



RESOLUTIONS OF THE KARAMOJA CULTURAL EVENTS DIALOGUES

We, the Karamojong people, gathered here at Napeikori grounds, Karenga Town Council in Karenga District at this 2024 Karamoja Cultural Event, with a shared purpose and a collective spirit, acknowledge and recognize the unique challenges and opportunities that our region faces.

PREAMBLE

1. We acknowledge that 65% of the population of 1.4 million is trapped in household poverty against a national average of 30%.
2. With 80% of our people reliant on nomadic livestock herding, we recognize the fragility of our traditional socioeconomic livelihoods.
3. Further aware that the region has enormous natural resources wealth including in: Land, water, forest, minerals, oil, biodiversity, landscape.
4. Confronting longstanding governance issues, whether stemming from state institutions or traditional systems, is central to Karamoja's transformation.
5. Our enduring cultural resilience, celebrated in this diverse extent, binds us together as Karamojong people facing unique challenges amidst so much national potential.
6. We assert the equal rights of Karamojong, in line with Ugandans, to life, property, health, and other fundamental freedoms.
7. We acknowledge that government interventions in the region do not always make it to the region, and that there are problems with corruption, unequal distribution and disparities that perpetuate inequities.
8. And are further knowledgeable of the constitutional provisions that guarantee affirmative action to address historical issues and ensure equity.
9. We further acknowledge gains made by the security forces and several other actors over the last year in ensuring a more conflict-free region; and further that our overriding imperative is to secure our communities.



[Your Excellency] In recognising these among others, the committee for this year's Karamoja Cultural Event chose the event theme: "*Celebrating cultural diversity, peaceful coexistence, and embracing tourism for sustainable development.*"

In five meetings on Karamoja's immediate future attended by thousands and expressed in dress, song and dance, our people have made the following commitments:

Our youth, in particular the reformed youth have committed:

1. TO meaningfully engage in **productive economic activities** provided by government, the private sector and nongovernmental entities.
2. TO support and enrol [their] families in **primary education** where a free and equitable education system is available.
3. TO enrol [themselves] into available targeted **skilling programmes** that will enhance our financial prospects and those of our households.

OUR Women have committed:

4. To continue talking to our young people – the **Karacuna** – for them to **support disarmament, handover weapons** and seek alternatives to generate wealth and continue to support voluntary disarmament.
5. To educate the community about the **negative impacts of alcohol consumption**, particularly its effects on health, GBV and cattle rustling.
6. To seek out and mobilise **street children** in our communities, assist their placement in appropriate institutions, and follow up and monitor their upbringing and well-being within those.

Our Elders Commit:

7. TO act as enablers and use and rely on our **traditional practices** and knowledge to guide and ensure the peaceful sharing of pasture, water and other resources among cross-border communities (e.g. *Etamam*), and to continue to organise dialogues with kraal leaders to monitor peace and sustain our traditional methods.
8. TO **share resources** among neighbouring communities especially where resources sharing agreements are participatory to our communities and exhaustive.
9. TO allow the **mobility of wildlife** with livestock and assist the Uganda Wildlife Authority to deal with poaching.



As Ateker Peoples, particularly those living the experiences of Crossborder life and those neighboring Karamoja, we commit:

10. To follow and respect **resource sharing agreements** among our regions and nations to ensure the peaceful coexistence of our communities and TO hold regular dialogues across our borders.
11. To enable the **continuous disarmament** of the youth in the Ateker cluster.

[Your Excellency], now that we have given our own commitments to better this situation, we additionally resolve as follows.

But before I proceed with the needs of our people, I wish to emphasise these three resolutions:

- **THAT the government provides in 2025 compulsory, free boarding education in Karamoja – supported by a resolution of the Parliament of Uganda moved by the Hon. Remigio Achia, the Chairperson of the Karamoja Parliamentary Group.**
- **Livestock compensation for losses incurred during this recent phase of insecurity and cattle raids especially in districts like Karenga, Kaabong; sub counties like Lorengedwat and other locations that lost almost entire herds.**
- **The compensation by Ministry of Tourism of persons who have lost crops to wildlife – according to market values (the current regulations accord just UGX 1 million per acre of crops lost or what the compensation verification committee chooses to pay)**
- **That the government undertakes to give enterprise support to the youth and women which target specific needs such as skills, capitalisation, and necessary infrastructure like markets.**

Peace and conflict, and justice

1. **THAT the Ministry of East African Community Affairs fast-tracks the signing and implementation of the bilateral Crossborder Resources Sharing agreement by the governments of the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Kenya.**
2. **THAT we are granted permissions to integrate the **traditional and formal justice systems** (rationale being that: we believe that the formal justice system does not ably address pressing justice issues).**
3. **THAT the Government of Uganda increases diplomatic measures to cause the increased removal of illegal weapons in the hands of pastoralists in South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Kenya.**

A Culture of Dialogue!

