



**Community-Owned Peace Initiative Meeting
Held By Pokot and Turkana Youths
at Lochwakula Water Point**

3RD APRIL 2004

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Community Owned Peace Initiative Meeting Between Pokot and Turkana Youths at Lochwakula.

INTRODUCTION.

The epidings of Pokots of East Baringo and Turkana of Lokori - Lomelo have maintained meaningful peace since October 2002 when the Turkana's Women Peace Crusaders crusaded for peace through out the grazing areas of East Baringo. This Crusade was later on reciprocated by the Pokot women crusading through the grazing areas of Turkana.

The impact of these Women Peace Crusades triggered a series of follow-up Peace meetings many of which were facilitated by the AU/IBAR CAPE Unit, others by World Vision-MAPOTU and by the administration. The most noteworthy development here is that progress reached a stage when the stockowners decided to meet on their own. This was particular the case when the Amaler meeting planned for 13th-15th January between Turkana and Pokots was called off by the administration due to security reasons (an Operation mounted by government)

This report highlights the grass root meeting that was organized by Turkana and Pokots on their own but was attended by CAPE Unit AU/IBAR as observers.

Objectives of participating in this meeting

1. To witness Pokot and Turkana-meeting organized by grass root peace committees on their own at Lochwakula.
2. To monitor progress of community owned peace building initiatives.
3. To facilitate the administration and civic leaders and to ensure the meeting does not deteriorate when meeting on their own.
4. To encourage the two communities to commit themselves to the agreements they reach for sustainable peace.
5. To encourage the two communities to be meet frequently on their own so as to maintain sustainable and meaningful peace.

ISSUES ARISING FROM THE MEETING

- The two sides talked pointing out that nothing bad had happened to them for the last two years. However Loriono (Pokot key youth leader) wondered why Lonyangamulelia (a Turkana Youth leader) had not turned- up in the meeting of 31/3/04 despite him organizing for their up- keep.
- The two sides agreed to graze freely and peacefully so as to maintain all cattle in good condition. The Turkana in particular emphasized that the two sides should share whatever resources available equally without discrimination of any kind. The other fear is that envy on both sides may make the two enter into another conflict.
- The two sides observed that they have met three times on their own. However there were some issues discussed at those meetings that could only be addressed by the administration of the region. Notably, these include the reopening of police post, schools, and dispensary among other facilities at Lochwakula.

- The Turkana had brought 100 goats to sell to Pokot traders. However they could not locate the traders who had taken animals to markets down country. The meeting at Lochwakula did not coincide with the normal market days. The Pokot youths therefore promised to alert the Turkana when the Pokot traders will be available.
- The councilor warned the Pokot that as they stand there the Ng'oroko from Naipa areas have vowed to destabilize the peace of Lonyangamulelia and advised them to be on alert to confront "these wicked people". He added that Lonyangamulelia himself will confront them first. He further urged the Pokot to reciprocate that gesture of Lonyangamulelia by keeping guard against the Pokot of Morukomokol/Kasei who are bent on taking Turkana animals. He promised to inform the DC and security personnel to patrol the Kainuk-Lochwakula and Lochwakula-Lokwamosing routes. He urged them to intensify their joint patrols in order to protect their good relationship.
- One of the Pokot sharp shooters called Limale said "*peace is so sweet*". Pokot and Turkana should give it a try for 10 seasons to prevail. There after they evaluate the results "*If we find it good we will burn our guns and continue with it*". Expressed Limale. On the other hand- "*if it turns out to be useless – then we resort to war,*" added Limale.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Try peace for 10 seasons (five wet seasons and five dry seasons) then evaluate its importance.
2. Pokots to freely graze all areas to save their animals from the severe drought.
3. Protect peace by having the Pokots to patrol areas used by Morukomol/Kasei Pokots to attack Turkana while Turkana patrol routes used by Ng'oroko from Turkwel and Katilu areas to come and attack the Pokots.
4. CAPE- unit to organize for the three District Commissioners of Baringo, West Pokot and Turkana to come and listen to their issues for sustainable peace, after discussion on their own three times.
5. Joint defence to be put in place to counter the impending raid by Ng'oroko suspected to come from Naipa in Turkana district.

Annex

Itinerary

31/3/04	2 key leader, 2 councilor, chief and 2 CAPE- Unit staff meeting with Pokot youth at Lochwakula.
3/4/04	Pokot and Turkana youth meeting on their own with 3 chief, 2 councilors and 2 CAPE-UNIT staff in attendance.
4/4/04	Briefing the DC on the progress of the meeting.
5/4/04	2 Councilors requested the DC to foil an impending raid by Ngoroko's to Spoil the Lochwakula peace.