

Figure 1Community baraza gathering in Mulila village, PaminYai subcounty, Nwoya DLG.

CoST Uganda Baraza Drives Establishment of Police Station in Pamin-Yai

About CoST Uganda: <u>CoST Uganda</u> is a chapter of <u>CoST International</u> Secretariat- which promotes Transparency and Accountability of public Infrastructure projects through its features of: a. <u>data publication</u>, <u>Independent reviews</u>, <u>social accountability</u>, <u>multi-stakeholder</u>. In Uganda, the CoST programme is championed by <u>Ministry of works and Transport</u>, while implemented by <u>Africa Freedom of Information Centre</u>(AFIC).

Baraza Overview: Usually, CoST conducts Independent Review studies to improve accountability, transparency for infrastructure projects. The study is through an independent consultant. This time, Ministry of Local Government was the selected entity for the 6th Independent review assessment. At ministry, a desk study known as proactive study was carried out on four programs (PRELNOR, LEGS, MATIIP, &RUDSEC). From these, Two programs including LEGS and PRELNOR covering road projects were selected. Ten road projects were finally obtained for further assessment. A commissioning event was held to introduce findings of the desk review report and field visits were planned to incorporate both community views (through baraza events), physical findings for the road projects and a reactive study (study done authorized by entity).



On 13th February 2025, CoST Uganda held a community Baraza in Mulila Village, Pamin Yai Subcounty, Nwoya District, as part of Independent Review Study for the *Goo Dero Wii Lacor Road project under PRELNOR*

Program (PRELNOR projects were valued at USD 70.9 million estimate-with joint support from IFAD, ASAP, &GOU). All PRELNOR Projects were completed in March 2024. The Baraza meeting in Nwoya, brought together district, subcounty, and LC leaders, alongside community members, to openly discuss the road project and related development needs.



Figure 2Gender inclusion & PWDs in discussions during the baraza event

During the meeting, the community of Mulila expressed appreciation for the Goo Dero wii lacor road, noting its role in boosting local development, easing transport, enabling a market structure and a school in the area. However, residents also raised pressing concerns such as the **need for a police station infrastructure** within Mulila village to support subcounty in addressing the rising crime rates and improve security within the community.

Recommendation follow up

Both CoST Uganda & Nwoya district officials took up the request. Following up this issue, CoST Uganda has learned that after the baraza event, a police station was established following the baraza voices. While the structure was not placed in Mulila as initially requested, it's within PaminYai trading centre and the community of Pamin-Yai Subcounty is currently benefiting from improved security services of the station. We thank the Nwoya district for taking up citizen voices.



Photo by Ojok Simon(An LC1 chairman within S/C): Newly established Police infrastructure in Pamin-Yai trading Centre, Nwoya district

Baraza-Impact:

The police station achievement in PaminYai - underscores the advantage of community engagement in yielding great responses from leaders- an impact from CoST Uganda Baraza. By embracing such platforms where citizens can voice their concerns directly to leaders, -we are promoting transparency, accountability, and responsiveness in the delivery of public infrastructure projects while encouraging leaders to be more responsive to community infrastructure needs and limiting corruption cases in our country. "We remain committed to following up on all community and report-based recommendations to ensure sustained impact & change within Nwoya district"

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