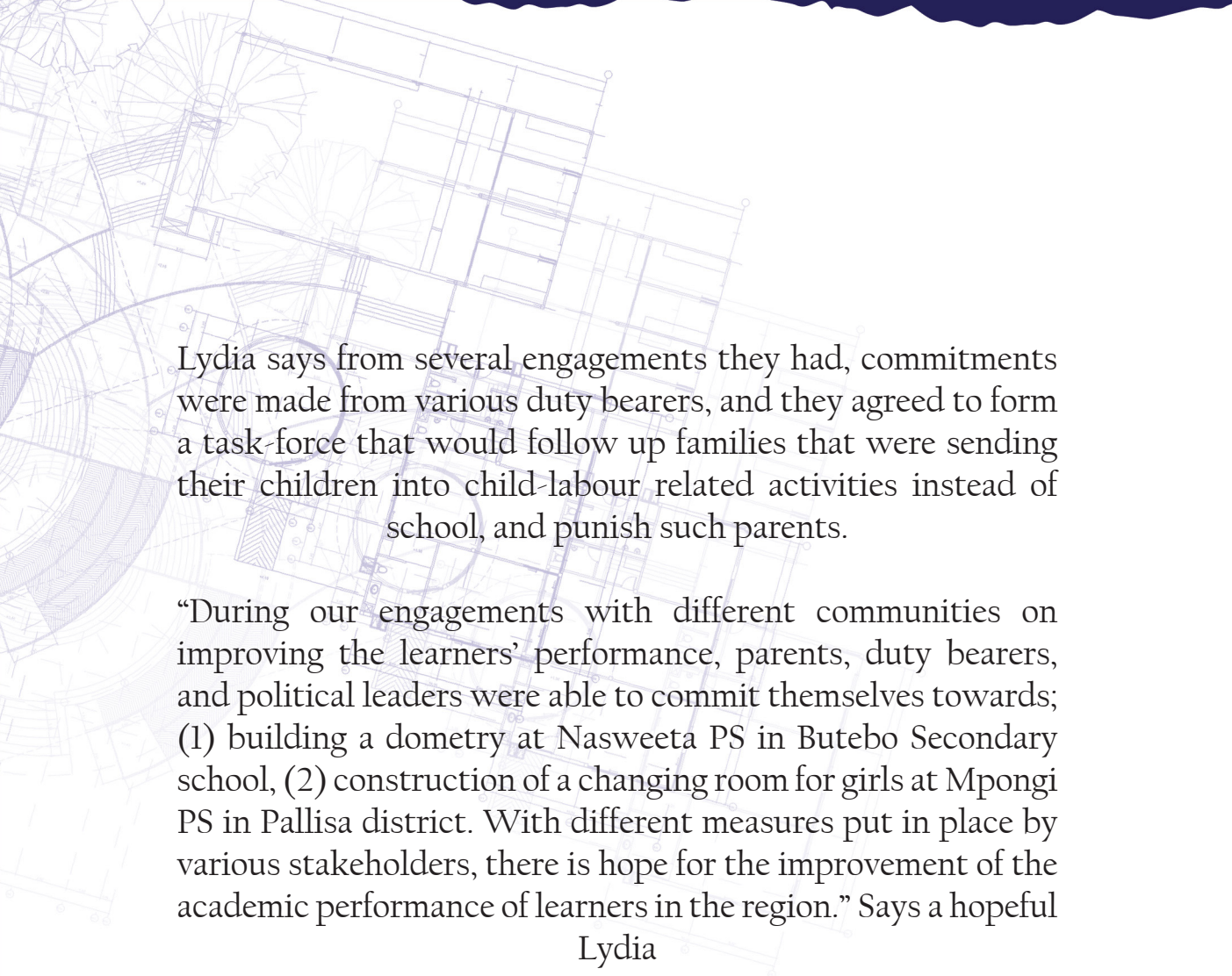


The background of the page is a light blue technical drawing or architectural plan, featuring various lines, circles, and geometric shapes. At the bottom of the page, there is a dark blue silhouette of a landscape with trees and a sun or moon.

BUKEDI REGION TAKES COLLECTIVE ACTION TO IMPROVE LEARNERS' ATTENDANCE AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

According to (PACONET), a district NGO in Bukedi region, the academic performance of many schools in the sub-counties of Retete, Butebo, Kamuge, Mpongi, Boliso, Lyama, and Nansaga found within the districts of Butebo, Budaka, Pallisa and Kibuku had declined. The children were used as labourers, working in surrounding swamps to scare birds off from eating millet and sorghum, while others were missing school to go fishing. This truancy led to poor performance. Despite such challenges, Lydia Isoto, a community facilitator with PACONET, reveals that school management committees were not involving stakeholders like the parents to come up with action plans to deal with these problems. After the skills enhancements under the Philanthropy for Development programme, PACONET decided to take action.

“We organized village meetings, and sensitized the communities on the dangers of child labour, absenteeism, and the value of educating their children, and how we could work together as a collective to find solutions to improve the poor academic performance in the districts,” she asserts.



Lydia says from several engagements they had, commitments were made from various duty bearers, and they agreed to form a task-force that would follow up families that were sending their children into child-labour related activities instead of school, and punish such parents.

“During our engagements with different communities on improving the learners’ performance, parents, duty bearers, and political leaders were able to commit themselves towards; (1) building a dormitory at Nasweeta PS in Butebo Secondary school, (2) construction of a changing room for girls at Mpongi PS in Pallisa district. With different measures put in place by various stakeholders, there is hope for the improvement of the academic performance of learners in the region.” Says a hopeful

Lydia

