

Initial Steps

Follow-up to consultative meeting held at CJ's residence on 12 February.

On 12 February , 2023 , a consultative meeting was held at CJ's residence in Nakasero . The purpose of the informal get-together was to collectively reflect on the present catastrophe (*too paco*) which has engulfed Acoliland .

This note (**Initial Steps**) puts forward some steps that need to be taken as initial follow-up to the discussion of 12 February .

Step One . A small consultation (perhaps no more than 10 participants) to be held in Kampala , by mid-March , to do a quick review of **Initial Steps** .

Step Two . The co-chairs will request particular experts to prepare action papers (APs) on several key sectors of concern . The requests will be addressed to leading experts , possessing deep knowledge and experience of their respective fields . Typically , the APs should consist of : background information and analysis ; present state-of-affairs (status quo) ; and recommendations for response i.e. modes of response and concrete response actions . It is recommended that an AP should not be more than 10 pages in length . For the most part , this exercise should not entail original research ; rather , it should involve reviewing , assembling and distilling of existing information and knowledge , most of which are in the public domain . The APs should be submitted to the co-chairs by mid-April .

The following ten sectors are proposed for preparation of the first batch of APs : Economy (overall situation) ; Agriculture ; Land (land-ownership , land-selling , land-grabbing , land-disputes (mostly internal) , land usage , etc ; Education (particularly primary & secondary schooling) ; Youth ; Oil & Gas ; Public health ; Alcoholism ; Environment ; Leadership ; Language ; Diaspora .

Most of the above sectors have been chosen to address some of the glaring and enormous tangible deficits in Acoliland . It should be noted that , in the first selection of APs , issues pertaining to the collapse of intangible soft power assets in the community have largely been left out . These will be addressed separately below , under Step Five .

Step Three . The co-chairs will send out , by end of March , an update note to the participants of 12 February , informing them of steps being taken as follow-up to that consultation .

Step Four . The co-chairs will reach out and convene mini consultations (perhaps each consultation limited to no more than 50 representatives)

upcountry , with selected representatives of some categories of opinion-leaders in the community .

The purpose of the mini consultations will be to inform and sensitise selected opinion-leaders about the consultation and reflections of 12 February , and to elicit their own perspectives and suggestions . Not least , these mini consultations will also help shape our response to the paramount challenge of the collapse of intangible soft-power assets .

It is proposed that the initial selection of opinion-leaders should include the following categories : *Rwodi* ; *wegi-kom me kaka* and elders ; teachers and youth ; entrepreneurs ; local elected leaders (LC chairs & councillors) ; religious leaders ; representatives of the Diaspora .

Step Five . At the start of the process envisaged in Step Four , the co-chairs will request a team of five notables to prepare an AP on response to the key aspects of the collapse of intangible soft power in the community (i.e. community mentality , community outlook , community conduct , community discipline , community work ethic , parenting within families , community solidarity , *nyeko* & *col-cwiny* within the community , etc) . Among other things , the team will closely follow discussions in the mini consultations . This AP should be in by mid-June .

Step Six . By end of June , the co-chairs will convene a second consultative meeting in CJ's compound ; this gathering could be enlarged to 80 participants . This meeting will do three things : review concrete recommendations from the APs , review insights from the mini consultations , and discuss the plan for convening a plenary gathering of the community upcountry .

Step Seven . The authors of the APs will revise their papers and finalise recommendations , in light of reflections from the second consultative meeting , and in preparation for plenary meeting .

Step Eight . A plenary meeting of community opinion-leaders will be convened upcountry before end of October ; a summary of recommendations and a plan for the 'way forward' will be submitted to this gathering .

Initial Fundraising . Some initial fundraising will be necessary , to cover some aspects of the activities outlined above . For this reason , following Step One , the co-chairs will request a small team (perhaps composed of three persons) to explore and prepare initial funding proposals , to cover several aspects of the activities envisaged above .

Co-Chairs
26 February , 2023