



**REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON EQUAL  
OPPORTUNITIES ON AN OVERSIGHT VISIT TO THE KARAMOJA SUB  
REGION IN APPRAISAL OF THE STATE OF EDUCATION AND  
HEALTHCARE SERVICES DELIVERY AMONG THE MARGINALIZED  
COMMUNITIES OF IK, TEPETH AND POKOT; 21<sup>ST</sup> - 27<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST  
2016**

**OFFICE OF THE CLERK TO PARLIAMENT  
PARLIAMENTARY BUILDINGS  
KAMPALA  
UGANDA**

**APRIL 2017**

## 1.0. Introduction

The Parliamentary Committee on Equal Opportunities, established by Rule 146 of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda, is inter-alia, mandated by Rule 171 of the same rules to monitor and promote measures designed to enhance the equalization of opportunities and improvement in the quality of life and status of all peoples.

In recognition of the Importance of basic social services of education and health in breaking barriers to equity and inclusivity in society, the Committee on Equal Opportunities undertook a fact finding visit to Ik community in Kaabong District, the Tepeth of Moroto and the Pokot of Amudat District on 21<sup>st</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> August 2016. Through this visit, the Committee sought to appraise the state of education and healthcare services delivery in the localities visited with a view of advancing remedial propositions in pursuit of greater equity and inclusivity.

## 2.0. Background

The attainment of equity and inclusivity in development is significantly predicated on the state of well-being, skills and competitiveness of the various categories of individuals and groups in society. While well-being is dependent on the quality of healthcare services available to the masses, skills and competitiveness is the aftermath of the quality and coverage of education.

While Uganda has witnessed impressive school enrollment rates especially in the last two decades with the universalization of first, primary education and later secondary education, contemporary discourse indicates sharp contrasts between the glossy and rosy enrollment figures and the grim and dismal completion rates of both boys and girls. A 2015 report by Twaweza<sup>1</sup> entitled "Are or children learning? Five Stories on the

<sup>1</sup> Twaweza is a regional civil society organization that works on enabling children to learn, citizens to exercise agency and governments to be more open and responsive in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

*[Handwritten signatures and initials are present at the bottom of the page, including names like 'Twaweza', 'Kenya', 'Uganda', and 'Tanzania'.]*

*State of Education in Uganda in 2015 and beyond* inter-alia reveals that while the national average of school enrollment indicates that only 4% of children have never been enrolled in school, stark inequalities exist and indeed in the Karamoja districts of Kotido, Nakapiripirit and Moroto, 61%, 35% and 27% respectively, of children have never been enrolled in school.

Additionally, significant inequalities exist in access to education and learning outcomes with Eastern Uganda, where the Karamoja sub-region lies, having the highest pupil to teacher ratios averaging 62 pupils per teacher as compared to 41 pupils per teacher in central and western Uganda. This doesn't get any better with a pupil classroom ratio of 104 pupils per classroom in Eastern Uganda compared to 64 per classroom in Western Uganda.

In relation to learning outcomes, only 21% of pupils in Primary 3- 7 in Eastern Uganda can read a Primary 2 story and do primary 2 level exams.

In health, the Karamoja sub region after years of insecurity occasioned by cattle rustling and inter-clan conflicts and long standing marginalization has left women and children as the biggest bearers of disease burden and yet the coverage of healthcare services is significantly limited especially. Generally, a cocktail of inadequate healthcare services, poor water and sanitation facilities, drought and violence has predisposed a significant segment of the population in the sub region to high morbidity and mortality rates. Maternal and crude mortality rates in the Karamoja sub region stand at 750/100,000 live births and 3.9/10,000 per day respectively. The Karamoja sub region has also witnessed a spike in the HIV prevalence rates within the last decade from 3.5% to 5.3%.

While the government amongst other interventions sought to bolster representation and inclusivity of some of the marginalized communities in the sub region namely the Ik, Tepeth and Pokot through the designation of regional ministerial positions and creation

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Against this background, the Committee on Equal Opportunities deliberately sampled some of ethnic groups that are considered marginalized hence the Ik, Tepeth and the Pokot, and set out to ascertain the realities on the ground with relation to healthcare and education services delivery.

The geographical scope of this oversight visit covered the districts of Kaabong, Moroto and Amudat. In Kaabong, the Committee specifically focused on the Ik people who live in the mountains that make up Morungole, which is on the border with Kenya and in the Kidepo Valley Park region of northeastern Uganda.

