

1.0 Background

Advocates for Natural Resources & Development (ANARDE) in partnership with Avocats Sans Frontieres (ASF) is implementing a Business and Human Rights Program/project with support from The Belgian Development Cooperation (DGD) entitled “Promoting Sustainable Development Goals by Strengthening Access to Justice in Uganda 2017-2021”. The project implementation is on course in the seven districts of Karamoja sub region (Moroto, Nakapirpirirt, Amudat, Napak, Kotido, Kaabong and Abim) and Buliisa district in the Albertine Grabben of Uganda.

The project aims at ensuring that communities are involved in decision making processes and procedure before implementation of development project activities that affect them. It is aimed at tackling the power imbalances between the Government, the mining and oil companies and the communities living in and around oil rich areas that render the members of the local community powerless. The major objective of the project is to Improve and promote public participation in access to justice mechanisms that are strengthened and more transparent, thereby contributing to the protection of people’s rights and conflict management.

2.0 Objectives

As part of the prior activities anchored for the realization of project legal empowerment and sustainability, ANARDE conducted a plethora of activities targeting Community Volunteers to wit are mapping, needs assessment, selection and verification activities and training to prepare the paralegals for work in their communities. Following therefore, is a publicly program for the community volunteers program through holding radio talk shows in Moroto district and other areas of project implementation. The **objectives** of the talk show were:

- To popularize the ANARDE Community Volunteers Program in Karamoja and make the communities aware about the existence of ANARDE/community Volunteers existence/ services from whom they can seek assistance from time to time.
- To generate debate around issues of Rights, Justice and accountability in the themes of land/property , mineral, environmental and other natural resources rights with a gender lens in terms of plights of rural women in ownership, control, utilization of land and other natural resources and protection of the environment. These being some of the major issues around which paralegal work were pegged.

3.0 Participants

The Talk show was graced by the participation of panelists composed of 1 ANARDE staff, 4 Paralegals (2 Males & 2 Females) from Abim district who had freshly completed their training on Understanding the concept of human and Legal rights, Role of paralegal in access to justice and sustainable development, understanding the justice/court system, and Land rights and natural resources Management.

4.0 Methodology

The project was introduced by the staff member in perspective who clarified the aim and focus of the project then the Talk Show facilitators introduced themselves. From the other interventions of the project in different fields of land rights, gender

responsiveness, nature conservation and environmental stewardship, other staff respectively gave a brief synopsis in the focus area for the day's Talk show. The topic of discussion was then introduced by ANARDE (1) staff, the Community Volunteers were given time to submit their views subsequently radio lines were opened for the listeners to CALL and give their feedback/questions and additions, response made. The Talk show ended at that point.

5.0 Proceedings during the Radio Talk Show.

Topic was introduced by staff member who in his view introduced the Organization in terms of the project it is implementing, Objectives of the Project, the Districts ANARDE is operational now, how many years the project shall be running, who ANARDE works with and all other work ANARDE is doing in the four Districts of Moroto, Kotido, Nakapiripirit, and Abim. He then gave an insight on Community Volunteers roles and why them and assured the public that ANARDE works with various Stakeholders like, District, Sub-County, Women groups, Environment Committees and others as well. He (James) then thanked KARIBU FM Management for allowing ANARDE have its Radio Talk Show take place successfully and encouraged the Listeners to be very attentive so that the talk show is fruitful to them, He then welcomed the next panelist to take over from him. Among the panelists were (Betty, Ronny Pagi, Rose and John Bosco) paralegals of Abim District. These community Volunteers were given different sub-topics to discuss in the local language (Leb-thur) in detail which included;

- Roles of Community Volunteers (Discussed by-**Ronny Pagi**)
- Women's Rights on Land ownership (Discussed by-**Rose**)
- Benefits of Land (Discussed by-**Betty**)
- How land is acquired Discussed by-**John Bosco**)

One of the panelists (**Ronny Pagi**) a community volunteer was given to discuss the first topic i.e **Roles of Community Volunteers**; He defined "who a community Volunteer is" and then discussed the following,

- *Mediation of cases*
- *Referring*
- *Community Sensitization on Human Rights, Land Rights, Women Rights etc.*
- *Conflict Resolving*
- *Conducting community Dialogues*
- *Writing Reports*
- *Community Mobilization*
- *Taking statements*
- *Settling non criminal cases*
- *Handling land matters*
- *Keeping Children's Rights*
- *Reporting criminal cases to the right people and*

- *Writing Reports to the Organization they work for.* He then thanked the Organization (ANARDE) for what its doing for the people of Karamoja and welcomed the next Community Volunteer to take over the floor.

