

NKDU REPORT ON PUBLIC DIALOGUE ON VALLEY TANK COMMUNITY OWNERSHIP HELD AT NKDU MULTIPURPOSE COMMUNITY HALL

28TH NOVEMBER 2016





1. Background

The holding of a public dialogue on the Rotary International sponsored valley tanks in Nkondo subcounty was based on the knowledge that the two Government constructed Dams in Immeri and Kasira in Nkondo and Kidera respectively have continued to experience operational and maintenance problems due to people's attitude that these water sources belong to Government. Secondly the Rotary Club of Kampala North with whom NKDU are cooperating Partners in the implementation of the "Nkondo Adopt a village Project" is in the process of preparing to hand over the valley tanks to the district.

The dialogue meeting was opened by the Mayor of Iringa who informed the participants that Iringa Trading Centre was granted a Town Board status with 3 local councils effective financial year 2016/17 and he attributed this progress to NKDU's Development efforts in Iringa.

2. Participants:

There were over 59 participants from the following categories:

- Owners of land where the Valley tanks are located;
- Water User Committee Members
- Defense and Women affairs;
- KYENATU members
- LC V Vice Chair Person
- District Speaker
- Kidera District Counselor
- Nkondo LC II C/P
- Nkondo sub county NKDU Coordinator
- Mayor Iringa Town
- Nkondo Sub county Counselors
- Members of the Public

3. Purpose

- To create ownership,
- To reach consensus on how to optimize the expected socioeconomic gains
- For all stakeholders to know their role(s) in the operations, maintenance and financing of the 5 valley tanks,
- To publically air and sort out any issues that could threaten future operations of the valley tanks.

4. Objectives

- i. Create ownership of the valley tanks.
- ii. Reach consensus on how to optimise the expected socio-economic gains.
- iii. Facilitate Key stakeholders to know their role(s) in operations and maintenance of the valley tanks
- iv. Sort out any issues that could threaten the future operations of the valley tanks.

5. Facilitators

- Buyende District Technical Department of: (Community Development; Agriculture; Veterinary; Environment; Health Inspection and Engineering.);
- Nkondo sub county;
- Nkondo Kidera Development Union (NKDU) and;
- KYENATU.

6. Discussion Points

- i. Water and Livestock Health;
- ii. Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- iii. Water quality

- iv. Safety Inspection and Engineering.
- v. Tree Planting
- vi. Rights of people and animals
- vii. Roles of Stakeholders
- viii. How the community will benefit from the valley tanks
- ix. Rules, Regulations and Laws

7. Some of the Key technical Messages:

- All land owners near the valley tanks that pledged to provide access road to observe it and all other land owners to observe the right of way (2meters) for animals to grazing in the wetlands and watering points;
- Farming activities prohibited in the water flow areas;
- Spraying of cows, farming and Boda Boda/Motor cycle washing prohibited away from water flow areas and should be downstream within a minimum distance of 30 meters ;
- Water Community users to urgently plant live fences to support the poles; grass on the sides to provide natural water filters for the valley tanks and preserve the Eco-system under water;
- Reporting System to be through the LC system for each valley tank;
- Local Cow needs (1 ½ jerry cans) will get enough water;
- Water helps nutrients to be observed and aids digestion in people and animals;
- Adequate water consumption cools temperature of cows to required level of 38⁰ C;
- With Proper de-silting valley tank can last up to 50years;
- Water is a development issue i.e. Reduced water levels resulted in reduced fish stocks in Lake Kioga and River Nile; as well in the wet lands that used to breed a lot of mud and lung fish;
- Farmers urged to plant Cassava to avert looming food scarcity in 2017.

8. Way Forward

NKDU to mobilize community for offices of the District Health Inspector and District Community Development to comprehensively train Water User committees on sites to facilitate:

- In depth community sensitization;
- Motivation of community to plant grass and live fences around the valley tanks and wetlands;
- Opening up of cattle tracks that are now blocked;
- Valley tank Water user communities to determine amount of user fees for proper sustainability of the project;
- Accurately document and circulate roles and regulations of valley tanks;
- Water user committees to generate funds to maintain the valley tanks sustainably;
- Community water user committees to know how the office of Chair person LC III can assist in the enforcement of the rules that the communities will formulate, Government regulations and laws like that of latrine construction in homes;
- The Documentation of all Valley tank users (Families Livestock keepers and crop growers) including those using Kasiira and Immeri Dam;
- Planting of trees and stopping charcoal burning without planting trees;
- Farmers to get knowledge in digging trenches in their gardens.

9. Closing Remarks

In their concluding remarks all political leaders that participated in the public dialogue urged participants

(i) To maximize the expected socioeconomic benefits like:

- Reduced time lining up at the borehole because the valley tank water sources is time saving because water pumps have been provide and constructing of troughs for livestock and people is nearing completion;
- Increased family incomes if farmers to take advantage of opportunities of offseason crop farming utilizing mini irrigation methods;
- Utilizing saved time by not lining up at the valley tanks to be translated into engaging into increased income generating activities by families;
- Improved family health because families will have adequate water to promote sanitation and hygiene in their homes

(ii) To strictly adhere to the rules and regulations governing all community water sources like having latrines in all homes, ensuring that all cattle tracks are reopened and free access to water sources.

(iii) Community to engage in livestock business and;

(iv) Reduced idle talk by women as long queues at boreholes will not reduce.

10. Conclusion

The NKDU Field Coordinator thanked Buyende District Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for facilitating her officers at short notice to come and facilitate the discussions. She commended the technical officers for their committed input into this activity and political leadership supporting the project by their presence. She concluded that NKDU is now hopeful that the project will be sustained because community ownership of the 5 valley tanks was created.

She concluded that NKDU will forever be grateful to both Rotary International and Rotary Club of Kampala North for funding and implementing the Valley tank project in Buyende district.