#### 4.0. Objectives

- i) To Ascertain the conditions of life of the populace there-in;
- ii) To observe the state of socio-economic amenities such as education facilities, health facilities, markets, roads etc
- iii) To interface with local authorities and elicit their views on the plight of the masses
- iv) To propose measures for the improvement of the conditions of life of the people in the sub region

in the sub region

## 5.0. Methodology

The Committee;

i) Held meetings with,

- the LC V Chairpersons of the districts of Kaabong (Hon. Mark Abuk) and Moroto (Hon. Andrew Napaja) and along with some of their district councilors
- health workers and officials at Kamion health centre II
- Locals in and around the vicinity of Kamion Health II
- the deputy Headmaster of Kamion Primary School
- the Chairperson LC III, Community Development Officer (CDO) and councilors at Tapac Sub County in Moroto district and the Chairperson LC III, District Police Commander (DPC) and other officials at Loro Sub County in Amudat District

ii) Received written memoranda from the LCV of Moroto district

iii) Obtained statistics from the schools and health facilities visited.

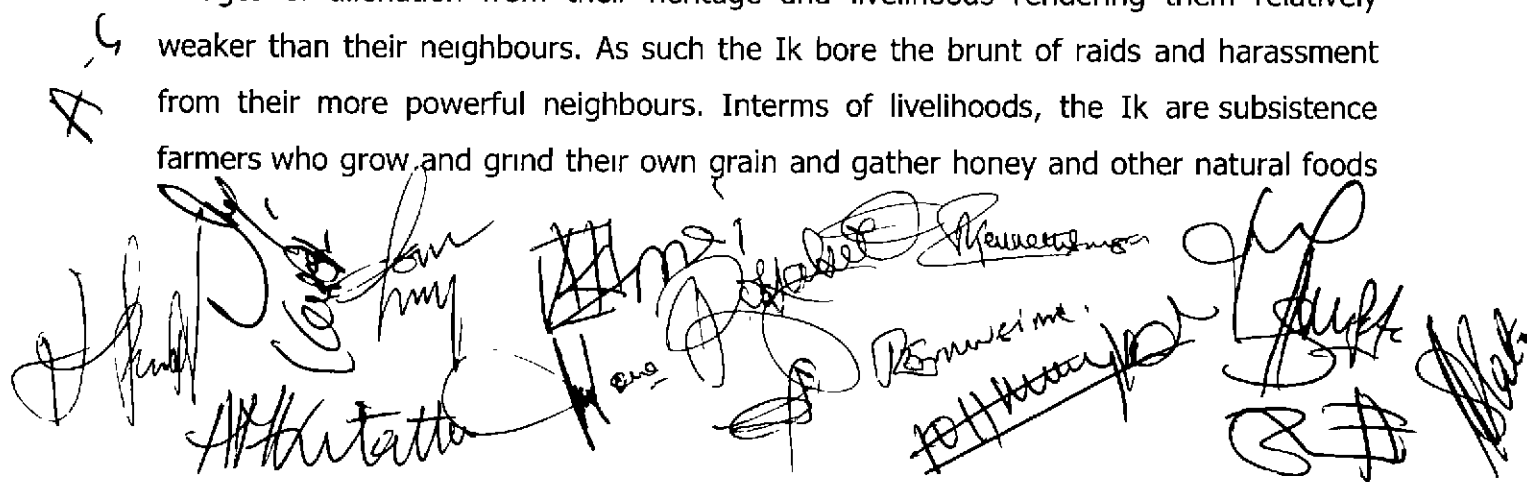
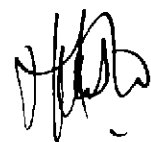
iv) Observed the physical state of the amenities and the conditions of life of the people the Committee interfaced with.

## 6.0. Findings/Observation of the Committee

The Committee observed the following;

### 6.1 The Ik

The Ik people are an ethnic group numbering about 10,000 people living in mountainous part of Uganda's northeastern border with Kenya in present day Kaabong district. The Ik as a community are sandwiched between the more populous Karamojong and Turkana peoples. Historically, the Ik were displaced from their land to create the Kidepo Valley National Park and consequently suffered the ravages of alienation from their heritage and livelihoods rendering them relatively weaker than their neighbours. As such the Ik bore the brunt of raids and harassment from their more powerful neighbours. In terms of livelihoods, the Ik are subsistence farmers who grow and grind their own grain and gather honey and other natural foods



The Committee observed that generally, the geographical area inhabited by the Ik – Kamion Sub County, is hard to reach. Not only is it remote from Kaabong town, but the seasonal road leading to Kamion is in such a deplorable state. This remoteness not only inhibits people movement but also comes with immense challenges with regard to service delivery with hospitals and schools not only distant from sections of the population, but retaining staff in some of these hard to reach areas is a toll order.

