

# THE 2016 – 2021 CITIZEN MANIFESTO COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS MEETINGS

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## THE BUSOGA KINGDOM



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# **THE 2016 – 2021 CITIZEN MANIFESTO**

## **COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS MEETINGS**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The First African Bicycle Information Organization(FABIO) is the District Citizen Manifesto partner working in Jinja District and Busoga Region in close collaboration with PACONET the coordinating lead HUB for the Citizen Manifesto Amplified Project and Uganda National NGO Forum (UNNGOF) to bring about a culture of civic responsibility and accountability among the citizens in Busoga Region and Uganda. FABIO believes in Democracy, good governance and accountability which are all key components that call for Citizen Participation and involvement. According to the 1995 Constitution for the Republic of Uganda Power belongs to the people and therefore as such they are required to participate in all the processes of development including planning, elections and most importantly holding their leaders accountable.

Like other regions in Uganda, Busoga Region Citizens have not been very active in the political processes of the Region, however overtime this is changing with the different interventions such as the CMA which brings closer the Leaders to the Citizens. In one of the Neighborhood assembly in Mafubira Sub county Ms Susan Wanyana noted that “if only our leaders would give priority to what we tell them, this country would be a much better place for us” The CMA processes have been vital in reminding the Citizens and leaders of their responsibilities.

In addition Busoga Region Citizens were able to make a contribution to the different political Manifestos for 2011-2016 by coming up with their aspirations and demands. These aspirations included Roads, Health services, Hydro electricity power and fighting corruption. In the same effort of generating Citizen Aspirations for the period of 2016-2021 FABIO under the CMA Project has taken part in the consultation process for the Busoga Region and this report therefore reflects outcomes of these consultative engagements.

### **2.0 THE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION PROCESS.**

The consultation process employed the bottom up approach with much focus on the ordinary Citizens needs and aspirations. This was intended to generate Busoga Region Citizen Priorities and aspirations for 2016-2021 but also to reflect on the 2011-2016 citizen Manifesto especially the Busoga Region demands as per that period. This involved community dialogues where citizens and their Local leaders reflected on these.

FABIO organized Community Consultations in Jinja District that is Kyelinda village, Buwenge Sub county in Kagoma Constituency and Wakitaka, Mafubira Sub County in Butembe Constituency on 22nd & 25th/7/2015 respectively. The Meetings engaged about 80 participants per meeting who included all categories of people especially those that are or above 18 years of age and the participants in the two meetings were Women, Men, Elderly, Youth and Village opinion leaders and LC I council leadership. The selection criteria was based on identification of participants by the local Chairperson LC1 and his committee members. Its important to note that, quite different from the other meeting, Kyelinda CMA consultation Meeting was also blessed with a Female District Councilor who opened the minds of her people by asking them to always attend different meetings in case they are given the opportunity since a lot transpires in such meetings that can help them in buildings their Capacities and even their day to day lives. She happily thanked the implementing organization and the donor organizations for having chosen Kyelinda village to participate in what she called a wonderful exercise.

## **2.1 Objectives of the Community Consultation Meetings**

- ❖ To share and reflect with citizens on the progress of 2011-2016 Citizen Manifesto demands
- ❖ To generate citizen issues/ demands in Jinja district to feed 2016-2021 Regional Citizen Manifesto
- ❖ To enhance a culture of civic awareness and social responsibility among the citizens of this country and specifically Busoga Region.

