



**FIELD REPORT
OF
THE PUBLIC DIALOGUE HELD ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2009
AT KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY WESTERN CAMPUS
BUSHENYI DISTRICT**

THEME: Peace and Sustainable Development-Challenges and Way forward

GUEST SPEAKERS

- 1. Hon. Maj. General Kahinda Otafire-Minister of Tourism, Trade and Industry**
- 2. Hon. Prof. Tarsis Kabwegyere-Minister for Disaster Preparedness-Office of the Prime Minister of Uganda**

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Background

Youth Agenda a Youth Pressure Group operating countrywide in promoting, strengthening, and deepening Government Policies, Transparency and Accountability, Career Development and gainful employment under the courtesy of **Public Opinions** organized the 1st public dialogue at Kampala International University, Ishaka Campus Western Uganda on the *theme “Peace and Sustainable Development-challenges and wayforward”*.

The dialogue aimed at bringing together different stakeholders in the district to discuss the challenges and wayforward for Peace and Sustainable Development of Bushenyi District and Uganda.

This dialogue was organized under the Public Private Sector Caucusing in Districts (PRISCAD) and a continuation of the 1st public dialogue on the United Nations Global Compact held on 29th September 2009 at Hotel Africana and presided over by **Hon.Prof. Ephraim Kamuntu the Minister of State for Finance, Planning and Economic Development (Planning) on behalf of H.E Prof. Gilbert Bukenya the Vice President of the Republic of Uganda.**

Organization of the dialogue at Kampala International University Ishaka Western Campus

Time Frame

The dialogue started at 1:30 pm with the arrival of the public and invited guests in the main hall-Kampala International University-Western campus (Bushenyi), and at exactly 2:00pm, the ceremony officially started with singing of the National Anthem and it ended at 7:00pm with the closing remarks and vote of thanks by Prof Jonathan Ishasha the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Western Campus-Kampala International University.

Number of Participants

The dialogue attracted an average of one thousand (1000) participants among others;

- Local government officials
- Opinion leaders
- NGO and Civil Society representatives
- students from secondary and tertiary institutions
- Lecturers, tutors and Teachers
- members of the business community
- youth leaders
- the media
- Security Officials
- cabinet ministers

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The Key Speakers

Speakers were invited from different competencies and sectors from within the local government, central government and the private sectors and they included among others;

1. **Hon Maj Gen. Kahinda Otafire- Minister of Tourism, Trade and Industry (Chief Guest)**
2. Hon.Prof. Tarsis Kabwegyere, Minister of Disaster Preparedness Office of the Prime Minister
3. Prof. Jonathan Ishasha, Deputy Vice Chancellor Kampala International University-Western campus
4. Mr. Twinomuhangi Deogratus, Chief Executive Ankole Private Sector Promotion Centre
5. Ms. Esther, Dean of Students Kampala International University-Western Campus
6. Mr. Mbera Lawrence, NRM Youth Coordinator Bushenyi district

Key Activities undertaken

- Mobilization of the participants
- Identification of volunteers/personality to participate and steer forward the Voluntary Awareness Taskforce (VAT) for the years 2010-2012
- Dissemination of information on peace, unity and sustainable development and government policy documents
- Distribution of brochures for Public Private Sector Caucusing in District (PRISCAD)
- Serving of soft drinks and snacks
- Media Interview
- Meeting and interaction with stakeholders

Key notes of the presentations

The Speakers in their presentations made the following remarks that we now believe are vital in ensuring peace, unity and sustainable development not only in bushenyi but as well as Uganda and Africa at large.

- Improving the culture of reading and research into issues that affects the communities and the nation as a whole.
- Appreciate the spirit of love and togetherness
- Invest and encourage entrepreneurial skills amongst the youth
- That youth play a critical role in ensuring peace, unity and development and that the future of the nation lies in the hands of the youth
- That youth must be involved in the planning and implementation of all government or community initiative
- Encourage practical rather than theoretical approach in the planning and management of all issues
- Ensure honesty and reliability in all dealings in the community
- Ensure conflict resolution where there are conflicts
- Avoid tribalistic tendencies

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- That the NRM government is committed to protecting the lives and properties of all the people of Uganda from time to time
- That there is need for Agricultural Revolution
- That the Land Act 2009 is intended to protect the bibanja owners who are the majority but at the same time safeguarding the interest of the landlord. This law is important in averting conflicts that arise out of land wrangles.
- That there is urgent need to embark on countrywide campaign on sensitizing the youth to embark on practical work and emphasis must be put on university graduates and youth
- That there is need for Nationwide Voluntary Awareness and literacy of public polices and program such that the masses can appreciate them and as well participate in the overall implementation. by so doing-we shall be sowing seeds of peace, unity, love,ownership amongst the people of Uganda.
- That the NRM Government is ready and committed to support the youth who come up with small scale industries

Voluntary Awareness Taskforce (VAT)

Starting from January 2010 to January 2012, **Youth Agenda Courtesy of Public Opinions** will implement its program known as the Voluntary Awareness Taskforce (VAT) in Villages, Parishes, and sub counties of Bushenyi District in which it will focus on among others;

- Agricultural modernization
- Civic and voter education
- Accessing microfinance
- Laws
- Participatory budgeting
- Citizenry obligations in community development
- Justice, Law and order
- Peace and Unity

Implementations Approaches

The program will be implemented through application of a number of methods such as;

- Public dialogues in higher institutions of learning in Bushenyi District
- Consultative meetings with stakeholders
- Community meetings and outreach
- Exchange program within and outside Bushenyi District to ensure onsite and experimental experience yet acquiring skills and exposure
- Film shows and documentaries
- Talk shows on local media houses
- Engagement of students community in their respective schools
- Organizing Bushenyi District Students Conference in 2010
- Establishing Voluntary Awareness Taskforce/Committees at Parish Level
- Establishing Voluntary Awareness Taskforce/Committee at District Level to coordinate all the voluntary activities in the parishes of bushenyi and liaise with the National Secretariat of Public Opinions

Dialogue Adjourned

The dialogue was adjourned at 7:00pm.

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