

## Weekly

June 25— July 1

### Teso-Sub Region Commemorates Public Service Delivery Day in Pomp and Colour!



Marathon in pictures. The above pictorial indicates the entire journey of the Teso run for quality public services that took place in Teso, The lead runner, Joshua Cheptegai (in sunglasses) called on an end to Uganda's cancer-corruption!

Photos by ActionAid staff!

By Ger Odock and Benjamin Tukei

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2018; the ambience in Soroti was that of a people awake for a purpose- The long awaited Marathon, to run for Teso in a bid to lobby for quality public service delivery from public servants and Government. ActionAid led by the Actg. Country Director Bruno Ssemaganda were at the venue – Soroti Sports Ground as early as 7am. Men, women and children from the larger Teso District and its environs converged much earlier evidencing the value that they attached to this day and certainly what it means for them individually and communally as they were geared up both in spirit and running gear to showcase their prowess in running, join the world in celebrating this day or simply; run alongside Uganda's own Double Commonwealth Champion – Joshua Cheptegai. Not to be forgotten were persons with disability who were equally enthusiastic to be part of this occasion.

The race kicked off at about 10am and was clustered in three categories; two, five and ten kilometres along a designated route. Some of the other dignitaries who graced the event were Isaac Kawoya - Soroti Resident District Commissioner (RDC), Hon. George Francis Egungu - Soroti District Chairperson, Hon. Angeline Osegge - Woman MP Soroti and Chairperson Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and Hon. David Karubanga - The Minister of State for Public Service who was the guest of honour. The Minister asserted that, "This day is not celebrated not as a ritual but for a reason. It is thus imperative that we collaborate to ensure that the pronouncements we make, we follow them through in practice as government, NGOs, communities and individually.

In a rejoinder, Hon. Osegge cited one of the many situations that make it hard to tackle corruption, "We almost impeached the Minister for Finance because the appointing authority did nothing on the corruption issues raised. However, we failed because members of the oversight committee held a caucus and compromised the impeachment. It is better to sacrifice one person and save 35million people"

World medallist Joshua Cheptegai who was the lead runner said, "**Corruption is a cancer that has made our Country's development be on standstill and the result of this can be seen in the quality of life that Ugandans across the country live**".

A position paper of service delivery deliberations was presented to the Minister by ActionAid Actg. Country Director Bruno Ssemaganda, which was developed at during a public dialogue on public service delivery on 22nd June. It looked at the success, opportunities for improvement and systemic challenges. The position paper will form the basis of engagements, collaborations, networking and monitoring of timeliness, responsiveness and cost effectiveness of public service delivery in Uganda.

Service delivery is a right to each and every Ugandan but due to rampant and cross-cutting corruption, this right is not being accessed, practiced and enjoyed by all Ugandans due to lack of political will to tackle it concertedly.

### Masindi in a Cleaning Campaign for Public Services Delivery!

By Nyambe Mwiyaambo



While the country was running in Soroti, in Masindi, communities were cleaning public areas, as a pointer to public servants that delivery of quality public services is possible! The Nebbi cluster organized a cleaning campaign on the 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2018 in commemoration of public service delivery day. The cleaning took place at the Maternity wing in Masindi Hospital together with Masindi Activista members, public servants and other Civil Society Organization.

Buliisa District MP Stephen Mukitale handing over a certificate to one of the best public servants in the Bunyoro Midwest region. 12 public servants were recognised for their great service to the public. Photo by Nyambe Mwiyaambo

ActionAid as well organized a public dialogue in Masindi under the theme: "Winning the

Fight against Corruption: A Sustainable Path to Uganda's Transformation". Members of Parliament, the representatives from the Inspectorate of Government, civil society organizations and young people were present during this day. The dialogue was meant to discuss major challenges in the delivery of public services and seek sustainable solutions in the fight against corruption.

AAU also recognized and awarded best 12 performing public servants within the Bunyoro mid-western region. The awards were handed over by the Hon. Mukitale – MP, Buliisa and Mrs. Munira Ali from the Inspectorate of Government.

In Soroti public dialogue was held prior to the Marathon. The day-long dialogue held in Soroti at Akello Hotel o focused on three components; what are the areas where citizens are proud of as pertains to service delivery? What are the triggers of poor service delivery? And what are the probable opportunities for improvement of service delivery to all Ugandans?

The composition of the stakeholders was that of, trade unions, the academia, politicians, technocrats, CSOs and Community Activists. Cluster Coordinator Emmanuel Wafula assured participants of Action Aid's pride in them for owning this process and enriching the discussions.

"We will work collaboratively to formulate a position paper to guide, inform and influence practice and action towards actualising and achieving Gender Responsive Service (GRPS) Delivery in a quality, timely and responsive way".

### Teenage Pregnancies in Nebbi Alarming!

By Matilda Natukunda

The Nebbi and Packwach leadership have confirmed that there are alarming trends of GBV in the districts as indicated in a report compiled by NGO Forum. In 2006 , 400 cases were reported in Nebbi referral hospital alone! This is partly attributed to the high levels of defilement, sex trade among young girls seen selling 'Nang Nang' (small fish) and simsim along the Packwach Highway, leading to the increased spread of STIs and HIV/AIDS in the communities.

