



Sustainability School Bulletin

24TH EDITION | JUNE 2020





Mr. Frank Muramuzi
Executive Director NAPE

Editorial

This is the 24th edition of the Sustainability School bulletin which has been prepared both in hard and soft form for your convenience.

We started publishing this bulletin in 2013 as a way of keeping a track record of the key activities implemented within the Sustainability School Programme and also generating debate on contemporary sustainability issues of concern in Uganda and the world at large.

Previous editions are available online at; greenradio.ug and nape@nape.or.ug

In 2014, the Community Green Radio (CGR) was born out of the main Sustainability School Programme. This bulletin therefore carries articles about the Sustainability School Programme and the Community Green Radio.

This particular edition was printed at a time when Uganda and the rest of the world were battling COVID-19 and its effects. Therefore, most of the articles are in that thematic area.

We thank those who have contributed articles and those that gave feedback on previous editions.

Our special thanks go to the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation of Germany whose financial support has enabled us to continue publishing this Sustainability School bulletin.

Please enjoy your reading.

For any feedback, please send your comments to nape@nape.or.ug or at.kalangi@nape.or.ug



Community Green Radio
Baza Green. Hurra Green

Currently the **COMMUNITY GREEN RADIO** broadcasts full time from its own studios on Kiboga Hill in Kiboga town. It can be accessed via frequency 103.9 FM
Office Tel: +256 758 554 962, **Studio Line:** +256 784 729 262, +256 751 821 865
Email: greenradio@nape.or.ug **Website:** greenradio.ug

NAPE DONATES COVID-19 PREVENTION MATERIALS TO PARTNER COMMUNITIES IN UGANDA

By Samuel Kakeeto

National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) has since May, 2020 been donating COVID-19 prevention materials to several districts in central and mid-western Uganda that it works closely with.

These materials include hand-wash tanks, infra-red thermometers, sanitisers and posters with messages on how the spread of COVID can be curbed.

Mr. Frank Muramuzi, the NAPE Executive Director said that the COVID-19

prevention materials were being donated in line with the President's call to organisations and private individuals to contribute towards the efforts to curb the pandemic. He said that the targeted Districts include Kiboga, Kyankwanzi, Hoima, Kikuube and Buliisa. These Districts are also covered by the NAPE established Community Green Radio (CGR).

The process of distributing the COVID prevention materials was kick-started in Kiboga Town Council on Thursday, 22nd May, 2020 with NAPE handing over items which included 17 hand-wash tanks, 6 infra-red thermometers, masks and sanitisers to the District COVID-19 Task Force.

Mr. Muramuzi who led the NAPE team, handed over the materials to Al Hajji Umar Lule Mawiya, the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) for Kiboga who is also the Chairperson of the District Task Force.

"We listened to the President carefully while he talked about the need for us all to join hands in fighting the corona virus. We contacted our development partners who were also concerned like us about the pandemic and they have started sending us the required support," Muramuzi said.

While receiving the donations, RDC Mawiya expressed thanks and gratitude to NAPE for contributing gener-

TURN TO PAGE 4



The Chairman of the Kiboga District COVID-19 Task Force Mr. Umar Lule Mawiya (in brown blazer) gives a vote of thanks to NAPE after receiving the COVID prevention materials

ously to the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

He recognised the efforts of the Community Green Radio in disseminating information to the communities on how they can keep themselves safe from contracting COVID-19.

“We all need to do whatever it takes to ensure that we overcome this battle. The coronavirus, if not stemmed, will have a huge negative impact on the most vulnerable communities and it poses a huge risk to efforts and progress towards defeating poverty,” Mawiya said.

Israel Yiga, the Kiboga District LCV chairperson also commended the Community Green Radio for disseminating regular information on COVID-19 prevention and on the environment. He said that the donations made were essential and timely.

[RIGHT] Mr. Julius Kyamanya, the Station Manager of the Community Green Radio demonstrates to Communities in Kiboga District how to use the hand wash equipment donated by NAPE.

[BELOW] Testing for COVID-19 symptoms at the offices of Kakindo Integrated Women Development Agency in Buliisa Town Council, Buliisa District. The hand wash equipment and the infra-red thermometer were donated by NAPE



VACATE ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS VOLUNTARILY - NAPE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Sam Kaketo

Following the rise in water levels that have left many displaced in Uganda, Mr. Frank Muramuzi, the Executive Director National Association of Professional Environmentalists, NAPE is appealing to people residing and working close to environmentally and ecologically sensitive areas to vacate voluntarily.

While speaking to Community Green radio recently, Mr. Muramuzi said continued human activity along

ecologically sensitive areas does not only pose danger to the environment but to human life as well.

