

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 2 ANARDE staff, 1 Paralegal from Moroto and another from Nakapirpirirt districts respectively 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 (2) staff, A consultant/Trainer gave his submission followed by the ANARDE Intern and the two paralegals from Nakapiripirit and Moroto 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 (Michael) then thanked Karamoja FM Management for allowing ANARDE have its Radio Talk Show take place successfully and encouraged the Listeners to be very attentive so that te talk show is fruitful to them, He then welcomed the next panelist to take over from him. Among the panelists was the Consultant/Trainer of the paralegals who whole heartedly was happy to have time with the paralegals in the radio to express their views in the way they understand so as the community is made aware of what is happening and the work ANARDE is doing in Karamoja Region. He (Sam) in a nutshell gave out the outline of the topics the paralegal training of two days per District covered i.e Moroto and Nakapiripirit

- A Paralegal (who they are?, roles, benefits to communities and to them, etc),
- Understanding the Justice/Court System,
- Land Rights and Natural Resources Management
- Children Rights and Obligations and
- Understanding the Concept of Human Rights and Legal Rights. He then encouraged the Community Volunteers to always be courageous while doing their work.

One of ANARDE Staff (INTERN-James) shifted in to go through all about the organization in the local language while highlighting the roles and duties of the Community Volunteers in the community, he also highlighted that ANARDE is fully functional with its offices in Kampala, Albertine Grabben and Karamoja Region as well. He then named out the Location of Karamoja Field Offices which he stated to be at ST. Philips Church of Uganda together with KIDS-Karamoja Integrated Development Services. James then concluded by reading out the names of all the selected/Verified and trained Community Volunteers of Moroto and Nakapiripirit Distrits and encouraged the

communities they operate in to always approach them for help. He then gave a brief on their roles as legal community Volunteers in their communities,

Like:

Community Sensitization

Conducting community dialogues

Community Mobilization

Mediation of cases

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.

The community Volunteers were then given time to express their views on especially their roles and responsibilities. One of the community volunteers spoke of their responsibilities while the other gave the experiences of him working s a community Volunteer so 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 two Questions, i.e

CALLS/QUESTIONS DURING THE TALK SHOW

1.0 *Is the office of ANARDE aware of various investors in Karamoja?*

2.0 *Can ANARDE help people of Moroto or Karamoja at large if the scenario like that one of Namalu occurs?*

James an Internee to ANARDE responded to Question two (2), He stated that the Answer is YES... Beause ANARDE works in Karamoja at large and it is working for the good of the community hence can handle such cases and even encouraged the people to report such to the community volunteers or report direct to the Offices in Moroto Municipality.

Callers were calling but the network was not much good however we got three callers clearly where one had just tuned in and wanted to send regards, the other was off topic and was giving different contributions concerning the river at his place while one lady from Kotido called but the network could not allow her talk clearly and lastly we received a call from

Air Jay who thanked the Organization and Staff of ANARDE for the work they are doing for the people and Karamoja at large. He went further to ask a question following the testimony by one of the Community Volunteer of Nakapiripirit and specifically from Namalu sub-county about the Prison and the community land matter. He stated that, there is a way Court handles matters of land especially when it is an investor verses people it tends to be so, so is there a way this time around ANARDE can make this be moved as fast as possible?

A staff (Mike) response, he stated that it is the procedures of court with the load of cases where the system is not so fast but, ANARDE has put in the back of its mind is involving the lawyers/practitioners/Judicial officers within Karamoja to make them now that these cases are so important and need to be respond as fast as possible so as these cases are handled so fast.

The moderator then emphasized on the statement of the Project Coordinator and thanked the ANARDE Staff and the listeners as time was up. Music was then played as the panelists matched out of the Radio Station.

Picture Gallery



Fig 1.0 above shows the seating arrangement of the Panelists during the Community Volunteers' Radio Talk Show.