## **2.2 Methodology used during the Consultation Meetings**

The consultations mainly were done through citizen dialogues and to obtain the relevant outcomes the following techniques were employed:

1. Translating information into a local language for easy understanding where key discussable issues were translated into lusoga for easy understanding of issues
2. Focus group Discussions. Participants were placed in groups of between 10-15 people categorized as youth, elderly or women. This was to generate issues based on the different interest groups.
3. Brain storming. These groups underwent a brain storming exercise with the help of a facilitator from FABIO
4. Question answer approach. This stage involved taking questions from participants that were finally answered by FABIO staff and present leaders
5. Open Discussion which allowed all participants to discuss the key issues as raised in the brain storming session
6. Key Informant interviews with the area Chairpersons

The two meetings in these two different villages held at different time intervals were embraced by the local leadership (LC1) who officially opened the meetings with a prayer and later gave openings remarks. Therefore they both they argued the participants to freely open up and interact since this was golden opportunity to participate in such an important meeting where their views would be compiled for reference.

Additionally, in the two meetings, the CMA project was introduced by FABIOs Programs Manager who gave a hint on the core values of the two organizations, how they operate and where they are located. She consequently introduced the project and its rationale to the participants since this was our first engagement in the two Villages on the CMA project.

She however called on the second facilitator who led the session by reflecting on what the Busoga demands and National demands were in 2011-2016 Citizen's Manifesto. He opened up to the participants that in 2011, issues were gathered from the different regions of Uganda and were therefore galvanized into a working document for reference at all levels. For that note therefore called up on participants to feel free to participate and also flash back and give their analysis on the general performance of 2011-2016 Manifesto and requested them to give credit and be frank where necessary. Therefore the discussion rotated around the following:

### **National Demands**

1. Corruption
2. Poverty
3. Agriculture
4. Environmental Degradation
5. Roads
6. Agriculture
7. Health Services
8. Education
9. population Growth
10. lack of information in the country-

### **Busoga Demands**

1. Roads
2. Health Services
3. Education
4. Hydro electric power
5. Fighting corruption

### 3.0 OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS

The Table below explains how the 2011-2016 Demands at the regional and National level were reflected on, the demand for 2016-2021 and the other issues that did not emerge in the last 5 years demands but when they are very crucial in uplifting peoples livelihoods when handled. However it's imperative to note that the major focus was basically on Busoga Demands since the meeting was at a regional level.

Citizens' Issue	Status (What has been done)	Gap (What is pending)	Demand for 2016-2021	Other remarks
<b>Kyelinda Consultative Meeting</b>				
Roads	Main road was constructed (Jinja-Kamuli High Way) Uploaded the Government for this	<p>Maintaining of the feeder roads</p> <p>The government has not compensated for the land lords where the Roads were demarcated.</p> <p>The Road contractors do not follow the demarcated Road designs due the bribe they receive the rich people hence manipulating low income earners who cannot give a bribe</p>	<p>A ferry should be built from Bukungu to Langho</p> <p>Strict regulations to restrict the contractors from doing things out of personal interests.</p> <p>The government should compensate the landlords before demarcating any designs on the land.</p> <p>Jinja Kamuli Road should be completed from Kamuli to Langho like it in their original plan.</p>	
Health Centres	Government has at least equipped hospitals with drugs though not enough.	<p>The drugs are not enough to cover growing population &amp; do not cater for all the categories of people.</p> <p>The delivering interval of drugs in health centers are very long whereby drugs get finished before another interval</p>	<p>Drugs for complicated diseases like heart disease, pressure, Diabetes should also be given a consideration in the health centers.</p> <p>There government should tighten its supervision in the health centers to</p>	

