

## Press Club Report, May 2014: The tattoos of the old women in Najude community

This week, the future journalists of NPS decided to cover a special story withing the Najude community. They interviewed some of the old age women in the village in order to find out more about the importance and the meaning of the tattoos that cover their whole bodies. The women we interviewed were Mrs Baici Dangai and Mrs Salama Tambai. They said the tattoos were made when they were very young in order to beautify their bodies and that they were also important for marriage. They showed us the different tattoos such as agogo (clock), which is drawn on their hand; kadangaruwa (lizards) on their arm; kibiya (arrow) on the middle of their chest; 'yar kirji (that of the chest); allo (slate) on their breasts; 'yar wuya (that of the neck); and 'yar kanzau wich is an incision on their chin (pictures of these tattoos can be seen here). Speaking further, they said by the time they were young, any lady who refused to beautify herself with tattoos was referred to as a lady filled with fear among her friends. It was even the case that the whole society used to separate themselves from such a lady. For example, if such girls attended a conference or any other social gathering, other women did not carry out some activities with them such as eating and dancing. Other girls would not play with such a girl if she was playing, and they would refer to her as a lazy and fearful person and even sing songs about her. One of the songs goes like this:



Budurwa mai tsoro,  
Ba za a je gidanta ba,  
Tana gudu kamar barewa.

(A young girl who is always scared,  
She will not be visited in her house,  
She runs like a squirrel.)

