

Improved vision for Kuron

The vision, mission and goals of Kuron was discussed and improved under the annual Board Meeting last week. The board members are happy about the outcome and believe it can give better clarity and guidance for our work in the future.

Text and Photo by: Miriam Hagen



The annual Board Meeting of HTPVK was held in Kuron 15-19 of January. This is the second time these board members are meeting. Around the table from the left: Ezra Remo Weleya (Board Secretary and Director of HTPV), H.E. Commissioner Titos Lokwachuma (Member), Bishop Emeritus Paride Taban (Founder & Chairman), Hon. Dr. Margaret Itto (Vice Chairperson), Mr. Åge Antila (Member and Donor Partners' Representative) and Fr. Darius Hakim (Member and CDOT Representative).

The board members had a tough time schedule when they met last week. Quo Vadis Kuron - where is Kuron going, was a question raised in the annual meeting of Norwegian Friends of Peace Village 26th April last year.

“We have been worrying about what will happen when the Bishop is not around anymore. We have to build a strong organization in HTPV, which is also effective even when he is not present,” said Åge Antila, board member and Chairman of Norwegian Friends.

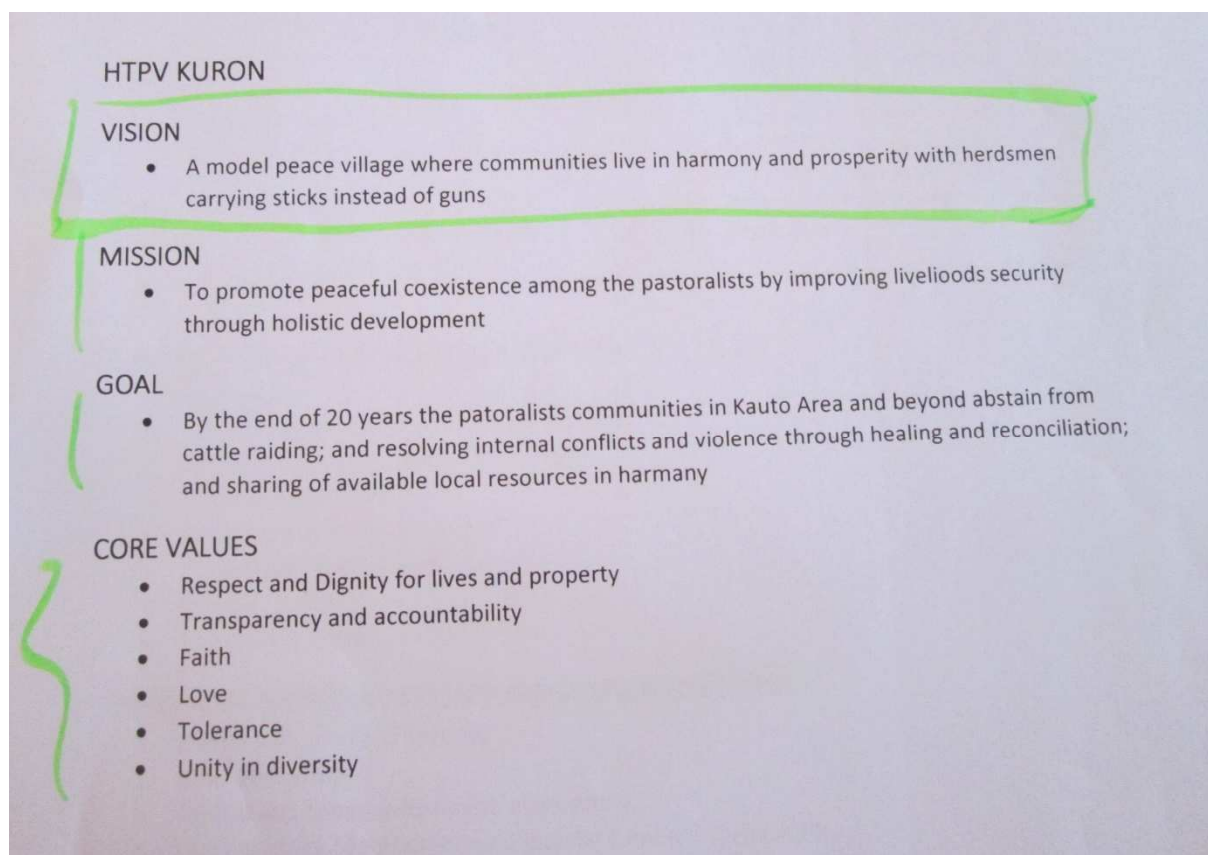
He brought this topic to the Board Meeting in Kuron 15-19 January. The members were encouraged to look back at the last ten years, the presence and then review the vision, mission and goals. The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of HTPV were discussed and the analysis was put into a comprehensive SWOT model.

