

A PROCEEDINGS REPORT OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF MAKESHIFT HOUSES BY REFINERY-AFFECTED PEOPLE ON THEIR PIECES OF LAND AT KYAKABOGA RESETTLEMENT SITE



JANUARY 23, 2017

BUSERUKA SUB-COUNTY, HOIMA DISTRICT

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1. INTRODUCTION

On Monday, January 23, 2017, over 30 refinery-affected families under their umbrella association, Oil Refinery Residents Association (ORRA), convened at Kyakaboga resettlement site to construct their own houses on their pieces of land due to delayed relocation by government.

The main aim of this activity was to help families, especially female-headed and child-headed families, whose land was acquired by government in 2012 for the construction of Uganda's proposed oil refinery to build houses in which they would comfortably live since government was taking long to resettle them as promised.



Women building their own makeshift houses on their pieces of land at Kyakaboga resettlement site.

1.1. BACKGROUND

In 2012, the government of Uganda acquired 29 sq km of land from over 1, 000 families in Kabaale parish Buseruka sub-county in Hoima district for the construction of the proposed oil refinery. Government offered the affected-families two options: to choose between relocation and cash compensation.

The affected families which opted for cash compensation were promised cash equivalent to the value of their property plus a disturbance allowance of 30% on the total value while those who opted for relocation were promised land bought on a case by case basis where they would not be put in special settlements. Those who opted for relocation were also promised a house and a land title for each household.

Unfortunately, since 2012, all refinery-affected people who opted for relocation have not yet been relocated and continue to live in isolated villages that were abandoned by majority of people having no access to food, safe water, health services and education among others.

Adding fuel to fire, government went ahead and built houses for only 46 households out of the 93 who had opted for relocation, an act that has left many affected families in fear as to whether they will or will not get houses.

In this regard, the affected families convened at Kyakaboga resettlement site to construct their own houses on their pieces of land due to government's broken promises of relocating them and building houses for all the affected households that opted for relocation.

It is important to note that the affected families, under their umbrella association, had written to Hoima's Resident District Commissioner (RDC) and copied in several offices such as ministry of energy and Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) informing them of their intention to construct their own houses on their pieces of land at Kyakaboga resettlement site. The letter was written on January 17, 2017.

2. PROCEEDINGS

2.1. Remarks from Buseruka sub-county Youth Councilor, Mr. Godfrey Byaruhanga

Buseruka sub-county Youth Councilor, Mr. Godfrey Byaruhanga said out of the 93 refinery-affected families who opted for relocation, only 46 houses are being built at the moment. He further said that some colleagues withdrew from relocation to cash compensation due to challenges such as being confined in a special settlement, denying some people houses and delay to issue land titles among others contrary to the provisions of the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP).

Mr. Byaruhanga also said refinery-affected families had hoped to have already been relocated to Kyakaboga resettlement site before the first school term of 2017 started so that their children could get an opportunity to go to school. "Unfortunately, this is now impossible considering that families do not know which specific house they will be resettling in. We cannot get relocated without houses and this is why families have built some shelter where they can live with their families, especially the vulnerable children," said Mr Byaruhanga.

"We are tired of the harsh conditions we have been living in since 2012. As a leader, I have been calling upon government to hear our cries but all in vain, this is why we decided to come to Kyakaboga and start the construction of our houses so that when government is relocating those with houses, we shall also have some shelter," Mr.Byaruhanga further added.

2.2. Remarks from ORRA Secretary Mr. Innocent Tumwebaze

The ORRA Secretary Mr. Innocent Tumwebaze, who led the refinery-affected families from the refinery villages to Kyakaboga resettlement site, pointed out that government has been promising them relocation since last year in 2016 but up to now, nothing has been done.

Mr. Tumwebaze further added that community members mobilised themselves and bought some building materials to enable those who had no houses to get shelter.



Makeshift houses that were being by the refinery-affected families at Kyakaboga resettlement site.

2.3. Closing remarks by AFIEGO's Field Officer, Ms. Sandra Atusinguza

AFIEGO's Field Officer Ms. Sandra Atusinguza thanked the refinery-affected families for showing up in big numbers and continuously fighting for their right to descent living.

She further said that different government officials including Buseruka sub-county local council leaders and ministry of energy officials had been calling ORRA and AFIEGO asking them to request the affected families to withdraw from the activity of constructing their houses.