The next Panelist was **Rose** also a community Volunteer, She discussed **Women Rights on Land ownership**, gave a brief background on land Rights for all people in Uganda then dealt deeply on women rights to Access, Utilize and Own land as their personal property not be controlled by men or any other person in the communities they live in. She gave scenarios where widowed women are chased away from their husbands lands leaving them landless hence nowhere to cultivate, build and also stay to bring up the children of the late. She in her conclusion encouraged the Karamojongs to give women a chance to show their responsibilities in the accession, utilization and Ownership of land in Karamoja Region.

Betty then came in with the importance of having Land or Land itself, she stated that there are many importance of Land but said Land itself is “**LIFE**” because everything comes from land, we live on land, feed on what is produced on land build on land and land is for study purposes etc, she then outlined the importance of land which included the following;

Source of income, we can sell land, rent it out, be used by the government for public interest and the compensation is given to you in cash

Construction, she stated that, many constructions take place on land e.g. Factories, Industries etc.

Agriculture, Land is used for both small and large scale farming in the world which provides food for the growing population

Infrastructure, She stated that on land is where every infrastructure stands for instance roads, houses, churches, Air Fields, Hotels etc, hence land is important as well as life. She then said that she cannot finish all the importance of land due to limited time, thanked all the listeners and welcomed the next panelist.

The next panelist was **John Bosco** who discussed ways of land acquisition; he stated that land is acquired in mainly four ways i.e **Buying, Inheritance, Gifts and Government Allocation**. H e further explained how land is bought the procedures for buying the land so as not to have wrangles after the transactions. The panelist advised the public to always sign Land Buying Agreements when buying any Land. The panelist also added that there were other ways of acquiring Land which included inheriting from your parents after their death, also getting Land as a gift from a friend and Government allocation where government can allocate land to you especially the Refugee Camps, he gave as an example. John Bosco thanked everyone listening to the Radio and urged them to be vigilant on land issues.

The moderator then thanked the organization for bringing the community Volunteers to air out their views so as the public comes to know of their existence, everything went on well as lines of the studio were put on to welcome the listeners to call in to give their contributions or ask questions if any. While the lines were opened, the moderator asked one (1) Question, i.e

CALLS/QUESTIONS DURING THE TALK SHOW

1.0 *How do you expect the community to differentiate the “Crime preventers” and the “community Volunteers/ Paralegals”?*

ANARDE staff (James), respond quickly by saying “There is a very big difference interms of the recruiting organization where the crime preventers were recruited by the government while the Community Volunteers have been recruited by ANARDE- Advocates for Natural Resources and Development which is a non-profit Organization not a government arm.

1.1 *we had only one caller due to the time aspect who thanked the organization for the good work it is doing for the good of the community and only added that it was better for ANARDE to introduce the community volunteers in their respective sub-counties so that people know them physically*

The moderator then emphasized on the statement of the ANARDE staff concerning the difference between Crime preventers and community Volunteers as time was up. Music was then played as the panelists matched out of the Radio Station.

6.0 Recommendations that arose during the radio talk show.

- ✓ Time was found to be too short for the Panelists and the listeners as well
- ✓ There is need to have Community entry meetings for community Volunteers so that they are known by the local people

Picture Gallery



Fig 1.0 above shows the seating arrangement of the Panelists (at the fore front is James-ANARDE Staff, and the four Community Volunteers i.e Ronny, Rose, Betty and John Bosco) during the Community Volunteers' during the Radio Talk Show in KARIBU FM 98.3.