The Tepeth are an ethnic group that is predominantly found on the slopes of Mt. Moroto in Moroto district. According to available statistics, there are at least 40,000 Tepeth in Moroto district, many of them women and children. The Committee observed that many of these reside in the conical mud and wattle huts littered dotting the semi-arid savannahs and scrubby forests spread across the slopes of Mt. Moroto. Visibly, some of the settlements are located significantly far away from basic social amenities such as schools and hospitals. From the interactions with the local communities at Tapac Sub County Headquarters, there is an acute gap in the provision of services of education, healthcare, clean water, electricity and security amongst others. Children and women for instance have to trek at least 20 miles to Moroto town to access education and health facilities.

Like the Ik, the Tepeth were accorded constituency status in 2015 in a bid to bolster representative democracy and its attendant benefits.

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### 6.3 The Pokot

The Pokot are predominantly found in Amudat district and share a common culture and customs with the Pokot and Kalenjin of Kenya. In 2013, the population of Amudat district was estimated at about 143,300.<sup>2</sup> Like the Ik and the Tepeth, the Pokot too have had conflict with the Turkana precipitating insecurity. In addition, the Pokot too suffer the same deficits in social services delivery and infrastructural challenges as the Ik and the Tepeth. The road linking Amudat to Moroto and Sironko is terribly rugged due to the heavy and frequent passage of trucks ferrying stones from the Karamoja sub region to Tororo Cement factory. Like the Tepeth, some sections within the Pokot too practice Female Genital Mutilation inspite of the fact that FGM was outlawed.

### 7.0. Effect of the State of situation in Ik, Tepeth and Pokot

The net effect of this state of affairs is deplorable conditions of living characterized by the following;

**7.1 Deplorable socio-economic conditions:** By way of observation, the committee noted very low levels of agricultural production in the areas visited. While there is land available, the terrain certainly requires some considerable investment if minimum tillage is to be attained and yet the prevalent poverty poses a huge impediment to any such investment. The neighbouring pastoral communities whose cattle may indeed pose a threat to the crops of the Ik have occupied part of the arable land. The Committee also ascertained that the Karamoja sub region has for the past 3 successive seasons suffered draught that has led to massive crop failures thereby posing a looming threat of famine.

<sup>2</sup> Mafabi, David (12 October 2013) "Amudat Mothers Trek to Kenya to Access Treatment"  
Retrieved 14 April 2014

***There is need for targeted agricultural interventions in Ik county in aspects such as tillage, sensitization and dissemination of appropriate efficient technologies and post harvest handling. This can be done concertedlly with the Non Governmental Organizations that are actively engaged in livelihoods interventions in the sub-region given their cutting edge in rural development programming and their grassroots presence.***

**7.2 The need for greater equity and inclusivity:**It is noteworthy that global capitalism with its attendant reliance on competition and the market in the allocation of goods, services and opportunities; has exacerbated inequality and inequity so much so that the world is grappling with the need for greater equity and inclusivity. Uganda has not been spared by this capitalistic onslaught and with it, already disadvantaged communities like the Ik, Tepeth and the Pokot have grossly bore the brunt. The Committee observed that considerably low numbers of the Ik, Tepeth and Pokot possess requisite competitive skills and capabilities to partake of available opportunities. This has significantly hampered the alleviation of bottlenecks to equity in pursuit of opportunities for socio-economic advancement. In most of the education and health facilities visited, Members of the indigenous communities hardly featured among the technical staff. This is an indicator of the need to deliberately invest in skills enhancement.

***The Committee recommends that Government cascade existing interventions in the realm of skills enhancement to the counties of Ik, Tepeth and Pokot, like other marginalized Communities. This will grossly aid the elimination of barriers to equity and inclusivity in national development and further a greater sense of nationhood among the citizenry.***

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- Left side: J.K.
- Bottom left: L.O., K.M., P.K.
- Bottom center: H.K., A.H. Whitatta
- Bottom right: B. M. M. M., B. M. M. M., B. M. M. M., B. M. M. M.



