

# 2018 FIRST QUARTER NEWSLETTER



**RURAL INITIATIVE FOR COMMUNITY  
EMPOWERMENT WEST NILE**

*Read how RICE-WN works tirelessly to empower the community in each perspective of life.*

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## Happy *liberation day!*

It was such an honor to match before his excellence the Ugandan president Hon. Yoweri Museveni Kaguta. RICE-WN was among the matching squad and for that we say “*Asante Sana.*” May God bless our mother land Uganda



# THE RICE WEST NILE STAFF



**THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
RICE WEST NILE  
PAX SAKARI**



**#MOLOKONYI**  
*The staff opening the year in style*



*RICE-WN celebrating strength of a woman on Women's Day*



*(from left) Bunia Victoria Project Officer, Eunice xxxx, Ocokoru Mildread Project Officer and Manager Programme Comfort Yikiru (in Indian Wear) with*

# *A DIVINE CALLING*

***“You are not here by accident! Your calling is a divine calling.”***

These are inspirational words from Bishop Charles Collins Andaku the Anglican church of Uganda as he was commissioning the new Board of Directors (BOD) on 10th Jan 2018 at RICE-WN headquarters office.

He congratulated the new BOD and thanked the outgoing BOD for a work well done. He also appreciated RICE-WN for recognizing that above all things we all need God for He is the keeper of the garden, His Son Jesus Christ is the vine and we are the branches as stated in John 15.

The Bishop went on to thank the RICE-WN staff encouraging them to do their best when they can. He also appreciated the presence of RICE-WN among the community and for their tremendous work. To return the favour he invited RICE-WN for a thanks giving service on 10th Feb 2018 at Emmanuel Cathedral along Mvara road, Arua.



***The MP Comfort Yikiru sworn in to 3rd RICE-WN Board of Directors as a staff rep***



***Bishop Andaku receiving a gift during the ceremony***



***A group photo of RICE-WN staff with Bishop Charles Andaku during the commissioning of the new BoD***

# RICE-WN DONATES MOTORCYCLE TO MARACHA DISTRICT WATER SECTOR

On 06th Feb 2018 RICE-WN donated a motorcycle to Maracha District. The motorcycle was received by Acting RDC Mr. Lagu George Atibuni, CAO Mr. Martin Kisule, LC5 chairperson of the district Mr. Adiga Lawrence, Water Officer Ezati Timothy and Ass. Water Officer Madam Oyuru Suzan.

The CAO Maracha District Mr. Martin Kisule appreciated RICE-WN for donating the motorcycle. *"The government should work hand in hand with partners and so the motorcycle is an extension to the WASH activities of the district. We shall use it purposefully."* He said.

LC5 chairperson of the district Mr. Adiga Lawrence added on and said that they appreciate RICE-WN for the third motorcycle donation to the district (the first two were village ambulances). *"Let the friendship between RICE-WN and the district always grow. The motorcycle will help the water sector and so it should be properly engraved as a donation from RICE-WN to the water sector..."* He went on, *"and now I am expecting a higher percentage in output from that sector."*

Acting RDC Maracha District Mr. Lagu George Atibuni said, *"The water sector had asked for the motorcycle and now that it has donated by RICE-WN, I hope that all our work plans will commence without interruptions. Since this is not the first intervention, I now believe that more is yet to come for us. Let this motorcycle be put in the right use".* He also pledged when he finds

the motorcycle being used for the wrong purpose, he will impound it and whosoever has the authority over it by then will face the music! *"It should also be protected from thieves and other jealous people."* He warned.

We, as RICE-WN community will continue to do all we can, work hard and strive for a better tomorrow.



*One of the district officer trying the motorbike donated to Maracha District*



*RICE-WN staff handing over the motorbike to Maracha District*

# My Pad My Health!!!

RICE-WN with funding from Jewish Coalition for Disaster Response is introducing the “Step-up sustainable solutions for the girl child to reduce school dropout due to lack of sanitary pads in Rhino Camp refugee settlement” project. This project is implemented in Ofua zone with 60 girls who have dropped out of school and peace clubs in schools that comprise of girls and boys. The boys are engaged in this project to support girls and reduce stigma among young girls and their parents.

This project will scale up further support for more sustainable way of supporting girls and young women in Ofua zone to embrace the use of reusable pads for both income generation and personal use.