		<p>The medical personnel's swindle drugs, sell mama kits even when the government says they are not for sell.</p> <p>Arrogant practioners are still many in health centers.</p> <p>Aged and inexperienced personnel's</p>	<p>reduce on drug swindling and reckless practitioners.</p> <p>The government should improve the recruitment policy in the medical profession so as to reduce on inexperienced and Aged personnel's in this field</p>	
Education	<p>Government has put in place UPE &amp;USE which has helped to reduce on illiteracy rates in this village.</p> <p>Government has given chance to private investors to set up a private school which has bridged the existing gap hence improving on the quality of education in this village.</p>	<p>Education is not qualitative in both USE &amp;UPE schools</p> <p>Teachers are poorly paid</p> <p>There are no staff quarters and therefore teachers walk long distances to school</p> <p>USE schools are scarce in this village</p> <p>The government imposes high charges of taxes which forces the schools to increase their fees since they are profit makers. This restricts a poor child from accessing quality education.</p> <p>Education at higher levels is still very unbearable for a poor man.</p>	<p>The curriculum should change from theoretical to practical.</p> <p>Government should revise the salary scale of the teachers and should also thing of their welfare i.e. constructing staff quarters for them.</p> <p>The government should reduce on the subsidize taxes on private schools.</p> <p>There is need for the government to distribute USE and government aided schools at every sub county in Buwenge.</p> <p>Government Should put in place an open policy of supporting University students since it requires a</p>	

			lot money of money which makes it difficult for the parents.	
Environment	No considerable effort though tree planting has been encouraged by Government officials	<p>Government entrusting foreigners with land especially in swampy areas &amp; yet it restricts its nationals</p> <p>Government sets pending policies in disguise of favoring the foreigners e.g. the saga of Mabira forest to Mettah which led to a demonstration by the Ugandans against Indians where one was stoned to death.</p> <p>The government has not put in place restrictive rules guiding sugar cane growers.</p>	<p>All people should be given same opportunities especially when it comes to investing</p> <p>There should be 1 restrictive rules regarding sugar cane growing.</p>	Nothing has been done in regard to environmental conservation since it has actively participated in allocating investors on gazette land i.e. Namanve
Hydro Electricity power	The government has tried to distribute power in the rural areas			
Unemployment	The government has created a contusive environment for investors and this has lead to the establishment of industries in the different parts of the country.	<p>Minimum wage policy for the worker which has led to under payment.</p> <p>The government not conclusively put in place strict policies against corruption and up to now people are still charged money in exchange for jobs that is to say even at the level of a cleaner</p>	<p>Government should reduce on the retirement age of its workers from 60 to at least 50 so as to give chance to the young generation to earn a living</p> <p>The government should revise its anti corruption policies at all levels.</p>	It is imperative to note that the citizens do not agree with the issue of asking for working experience from the fresh graduates yet they spend a lot of money to boost the future of their children. However they are disappointed with the statement of working experience as it sold in

				universities.
Corruption	Government has tried to fight corruption through extending Anti corruption organs at the district level i.e. IGG.	Corruption scandals are still very high	Heavy penalties should be put in place to punish those who are caught swindling government money in order to reduce on corruption within the country	
Agriculture	NAADS Programs Sensitized people on the good farming methods through its programs. People can access agricultural loans from the banks	Effectiveness in the programs i.e. there is still a lot of mismanagement and corruption involved. Poor farming methods are still used by people that have costed them. Bank charges are still very high	Agricultural Officers should be brought on board to handle such programs and also to sensitize the people since this is their area of specialization. Bank charges should be reduced so as to enable the local man facilitate the farming	
<b>Wakitaka consultative meeting</b>				
Education	UPE and USE in existence	The libraries are not well equipped with relevant and enough text books and computers.	The government should introduce a policy of supporting university students other than the primary and secondary levels since a lot of money is required at the higher level  The government should equip the school libraries with text books especially for A-level science	It is important for the government to note that the citizens/parents are not happy with the high costs involved in attaining education at a higher level especially science students (Doctors, Engineers among others)that even after their courses it becomes very difficult for them to get decent jobs.