**7.3 Investment in transport infrastructure:** The Committee noted that all the 3 Communities visited are settled in a challenging physical environment characterized by hilly terrain, marshy soils and rocky landscape. The net effect has been the difficulty in transport and accessibility. The road leading up to Kamion from Kaabong town is particularly rugged throughout the winding hills and valleys. This is not any different from the road from Moroto town to Tepeth County on the slopes of Mt. Moroto. On several occasions, the Parliamentary bus almost had its behind bumper scrapped off by the rocky rigged surface. From Moroto to Amudat then to Sironko, the Committee spent over 6 hours on a journey which would have ordinarily taken 2 hours due to the muddy road affected by heavy rains and trucks ferrying limestone from Karamoja to Tororo. Such a deplorable state of roads severely hampers transport and communication and impedes production. The Committee particularly observed that children found it difficult to access schools while medical referrals from lower level health centres was a toll order given the state of roads in the areas visited.

***The Committee recommends that Government devote resources to the improvement of roads in the said areas. This is a precondition for the movement of people, goods and services and meaningful engagement in production.***

**7.4 The need for more health and education facilities:** The Committee noted that generally the populations in Ik, Pokot and Tepeth trekked particularly long distances to health, water and education facilities given the sparse locations of these vital amenities. The Committee particularly noted that some children in Ik County trekked 49 kilometers to attend secondary school in Kaabong town. In Tepeth County, some communities moreover from hard to reach mountainous locations have to trek for tens of miles to access Tapac Health Centre. It doesn't get any better with sparsely located bore holes and other water facilities which requires that women and children especially, whose primary role it is to fetch



A-5

Wasta

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**District**

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This health centre II receives a monthly average of 400 Out-Patients and in the financial year 2015/16, it registered 5,000 patients. Structurally, the health facility needs renovation.

The health facility is without electricity and this renders provision of healthcare services at night a near impossibility unless the health workers do crude improvisation possibly with mobile phone torches as is the case in the labour ward. The labour ward has just the one delivery bed implying that concurrent labour and delivery by more than one mother would deprive one mother of befitting services.

**Staffing:** Whereas this health centre II is supposed to have 9 staff, there are currently only 4 staff (1 enrolled nurse, 1 midwife, 1 nursing assistant and 1 porter). Coupled with the difficulty in accessing the Health Centre given its location in the mountains, transport challenges and low remuneration, staff retention is a big challenge. The Committee was informed of staff who had opted to quit service because of the aforementioned difficulties. The transportation challenges has also impeded support supervision of the health facility by district authorities as well as community sensitization by the resilient health workers present at the facility. The latter has adversely affected interventions such as immunization.

#### 9.0 Specific observations at Kamion Primary School

9.1 **Staffing:** Whereas the school has a staff establishment of 18 teachers, there are only 9 in post. This adversely affects the quality of teaching and learning outcomes.

9.2 **Inadequate water and sanitation facilities:** The Committee observed that all workers, teachers, pupils and visitors share the same latrine at the school. The only water source is a bore-hole located at the health centre about 500 metres away which is shared with the local communities. The cumulative effect is deplorable sanitation facilities and loss of time in

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trekking for water and queuing at latrines. This has a ripple effect of precipitating high school drop out rates.

9.3 **High school drop out rates:** The Committee notes high drop out rates for both boys and girls at Kamion Primary School though girls are more affected. The average drop out rates in the last 3 years average 90% for girls and about 78% for boys. The trend indicates that the escalation of dropouts is upper primary at the time children are ascending into adolescence. The high drop out rates for girls is mainly attributed to early marriages while the boys end up in pursuit of livelihoods.

9.4 Inadequate accommodation facilities for the teaching staff have led to overcrowding in the few available teachers' houses. The discomfort occasioned by overcrowding poses a threat to the retention and motivation of teachers.

9.5 **Communication and transportation challenges:** As earlier enumerated, Kamion is generally a hard to reach area characterized by a rugged access road winding through the hilly terrain of Kaabong district. This jeopardizes support supervision and the movement of requisite goods and services.

9.6 **Delay in the payment of teachers' salaries:** The Committee notes that whereas the payment of salaries has been decentralized to the local governments, teachers in Kamion Primary School had not received their salaries for 3 months. This adversely affects teacher motivation and negatively impacts on teaching.

9.7 **Inadequate accommodation for the pupils in the boarding section:** The Committee notes that in a bid to boost pupil retention, the school established a boarding section. However the school suffers an acute shortage of space for boarding facilities. Overcrowding persists. There is certainly need for more resources for capital investment for learning and boarding facilities.

