

Peace Building Meeting between Nakuru North and Barut/Ogilgei IDP Camp at Murunyu Chief's Camp on 22 July 2008

In Attendance: D.C Nakuru, D.C Nakuru North, Nakuru North District Peace Committee, local authorities, UNOCHA, UNDP/UNV, UNHCR, MERLIN

The Nakuru North peace building meeting was organized for the affected to assess the area of return first hand, and determine whether conducive for return. Apologies were expressed and invitations sent to the IDPs by the local leaders on behalf of the host community. The Nakuru North D.C formally launched the District Peace and Reconciliation Committee, which is composed of members from each division in the district. The committee members requested for training on peace and reconciliation principles to enhance their skills in approaching the peace and reconciliation process.

Speakers at the event echoed peace messages, with an emphasis on “Peace starts with you”; the need for everyone to be involved in the peace building initiatives and to work together to set an example to others on peace efforts. Speakers included the Nakuru North D.C, Councilors, the district Peace and Reconciliation committee deputy chair and the chairman of Ogilgei camp. Representatives from the present agencies were also given an opportunity to pass along a message of peace.

IDPs from the Kalenjin community in Nakuru district, Ogilgei camp were represented at the meeting by camp committee members, who recounted their experiences during the



The Nakuru North D.C, Mr. Mutula, formally introduces the District Peace and Reconciliation Committee members | OCHA Kenya/Mark Anthony Bonyo

welcomed the IDPs back home, and thanked the UN and other agencies for provision of assistance to IDPs at camps and areas of integration during the PEV emergency.

PEV (Post Election Violence) and their camp life. They reiterated the desire to move back to their former areas of residence and the need to live in harmony with each other. The local leaders in return warmly

Concern was raised over the absence of youth in the peace building committee, to which the D.C replied that the youth shall be represented by one member from each division in the committee.

As part of the peace building and security reinforcement process, a police post worth ksh. 80,000 has been constructed in the area with the help of the residents' generous contribution.

The local leaders expressed their concern over the conflict resolution process, stating that it should address other needs such as water provision, illegal use of public utility land and youth empowerment in the area.

Suggestions were made by both the locals and D.C on traditional welcoming of the returnees, including communal donations of start-up food items such as potatoes and



grain upon return. There was common agreement to hold a bull-slaughtering event, which shall bring together the locals and returnees, and shall be hosted by the Nakuru North D.C. At the end of the meeting, the returnees were warmly

IDP representatives from Ogilgei camp being welcomed back at Murunyu Chief's Camp | OCHA Kenya/Mark Anthony Bonyo

welcomed by the host community as they embraced each other and exchanged pleasantries while catching up on their families' progress.