The idea is meant to support adolescent girls to learn more life skills of threading, knitting, organizing and making reusable pads from local materials (soft towel, cotton clothes, threads, soft paper(kavera), and manilas for shaping the pads) that are inexpensive.

This will also increase retention of the girls in school since they will have the power to encourage other girls.

RICE-WN staff led by Arua Coordinator Liberia Munduru visited Ofua 1 and 5 Rhino Camp Refugee Settlement to train them on how to make Re-Use able Menstruation Pads (RUMPs). The girls were not only trained on how to make RUMPs but also sensitized on personal hygiene. The Refugee Welfare Council OFUA 5 thanked RICE-WN for that great opportunity and assured to support the girls farther so as to keep them in school.

RICE-WN staff also had the opportunity to learn. The training was facilitated by Madam Gloria Nito from Arua Demonstration Primary School at RICE-WN Head office. “Making this pads is very easy, affordable and the materials are available” said one of the staff.

**“The idea is kept our girls in school, reduce expenditure at home and has encouraged the girls to be brave and courageous in public during their menstruation period.”**



***Project Coordinator Liberia Munduru introducing the project in Ofua Zone.***



***Project Coordinator training the girls how to make RUMPs at Ofua Zone***



***RICE-WN staff making RUMPs during training at RICE-WN Head Office on 18th JAN 2018***

Madam Gloria added on.

The training is taking place around all schools and even parents are encouraged to learn so as to make for their daughter. The training also involves sensitizing the boys so as to create a better world for the girl child.



# Clean Energy Project

Despite numerous roles of the natural resources along the Albertine area, the estimated loss of high conservation value forests in the Albertine Graben is 100,000 hectares each year (National Forestry Agency (NFA), 2009), which constitutes 60% of the high conservation value forest loss in all of Uganda. The total loss in Uganda of high conservation value forests is estimated at 168,000 hectares each year (National Forestry Agency (NFA), 2009). The production of charcoal for heat energy accounts for 60% of this loss (100,000 hectares each year), while rampant felling of trees for firewood accounts for 5% (8,000 hectares each year), NFA, 2009).

This project is designed to increase access to sustainable and renewable energy options in six districts of West Nile region that have high levels of destruction to the forests due to overdependence on biomass for energy for cooking and livelihood. Charcoal production and firewood is a source of livelihood for many households in West Nile region. Most rural communities in West Nile also use kerosene lamps that generate lots of smoke that accounts for some cases of respiratory tract infections experienced by members from such households.

This project is focusing on addressing the dangers associated with deforestation for charcoal production and firewood to protect the forest cover in the region. RICE-WN is addressing these dangers by building capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs)/ community based organizations (CBOs) and Non- Government Organizations (NGOs) networks to trigger communities to adopt use of

renewable energy products and advocate with the district local governments and local private sector to increase sustainable and renewable energy solutions for the rural communities.

## Project Goal

The goal of the project is to ensure communities living in the Albertine Graben have adopted sustainable and renewable energy alternatives to reduce dependency on biomass for their energy needs.

## Project Outcomes

**Outcome 1:** Civil society in partnership with other agents of change is transforming government and private sector decisions and practices towards sustainable and renewable energy development to the benefit of women, men and youth.

**Outcome 2:** Government, private sector, civil society actors and local communities have adopted effective strategies and practices that support sustainable and renewable energy access in Albertine Graben.

**Outcome 3:** Government and private sector have put in place an enabling framework that supports increased financing/ investment for sustainable and renewable development.



## Safety! Safety! Safety!

Smoke from cooking is harmful to your health



## Resort to clean cooking with improved cook stoves for Healthier Families



Household cooking using traditional technologies such as three stone open fire, low energy saving metal charcoal stoves, locally built indoor stoves etc, encourage wastage of energy in a household.

Such cooking technologies consume high levels of wood and charcoal which pose great risks to the environment since a large amount of trees are consumed in the production of charcoal and firewood for households using such technologies. Economically, this translates into high levels of household expenditure in the purchase of the cooking fuels i.e: charcoal and firewood. Health implications are also associated with use of traditional cooking technologies since huge quantities of carbon are emitted in the resulting smoke from such technologies. A recent study conducted in Uganda's West Nile District of Arua indicated that 72% of households use traditional three stone open fire cooking technology. This encourages high levels of deforestation from harvesting firewood for cooking. No wonder, reports by National Forestry Agency (NFA) indicate that the highest levels of forest cover loss in Uganda are experienced in the Albertine Graben. These are areas along the Rift Valley basin of which West Nile Districts lie.

