

Aide Memoire : Some food for thought .

(For the Review Group)

I.Process .

In terms of process , we are currently engaged in two parallel but closely interlinked tracks : developing a recovery plan for Acoliland , and conducting consultations with key stakeholders . Concerning the latter , we have , so far , met with the leaders of Wang-OO and ARLPI . A meeting is scheduled with MPs & ministers for 11 September . We also are in the process of organising consultations with the leaders of the following constituencies : Local government ; women ; Ludito Dog Kaka ; and youth .

The outcomes from the twin tracks will feed into a seminal plenary gathering , scheduled for Pongdwongo , at the close of December .

What should be presented at Pongdwongo , and what should be envisaged as outcomes of that critical gathering ?

II. Appropriate arrangement /entity/structure .

As we continue this critical work , an important question is hanging over us .Where exactly will these efforts at roco Paco lead to ? Under which arrangement/auspices/entity will agreed actions/ interventions and follow-up be carried out ?

A secondary question we need to address is : What shall we call the document we are currently developing ?

III. Approach & Perspective .

i.Bold interventions . In designing our response to the current situation in Acoliland , we should certainly try known & tested intervention-tools from known & tested tool-box . However , we should not be afraid to reach out for bold & unusual intervention-tools , commensurate with the nature , duration & magnitude of the unprecedented catastrophic breakdown in Acoliland . This is critical because , in virtually all the domains envisaged for interventions , we have to rebuild , resurrect/restore , reimagine - - and then transform. In sum , we must imagine the rebirth of Acoli society .

ii.Compelling narrative . We need a compelling & consistent narrative. The actual facts on the ground speak very loudly to this. Thankfully , there is no need for any contrived narratives .

In this connection, we might take note of Pastor Patience Rwabwogo's poignant message during her recent "Light up Acoliland for Jesus " crusade , and her father's plea to " the people of Acoli" . "As the top leader of NRM , I am here to take full responsibility for all the mistakes which were made at various levels in this subregion . Forgive our failures and mistakes . . . For this , we ask for forgiveness ".

iii. Countervailing impact of "the intangibles" .We should be conscious that the " intangibles" in us will , willy-nilly , counteract all proposed interventions . We need to reflect on the import of this , and what we should do in anticipation & consequence . "The intangibles " remains the thousand-pounds elephant in our house .

iv.Assess previous interventions . We need to assess what worked (or did not work) from previous interventions in the situation in Acoliland ; these will provide instructive lessons for interventions we may propose .

v.Comparisons with past records. Our analysis should include appropriate data comparisons of the status quo with recorded profiles of previous eras .

vi.Historical examples of loss/tragedy & renewal. We need to study other historical examples of loss/tragedy & renewal . These might include : German , Japanese , Igbo , Tamil , Jewish & Palestinian historical experiences .

vii. Community solidarity as engine of investment & enterprise .We should seek to understand the examples of the Ismaili community , Somali community , Jewish community , Igbo community , Eritrean community , several Asian communities , etc .

vii. Critical constituencies for us . In our quest , all stakeholders are important . However , for us to succeed in this enterprise , the absolutely critical constituencies for us are : Ludito Dog Kaka ; Women ; Youth ; and the Diaspora (see Remits) .

viii. Redesign & renew relationships with neighbours . We need to redesign & renew our relationships with neighbouring communities , especially : Lango ; West Nile ; Karamoja ; and Teso .

IV. Initiatives to consider.

Here are some possible initiatives to consider .

- i. Roco Paco Scholarship Fund .
- ii. Teach for Acoli
- iii. Mentor for Acoli
- iv. Arts Festival (Biennale)
- v. By-laws/ ordinances , to be adopted at district & Dog Kaka levels , concerning consumption of alcohol & jai , conduct that breach gwok (taboos) , school attendance , work during cwir , unregulated & rampant use of chemicals in agriculture , etc .
- vi. A pan-Acoli private investment vehicle
- vii. Database of intelligentsia ,etc
- viii. Annual careers festival , for secondary & university students .
- ix. Special project for reviving Pongdwongo (and possibly other historical public schools)
- x. Annual youth convention

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