"I appeal to the community to promote, protect the environment and leave the wetlands willingly before the presidential directive in regard to these areas is forcefully implemented," he cautioned. Muramuzi also took a swipe at big business people, locally referred as investors for continuously reclaiming swamps and wetlands for development. He explained that these business people get approval from government agencies like the National Environmental Management Authority, NEMA to operate in wetlands and swamps.

"NEMA has issued licences to investors who are carrying out developments in wetlands and swamps. We call on

government to desist from sanctioning such developments in environmentally sensitive area," he said.

Muramuzi also noted that the construction of dams on major water bodies have become a threat to the flow of water; a reason NAPE strongly opposes the construction of dams. Muramuzi believes the rising water levels currently experienced are as a result of degradation and encroachment of wetlands and forests for cultivation.

This year, Ugandan minister of state for Energy and Mineral Development Mary Gorreti Kitutu warned that the residents around Lake Kyoga would be affected since Karuma dam was releasing 950 cubic meters per second and the entire water was going to the lake.

TURN TO PAGE 6



One of the developments in Entebbe, Uganda that were affected by the rising levels of Lake Victoria

Water levels for major water bodies across Uganda have gone up in recent months from 12.00 meters in 2019 to above 13.4 meters, in the case of Lake Victoria, a mark last recorded in 1964, while Lake Kyoga is projected to exceed the highest historical water level of 13.2 meters.

This has led to submerging shorelines, swamps and flood plains, displacing thousands of people and flooding infrastructure.

// Water levels for major water bodies across Uganda have gone up in recent months from 12.00 meters in 2019 to above 13.4 meters, in the case of Lake Victoria, a mark last recorded in 1964, while Lake Kyoga is projected to exceed the highest historical water level of 13.2 meters.

More than 9,000 people have been displaced by the rising water levels of Lake Kyoga in Nakasongola District, central Uganda. Others have been displaced in Masaka, Buvuma, Mayuge, Jinja and Wakiso districts by the surge of water volume in Lake Victoria. People in Ntoroko District in Western Uganda have also been displaced by increased water volumes in Lake Albert.

The NAPE Director, Mr. Frank Muramuzi and some NAPE staff look at one of the markets in Kampala affected by the rising levels of Lake Victoria



HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS CALL FOR RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID-19

By Precious Naturinda

Human rights activists have asked the security operatives to respect human rights as measures are being enforced to curb the spread of corona virus.

The Human Rights Officer at Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) Hoima Regional Office, Hope Bagota said the commission has received many complaints of human rights

violations during the period of COVID-19. She said the commission is currently investigating cases of torture by security agencies and other human rights violations so that the victims get justice.

Bagota explains that the respect of human rights is enshrined in article 221 of the Constitution of Uganda and security agencies should work in line with that.

"Human rights such as right to fair hearing, freedom from torture and others cannot be taken away by

state or any other person at any circumstance," she explained. This was during the radio talk show on Human Rights that was held at Community Green Radio Kiboga and organised by National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) with support from Fund for Global Human Rights on May 21.

Others that attended the radio talk show included ASP Francis Magumba, the Community Liaisons Officer for Albertine Region, Sergeant Lawrence Byansi, the Community Liasons Officer for Kiboga Central Police station

TURN TO PAGE 8



A talk-show at the Community Green Radio involving representatives of the Uganda Human Rights Commission, Uganda Police and community representatives. This was in May, 2020



The NAPE Director, Mr. Frank Muramuzi addresses journalists on the issue of human rights abuses during the COVID-19 induced countrywide lockdown

and Jesca Nanyondo, a community member from Mulagi Sub County in Kyankwanzi.

During the show, many listeners accused security officers of harassment and use of excessive force during the lockdown.

"LDUs always ask for evidence from pregnant mothers on whether they are pregnant, women in early stages of pregnancy have had rough time explaining this," said Mildred Atuhaise from Kasanda District.

"Why do you have to wait for the COVID-19 curve to flatten for the human rights perpetrators to be charged before court yet they continue to abuse people's rights," Annet Kengonzi from Kaiso Tonya in Hoima District asked.

Jesca Nanyondo also mentioned that in most cases women have been the victims of torture during the lockdown and curfew due to their traditional roles of providing food and care for

// During the show, many listeners accused security officers of harassment and use of excessive force during the lockdown. "LDUs always ask for evidence from pregnant mothers on whether they are pregnant, women in early stages of pregnancy have had rough time explaining this,"

the families. "Sometimes women are caught up when they are from looking for food or medicine for the children. However, it has been hard explaining some of these cases to police officers on duty," she noted. In defense, ASP Magumba said people have misinterpreted the presidential directives and they sometimes provoke security operatives.

