



November 2—8

On Wednesday last week, the AAU staff were privileged to be visited by the ActionAid International Chief Executive Officer, Adriano Campolina. Adriano joined staff in a group photo in memory of his visit. He called on all staff to raise their arms as a solidarity call for an end to corruption. Adriano Officially ushered in the Western leg of the Anti-corruption caravan, that starts tomorrow. Welcome to the caravan Edition of the ActionAid Weekly!

The Western Leg of the Anti-corruption Caravan!!!



Moments from the previous caravan



(Left) Mr Rehweza, flagging off the caravan last year. Right are the branded vehicles ready to traverse western Uganda, calling for an end to vote buying and vote selling starting tomorrow.

ActionAid Uganda in partnership with national and district based Civil Society organizations (CSOs) will tomorrow, launch the third leg of the Anti-Corruption Caravan to cover the Western region of Uganda under the theme 'A Vote Sold is a service Denied! Reject Vote buying now!'

The caravan was themed after nationwide opinion poll conducted in Uganda by Research World International in July 2015. The research conducted in 48 Districts, revealed that 59% of Ugandans sell off their votes in exchange for sugar, salt and other small monetary and material benefits. According to the recent survey conducted in the NRM Primaries, Western region ranked highest in voter bribery. It's very shameful and dehumanizing for Ugandans to trade their votes in exchange of a sachet of salt, crude waragi, soap, sugar or as little as 5000 Uganda shillings. It's for this reason that AAU is taking the caravan to the 11 districts of Kabaale, Rukungiri, Kanungu, Ntungamo, Mbarara, Sheema, Bushenti, Rubirizi, Kasese, Kabarole and Kanungu. AAU will be calling upon voters and political office contenders to Say NO to Vote Buying and Vote Selling as a form of corruption.

It's important to note that this message is not only for the people in Western Uganda but you and me. AAU hence calls upon all Ugandans to denounce vote buying and vote selling. Let us vote for politicians who present the best manifestos to address our social issues rather than those who abuse our integrity by equating our votes to monetary and material goodies. We invite all Ugandans in their diversity, Government Agencies, the Media, Private Sector, Academia and Friends of Uganda to join the Anti- Corruption Caravan and denounce voter bribery Today!

Look out for the caravan and take a stand against voter bribery this election season.

AAU staff Dine with CEO Adriano



Adriano(Right) receives the framed photo he took with the AAU staff from Dr Consolata(R), the Chair of the AAU Board. (C) is AAU Country Director

Last Wednesday, AAU staff were privileged to be joined for lunch by the ActionAid Federation CEO, Adriano Campolina. Adriano, who flew in the country for UN DCF Symposium at Speke Resort Munyonyo managed to find time for a chat with both the ActionAid leadership and staff in Kampala.

After taking a tour around the office and meeting each staff in person, he joined in a solidarity photo with staff and later joined staff at the lunch table and enjoyed local delicacies such as millet bread, Fish stew, Plantain and yam. He shared experiences of the independence struggles in his country, the zeal and determination it took them to attain independence. On the other hand, AAU staff welcomed Adriano to Uganda, informing him that all views expressed on that table would not be used against him as it was an open space where staff get to express themselves freely as they enjoy their lunch.

On Thursday Evening, Adriano was joined by a section of AAU leadership for dinner. These included the outgoing ActionAid international Board chairperson, Irene Ovonji, Dr Consolata Kabona, the Chairperson AAU Governing Board Chairperson, the Country Director of AAU among others. A framed photograph of him and the AAU staff was presented to him to take back home in memory of his visit to the Uganda office.

A dam and an irrigation scheme for Katakwi



(Left) Ministry officials inspect Ongole dam in preparation for the rehabilitation. Right above are the women farmers at the irrigation scheme and below is a similar project in Kapchorwa

Last year, over 300 smallholder farmers under the auspices of Rural Women Development Link (RWODEL) placed the Katakwi district local Government (KDLG) on spot and demanded for land to boost their agriculture. As a result of the lobbying, 10 acres of land were allocated to them.

ActionAid then supported the farmers by setting up an irrigation scheme. This was aimed at providing water throughout the year to the farmers to enable them grow fruits and vegetables on a large scale and supply to available markets.

The scheme is fitted with drip and sprinkler irrigation technology to evenly supply water to the garden. The Katakwi Resident District Commissioner was amazed at the innovation.

"Thank you ActionAid for this model. A lot of opportunities have been created for our farmers. With the water in place, they will produce fruits and vegetables throughout the year, supply to the entire Teso region and boost their incomes", he said.

Katakwi is one of the areas prone to advanced effects of climate change such as prolonged dry spells and crop failure. To make matters worse, a recent study on profiling and characterization of water for production in Teso region revealed that only 14 out of 76 valley dams were operational. Katakwi had the largest number of the nonfunctional production infrastructure with a total of 32. Local communities revealed that these facilities usually dry up within 2 weeks at the onset of the dry season.

The modeling of this project was also meant to lobby the local government to rehabilitate Ongole Valley dam (neighboring the project) that was constructed in 1952. Once renovated, the dam will serve over 6,000 people from the neighboring sub counties. They will be able to fish but also get water for both domestic and livestock purposes. The Weekly is proud to report that the rehabilitation is fast becoming a reality. Last week, The Ministry of Water and Environment, together with the K DLG and ActionAid staff visited the site. The rehabilitation work is going to be conducted by Ambitious Construction Company at a cost of 7.6UGX.

To further understand the state in which the valley dams and tanks in Teso region are, please click [here](#), [here](#) and more Details [Here](#).

We however look forward to a story of change as is for the Women in Kapchorwa where ActionAid carried out a similar program. Details of [this success story here](#).

WEEK AHEAD:

- Tomorrow, ActionAid and its partners will be flagging off the Western Leg of the Anti-corruption caravan. Please be part of the caravan. Say No to voter bribery in your community. Vote issues and not material and monetary goodies.
- The citizens of Uganda, led by the Uganda National NGO Forum will launch the citizens Manifesto at Hotel Africana. All political contenders should ensure that their manifestos feed into this manifesto; since we are saying No voter Bribery.
- UNFPA together with their Donors from the Norwegian Embassy will conduct a monitoring visit to the Katakwi GBV shelter.
- ActionAid will have a meeting with the Ministry of Water and Environment and the Katakwi District Local Government staff to discuss the work plan and design implications of the rehabilitation of Ongole Valley dam