The meeting which was held with key duty bearers in the referral pathway, a GBV Review Coalition, chaired by the Nebbi District Chief Magistrate, also reported increased violence from men towards their partners exhibited through refusal to access family planning, education and support.

The coalition who are mainly district and religious leaders thus resolved to create a Rapid Response Team that will be made up of key duty bearers from the 3 committees within the coalition on land justice, violence against women and girls and harmful traditional practices. These will ensure the voice of the coalition against GBV is heard and notable actions taken in bringing perpetrators to



Action during the Strategy development in Lira.

They also committed to information sharing through GBV coalition Whatsapp, SMS and Email groups. The reflection meeting was organized by The ActionAid GBV shelter in Nebbi, in a bid to track progress as we struggle to bring an end to gender based violence in the district.

### Board Chair Makes Case For Shrinking Political Space!

By Christine Aboke

The Board Chair Nicholas Opio and the Country Director Christine Aboke were in Athens, Greece last week for the 2018 AAI General Assembly which attracted all Board Chairs and Country Directors. Nicholas addressed the Assembly about the increasing shrinking political space and how to remain afloat amidst the decreasing space for us to do advocacy work. Uganda's experience was his speaking script!



At the same meeting, Africa CDs supported their Board chairs to vote against the resource allocation framework, which would take away resources from countries and put countries into a vulnerable position.

Board Chair Nicholas Opio speaks to fellow AA Board Chairs and Country Directors about shrinking political space. Infront of him is Adriano Campolina, AASecretary General, ActionAid International!

And to close up the meeting, a new member of the Assembly Alianza Por la Solidaridad was overwhelmingly voted and three members were successfully elected to the International Board- Ingrid Roestenberg-Morgan, Poguri Chennaiah and David Kios.

### Making Justice Work For Women!



By Nivatiti Nandujja

The Women Leading Peace and Justice in the Great Lakes Region Conference was hosted by ActionAid Kenya and ActionAid Australia last week. This was held under the theme "Women leading peace, security and justice, African Great Lakes Region" and was supported through

the ANCP Project. The conference brought over forty frontline women and human rights women from Burundi, Rwanda and Somaliland . The Program Director Harriet Gimbo emphasised the need for a collective voice across Africa on transitional justice, supported by strong, rooted and connected women's movements for sustained action!

### Uganda's Oil for 2020! Gov't Defends Delay on Need to Protect Communities !

By Flavia Nalubega

Dr Josephine Wapakabulo, the CEO Uganda National Oil Company, confirmed while at a meeting in Nairobi-Kenya that Uganda shall have its first oil in 2020, to give Ugandans a chance to benefit from the long awaited for resource with minimal or no exploitation from sector operators. This however not withstanding the fact that the President has been promising this oil for the last close to a decade!



Uganda National Oil Company CEO Dr Josephine Wapakabulo makes a case for Uganda's oil sector at the East Africa Oil and Gas Confere in Nairobi-Kenya. Photo by Flavia N.

She defended the delay on the need to have Ugandans well placed and well trained to serve the sector. "We as Uganda want to add value to the sector so Uganda companies will stand better chances to work with us, but also companies that have a good will for the country, though non Ugandan will also access these opportunities"

Ugandans were thus encouraged to form companies that can partake in exploitation(downstream) and as well sell and distribution(upstream) of oil, engineers for the oil refinery and oil pipelines construction among others.

### AAU to Lead The Federation on Building Resilience to Shrinking Political Space



AA staff energised after a meeting in Copenhagen that attracted AADK, AA Sweden and AAU.

By Harriet Gimbo

In a meeting held in Copenhagen , ActionAid Uganda, Denmark and Sweden came together to support the Federation in building resilience to shrinking political space, through developing a participatory resilience strategy, early warning-early response mechanism, mapping of high risk countries and how to enhance capacity of AA countries to withstand shock!

"We reflected about shrinking political space and how to deal with it in the Federation. We need to be pro-active than reactive when faced with attacks," The Program Director Harriet Gimbo said!

### On 2<sup>nd</sup> July, The New Country Director Will Be announced!

By Christine Aboke

According to the Interim CD, Christine Aboke, the process of interviewing was finalized on 5<sup>th</sup> Jun. The Panel identified one candidate for the position, and a second one on reserve.

The board will review the recruitment report and attend the offer! Let's await in anticipation.

### WEEK AHEAD:

- An international meeting to have mining communities appreciate the People's Mining Charter is ongoing at Ridar Hotel. Miners from SA, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Kenya and Uganda are in attendance.
- I paid a bribe Campaign is ongoing, to encourage Ugandans to report cases using a mobile app. Follow the discussion on facebook and twitter.
- There is an Orientation meeting for the AAU Kampala based partners at Royal Suites Hotel.

