

ACTIVITY REPORT

TREE PLANTING

Date of Activity: 20 June 2026

Date of Report: 6th July 2026

Reported By:

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INTRODUCTION:

On Saturday, 20 June 2026, members of the Youth Advocacy Network (YAN), together with officials from the Ministry of Forestry, conducted a tree planting exercise at Off Albitaya Mountain in Koinadugu District. The purpose of the activity was to support efforts and contribute to environmental conservation within the district.

CHALLENGES ENCOUNTER:

Upon arrival at the planting site, the team discovered that farming activities had already commenced on parts of the government-owned land. Some sections had been cultivated with crops. However, no individuals were present at the site to claim ownership or explain the farming activities.

To proceed with the tree planting exercise, the team had to clear small portions of the cultivated areas. This delayed the commencement of the activity and required additional effort from all participants.

During the exercise, the team also observed that some parts of the mountain had become dangerous due to environmental degradation and the nature of the terrain. Despite these risks, several houses had been constructed within the hazardous areas. Although some of the buildings appeared to have solid foundations, their location exposes the occupants to potential dangers.

Large rocks were also observed directly above or facing some residential houses. When the residents were asked about the risk, one woman explained that they found the area in that

condition and that the danger had reduced because some of the rocks had previously been smashed. When she was further asked why they continued to live in such a protected and hazardous area while deforestation activities were taking place, she did not provide any further explanation.

The team further observed that some portions of the protected land had reportedly been sold to individuals for development. In addition, several boundary pillars marking the protected government land had been removed, raising concerns about encroachment and the unauthorized occupation of the area.

Achievements and Successes

Despite the challenges encountered, the exercise was successfully completed under the guidance and supervision of the forestry officials. A significant number of trees were planted, although the exact number was not recorded.

The forestry officials ensured that all trees were planted using proper techniques to promote healthy growth and improve their chances of survival. The entire exercise was carried out peacefully and successfully without any conflict.

FUTURE MONITRY:

The forestry authorities committed themselves to continuous monitoring of the site. They pledged to conduct regular inspections to protect the newly planted trees, prevent further farming activities, and safeguard the protected government land from further encroachment.

CONCLUSION:

The tree planting exercise successfully achieved its objective of supporting reforestation efforts in Koinadugu District. The collaboration between the Youth Advocacy Network (YAN) and the Ministry of Forestry was effective and productive. However, the observations made during the exercise highlight the need for stronger enforcement of environmental protection laws, public awareness on the dangers of settling in protected areas, and measures to prevent illegal occupation and destruction of government land. Continued monitoring of the site will help ensure the survival and long-term protection of the planted trees.