

Youth in South Sudan Identify Social Issues Affecting Unity

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The Youth in South Sudan under the National Youth Core group carried out a research which revealed several issues affecting unity in the country.

The Youth Core group in the ten states identified the main sources of conflict as basing on food insecurity, land grabbing, cattle raiding, poor border demarcation and sexual abuse among others.

They pointed that the research work is a result of a two year inclusive consultation with their peers in the country in line with paving ways for a smooth development.

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initiative (CMI) and Organization for nonviolence, and Development (ONAD) at Dembesh Hotel in Juba.

"We highlighted the most pressing issues faced by our nation as inter-relating and this applies to the challenge of food security, in particular. Improving the infrastructure and overall security situation would go a long way in enhancing food security in the country, therefore we call upon the government to formulate and implement a comprehensive policy framework that addresses these different challenges," a member of the Core group Achuil Achuil Deng, read from a written script.

He said that there is need to increase food production, provide

farmers to organize themselves into cooperatives to benefit from such loan schemes as well as civil societies and other partners should support them to ensure that the farmers use these loans productively for capital development," he pointed.

"We find it essential to modernize and improve our farming methods to ensure productive farming systems and reduce food imports from outside and this can be achieved through technical support and training provided to farmers by building their capacity and promote their knowledge on farming," Achuil added.

He also requested the ministry of Agriculture to update about activities, plans and programs on their

government should initiate the formation of border committees to review the internal and external border lines in collaboration with international community, civil society organizations (CSOs) and community leaders and to tackle sexual abuse we see that more strict punishments for sexual offenders should be put in place and regulations concerning sexual relations be established," she pointed.

She also urged the concerned government institutions and religious leaders to engage communities, particularly the youth in continuous sensitization and awareness on the danger of STDs like HIV/Aids, early and forced marriages and promiscuous sex and

lowered to dismember the historical unity, oneness and indivisibility of youth, therefore we reaffirm ourselves to disengage from the use of violence and illegal armies as a means to resolve conflict," they affirmed.

The executive director of ONAD Moses Monday John explained that there was a huge gap between the youth and the leadership and particularly the Urban and Rural youth but through dialogue they have been connected together.

The deputy minister of Agriculture Lily Akol pointed that her docket is working to formulate policies on how food security can be maintained and praise the youth for showing commitment in nation building.

They pointed that the research work is a result of a two year inclusive consultation with their peers in the country in line with paving ways for a smooth development.

The aim of the research forum is to bridge the gap that exists and create mutual relations and promote interactions between the youth and the leadership of the nation at all levels of government.

The recommendations were read out yesterday in a national youth dialogue forum between youth and the leadership of South Sudan funded by Crisis management initiative.

Western Bahr el Ghazal, Warrap Hold Farmers Conference Today

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He said it is an annual meeting done yearly before the dry season to provide understanding between the farmers and pastoralists.

"Since most people in Western Bahr el Ghazal state are agriculturalist, they sometimes enter into deep crisis with cattle keepers when animals destroy their crops, therefore, it is better for the two group to reach a common understanding between themselves before the movement of cattle agreed upon last year to be in January

to formulate and implement a comprehensive policy framework that addresses these different challenges," a member of the Core group Achuil Achuil Deng read from a written script.

He said that there is need to increase food production, provide financial assistance to farmers to purchase tools, machines, supplies and technical support for them.

"We appeal to the private sectors and banks to provide more flexible and accessible micro-credits to farmers and encourage the government to act as the guarantor when needed, we also encourage

achieved through technical support and training provided to farmers by building their capacity and promote their knowledge on farming," Achuil added.

He also requested the ministry of Agriculture to update about activities, plans and programs on their website and exert more efforts to share the information with the people at the local level to enhance their participation.

"We have identified six key drivers of insecurity in the country, cattle raiding, land grabbing, poor border demarcation, sexual abuse, poverty and lack of infrastructure.

We suggest that cattle raiding can be tackled by organizing peaceful cross-community meetings, regulating high bride price, encouraging intermarriages across tribes and demarcating specified and fenced areas for cattle camps while taking into consideration their seasonal grazing needs," Lapwaka Mary Abul said in regards to security.

"To combat land grabbing the first priority for the government should be to urgently form a clear and comprehensive legislation on the land ownership and allocation, on the issue of poor border demarcation we suggest that the

She also urged the concerned government institutions and religious leaders to engage communities, particularly the youth in continuous sensitization and awareness on the danger of STDs like HIV/Aids, early and forced marriages and promiscuous sex and also work together to promote affirmative action for gender equality.

The youth said that by 2025 they want to see South Sudan as a nation where diversity is fostered and all the different languages and cultures cherished, where the leadership is accountable to the citizens and the governance is the representative of the people and to see fair representation of marginalized groups, such as cattle, youth and women implemented at levels of governance.

"We have the honor to submit our views and recommendations to you as part of the youth contributions to the peaceful reformation and state building of our nation, having gone through untold sufferings, horror and sorrow for over twenty years, we declare our willingness to accept, promote and consolidate peaceful co-existence amongst all the youth in the neighboring tribes and we affirm our undivided determination to pledge that no power shall be able

have been connected together. The deputy minister of Agriculture Lily Akol pointed that her docket is working to formulate policies on how food security can be maintained and praise the youth for showing commitment in nation building.

"I am impressed by your courage to do all this and this shows your commitment in the state building, the youth can break the cycle and make change in the country and that is what we need as a nation, the poverty is no longer acceptable and I think the Agricultural bank will be the easiest channel for our local farmers to coordinate and supply them with agricultural tools and to provide financial assistance to them," she said.

"We have taken your recommendations seriously and we will sit down and look at the possible ways of addressing it and we want to encourage you not to give up, there are bumps on the way but keep going," she added.

The deputy minister of Culture, Youth and Sports Josephine Napon who was the chief guest said they are going to establish a national youth Union that will oversee the activities of youth in the country.