Ms. Atusinguza also said threatening messages had been sent but this did not stop affected families from constructing their makeshift houses.

She concluded by pointing out that AFIEGO would continue working with ORRA and local council leaders to ensure each refinery-affected household that opted for relocation gets a house to resettle in.

3. PARTICIPANTS ATTENDANCE LIST

No	Name	Village	Contact	Age		Gender
				18-25	25 & above	
1.	Geofrey Okumu	Nyahaira	0783526664		✓	M
2.	Aben Tugarukeyo	Kyapaloni	0789191689		✓	M
3.	Joseph Oketi	Nyahaira			✓	M

4.	Richard Onyuthowuni	Kyapaloni		✓		M
5.	Robert Owacho	Nyahaira	0779285691	✓		M
6.	Etien Jaryeko	Nyahaira	0774974208		✓	M
7.	Climathian Aniboth	Nyahaira	0786544177		✓	F
8.	Vanasio Okumu	Nyahaira	0789443650		✓	M
9.	Venansi Obee	Nyahaira	0780959122		✓	M
10.	Obeling Gift	Nyahaira	0777187569		✓	M
11.	Albert Rupiny	Nyahaira	0778512040		✓	M
12.	Emmanuel Obelling	Nyahaira		✓		M
13.	Janet Pachudaga	Nyahaira	0771627674		✓	F
14.	Akumu Maku	Nyahaira	0787996262		✓	F
15.	Jackline Ngamita	Nyahaira	0782576400		✓	F
16.	Janerose Buwaga	Nyahaira	0776167832		✓	F
17.	Fred Ozele	Nyahaira	0780959377		✓	M
18.	Mary Gulyetonda	Nyahaira	0782506714		✓	F
19.	Anet Kayani	Nyahaira			✓	F
20.	Yowel Okumu	Nyahaira			✓	F
21.	Ufayi Kabila	Nyahaira	0781894813	✓		M
22.	Regina Odaya	Nyahaira	0776040510		✓	F
23.	Emmaunel Onyger	Nyahaira		✓		M
24.	Nazan Onenchan	Nyahaira	0782429186		✓	M
25.	Robert Pitua	Nyahaira	0792821843	✓		M
26.	Jedon Ury	Nyahaira		✓		M
27.	Saumu Baingana	Nyahaira			✓	M
28.	Julius Watumbe	Nyahaira	0777350521	✓		M
29.	Steven Gerald	Nyahaira		✓		M
30.	Nobert Kadaga	Nyahaira	0774059165		✓	M
31.	Bitu Mungurieki	Nyahaira			✓	F
32.	Guzel Atimango	Nyahaira			✓	F
33.	Irene Nyamunge	Nyahaira	0774099572		✓	F
34.	Moreen Nyayenga	Nyahaira			✓	F
35.	Fachan Gorgen	Nyahaira	0775027203		✓	F
36.	Vicent Alinatwe	Spice F.M	0777472040		✓	M
37.	Sandra Atusinguza	AFIEGO	0781408192	✓		F
38.	Innocent Tumwebaze	Nyahaira	0789726411		✓	M
39.	Godfrey Byaruhanga	Kitegwa	0783473773		✓	M
40.	JohnBosco Wandera	Kitegwa	0783473773		✓	M
41.	Millius Nyamahunge	Kitegwa	039296623		✓	F
42.	Opar Salbathor	Nyahaira			✓	M
43.	David Okumu	Nyahaira	0778753711		✓	M
44.	Fred Ajaruwa	Nyahaira	0774884515	✓		M
45.	Leonard Tamara	Nyahaira		✓		M
46.	Julius Osama	Nyahaira		✓		M
47.	Julius Tugume	Nyahaira		✓		M
48.	Emmauel Ochaki	Nyahaira	0787139328	✓		M

49.	John Pirwoth	Nyahaira		✓		M
50.	Ofoy Emmaunel	Nyahaira		✓		M
52.	John Piker	Kyapaloni	0774475326	✓		M
53.	Emmanuel Klode	Nyahaira		✓		
54.	Emmanuel Abubango	Nyahaira		✓		
55.	Julius Rupinyi	Nyahaira		✓		
56.	Omces Kajura	Nyahaira		✓		
57.	Brain Plan	Nyahaira		✓		
58.	Konyi Pepi	Nyahaira	0777314679	✓		
59.	Giodov Omolo	Nyahaira			✓	