



Uganda Local Governments Association (ULGA)

**REPORT OF THE ULGA EASTERN REGIONAL
MEETING HELD AT KABERAMAIDO YOUTH CENTRE,
KABERAMAIDO DISTRICT ON 20TH NOVEMBER 2009**

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The meeting was called to order at 10:20am by the Eastern Regional Speaker, Mr. Fred Madautu who welcomed all participants, invited guests and partners in their capacities and thereafter invited the MC of the day to take over.

The MC Mr. Olaboro the Town Clerk of Kaberamaido led members in reciting the association prayer and singing the National Anthem.

He invited District Chairpersons and their teams to stand up for recognition in the interest of time.

The Regional Chairperson Amb. Walimbwa Charles asked members to go through the program of the day and it was seconded by the Chairperson of Sironko District.

Amb. Walimbwa nominated a team chaired by the chairperson of Butaleja with CAO Jinja and CAO Iganga as members to spearhead the compilation of resolutions to be presented to the Hon. Minister of Local Government who was the guest of honour.

Over 480 people attended the meeting and they consisted of LCV chairpersons, Speakers and their deputies, CAOs, S/C chairpersons and S/C chiefs. All districts were well represented.

After much deliberation, members resolved to present the following issues to the minister for consideration and these were presented by the district chairperson of Butalejja during the afternoon session.

Resolutions:

- ❖ Increment of salaries for LG leaders and bring on board the D/Speakers and LLG executives
- ❖ Facilitation of new LLGs e.g. providing them with motorcycles
- ❖ Increase and implementation of gratuity for Local Leaders. This should be from the date of election and not from the date of the minister's circular
- ❖ Effective operationalisation of Town boards administratively and financially
- ❖ Recovery of recentralized revenue e.g. fisheries license on landing sites
- ❖ Gratuities of the District Service Commission should be paid by the Central Government to avoid inconveniences
- ❖ Provision of start up funds and other financial allocations for new LLGs outside IPFs for the old LLGs
- ❖ Provision for administrative staff growth and career advancement
- ❖ Total compliance to financial regulations and laws for all districts
- ❖ Reintastatement of SFG and PHC development grants in all the districts
- ❖ Facilitation in form of a ferry on L.Kyoga to connect the North and East
- ❖ Provision of more transport to the education department to strengthen inspectorate services
- ❖ Inadequate funding to meet MDGs

- ❖ G-Tax compensation should be a permanent phenomenon until a variable alternative tax is got
- ❖ PPDA procedures should be revisited to avoid delays in procurement and execution of works and acts such as NAADS,PPDA and other regulations should be harmonized
- ❖ The centre should take on gratuity and pensions for all LG employees
- ❖ Variations in costs of contracts awarded by central government vs. LGs of similar works e.g. classroom construction,murram roads etc
- ❖ ULGA Eastern region supports Regional Tier and the Land bill
- ❖ ULGA Eastern Region sitting today 20th November 2009 at Kaberamaido resolves to support H.E Y.K.Museveni for the 4th term.

Reactions to the Resolutions from the Hon. Minister of Local Government

He thanked all members for the warm welcome and ULGA for extending the invitation. He remarked that ministers would be nowhere without the good work done by the LGs and promised to give all the issue raised their due attention.

1. LGs were commended for their role in enhancing effective service delivery especially since people vote in order to transform their livelihoods. Experiences vary per district that is why a meeting of this nature is very important and the presence of an ethics committee will go along way in the fight against corruption.
2. Local people know their priorities and can best make use of resources if they are involved in formulating and implementing programs because programs that are imposed on people yield no results. If there was no decentralization districts like Kaberamaido would be nowhere
3. He said he supports LGs on the issue of recentralization and will oppose it in parliament, government and all fora.LGs know what they are doing and do not need monitoring.
4. Corruption in LG service delivery is real and many DSC's are being caught up. It is not only criminal to sell jobs but it is also a sin to society yet some districts are doing it. He commended LCV chairpersons who have been firm on their DSC's and asked members to emphasize the fight against corruption in order to deliver services effectively and to avoid rendering all their hard work a waste.
5. LED – LGs are the government and not simply administrators. They have a duty to transform and empower their people economically through decentralization.LGs should invest in their local economies and can make use of programs like PMA and NAADS that cater for prosperity for all.
6. District leaders must ensure food security for all households and the right seeds to boost farming so as to aid economic expansion
7. Gratuity has been raised to 30% by H.E but LGs need to be more patient. He promised to condense all the issues and develop a cabinet paper to present to parliament for consideration.
8. H.E is considering D/Speakers and has directed that they get a fixed salary on top of their sitting allowances (municipal councilors and councilors) which means that they will earn twice.

9. Salary for LCIII chairpersons will improve as revenue improves. Some have already received motorcycles and for the new S/Cs the list is with the Ministry of Finance so they will be catered for.
10. Town boards are being considered, 23 town councils have so far been created this year and more districts are to be created such as Namajigo from Bugiri, Serere from Soroti, Buyende from Kamuli etc except for Tororo which is still under consideration. The Eastern region will soon have 34 districts instead of 29.
11. The issue of fisheries licenses will be forwarded to cabinet for correction
12. Start up funds for LLGs- The new town councils are receiving 90 billion to start operating but as for the new S/Cs they will be included in the budget for the next financial year.
13. Remittance of funds to S/Cs –ULGA can take this up with the LGs because the law is very clear,S/C s are nearer to the people than the districts and should be given due consideration.
14. The SFG issue will be taken up with the Ministry of Education and Sports plus transportation for inspectors.
15. G-Tax was put at 45 billion and the Ministry of Finance should be able to provide it since it is law. He however promised to submit a proposal to cabinet asking for an extension after the 3years.
16. PPDA procurement procedures are a big problem that is why the government is going to provide road equipment for districts, town councils will also have their own garbage collection units and with this equipment they will be able to save on time and expenses. Government is also sending some money for roads direct to the S/Cs and it will increase with time.
17. Entry points for CAOs will also be revisited
18. He thanked members for supporting the land bill because without the law LGs cannot protect their own people. He will report to cabinet next week that the eastern region supports the land bill.
19. Karamoja is already a region under the constitution so ULGA can start by recognizing them and the ministry will support it .This can be done by two thirds of the S/Cs passing a resolution for it to become a region and then government will come on board.
20. The minister promised to look for funding to expose leaders to other regions and countries that have progressed from where the Eastern region is.LG leaders were urged to make concrete proposals for this and present them to the minister.

He said he was very impressed with the proposal of supporting the fourth term for H.E especially since a lot has been achieved under his leadership e.g. a power line has been extended to Kaberamaido and a tarmac road is in the works.

He declared the meeting closed at 3.25pm and bid members farewell.

Compiled by:.....

Ambassador Charles Walimbwa
Eastern Regional Chairman (ULGA)