To avert some of the above risks, Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment West Nile (RICE-WN) is implementing a Renewable Energy Project in the West Nile region of Uganda with support from World Wide Fund for Nature Uganda Country Office (WWF-UCO) and local Civil Society Organizations based in West Nile. This project is aimed at increasing access to renewable energy alternatives i.e: improved cook stoves and solar home systems in the region.

Hon. Raleo Rose, a Youth Councillor with Adjumani District Local Government, is one of the beneficiaries of the project. Her story reveals the great benefits of the improved cook stoves that become of communities that adopt them. **Rose narrates....**

She attended the project inception meeting that was held in September 2017 in Koboko District during which various stakeholders were invited to launch the project in the region. During the meeting, the RICE-WN project team elaborated the benefits of the improved cook stoves to the communities. Rose was compelled to buy one of stoves due to its cited ability to use 30% less fuel i.e; charcoal and firewood to cook. In her mind, she anticipated high savings on costs of charcoal to feed her fairly large family of 12. Rose purchased the cook stove on September 20th 2017 and 2 months later in November 2017, she was overwhelmed by the great performance of the stove.

Today, Hon. Raleo is saving at least 50% monthly on costs of charcoal in her home with an improved cook stove. Previously, Rose used to cook with a locally built indoor cook stove. She used to purchase 2 bags of charcoal a month in her home to feed her family. Now, she only uses 1 bag of charcoal per month.

***"I have a family of 12 people. I used to buy 1 bag of charcoal every 2 weeks to cook for my family. Ever since I bought the improved cook stove, I now buy only 1 bag of charcoal in a month."*** – Hon. Raleo Rose

1 bag of charcoal costs UGX 25,000 in Adjumani. Rose used to spend UGX 50,000 per



***A kind of inbuilt household cook stove that Hon. Raleo used in the past***

month on 2 bags of charcoal to feed her family. Today, with only 1 bag of charcoal per month, she saves UGX 25,000 every month in her household. The improved cook stove is expected to last at least 5 years of cooking. In 5 years, Rose would be saving UGX 1,400,000 in her household which can be used to promote socio-economic development in her home.

Such benefits can translate into environmental conservation within the communities. The improved cook stoves in this project are manufactured with funding from World Bank which estimates each unit to save at least 33 trees annually since they use less fuel to cook. Hon. Rose believes that if households in Adjumani District would purchase the cook stoves, the future generations may still have some trees left in their environment.

***“There is a high level of deforestation in Adjumani District. If my family alone used to consume 2 bags of charcoal in a month, how many bags are consumed by larger families? We should buy the cook stoves to conserve our trees for future generations.”*** – Hon. Raleo Rose



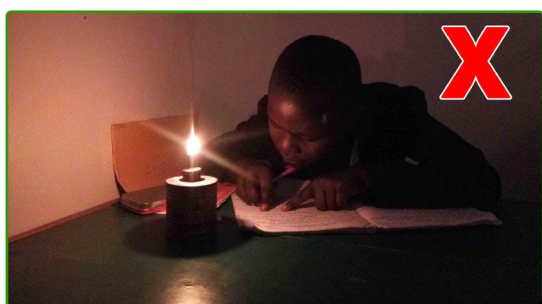
***Hon. Raleo cooking with the project supplied improved cookstove***



***ED RICE-WN addressing project stakeholders during Clean Energy Stakeholders meeting at Crane Hotel Arua Sep 2017***

### **Smoke inhaled from “tadooba” and kerosene lamps is a**

- Silent killer
- Makes it hard for children to study at night
- Can cause fire outbreaks



**Use smoke-free Solar Home Systems for healthy home lighting**



# Clean Energy Project

One of beneficiaries of the project, Mr. Opoya Charles, a Local Council Chairperson of Ocelo Village in Kucwiny Sub-county in Nebbi District Uganda, is a businessman who owns a small shop at Ocelo trading center. He got to know about the project through his involvement in a community awareness campaign done in Nebbi District on 4th November, 2017 by Agricultural Productivity Enhancement Forum (APEF), one of the partner organizations that RICE-WN is working with to promote the project in Nebbi District. During the activity, the solar home system was demonstrated and its benefits to the communities elaborately described to all participants. This compelled Mr. Opoya Charles to acquire one of the solar products for his shop located at Ocelo Trading Centre with the hope of boosting sales at his shop.

