



Hon Jessica Alupo,

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2015

Minister of Education and Sports,

P. O. BOX 7063 Kampala, Uganda

Dear Hon Minister,

**RE: A PETITION BY AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY GOVERNANCE (AFIEGO) AND GUILD PRESIDENTS' FORUM ON OIL GOVERNANCE (GPFOG) ON THE NEED TO FORMULATE CURRICULUM POLICY FOR OIL COURSES TAUGHT IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING IN UGANDA**

Hon Minister, we wish to thank you for giving us this opportunity to meet and present our petition to you. Allow us first to thank you and your team for the good work you have done towards promoting universal access to basic and quality education for all citizens in the country and hence improving the literacy rate. We have strong belief in your works and hope that even this time round, you will take our concerns seriously.

Hon Minister, AFIEGO is a public policy research and advocacy Non-Governmental Organisation whose main objective is to promote good governance from the energy perspective. While the Guild Presidents' Forum on Oil Governance (GPFOG) is a university youth based association that started in November 2014, it comprises of guild presidents, guild ministers, and other tertiary institutions youth leaders all over the country. Its main objective is to promote good governance in Uganda's oil sector. Since November, we have carried out activities including,

- Formed a taskforce that is responsible for mobilizing university students and other key stakeholders to promote good governance in Uganda's oil sector.
- With help from Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO), we organized a youth workshop on creating "effective nation-wide youth demand for good governance in Uganda's oil sector" held at the College of Engineering, Design and Technology (CEDAT Conference hall), Makerere University, in November 2014.
- Organized an inter university public debate in February 2015 on the "role of youth in oil governance in Uganda" at Makerere University Business School.

- Organized radio talk shows in Hoima and discussed what the youth in Uganda are doing to ensure that the oil resource benefits the citizens. During the talk shows, the youth shared the challenges they face in tapping opportunities in the oil sector.
- Held a second public dialogue at Makerere University where we engaged with officials from Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) “on the progress in the development of local content policy.”
- In March 2015, organized a Great Lakes regional petroleum and geosciences conference at Makerere University on “*Evaluating the teaching of oil courses in different Universities in Africa and its implications for the success of the oil sectors in the region.*”
- In April 2015, GPF OG presented a memorandum containing issues that the youth would want to see in the final local content policy to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development. The views were gathered from the above various meetings, debates and dialogues.
- We have also petitioned Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development and Ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development to put in place regulations as provided for under the upstream, midstream and downstream oil laws as means to strengthen effective implementation of the oil laws for the common good.
- In general, GPF OG together with AFIEGO have engaged with over 10,000 youth and stakeholders countrywide to build their competence in promoting equity and social justice in Uganda’s oil sector.

From the above engagements, Hon Minister, we observed a number of challenges the youth are facing in the education sector and they include,

- **There are no standards for teaching oil courses**, currently several Universities and tertiary institutions have opened up to teach oil and gas courses in Uganda, most of these institutions do not have recommended standards set by your ministry, however thousands of students have already enrolled and attained substandard qualification. Without these standards, these institutions will continue to produce low quality graduates who will find it extremely difficult to find employment opportunities in the oil sector.
- **Lacks of the national talent register for the oil sector**; since the discovery of oil and subsequent push for local content development in Uganda, several students have enrolled for petroleum studies and attaining qualification from different institutions of learning both within and outside the country. However, there is no guide to show the specific skills and number of people required in the oil sector, and the monitoring mechanism to ensure that those who acquired skills get practical experience. Today government is basing on the report by Joint Partners Survey (Tullow oil, Total E&P and CNOOC) that the sector has 150,000 job opportunities. Yet the students are training in different field and not sure how many will be required in each field of expertise.

- **Rise of mushrooming institution**, since oil discovery, several institutions of learning have opened up and introduced courses in oil and gas with the objective of skilling up students for job opportunities in the promising oil industry and contribution to the local content, most of these institutions are not controlled or accredited to offer these courses. Hitherto thousands of students are enrolling in annually for these courses; however, due to the capital-intensive nature of the oil industry, the oil sector will not employ anyone with a qualification from institutions that are not certified or accredited. This will frustrate these students the more when they fail to qualify for the oil sector jobs.
- **Lack of recruitment mechanism for tutors and lecturers**, There is no clear procedure for recruitment of tutors and lecturers handling oil courses in different institutions of learning. Today, most of the institutions of learning are teaching with less qualifications and skills from tutors and lecturers where they do not have the relevant practical skills and experience to enable them handle the courses.
- **Increased rate of unemployment**, since oil discovery many students enrolled for petroleum courses in different institutions of learning. Most of these students have graduated, others are about to graduate while thousands are still enrolling however, most of these students do not have jobs in the oil sector. For example, government has provided scholarships to many Ugandans who have come back only to find that there are no jobs available for them in the oil sector. The students are supposed to get hands on training in the sector but up until now, they are still looking for employment opportunities. This is increasing the burden of unemployment in the country.
- **Lack of transparency on how students are selected for government oil scholarships**, since 2010, government through your ministry has been sponsoring students to study oil and gas courses from prestigious universities abroad however, the procedure through which they are selected is not clear until now, this limits equal opportunities for everyone.

In view of the above observations, we petitioners hereby **REQUEST** that,

1. You formulate the national curriculum policy for the teaching of oil and gas courses in Uganda and the policy should include,
  - The creation of the national talent register which provides detailed information for the number and kind of skills required in the oil industry, this will enable students enroll for specific and relevant courses that will ensure that those who acquired skills are absorbed in the oil industry.
  - The required standards for teaching of oil courses that must be adopted by all institutions offering oil and gas courses and what is required to have those standards met.

- The standards for certification of institutions teaching oil and gas courses in the country
  - The mechanism for selection and recruitment of lecturers and tutors for oil courses in different institutions of learning and their minimum qualification.
2. You direct National Curriculum Development Center (NCDC) to develop a curriculum for oil and gas course that must be followed by all institutions of learning in Uganda
  3. You direct National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) to come up with standards for accreditation and monitoring of tertiary institutions offering oil, gas courses, and preferably have a certification mark.

**CONCLUSION:** Once again, we thank you for accepting to meet and receive our petition. We pray and hope that you put this petition under your priority consideration.

Yours sincerely,

.....

Yoram Banyenzaki  
Chairperson, GPFOG

.....

Ssebyoto Asadhu  
General Secretary, GPFOG