ORGANIZATION SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS BASED ON SWOT MODEL	
<p>STRENGTHS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community willingness to embrace change and act against cattle rasting practices 2. Valid and clear dream 3. Good cooperation and partnership with stakeholders (Ngos, government, churches, chiefs, elders, etc.) 4. Good development philosophy – Non-profit making organization/institution 5. Toposa Youth thirst for education 6. Postive cultural practices 7. Strong religious roots and beliefs 	<p>WEAKNESSES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Difficult, remote and marginalized area 2. Shortage of local skilled human resources 3. Shortage of basic services 4. Limited commercial economic services and markets 5. High staff turn over 6. Weak sociocultural cohesion environment 7. Weak monitoring and evaluation system 8. Weak communication development strategy
<p>OPPORTUNITIES</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Goodwill from friends and partners 2. The concept of Peace through a model village is new in South Sudan 3. Upcoming road and existing airstrip 4. Internet communication/DSTV 5. Kuron River 6. Good inter-ethnic interaction and cross-border relationships 7. Kauto Area has been safe havens for a long time 8. Unity in diversity 9. Availability of retired professionals willingness to work in Kuron 	<p>THREATS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cattle rasting still a big challenge to peace and development 2. National political instability 3. Grassroot insecurity and conflicts 4. High illiteracy and ignorance 5. Gender based violence 6. Donor/partner fatigue 7. High load of diseases and viral infections 8. High mortality rates especially for mothers and children below five years 9. Negstive cultural practices 10. Alcoholism

The discussion of the Board ended up in this analysis of the current situation in HTPV.

Clear vision

After the analysis of the past and present was finished; the vision, mission and goals were revised.



The new vision, mission, goal and core values of HTPV decided by the board.

Åge Antila believes the new vision is better than the last one.

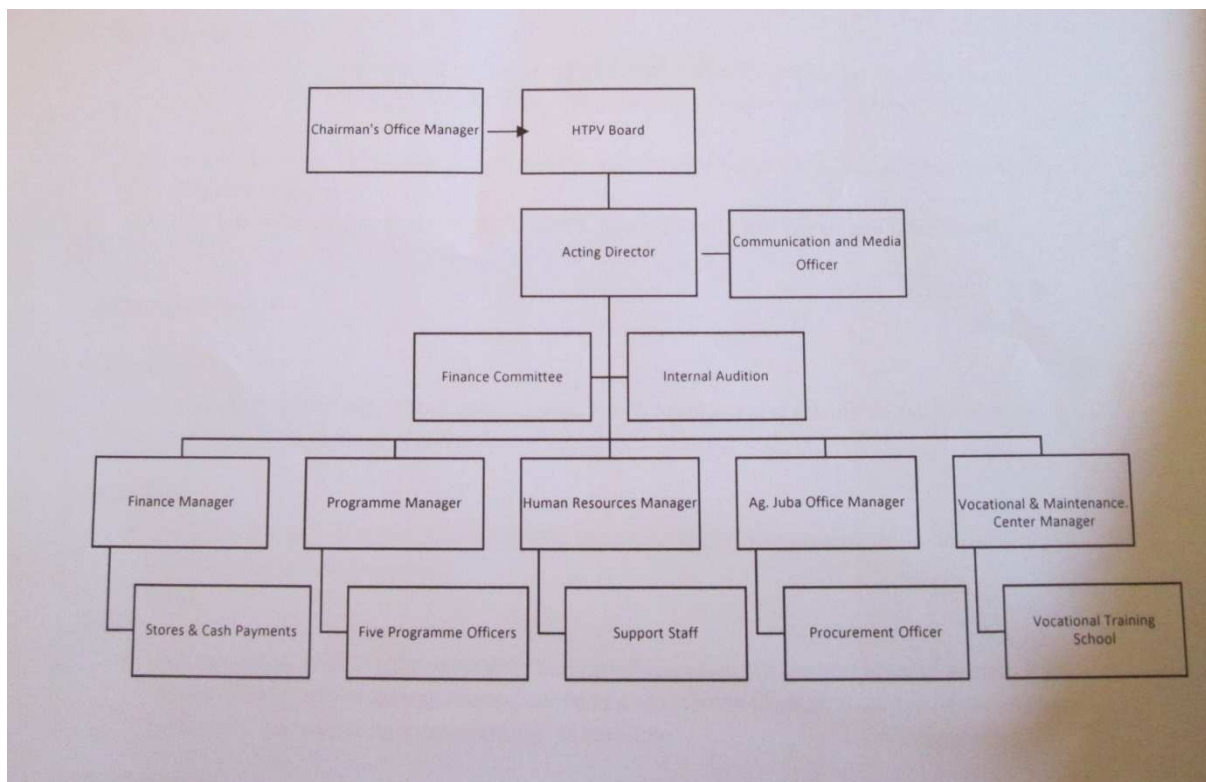
“It is very brief and clear,” he said. Board Member Fr. Darius Hakim is also very happy about the new vision.

“I believe it will be very helpful for the staff. It is clear and it can give people guidance,” he said. The result is also satisfying to the director of HTPV.