On 20th November, 2017; the RICE-WN Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Mr. Samson Ongebo paid him a visit to capture his story of how the project transformed his life as highlighted below:

## ***Before purchasing the solar home system***

In the past, Mr. Opoya Charles used to light his shop at night using a small torch. According to him, this mode of lighting was not very effective since he would close his shop quite early by 9.00 pm every evening and incur costs of up to UGX 15,000 per month on purchases of dry cells for his torch.

***“I would close the shop by 9:00pm since the sales were low. The dim and inadequate light of the torch would not attract many clients. This brought me very low sales of only 4 to 5 bottles of soda per day.”*** – Mr. Opoya Charles, November 2017.

## ***After purchasing the solar home system***

Today, Mr. Opoya Charles uses the solar home system to light his shop at night. The bright and adequate light ensures that his shop is well lit and attracts many clients who convene in large numbers every evening at his shop to interact with their friends and relatives on issues



***(In grey) Mr. Ongebo Samson and Mr. Opoya Charles at the shop during the monitoring visit.***

that concern them. This has greatly boosted his sales and increased returns in his business.

***“Today I close my shop at 11.00pm since there are always clients at the shop till that time. I now sell over 20 bottles of soda per day. I used to sell only five bottles a per and take about 1 week to refill a crate.”*** – Mr. Opoya Charles, November 2017.

Mr. Opoya's experience has inspired fellow community members in Ocelo Village who grow cotton as a predominant cash crop. Many of them now plan to sell their cotton and purchase the solar home systems for their homes and businesses. He has applauded the project and hopes to save money to purchase a larger solar product of 4 lights for his home as well.



# SUSTAINABLE RURAL AGRO-ENTERPRICE DEVELOPMENT (SURAD PROJECT)



AUSTRIAN  
DEVELOPMENT  
AGENCY

HORIZONT  
3000

**S**URAD is a project implemented by RICE-WN with funds from Horizont3000 and Austrian Development Agency is implementing a project called Sustainable Rural Agro-Enterprise Development Project (SURAD). The twenty-one-month project (April 2017 – December 2018) seeks to improve livelihoods of farming communities in West Nile Sub-Region and Nwoya District. The project also seeks to build capacity of farmers under three key pillars of food security, market orientation and sustainable natural resource management. The specific objective of the project is; 625 farmers and their families starting to engage in market-oriented farming while safeguarding food security and managing their natural resources sustainably through applying the Enabling Rural Innovation (ERI) approach.

- This objective is implemented using five models of ERI approach namely
- Participatory Diagnosis (PD)
- Participatory Market Research (PMR)
- Farmer Participatory Research (FPR)
- Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (PME)
- Enterprise Development (ED)

All these trainings have been conducted with the 10 farmer groups that were selected in year one of the project from six project sub counties namely; three groups each from Ajia and Logiri sub counties in Arua District, one group each from Erussi and Wadelai sub counties.

*Results achieved so far, including number of beneficiaries, gender disaggregated (separated by men/women)*

- 48 (36M, 12F) farmers have increased their incomes through selling their produce.
- 153 (116M, 37F) farmers have two staple food types to safeguard their food security.

- 10 farmer groups have regular meetings at least once in a month.
- 8 farmer groups do group saving on a weekly basis.
- 50% women involvement in leadership at group level in 8 out of 10 groups. 40% in remaining 2 groups.
- 7 farmer groups are already registered at sub-county level and have their certificates in place.
- 306 (134 male, 172 female headed) households have at least two staple food types in a season
- This result is yet to be tracked and reported in the next quarter.
- This result is yet to be tracked and reported in the next quarter.
- 5 farmer groups conduct collective marketing
- 10 farmer groups have functional marketing committees consisting of 5 members providing up-to-date marketing information at least once a season.
- 4 farmer groups are involved in alternative income generating activities
- 8 farmer groups conducted at least one agro-economic experiment each for optimising their farming systems
- 64 (42 males, 22 females) farmers are using three different natural resource management practices (e.g. mulching, organic farming, water conservation, soil conservation)
- 10 farmer groups were trained on agro forestry. The planting of the trees is ongoing and the numbers will be documented in the next quarter's report
- RICE-WN staff now train farmers and are able to interpreted the different visual aids and training manual
- One baseline survey conducted across the project sites

