of the best speeches I have heard (my opinion). It was clear that he was overwhelmed by the massive turn up of the guests but also the final launch of the 5th Strategy paper.

He read;

"Yesterday, I received a message from one of the invited participants to this meeting and who is right in this room. It read, 'you guys are in defiance!' This person jokingly wondered how we could be organising the launch of a strategy about the future when we are in the murky present. I am glad the person, came to this event, which I am sure many will not say is a mark of defiance, rather the unyielding belief we have about the good that the future holds despite the difficulties of the present."

"I would like to welcome and thank you all for taking the time to join us at this important occasion for ActionAid. We most deeply appreciate your show of solidarity at this moment of difficulty for the organisation. Your continued belief and association with us is the reason we have the courage to look ahead through the darkness of the present to the brightness of the future."

[Find the full speech here.](#)

Week Ahead

- After launching its 5th Strategy Paper last week, ActionAid is seeking for partnerships with like minded organisations and individuals to support in the attainment of social justice in the next five years. [Click here for details on how you can partner with ActionAid.](#)

- Deadline for expression of interest is 12th December 2017.