



## **YOUTH ADVOCACY NETWORK (YAN) ACTIVITY REPORT**

### **CAMPAIGN AGAINST DEFORESTATION AND TREE PLANTING**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024 Youth Advocacy Network has successfully embark on a Campaign against deforestation and planting of 100 trees in Kabala Township.

YAN urge the people in Koinadugu and Falaba district to conserve our natural rainforest and embark on tree planting. We embark on such campaign because Koinadugu district is experiencing a change in weather patterns and climate condition as a result of the massive deforestation, mining activities and charcoal burning contributing to massive decline to our environment, which leads to poor agricultural productivity, decline to the water table, pollution of the environment and harsh weather condition.

During the awareness campaign they were 32 people in attendance, 28 YAN members and four (4) representatives from Ministry of Forestry and Agriculture.

YAN borrowed a microphone which was with the former President of YAN (Sajor Jalloh), passing on a message about the purpose of our campaign and tree planting, he greets the community people and tells them that this campaign is organized by Youth Advocacy Network (YAN), Koinadugu and Falaba has been enjoying almost the best climate in West Africa. In the past 8years massive Timber logging, "Lengeh" logging, and Charcoal burning has become a main source of income in our region, which has lead to the destruction of half of our natural rain forest, it leads to Climate change and its is affecting us now in our environments. In Koinadugu district we have never experience a hot weather condition in raining season, which is happening now, most of our forests are becoming savanna grass land, our Water wells are drying because the water table has gone below it limit, poor Agricultural produce, and we are

experiencing sample of drought. Let us stop deforestation; trees are equally important like humans lets preserve our natural rain forest and trees around us they are part of our life cycle.

The president and other young members write deforestation, a forestation, conservation and climate change messages and their effects on placards, which members displayed during the campaign.

The campaign started at 9am and ends at 2pm YAN started planting trees at Caw yard, Ernest Bai Koroma street, Koinadugu District council vicinity, Kabala government hospital , and end at Radio Bintumani, We later match to kabala central and sensitize people. All participants received a drink, water and biscuit.

In the evening three (3) YAN members went to Radio Bintumani on a one (1) hour radio discussion

#### **SUCSESSES:**

1. YAN succeeded planting 100 trees of different species
2. Ministry of Forestry offer 50 trees to YAN for free
3. YAN sensitize the community people about useful concept for thinking about the range of risk we face from climate change
4. Some community people promise that they will take good care of the trees we planted
5. During the campaign some people join us to do the sensitization and tree planting because they were amazed
6. YAN engage the media and have radio talk shows, which reach a wider coverage

#### **Challenges:**

1. The massive deforestation in our district is caused by our community stakeholders, who are allowing people from different countries to cut down our precious trees in rural community.
2. While YAN is busy doing sensitization and tree planting others are busying transporting Timber and ‘‘Lengeh’’ in front of us in trailer during the Campaign.
3. In some areas while planting the trees, people ask us not to plant a tree because they will not take care of them.
4. Insufficient funding

#### **Recommendation:**

1. YAN wants the central and Local government to put band on the exporting of Timber and ‘‘Lengeh’’, if any person involved in cutting down these precious trees they should be charged to a legal court and pay for damage or jailed.
2. Let donors increase the funding for such activity.

By John Marah

Secretary General.