## FARMER INNOVATION FAIR

Farmer Innovation Fair is a general farmer exhibition day where all farmer groups implementing ERI in West Nile sub region and Nwoya participated in demonstrating the knowledge and skills that they have learnt through the project interventions. These skills range from production technologies to innovations for market orientation. A total of 166 farmers and leaders (112 males, 54 females) attended the Innovation fair in Vurra Sub County. Other participants included invited guest from the district, and sub counties where the project is being implemented, others partners within the region, the media, women entrepreneurs and progressive farmers with relevant experiences and successes in the areas of food security, income generation and sustainable natural resource management.

The local farming community of Vurra Sub County also participated in the innovation fair. The demonstrations were on competitive basis where outstanding groups were awarded for their different innovations and technologies that they have demonstrated. A team of evaluators were identified from all the participating districts to award marks for different groups based on agreed criteria among themselves. This was majorly based on food security, income generation and sustainable natural resource management practices. A key component of this was the different innovations initiated by the respective groups The RDC of Arua District presided over the function as the Guest of owner where in his speech noted opportunities in vegetable production, milk production and honey siting ready markets for these products

Objectives of the Farmer Innovation Fair This activity was carried out to enable farmers learn from the successes and good practice of other farmers, get new ideas and solutions to production, marketing and sustainable land utilization challenges in addition to networking with potential buyers and stakeholders in produce business. These objectives to a greater extend were achieved as farmers had enough time to interact with their fellow farmers and other stake holders that participated in the exhibitions.



*Wood craft one of profitable innovations by Waledai Mic Pa Rwoth Farmer Group*

## *GALLERY ON FARMERS INNOVATION FAIR (17/03/2018)*



*Some of profitable enterprise by SURAD Farmers Groups.*



*RDC of Arua District Mr. Peter Debele awarding the best group during the innovation fair*



*Mr. Omoya Alfred from Cac-Peyweka Farmers Group in Got-ApwoypS/C Nwoya District testifying how the project have boosted his life during the fair*

## **GALLERY ON MONITORING VISIT**



*Farmers showcase their cassava plantations for food security (staple food) and also for sale during monitoring visits in October 2017*



*Nursery bed by Yesu Kende Women Group*



*One of the farmers showcasing her vegetable experimenting site*



*Project staff participate in training on ERI modules at RICE-WN Head Office, Arua District in March and December 2017 respectively*



*Bulking Center by Obawu Famer Group Ajia Sub County Arua District*

# COMMUNITY HEALTH

RICE-WN with fundings from Chase Africa from London carried out a pilot project in Maracha district early this year (2018). Before RICE-WN have worked on health care but this one was one of its kind.

Chase Africa is one of the small band of happy, civilized charities that are truly ethical. CHAES Africa works fearlessly, creatively and highly efficiently in delivering immunization, family planning and social empowerment in rural east Africa.

Before, CHASE AFRICA worked in Kenya around Nanyuki County, Baringo County in Mogotio, Nakuru County and in Kakamega where they invited the Executive Director RICE-WN Mr. Pax Sakari to go and witness the family planning project being implemented and its outcomes were impressive to him which motivated him to implement the same thing in Uganda around the West Nile region.



*From left: MR. Jackson Olema (Manager Operations RICE-WN), MR. Angutoko Emmanuel (Man. Finance), Can. Dralega Onesmus (Chairperson BoD RICE-WN), Madam Cormfort Yikiru (Man. Programmes RICE-WN), Mr. Henry Pomroy from Chase Africa, Veronicah Wairimu (Comm. Officer RICE-WN), Mr. Godfrey Ovuru (Finance Officer RICE-WN) and Executive Director RICE-WN Mr. Pax Sakari*

Chase Africa represented by Henry Pomroy from London visited RICE-WN on the 21st Nov 2017 regarding the family planning project that was yet to be implemented in Maracha district.

