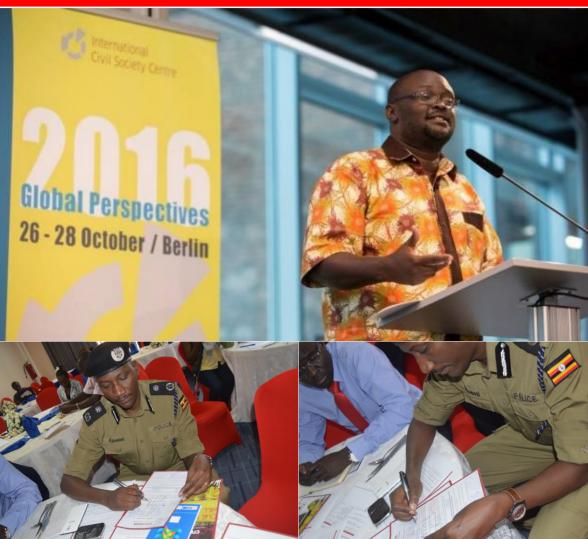
# act:onaidUganda



File Photo/ActionAid/Samanya CD Sets tone on Civic charter as 80 AAU Staff sign up!

Dear Reader, as we count down to the official launch of the 16 days of Activism against Gender based violence; what are you doing to make homes and schools safe for the children?? Welcome to the Weekly.



Below: Police Director of Human Resources and Spokesperson signs the civic Charter two weeks ago. (file

set up to develop the Global Civic Charter since the beginning of the year.

Above: Arthur Larok at the Global Perspectives Conference at Heinrich Böll Foundation in Berlin.

The Country Director, of ActionAid, Arthur Larok was part of a Global Steering Group that was

3-Day Global Perspectives Conference held at the Headquarters of the Heinrich Boll Foundation in Berlin. His keynote titled: 'The Civic Charter: Another Passing Fad or the Missing Link' raised considerable debate as he challenged NGOs not to think about Shrinking Political Space as a new phenomenon but an historical struggle between the power in people and people in power. He urged the over

He was elected by the Steering Group to make a Keynote on the Civic Charter at the opening of a

200 international audience to look at shrinking political space, not as a struggle for NGO operating space but rather an attack on people's right to shape their own destinies. Arthur argued that shrinking political space robs the world of people's ingenuity and contributions to solve some of the world's most pressing challenges like persistent poverty, extremism, climate change and inequalities.

The full text of CD's Keynote remarks has been placed on the website of the Heinrich Boll Foundation and can be read Here.

As Arthur called upon the world community to strengthen their focus on shrinking political space, ActionAid staff in Uganda responded and 80 staff have so far signed up to the Civic Charter. This

should be celebrated as testimony on how ActionAid Uganda staff are connecting with global struggles. The CDs office will award the first 3 staff who signed up as well as the 80<sup>th</sup> staff. Don't miss out --- the Civic Charter is still up for signing and you can do this through this link US-Official pledges support to NGOs



The US Embassy was interested in hearing from the elected representatives of the NGO's to the National Non Government Organisations Bureau about the ongoing NGO regulations development process. The regulations are being developed jointly by Government and NGOs under the leadership of the Uganda National NGO Forum.

On this matter, the meeting agreed that Arthur would use his position in the NGO sector to work towards ensuring that NGOs remain steadfast and firm on critical positions as provided for in the regulations. These, among others include; NGO representation on the Bureau, the wide ranging inspection powers accorded to Government by the law and the unfortunate manner in which

Sekagga at the ActionAid Offices. Arthur is the Country Director at ActionAid while Margaret is

the Executive Director of Human Rights Centre.

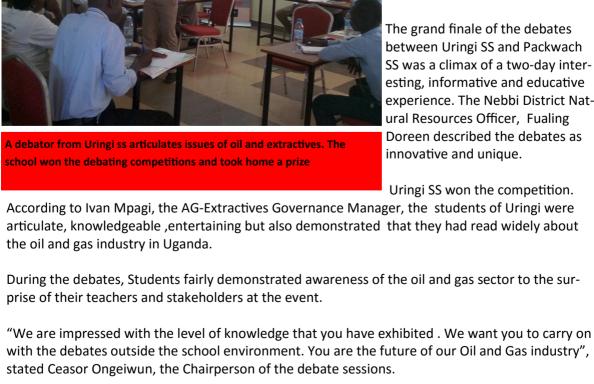
within the donor community.

QuAM(the NGO Certification mechanism) has been integrated in the law. The team also discussed the broader governance challenges that Uganda is facing and their implications to the NGOs. Miller was appreciative of the NGO concerns and promised to be an ambassador of the concerns

In the coming two weeks, there will be a national consultative meeting on the developed NGO

Regulations convened by the NGO Forum. The Regulations will later be submitted to the Minister of Internal Affairs. On November 26, 2015, Parliament passed the Non-governmental Organisations (NGO) Act, 2016. Among other restrictive provisions, section 5 of the Act establishes a National Bureau for NGOs, which is granted broad powers that include the ability to refuse to register an NGO, to issue and/ or revoke permits, and to restrict the employment of foreign nationals.

## WestNile Students debate oil and gas! Last week, the ActionAid Extractives Governance team together



The grand finale of the debates between Uringi SS and Packwach SS was a climax of a two-day interesting, informative and educative experience. The Nebbi District Natural Resources Officer, Fualing Doreen described the debates as innovative and unique. Uringi SS won the competition.

with the Nebbi cluster organized a schools debate on array of oil and gas related topics in a first of its kind community awareness initiatives in West Nile Region. The debate attracted students from six schools from Nebbi and Pakwach

districts.

stated Ceasor Ongeiwun, the Chairperson of the debate sessions.

Oryekwum Gabriel, the Municipal Social Services Officer of Nebbi hailed ActionAid for the initiative and challenged other NGOs to involve the young people in their programming as they are not only the future but the majority population in the country.

He also encouraged the students to actively engage in such debates to groom themselves for fu-

**WEEK AHEAD:** 

### The European Union will conduct a structured dialogue with CSOs this week at Serena Conference Centre.

ture leadership positions.

- ActionAid will be hosting the International Food Security network at Royal Suits in Bugolobi.
- ActionAid will convene a meeting at Hotel Africana this Thursday in preparation for the CSO collective work for the Anti-Corruption week.
- As part of the New Country Strategic Paper development, ActionAid staff are today discussing two think pieces; on Feminism and working with Political parties. These pieces will guide the strategic direction that ActionAid will take for the next five years.