The **Herders of the Horn** facilitates dialogues at the Karamoja Cultural Events

[Hhttp://herdersofthehorn.org](http://herdersofthehorn.org)



4. THAT the Government facilitates and continues to support the efforts of **women towards peace** through women peace forum, etc. including by delivering the 1st Lady's promise of a bus.
5. THAT government gives **amnesty** to the young people (between 3500-5000) serving several sentences in prisons around the country for crimes related to cattle rustling and disarmament.

On Education, we have resolved that:

6. THE Government, through the Ministry of Education, urgently introduces **free compulsory boarding education** for Karamoja which now has the backing of the Parliament of Uganda through a Parliamentary Resolution on the same.
7. THAT the government undertakes measures to build the capacity of Karamoja schools – through boarding infrastructure – to implement this programme to deliver high quality education.
8. That the government supports the girls' vocational school in Matany vocational training school in Napak which is on the verge of collapse because of high fees – that government offers scholarships or co-funding to the school.

On health:

9. That the government addresses inaccessibility to health facilities, stock-outs for essential drugs and human resources to ease women's care giving role and save them from high costs charged in private facilities

On the interaction of humans and wildlife, and in general conservation in Karamoja, we have resolved thus:

10. THAT the Uganda Wildlife Authority **compensates** losses to wildlife, whether human, agricultural or other, and that they are paid according to official regulations, and not through negotiation, and further that all losses accruing [up to this point] are paid.
11. THAT the Uganda Wildlife Authority implements collaborative **wildlife** management schemes between bordering communities and Uganda Wildlife Authority to boost economic activity and dual usage of conservation areas; and especially address emerging issues related to Pian-Upe Game Reserve.
12. THAT the Government, through the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and Uganda Wildlife Authority, undertakes containment measures on wildlife corridors.

A Culture of Dialogue!

The **Herders of the Horn** facilitates dialogues at the Karamoja Cultural Events

[Hhttp://herdersofthehorn.org](http://herdersofthehorn.org)



13. THAT the government enhances the sharing of benefits related to **conservation**, including both tangible and intangible conservation resources over protected areas (carbon credits).

In relation to investments in mining, we have resolved:

14. THAT the government of Uganda dutifully applies the **Mining and Minerals Act of 2022** to ensure the rightful compensation of landowners and other rights on extractives in the region.

In relation to infrastructure in the region, we have resolved:

15. THAT the Government of Uganda continues to prioritise the construction of **infrastructure** along the Uganda-Kenya border to boost cross-border trade and the economy.

16. THAT the Government of Uganda completes ongoing ---pledges to build roads on Karamoja's main arteries:

- a) **Moroto – Kotido – Kaabong – Karenga Road**
- b) **Kitgum – Karenga Road**
- c) **Soroti – Abim – Kotido road**

On the need to control illicit alcohol, we have resolved:

17. THAT local authorities and local police increase their efforts to raise awareness about the **dangers of the consumption of illicit alcohol**, including undertaking measures to control the production, packaging, movement and sale of illicit alcohol.

Social issues:

18. THAT the District Local Governments support the finalization and implementation of **ordinances and bylaws addressing child marriage, GBV, FGM, and alcoholism** in all seven districts of Karamoja.

To boost economic growth in Karamoja we have resolved:

19. THAT the government through several of her financing institutions create **economic opportunities** targeting women and youth to include them in their local economy – markets to every border district and Crossborder markets.

20. THAT, to address prevalent youth unemployment and promote economic growth, specific **economic opportunities** are created, and that government prioritises



the employment of the demobilised youth through affirmative action (example/rationale: easier paths for recruitment to conservancy organisations, police and/or ASTU positions).

21. THAT, in our pursuit to make a dignified living, **sufficient financial instruments and support** tailored to our needs is available in Karamoja. For example, special grants for reformed youth. (Programmes like PDM, a “one-size-fits-all” financial solution, are not easing the living situation, especially in pastoral areas.)

Food security and agriculture:

22. To boost crop production, the government through the Ministry of Agriculture supplies tractors, irrigation technologies to women and youth groups in each district of Karamoja.

23. To undertake measures to manage livestock diseases which are decimating most of our livestock, within the region and at the borderlands; and apply the one health approach which includes humans, livestock and ecosystems.

Implementation of these resolutions:

24. We resolve that the **Ministry of Karamoja Affairs** and the **Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development** coordinate and monitor the implementation of these resolutions.

My Ateker People, Fellow Ugandans, this is the voice of the Karamojong/Ateker during the Karamoja Cultural Events, 2024, Karenga District.

Host District

Karamoja Cultural Events

Hon. Locaale Felix

District Chairperson, Napak District
Chair of the Central Organising Committee

Date: 07th September 2024

Ms. Lomuria Betty

Chairperson, Karamoja Cultural Association

07th September 2024