According to the acting Maracha District Health Officer Mr. Sunday xxx, Machara is one of the most active districts in West Nile region when it comes to Health Care. Mr Sunday said the district holds seventeen (17) functional Health Centres. He also went farther to explain that the district has 42 villages and in each village, they have located two VHTS to attend to the community in time of need. It should be noted that the VHTS are facilitated by the local government in Maracha.

The acting DHO said that about 68,000 people in Maracha have no access to medical facilities. That means, 68,000 people lives 5km away from the health facility, for according to the government any one living 5km away from any type of medical care is not accessible to health care. This called for the need of the VHTS in each village.

The district have also done some integrated communication out reaches to the community in HIV & AIDS, family planning, immunization, vaccination, midwife among other health care services and build a 'Health Centre' in the mind of the community.

The acting DHO promised to support the project with more than 85% technical stuff, medical facilitation need for the project and mobilization of the community. He was very enthusiastic about the project and hoped for best results at the end of it all. This was truly fulfilled during the three days of implementation in Tara Sub-County



# COMMUNITY HEALTH

## ***Day one at Anyivu Vocational School on 22nd FEB 2018***

Targets achieved

Total participants were 981

Of this number, 281 received family planning services. As shown below

Method	Target number	Achieved number
Jadel	40	51
Implanon	70	65
Injector plan	20	30
Female condoms	20	15
Male condoms	50	56
COC	40	46
IUD	20	18
TOTAL	260	281

Being the first outreach in Anyivu Vocational School, it was very successful and more crowd was expected on the next activity.

## ***Day two at Odrua Primary School on 24th FEB 2018***

Targets achieved

Total number of participants reached: 684

Of this 222 received family planning services as in the table below.

Method	Target number	Achieved number
Jadel	20	37
Implanon	90	70
Injector plan	15	20
Female condoms	20	31
Male condoms	50	49
COC	10	20
IUD	20	4
TOTAL	225	222

## ***Day three at Ojapi Primary School on 25th FEB 2018***

Targets achieved

Total number of participants reached: 879

Of this 295 received family planning services

Method	Target number	Achieved number
Jadel	30	42
Implanon	50	93
Injector plan	20	55
Female condoms	20	16
Male condoms	50	47
COC	20	30
IUD	10	12
TOTAL	200	295

# COMMUNITY HEALTH

Other services included immunization, malarial tests, deworming, cancer screening, hepatitis B screening, HIV/AIDs testing and treatment among others. Which were accessed by over 620 women, men and children in Anyivu Vocational School.

The achievements were as a result of good mobilization by the different community VHTs, health centre in-charge, street adverts, and posters among other that were put in play to promote the service.

The communities acknowledged that it is the first of its kind to receive such services in their area, they came in large numbers and were happy to be served.

## Challenges

Limited expected medicine in government health facilities; Most of the Health Centres in Maracha district lacked medicine from the government thus part of the huge population missed some services during in the outreach. Such as some reagents for lab tests, courted, some family planning methods (implant, IUD, COC) and antibiotics etc.

Inadequate number of medical personnel: Due to huge numbers of patients (up-to 981) who came for the activity; the health personnel allocated for the activity outreach clinic are only 12 with the health assistant thus tiresome to handle all these patients

No support for VHTs; with the over whelming numbers, the VHTs with the training became key supporting the health personnel yet no budget allocation for their transport to and from their destination.

Budget constraint, this made adjustments difficult.

Delay in funding the project hence making tight activity schedules.

## Way forward

More medicine was purchased by RICE-WN VHTs were supported for job well done.

Increase in number of medical personnel.



*Medical and support Personnel group photo*



*LC V witnessing a woman accessing family planning services*



*Immunization of children under 5 years*



*Medical personnel addressing the crowd before activities began*



**VISION:** A MODEL COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES  
PROVIDER FOR HOLISTIC TRANSFORMATION

**MISSION:** TO ADVANCE AND PROMOTE HEALTHY  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**CORE VALUE: STRENGTH**

**S**IMPLICITY

**T**EAMWORK

**R**ESPECT

**E**XCELLENCE

**N**OVELTY

**G**UARDIANSHIP

**T**IME CON-

**SCIOUSNESS**

**H**ONESTY



©

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