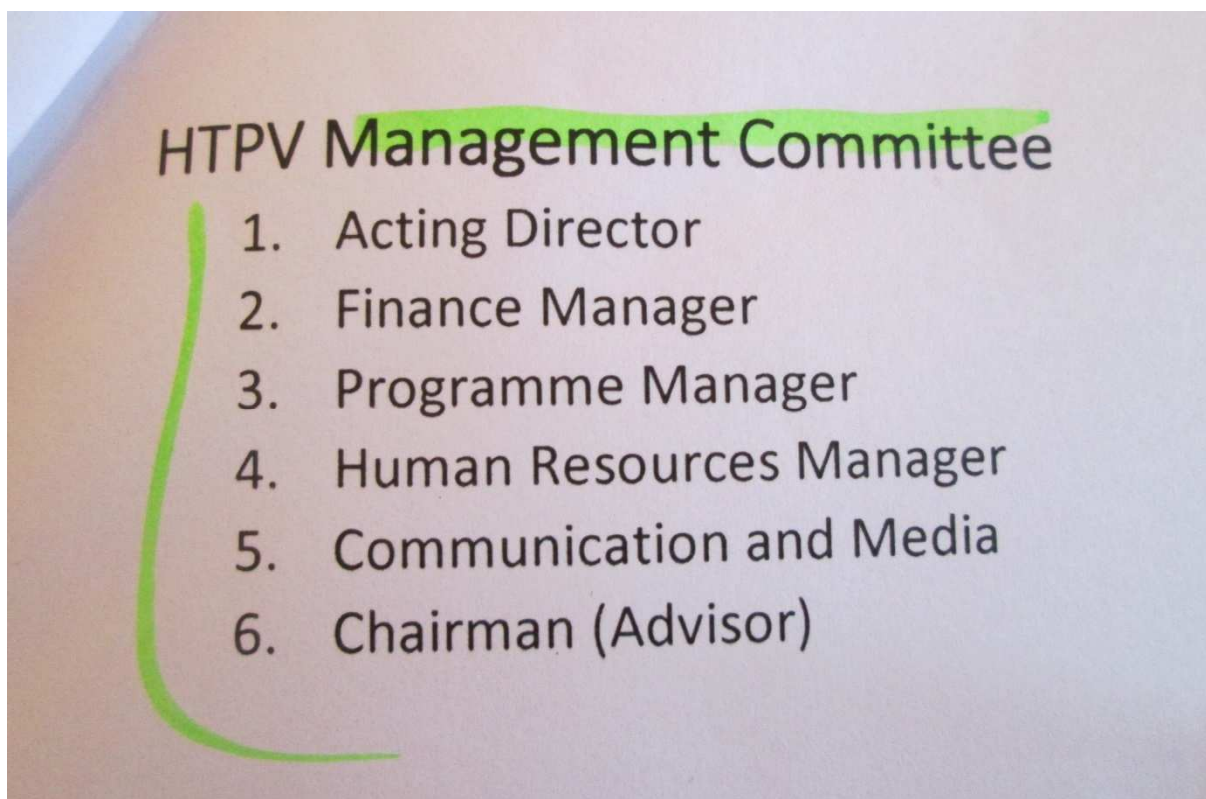
“The vision is very clear. We did very well at the board. We achieved the goals for the discussion. With this vision it will be very easy in 20 years from now to see if we achieved our goals,” Ezra Weleya said.

Acting Director

Director of HTPV Ezra Remo Weleya is granted a sick leave till April 2015, and the board made a new organizational chart to ensure a strong leadership team while he is gone. Jonas Halvorsen will be the Acting Director and a Management Committee of six members will meet weekly to support him.



The new organizational chart for HTPV.



This is the new management of HTPV. The board is aware of a weakness in communication, and Miriam Hagen will therefore be acting as a Communication and Media officer.

The Director feels happy that all the five board members could attend the meeting. However, Commissioner Titos Lokwachuma and the Minister of Health in our state, Hon. Margaret Itto, were called for an urgent meeting in Juba. They left late Friday evening, but there was only one case on the agenda left for the board meeting, so it did not cause major problems.

Looked around

The board visited the Vocational Training and the Health Clinic in Matara. Fr. Darius Hakim has not been in Kuron since the board meeting last year. He was impressed by the new achievements.

“The reporting of the programs is better than last year; there is a new Program Manager, Accountant and someone working in Media and Communications. There are two new constructions at the health program and I also noticed that fewer of the Toposa’s’ are carrying guns,” he explained.

“It is in our vision to see herdsmen carrying sticks instead of guns. So you really notice a difference just the last year?”

“Yes, most of the men are carrying sticks. Maybe one or two in a group can carry a gun. I was expecting it to move slowly, but it goes faster,” Hakim said.

Well qualified members

Hakim feels that the board members are very well qualified to do their job.

“The members are really good. They know what they are doing. They are committed people who are really interested in Kuron Peace Village,” he said. The Director is also very happy with the members of the board.

“The board composition is quite good. Åge is an economist, I am an educator and social researcher, then we have the Bishop which is a visionary person, a priest from the dioses, the Commissioner and the Minister of Health,” he said and adds that in the future it would be good to also have a lawyer in the board because the constitution needs to be revised.

The director believes that the board members have a good knowledge about our work.

“The board members are becoming more and more aware of the mission and the work. They can critique the reports and also the Human Resource capacity. When you are supported by such members, your work becomes easier.”



The Director of HTPV, Ezra Weleya, is very satisfied with the work the board is doing.