



UGANDA LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE ULGA NORTHERN REGIONAL MEETING HELD AT ADJUMANI TOWN COUNCIL HALL, ADJUMANI DISTRICT ON 13TH NOVEMBER 2009

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

On November 13th this year, the ULGA Northern regional meeting was held at the Adjumani Town Council Hall in Adjumani district. The turn up was excellent with members from all the 19 districts including Chairpersons of the Greater North, West Nile Region, Speakers, CAOs, Sub-county Chairpersons and Sub-county Chiefs.

The Vice Chairperson of Adjumani District Ms. Tazio Rose Ruga officiated at the opening of the meeting, and welcomed members to Adjumani District. She informed members that the District Chairperson was unable to join the meeting due to other official commitments.

The meeting was graced by the Northern regional District Chairperson Mr Norbert Mao, the District Chairperson Gulu, the RDC Major Baker Ddudu, ULGA Vice President Mr. Andama Ferura the District Chairperson Arua who closed the meeting, and other ULGA EXCOM members: District Speaker, Adjumani, Mr. Sande Mawadri, CAO Amolatar and Mr Francis Ojera Chairperson Pabbo sub county.

1.1 Remarks by the Northern Region District Chairperson, Mr. Norbert Mao; District Chairperson, Gulu

On behalf of Uganda Local Government Executive Committee, the Regional District Chairperson Mr. Norbert Mao welcomed all members to Adjumani District. Mr. Mao noted that after the Kony war, the region was now peaceful and therefore urged members to work towards development. He cited Gulu DLG, where 91% of the former IDPs had been settled back in their homes.

He said that ULGA has gone a long way to advocate for and lobby on behalf of her members the Local Governments, however apologised for the challenges in her communication strategy. On this note, he assured members that ULGA was working towards improving her communication strategy, which will in turn make ULGA more visible and felt by her members up to the grassroots. In order to publicise ULGA's work, the Chairman said ULGA would be sending copies of summarised reports to all members throughout the country to keep them abreast of what is happening. He asked the LGs to have the ULGA Stickers on their Vehicles, and motorcycles to publicise their Association.

Mr. Mao reminded members that it is the Local Government Councils who are members of ULGA and not individuals, therefore all member LGs were called upon to work together in support of ULGA's existence. ULGA stands out as a LGs' voice to champion their interests. And on this note, members were urged to fulfil their obligations of subscribing to ULGA for its existence.

In order to make ULGA known, the leaders were advised to brief their Councils on their matters of interest and on this note, the Regional Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. Ben Otim, the CAO Amolatar was requested to design a format to be used to capture LG issues of concern to later be forwarded to ULGA for action

Regarding creation of new districts, the Chairperson said that although the move was in the right direction of taking services closer to the people, there

was need to match it with appropriate resources. He requested members to have a position on the creation of these new LG units by the end of the meeting. LGs should however demand from government to set aside a certain amount of money for both new districts and sub-counties.

Finally, LC III Chairpersons were called upon to come up with tangible proposals to be presented at the coming AGM in Hoima, and thereafter, a moment of silence in honour of the fallen comrade; General Kazini. He would always be remembered and honoured especially for his fearless attitude during the war in Northern Uganda.

1.2 ULGA Status Report, by Ms. Ceaser Nabwire, Statistician, ULGA

The ULGA Status report was presented by Ms. Ceaser Nabwire of ULGA. In her concluding remarks she urged members to attend ULGA's 16th AGM and take part in the activities that were being organised to commemorate ULGA's 15 years of existence before the day of the AGM.

1.3 MTN Trade Representative, Mr. Wycliffe Waisswa

The MTN representative, Mr. Waisswa Wycliffe thanked the organisers of the meeting for inviting and allowing him to speak to the participants. MTN was present at the meeting exhibiting their new service known as "Money Transfer Service". This service is where one sends and receives money via the MTN.

He informed members that MTN had been contacted to partner with ULGA and also exhibit at the coming AGM in Hoima where they offered to fund publicity at the AGM to show their support for LGs.