			students because the textbooks required are many and very expensive.	
Health	<p>The government has equipped the health centers with first aid medicines like paracetamol, magnesium, metro among others.</p> <p>Family planning methods have been introduced.</p> <p>Government has allowed private clinics and hospitals to operate which has led to variety.</p>	<p>Government equipping the health centers with all the necessary medicines for the sicknesses.</p> <p>Government has failed to lawfully handle the drug swindlers that are why it is persistent.</p> <p>The government has not fully equipped the lab our wards with enough beds.</p> <p>Government has not informed its people about all the benefits and negative effects of family planning methods which have made it more harmful than good.</p> <p>The charges for health care in private hospitals are very high since they are profit makers.</p> <p>Most health workers in private hospitals are government workers and therefore spend much time in their private clinics than in there official jobs.</p>	<p>CCT cameras should be installed in health centers in order to easily capture the swindlers and corrupt personals with clear evidence.</p> <p>Government should exhaustively sensitize its people about the dangers of family planning methods which will enable people identify the right types for their blood groups.</p> <p>Government should only license people that are in their retirement age.</p>	
Infrastructure	High ways have been constructed and mentioned	Feeder roads in poor conditions.	Burungi bwansi should be embarked on like in the early days.	
Agriculture	The government has put	The approach used in	Government	

	<p>in place empowering programs NAADs which is currently operation wealth recreation</p>	<p>the selecting of the programs' beneficiaries is not transparent District government officers are not empowered. Government using soldiers were by most of them are NRM.</p>	<p>should empower agricultural officers since this is their area of specialization than the coordinators. Agriculture program should directly be under agricultural ministry than the security ministry.</p> <p>Government should deploy local persons in handling NAADS programs since they have no political interest's comp aired to the sub-county officials.</p> <p>Strict policies should be imposed at a house hold level like in the early times.</p> <p>Government should emphasize fruit growing among its citizens</p> <p>Irrigation schemes should be introduced in all regions to help in the dry season.</p> <p>.</p>	
Hydro	Government has extended	The electricity unit	Government	

electricity	power polls at the grass root	charges are very high	<p>should not privatize and tenderize sensitive sectors and there for should reown its powers in UMEME.</p> <p>The unit cost of electricity should be revised that is to say reduced to a reasonable unit fee since Uganda is sole supplier of electricity.</p>	
Limited information access at the grassroots and lack of civic consciousness	People can freely receive information on media i.e. Radio stations, News papers among others	Over privatizing media agencies which has led to Increased prices for News papers, paying for decoders to access TV,	<p>Government should reduce on over prioritizing and tenderizing very sensitive agencies.</p> <p>Should bring all its plans at the grass root like other districts.</p> <p>There should be special government Radio Stations and news papers to ease the information in the country and also to reduce on the paper charges.</p>	
<b>New priorities</b>				
Minimum wage	No efforts made	Government putting in place the standard wage scale for employees in the country for the workers	A reasonable salary scale should be established at the different levels basing on education differences	
Grace periods for the small scale business owners to be	No efforts made	Government considering local investors however small they may be just	Government should fully support local industries and local	

taxed.		like they consider foreign investors are given grace period in years	investors at large. Newly established small scaled industries should not be taxed until the time it can stand on its own.	
Scraping off the RDC position	No efforts made	Relevancy of the RDCs is not recognized since they are paid a lot of money and the police can play their roles effectively.	The government should divert the would be salaries of RDCs to increase the salaries of teachers and the medic's to cut done it's high costs of expenditure.	
Facilitating the elderly groups at the end of the month like it's in other districts of Uganda.	It has done it has been effected in some parts of western and Northern Uganda	The elderly people of Busoga have not been given a chance to be part of this program.	The elderly people of Busoga should be given consideration to be part of this program Government should introduce Entadikwa scheme (Capital) for the elderly people and the widows to start up some small business.	
Busoga kingdom should be empowered in taking part in the development of its region.	Other kingdoms like Buganda have benefited out of this initiative.	Busoga has not participated in such program since it has had cultural differences which at a large extent it has lagged it's development	The Kingdom should be in full charge into promoting food security in the region.	
Federalism of the natural resources in a region.	Nothing has been done	Government has not put into consideration the people close to the natural resource an advantage to benefit more than the others.	Government should give first priority to the natives' of the region by enjoying the services at a lower cost for example power sold at a lower cost	