However, the Human Rights Officer,

Bagota said all these cases, backed by evidence, should be reported to the commission so that they can be followed up. Nanyondo appreciated the show and called upon NAPE to organize more talk shows so that people can have a better understanding of their rights and have interactions with security operatives and human rights activists.

Joan Akiiza, the senior Gender and Legal Officer at NAPE noted that rights of vulnerable persons such as Persons with disabilities, women and children should be protected and it's sad that mothers are dying as they walk to health facilities due to the ban on public & private transport. She promised to organize more talk shows aimed at sensitizing communities on how they can enjoy their rights during the covid-19 crisis.

In the recent press briefing, the Acting Chairperson UHRC, said the commission had so far received 128 complaints of human rights violations, some of which are the cases of torture by security agencies.

COVID-19 DISRUPTS FARMERS' ACCESS TO MARKETS AND LIVELIHOOD

By Dorcus Drijaru

Rural farmers and producers are struggling to bridge the production and market gaps in the wake of COVID-19 pandemic.

According to farmers in Kiboga and Kyankwanzi districts that Community Green Radio interacted with, despite continued normality with their agricultural activities, the lock down has drastically limited the market for farm produce since buyers can't go to distant markets and sellers can't look for better markets.

They say, this, in addition to closure of markets, shops and hotels, has reduced revenues and impacted on daily wage workers and petty traders,

making it difficult for farmers to buy inputs and sustain their livelihoods.

"Our livelihood is being affected by Covid-19 pandemic making it difficult to access sustainable income for our families.

Before the country underwent the routine preventive measures of the curfew that starts from 7pm-6:30am, the lockdown and social distancing, some farmers used to carry out day to day vending and hawking of food stuff to earn a living," explains Asuman Ssembatya, the Chairperson for Nabidondolo listeners' club in Kyankwanzi district.

Charles Lubega another farmer from Wattuba Sub County says many farm-

ers are finding it difficult to sell at a profitable price, especially perishable goods.

"By this time I would be selling fresh beans, tomatoes and even matooke sending them to Kampala vendors but most of the vendors that used to buy from me are crying of lack of money in addition to the COVID 19 measures," explained Mr. Lubega.

However, Sara Kamyuka, a prominent matooke farmer in Kapeke Sub-County in Kiboga District says farmers should think of new approaches to find markets and sell their produce like using Community Green Radio to look for customers and engaging in home deliveries.



A pick-up truck carries matooke on the Hoima-Kampala Road in May, 2020 at the peak of the COVID-19 lockdown in Uganda. During this period, the market for farm produce was so low and many farmers were always complaining of not getting enough to cater even for the inputs.

COMMUNITY RADIO HELPING TO INCREASE POSITIVITY AND REDUCE ANXIETY IN THE WAKE OF COVID-19



By Precious Naturinda

In the wake of rising COVID-19 cases, Community Green Radio has dedicated time and resources to provide the population with information of the pandemic, increase positivity and reduce anxiety among people.

The radio broadcasts public health messages from health officials on how communities can keep themselves safe. The radio constantly gives updates on government plans and

preparations for the virus and how it has impacted on communities.

This is despite the challenges the staff are going through to deliver this noble cause. The ban on public transport has rendered some staff immobile while some of the staff working during curfew time hours have been forced to be accommodated at office.

According to the Station Manager Mr. Julius Kyamanywa, some vital programs like community dialogues and debates were cancelled. They have also changed its programming to focus on the Covid-19 pandemic.

"We had to redesign the programming to suit the government guidelines especially on staying home, social

distancing and night curfew. We tremendously reduced on the guests we host in studios", explained Mr. Kyamanywa.

The manager maintains that even when the radio has been forced to make adjustments, this has not stopped their goal of amplifying the voices of local communities.

"We have been able to give the communities a voice particularly on the impact of COVID 19 on their lives and what they expect from public office bearers. We have been using phone recorded audio to collect peoples voices", the Manager explained.



Good partnership: The NAPE Director, Mr. Frank Muramuzi and Mr. Samuel Kasirye from the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation at the Community Green Radio offices in Kiboga Town, recently.



Adapting to the COVID-19 times: The NAPE Coordinator of Projects, Mr. Rajab Bwengye at work



The NAPE Director, Mr. Frank Muramuzi (yellow life jacket) and the Sustainability School Manager, Mr. Allan Kalangi (blue life jacket) take a boat ride to assess how the rising level of Lake Victoria was impacting on the environment and businesses around Kampala.



Plant more trees: Members of Kaiso-Tonya Sustainability Village conduct NAPE staff around their woodlot of Neem trees that they planted recently but which are growing steadily.