- 9.8 **Inadequate furniture/desks for the pupils:** There is need to procure more furniture to improve the learning conditions.
- 9.9 **The absence of examinations centre:** The Committee notes that the whole of Kamion Sub County does not have a school with an examinations centre for the Uganda National Examinations Board. This implies that for exams, pupils have to trek about 50 kilometres to Kaabong town to sit exams in schools with examination centres. This inconvenience occasioned by the absence of a examinations centre impedes the chances of success for the affected pupils. The Committee recommends that an examinations centre be accorded to Kamion Primary School.
- 9.10 **Feeding of Pupils and teachers:** The Committee notes that feeding in schools remains a daunting challenge. While the Committee was informed that previously some non-state actors had conditioned the school to the supply of food items, lately there had been some delays in supplying food to the schools by organizations. This had resulted into a lot of anxiety especially given the wider looming threat of famine in the region. Without a harmonized approach to feeding of pupils in especially rural public schools, the effect of hunger in both teachers and pupils will grossly jeopardize teaching and learning.

**10.0 Emerging issues at a meeting with Sub County Chief and other officials and councilors at Tapac Sub County, Tepeth County, Moroto district**

During a meeting with local leaders, opinion leaders and locals at Tapac Sub County headquarters, the following issues emerged;

- i) Deplorable state of road infrastructure which has been worsened by heavy trucks transporting limestone from Karamoja to Tororo
- ii) Unavailability of a secondary School to the Tepeth Community contrary to the policy requirement of a secondary school for every sub county. Locals have to trek long distances in pursuit of secondary school education

- iii) Low retention rates in schools with the girl child most affected due to negative cultural practices of early marriages and FGM amongst others
- iv) Inadequate information dissemination by officials at the Tapac sub county concerning royalties accruing to the extraction of lime stone from the area
- v) Inadequate water sources leading to the traversing of long distances by both people and animals to access water

#### **11.0 Emerging issues at the meeting of the Committee with the LC III and other officials at Loro Sub County Amudat District**

- i) Insecurity occasioned by incursions into Amudat by the Turkana and other hostile tribes in the neighborhood and the porous borders with Kenya
- ii) High level of consumption of alcohol by the locals grossly hampering meaningful engagement in production and precipitating social disorder
- iii) The outbreak of foot and mouth disease has led to significant loss of livestock and undermined the livelihoods of the masses.
- iv) Inadequate staffing at the health centers in Loro Sub County coupled with the high population within the catchment area of the 2 health centers at Loro County. According to the LC III Loro Sub County alone has a population of 36,000 people
- v) The lack of a Secondary school at the sub county and this forces the locals to trek long distances in pursuit of secondary school education and in many cases affecting continuity in the pursuit of education
- vi) Acute gaps in maternal health care services delivery with a dilapidated maternity ward at one of the health facilities. Inadequate staffing at the health facility as well as inadequate delivery beds further compounds this challenge.
- vii) Inadequate water and sanitation facilities: both animals and people compete for limited boreholes.

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viii) The inequitable and skewed criteria for allocation of animals under the operation wealth creation with considerations such as political affiliation and kinship among others

ix) Low retention rates in schools with the girl child worst affected. This is largely attributed to early marriages amongst other bad cultural practices.

## 12.0 Recommendations

The Committee recommends the following;

- A.S
- i) **Education:** *There is need for the Executive to conduct a rural appraisal of the mentioned communities with a view of ensuring that atleast every sub county has a secondary school. In addition, there is need to audit the staffing levels of all the public schools in Ik, Tepeth and Amudat to establish the gaps and urgently ensure they are plugged. This should be coupled by more investment in classrooms, hygiene and sanitation facilities and devising a more workable solution to feeding in schools on top of more frequent and effective support supervision by both the Local Governments and the Central Government. The Committee specifically recommends that Government explores the viability of availing relevant textbooks to public schools in some of these marginalized communities. The ultimate goal of such interventions should be to not only increase enrollment but also aid retention and improve learning outcomes at all levels of the education value chain.*
- ii) **Security:** *The state security agents at all levels should strengthen coordination and inter-operability so as to improve the security situation in the areas. This should be coupled by grassroots reconciliation initiatives between the Turkana and Minority groups of the Ik ,Tepeth and the Pokot*
- iii) **Road infrastructure:** *The Uganda National Roads Authority should evaluate the state of all the major roads in the Karamoja sub region and establish a redevelopment strategy so as to improve accessibility and livelihoods.*
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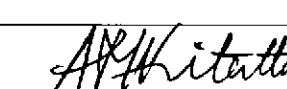
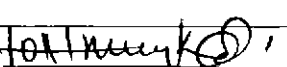

