

Gurre me Pongdwongo

Concept note

The Acoli society is in the throes of a grave existential crisis , marked by radical wholesale societal collapse . This once vibrant and leading society has been reduced to a tragic shadow and shell of its former self . This is what the Lwo call *Too Paco* .

This *Too Paco* , which has engulfed Acoliland , is manifested in two broad dimensions . One dimension is the massive loss of material wellbeing ; this is mostly concrete , visible and measurable in statistical profiles . The second dimension presents a much bigger challenge ; this is about the collapse of intangible and invisible fundamentals (the intangibles') - - spirit , outlook , attitudes , values - - which has led to a deep moral , spiritual and identity crisis .

It is against this background that a group of leaders came together earlier this year and decided to embark on broad consultations for *Doro Paco* . *Doro Paco* is a self-challenge (*pyem*) by the Acoli intelligentsia and leaders . They are committing to step forward , assume their responsibility in engendering and enforcing good conduct and good governance , respect and solidarity , integrity and principles, values and moral taboos , and progress and development in Acoli society .

This is a labour of love . It is a non-partisan , non-political , pan-Acoli enterprise .This is a rallying call , to summon to action , all members of the Acoli community .

Following consultations with various stakeholders , including the intelligentsia , members of Parliament , ARLPI , Wang-OO , District leaders and *ludito kaka* , plans are underway to organise a plenary gathering of Acoli leaders at Sir Samuel Baker School (Gurre me Pongdwongo) , 27 - 29 December , 2023 . This will bring together diverse categories of leaders : youth ; women ; ludito kaka ; diaspora ; elected leaders ; elders ; intelligentsia ; etc .

Pongdwongo should mark the beginning of a seminal journey , a pan-Acoli movement for *Doro Paco* . In this context , Pongdwongo will serve several important purposes . First , it will be a forum for exposition & soul-searching , self-challenge & resolve , rallying & uniting - - leading to concerted action . Second , it will provide the occasion for unveiling and adopting *Rocco Paco* (the plan for rebuilding Acoli society) .Third , several concrete initiatives , such as *Rocco Paco Education Fund* , a private investments vehicle , the Five Schools project , the District & Dog Kaka by- laws regime , etc , will be discussed and launched . Pongdwongo will also discuss and decide on the institutional vehicle that should spearhead the important work of *Doro Paco* .

The Conveners of Gurre me Pongdwongo are His Lordship , the Hon. Justice Alfonse Chigamoy Owiny-Dollo and Ambassador Olara Otunnu .