



Report of the Public Talk on pornography: A Fight to Restore Morals



Introduction:

This public talk was held on 14th November 2008 at Kawempe Division council Headquarters.

Background

While other Divisions of Kampala District possess the potential for sustainable development through improved livelihoods, the condition for these to come to fruition in Kawempe Division are dismal unless a deliberate effort is done to address these crucial environmental problems, which are among the leading factors hindering economic and social development in the Division. Quoting the New vision of 16th July, according to Police reports, Kawempe Division leads in drug abuse which has become a pastime for these redundant youth and students, thus spurring crime across the country such as murder, rape and robberies that ravaged the different parts of the country.

According to the daily monitor of Tuesday, 1st July 2008, Kawempe Division was characterized by low literacy level, poverty, child labour and prostitution. The recent study by Action Aid international Uganda reported about the domestic violence, and the crimes in the Division. All these are signs of a morally degraded environment.

In response to these phenomena, Environmental Management for Livelihood Improvement Bwaise Facility [EMLI Bwaise Facility] in partnership with Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) and Kawempe Division Council are organizing a public talk on pornography on the theme “A Fight to Restore Morals”.

The general objective of the lecture was to promote public commitment in fighting against pornography.

Specific objectives

- a) To demonstrate the importance of moral restoration in relation to improved livelihoods
- b) To promote community involvement through active participation in policy making that values the cultural norms, and respect for one another.

- c) To instill in the lives of the youth on the need to conserve the morals and promote sustainable development so that there is a better future for all.

Out come

Most important in this public lecture was the creation of enhanced awareness among the people of Kawempe division on moral restoration and how communities obtained a better appreciation how assessment and management of the environment contributed to improved livelihood.

The out comes of the public talk as they are expected as follows;

- Communities air out different forms of pornography and testimonies
- Discussion of way forward to fight against pornography and sign the petition
- Empower communities to protect the culture norms, integrity and ethics within their societies.

Structure of the Talk

The talk took place and discussed the evidence and programmatic issues relating to the moral degradation. The Talk was structured around the main theme, “A Fight to Restore Morals”. Under this theme, two targets were discussed, (a) integrating community participation in monitoring and implementation of ethics to achieve sustainable livelihood. (b) Achieving commitment in the fight against pornography and take responsibility in fighting moral degradation.

Language

The lecture was held in two languages: English and Luganda.

I. Opening of the lecture

The lecture was opened by the Executive Director of EMLI Bwaise Facility, where he kindly requested the priest to lead us into a prayer. The Executive Director welcomed and thanked all people in their dignitaries. In a special way, he thanked the City Council for providing the Hall where this talk took place. He also informed the Public about the apologies from the DPC Kawempe Police Station, The RDC and Commissioner URA who did not attend to due some more pressing issues in their respective organizations. He

briefly talked about the foundation of EMLI Bwaise Facility and stressed its Upgrading to an a Non-Governmental organization NGO. He emphasized the Vision, Mission, and Objectives of the organization. Later he gave a background to the topic for the Public Talk, objectives and expectations from the Talk.

II. Adoption of the Agenda

The public adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provided agenda which was prepared by the EMLI Bwaise Facility.

1. Statement by the Executive Director
2. Presentation by Parish Priest ST.Luke Kazo C.O.U
3. Communication from Diamond Trust Bank
4. Communication from Councilor Kazo
5. Communications from Makerere University parish Secretary for Gender
6. Communication from Councilor Makerere III Parish
7. Reactions from the Public and discussion of the way forward

III. Attendance

Following the communications from Invited panelists, no communications was received for the absence of some of the invited guests and this has become a practice in Kawempe Division, when some participants are invited, invitations are not honoured. Very few councilors attended the Talk, yet almost all of them received invitations, this delayed the start of the talk, waiting for most of them to tune up but all in vain. The talk started at 3:15pm. A list of Participants is attached.

IV. Following the theme, “A Fight to Restore Morals”, the Lecture focused on promoting morality in Kawempe Division. Through the intensive working sessions of Lecture/Talk, various participants exchanged different views and suggestions for restoring morals in Kawempe Division. Various forms of pornography where said out without leaving the aspect of sex workers. Participants urged the problem of restoring morals with political affiliations to the pornographic companies who see it a lucrative business, poverty in various communities, carelessness of some parents that has led to increased immorality in youths. Participants responded to the challenges and problems based on their practical experiences on ground.

V. Recommendations were put forward to lay a strategy for moral restoration, and these were;

1. Parents were urged to take the lead role in ensuring morals are conserved and portrayed in homes since “charity begins at home”.
2. Communities should take affirmative actions in fighting immorality and other related concerns that degrade morals such as prostitution in our Division.
3. Boozing places should have clear guidelines as on what age should be there and at what time of the day.
4. Grooming children as God fearing citizens and frequent attending places of worship.
5. People should have belonging to associations such as Voluntary groups because idleness is seen as a root cause to such acts of morality.
6. Civil society organizations that is Faith Based organizations (FBOs), NGOs, CBOs a few to mention should have strategies like sensitization and awareness programmes.
7. Both Local and Central government should put up strict laws to curb on acts of morality and ensure the implementation of such laws put in Place.
8. A talk on the same theme should be hosted at the Division but at this time involving almost all stake holders since more people need to be involved.
9. Allocating atleast one hour before Council meeting to the Executive Director of EMLI Bwaise Facility to high light the need of Civil Society Organisations in the Division particularly on Morality.
10. Signing a petition to the Speaker of Parliament showing the discontent on the laws concerning pornography.
11. Council should be the lead organization in clearing all obscenity weird adverts pasted on electric poles, walls within the Division.
12. Schools should take the subject of moral restoration as a serious matter in line with places of worship.

Closing remarks,

Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the Councilor of Makerere III Parish was closed the Lecture at 5:30pm.

Photos of participants and presenters during the Public Talk