1.4 DFCU Representative, Mr. James Mugabi

Mr. Mugabi, the Head of Development and Institutional Banking with DFCU, thanked ULGA for the platform provided and for having chosen to partner with DFCU. He said that DFCU had gladly accepted to be apart of ULGA's forthcoming AGM in Hoima District. He said that DFCU had come up to offer banking services to more people especially in the newly created districts like Adjumani. DFCU's interests were mainly in the agricultural sector in addition to their lending facilities to individuals and groups. He called upon all to join DFCU and bank with the branches in the region. He apologised for not having a branch in Adjumani DLG but plans were underway to take their services to most parts of the country.

1.5 READING AND CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were read by Mr. Sande Mawadri, the Northern Regional Speaker and District Speaker Adjumani.

The Motion to confirm the previous minutes as a true copy of what transpired during the last meeting was moved by LC III Chairperson, Oguru Sub-county, Pader District, Mr...Abalo Mancy A; and the minutes were signed and confirmed.

REGIONAL ISSUES AND WAY FORWARD:

A number of issues were raised from the previous communications and resolutions made thereafter

- The Regional Chairperson, Mr. Norbert Mao apologised for having not gone to Amolatar to resolve the conflicts in the district, as promised in the previous meeting. This was due to unavoidable circumstances. However, he regretted the extent at which the conflict between the RDC and the District Chairperson had gone. He promised to organise the ULGA Mediation Team and visit Amolatar before going for AGM. On the above issue a resolution was passed to condemn the RDC's behaviour.
- Creation of new districts and sub-counties should be done in consultation with the LGs. Therefore ULGA should follow up on the creation of new Districts for example Obongi in Moyo which has remained unoperational.
- Border demarcation should be done immediately for the neighbouring districts to avoid conflicts, and ULGA should get a list of Districts with conflict on boarder issues to intervene.
- Emoluments of LC III Chairpersons should be revised to 1,000,000/= per month.
- There is need for minimum qualifications for RDCs and all Councillors to avoid unnecessary conflicts, especially those related to education levels and general knowledge.
- H.E the President of Uganda should be invited to come as a Guest of Honour at the next Regional Meeting.
- PRDP funds should be in addition to what PRDP Districts were earning before, but not simply a substitute.
- ULGA, Legal Department should intervene and look into the issue of remitting gratuity to LGs and ULGA should intervene on payment of severance package, and pension to retrenched civil servants.
- ULGA should intervene where Sub-counties are not receiving their ratio of graduated tax compensation adequately.
- Government should immediately take up maintenance of District roads which had been taken over by Central Government.
- ULGA should intervene when government introduces "trial blazing" programmes like NAADS.

- URA and NFA are undermining decentralisation. URA can shoot at anybody before proved guilty, and NF+
- A was depleting forests. The two Authorities (URA & NFA) know for sure that no law deals with them directly at the LGs. ULGA should intervene on this.
- ULGA should follow up pledges made by H.E the President of Uganda, to benefit those that receive them.
- Constituency Development Fund for MPs should be diverted to District Councillors because they are the ones who do most of the mobilisation.
- ULGA should come out and condemn inefficient Construction Companies, like Mukalazi and Zzimwe for the shoddy work done in the region.
- ULGA should intervene on co-funding because the current percentage was high and yet LGs lack local revenue.
- ULGA should intervene on the recent move where the boat/fish licences are collected by Central Government from the landing sites, this was considered a revenue source for the LGs.
- There is need to Compensate those LGs that lost their cattle at sub-county level during those days of rampant cattle rustling.
- ULGA should start sending summarised reports to regions up to the Sub-counties.
- ULGA should provide stickers on LG vehicles and motor bicycles.
- ULGA should assist the LGs to draft bye-laws on alcohol and drug abuse.
- Centrally allocated contracts should be avoided.
- ULGA should invite area MPs for the Regional Meetings to interact with LGs.
- ULGA should follow-up with the right authorities on the issue of power supply for Moyo and Adjumani.

CONCLUSION.

The regional meetings continue to be important in generating issues that affect us on the ground. We commend ULGA and member Local Governments for their support towards the success of the regional meetings.

I now on behalf of the Northern Region seek your adoption of the issues raised.

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Mr Norbert Mwa. Northern Regional Chairperson

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Mr. Sunday Mawadri. Northern Regional Speaker

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Mr. Ben Otim. Northern Regional CAO

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Mr. Francis Ojera. Northern Regional Sub county Representative.