			in Kenya than the people in Busoga an	
Tendering Policies	Government has given chance to people get tenders for survival	The tenderers over focus on making profits than ensuring better service delivery	The government should strengthen tendering policies to the tenderers so as to limit the inconveniences they cause to the local man with intensions of making high profits.	
Distribution of development in all areas of the country	Government has brought investors on board	Development is concentrated in towns or urban areas	Investors should be driven to sub county levels so as to benefit even the local man in the village and this will reduce on the unemployment rates.	
Security	Government has deployed Security officers in villages	Insecurity is still high where by thieves are still many which has led to loss of people's lives	They need security to be strengthened on every village, because many thieves steal their agricultural products right from the garden.	
Mechanisms to ensure fulfilling the promises made	Made many promises to Ugandans	Fails to fulfill its promises to the people	Government should stop taking long time to fulfill their promises they make during campaigns.	

NB : It should be noted that most of the issues derived from the participants were almost similar though the villages and the participants were different .This therefore calls for an immediate handling and attention from the government .

## Notable Achievements

It was noted with sincere concern and appreciation from the citizens of Busoga during the Consultation meetings that the development of Jinja- Kamuli High way was a very big achievement for 2011- 2016. This is evidenced in the photo below.



## 4.0 KEY CONCERNS FROM THE FDGS

Women Group	Youth Group	Elderly & opinion leaders/
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Few equipments in the maternal wards like beds</li> <li>▪ Selling of Mama Kits even when the Governments says these are free</li> <li>▪ Lack of Exhaustive information concerning Family Planning</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wide spread Unemployment among the youth</li> <li>▪ Constant Arrests by police Claiming these are idle and disorderly</li> <li>▪ High Experience Requirements for the few existing jobs</li> <li>▪ Reduction of retirement age to provide room for the youths</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Elders not integrated in any Development programs and yet they play a big role</li> <li>▪ More elders should benefit from the social protection program</li> <li>▪ Limited participation of Busoga Kingdom in the social economic lives of its people. They cited as it is done in Buganda Kingdom</li> </ul>

## 5.0 CHALLENGES FACED DURING CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS

- High expectations from the participants. This being a time of elections every meeting conducted at community levels is expected to be yielding in terms of finances. This was however managed by clearly articulating the objectives of the meeting
- Poor time management. Some of the participant came late and therefore missing out on the introductory processes
- The Wakitaka meeting timing collided with village programs like an Introduction and a Wedding; however this was postponed to ensure the right participants are obtained.

## 6.0 LESSONS LEARNT

- We noted that its very crucial to engage the different local leaders and opinion leaders before any implementation program is drawn so as to book an appointment and to avoid any inconveniences.
- It was noted that the people at the grass root level are sometimes not involved in such important activities .however we realized that they have a lot of good information that can help in developing this Country since they give information without any bias.
- The masses are ready and eager to receive information without political affiliations.

## 7.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The community consultations Provided a platform for the Citizens to make a contribution towards the 2016/2021 aspirations for a prosperous Uganda with happy people as well as a platform to reflect on the progress of the 2011-2015 Manifesto and what the gaps that may need consideration come 2016/2021. The Citizens that participated in this process thought this was a very good approach that all the leaders in the Country ought to take if they are to effect any change in the coming years. The process was considered very educative as it equipped the citizens with what is transpiring in the country but also however the citizens made some recommendations in enhancing this and these included

- The Process should always start early enough to give citizens a adequate time to reflect on key issues other than rushing when the campaigns are actually ongoing
- There is need for constant reflection on the progress of the Citizen manifesto at least thrice in a year.
- The citizen Manifesto Document should be translated in local language for the citizens to understand it better.
- It was noted that it is always delicate to discuss the manifesto during election time as this leads to misinterpretation of the Process.
- The citizens called upon for more civic awareness as many are not very knowledgeable.

