

Road Access to Boma – an instrument for Peace and Development

Text and photo: Per Nordmark

EU and IOM have made priority to contribute in the challenging task of improving the road access from Narus to Boma. Holy Trinity Peace Village in Kuron, the only established organizational structure along this route will be the implementing instrument. A successful meeting by the three organizations was held in Kuron on Friday 15th January 2016.



The flight with the EU/IOM delegation landed at Kuron Airstrip as Aim Air had just landed to refuel in Kuron.



At arrival from Juba at Kuron Airstrip, from left:

Zandra Zech, Karel Lizerot, both EU,

Sara Basha – IOM,

Lam Cosmas – the new Director of Peace Village, who took office 15th January 2016

Rehabilitation of spotted areas on the Boma – Kuron – Narus road link – this is the title of the project. The way of working is first to identify the most difficult and challenging places along this route, then describe actual actions, calculate the costs of each element, - then prioritize.

Assessment was done this week by IOM Engineer Stephen Kyalo with local staff, which identified the points and stretches which are most difficult to pass. A preliminary report was made at once, ending up with a total cost of just above 1,5 mill €. The report was presented and discussed in the meeting.

EU/IOM has agreed to cooperate with Peace Village to implement some of these improvements. There is not a budget to cover all the calculated costs, however the work will be started on agreed locations. In principle the improvement work will be done in two lines of action: Hiring a contractor where it is a need for heavy machinery, or more complex constructions, - and by food for work, involving local communities on more simple tasks which needs manual labour; like collecting stones, filling gabions etc.

These activities are to be implemented in a very difficult accessible area where organizational capacity is sparse and limited. Holy Trinity Peace Village is on the ground, and has 15 years of experience in operating within local structures, and in cooperation with the local population.



Upon arrival in Kuron the delegation is welcomed by Bishop, Chief, a dancing Women Group and staff of Peace Village.

In the meeting of 15th January it was agreed that EU/IOM will finance various elements to strengthen Peace Village organization, in particular elements with effect for the period of this project. The timeframe for the project is from 1st January till 30th September 2016. As rainy season will make the work difficult, or impossible, all parties have a clear intention of an immediate start of the project.

The total budget for this program allocated by EU/IOM is 750 000 €, however it will be worked out in two parts. 40 – 45% of the funding will be used to strengthen and facilitate Peace Village to be able administer and run the program. The rest; 55 – 60% will be direct road work expenses. Based on the discussions and conclusions in the meeting details on expenses will be worked out during week 3, and then the exact amounts for each activity/expenses will be agreed.

In addition IOM will allocate Engineer Stephen Kyalo to supervise and monitor the work in the field etc, and also other IOM-staff will contribute on other topics like finance, logistics etc.

As Bishop Paride Taban closed the meeting and blessed the participants, he stated: “This is a blessed day!”



As a first part of the program the delegation was presented to the facilities and activities of Peace Village; here at the health Clinic and in the meeting-room.



Lam Cosmas, Director of Holy Trinity Peace Village and

Sara Basha, responsible for this program in IOM.

The two will cooperate closely during the program period