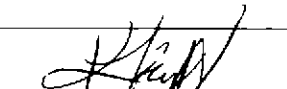
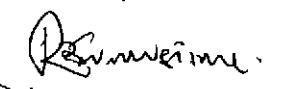
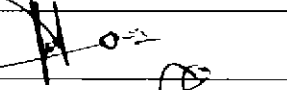

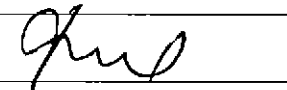
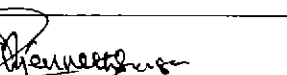


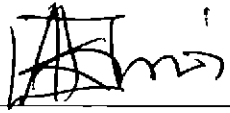
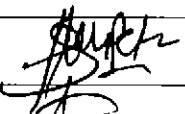
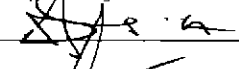
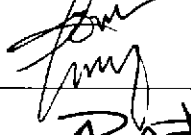

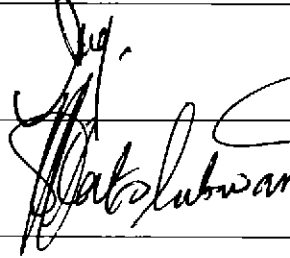
- iv) **Livelihoods:** *There is need for greater sensitization and mindset reconfiguration amongst the local communities in the Karamoja sub region with regard to meaningful economic activity, improved farming techniques and market synergies including cross border trade. This sensitization should also include awareness about available government livelihoods programmes such as operation wealth creation*
- v) **Transparency in extractive industries:** *Given the significant mineral endowments in the Karamoja sub region, it is imperative that government ensures a multiplier effect of ongoing exploration and extraction activities on the lives of the host communities. While limestone is being extracted from the region and transported to Tororo for processing into cement, local communities should have a share of any employment opportunities and revenues accruing to such minerals extraction.*

### 13.0 Conclusion

The trajectory of governance in Uganda should be recalibrated to ensure greater equity and inclusivity in all spheres of the management of public affairs through inter alia improving access to quality basic social services, improving livelihoods, ensuring equity and inclusivity in appointments to public offices and peaceful co-existence. The Karamoja region that has historically lagged behind in many aspects of socio-economic progress requires greater deliberate effort to actually cause a qualitative improvement in household socio-economic conditions as a strategy to enhance the feeling of nationhood amongst the populace in that part of Uganda.

**SIGNATURE FOR REPORT OF THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON  
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NO.	NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
1	Hon. Nsereko Muhammed	CHAIRPERSON	
2	Hon. Asamo Hellen	V/Cp	
3	Hon. Katushabe Ruth	Member	
4	Hon. Bangirana Anifa Kawooya	Member	
5	Hon. Kitatta Aboud	Member	
6	Hon. Ndeezi Alex	Member	
7	Hon. Lokwang Hillary	Member	
8	Hon. Lokoru Albert	Member	
9	Hon. Chelimo Reuben Paul	Member	
10	Hon. Amoru Paul	Member	
11	Hon. Tumusiime Rose Mary Bikaako	Member	
12	Hon. Mulindwa Isaac Ssozi	Member	
13	Hon. Bigirwa Norah Nyendoha	Member	
14	Hon. Baba James Boliba	Member	
15	Hon. Yaguma Wilberforce	Member	
16	Hon. Tephaco Kaahwa MROGO KAZIKA	Member	
17	Hon. Milly Mugeni	Member	
18	Hon Eitunganane Esiangu	Member	

	Kenneth		
19	Hon.Nokrach William Wilson	Member	
20	Hon.Kipterit Christopher Akorikimoi	Member	
21	Hon. Munyagwa Mubarak	Member	
22	Hon. Peter Okot	Member	
23	Hon. Allan Ssewanyana	Member	
24	Hon. Sizomu Gershom Wambede	Member	
25	Hon. Zaake Francis	Member	
26	Hon. Mukula Francis	Member	
27	Hon. Lukyamuzi David Kalwanga	Member	
28	Hon. Kato Lubwama Paul	Member	
29	Hon. Atyang Stella	Member	
30	Hon. Gafabusha Richard Muhumuza	Member	
31	Nakate Lillian	Member	