

HELP US: REFINERY-AFFECTED PEOPLE IN YET MORE EFFORTS FOR JUSTICE

1/3: This week, the refinery-affected people of Hoima district will hold a press conference in Hoima to cry for help in the face of government's failure to compensate some of them, relocate others, provide education for school children, provide health care and worst of all, plans to resettle them in a special settlement that will make them extremely poor.

Mrs. Elvanesiti Tindigwihura, who is over 80, is one of the people who will be crying for help. Her land was acquired by government in 2012 and she is yet to be compensated! Her living situation has deteriorated due to the delayed compensation. The same can be said for the over 130 families that are yet to be relocated and compensated.



Mrs. Elvanesiti Tindigwihura

2/3: The headmistress of Nyahaira P/S, located in the refinery area, will also be crying for help. When government acquired land for the refinery, all the teachers, save for two including the headmistress, opted for cash compensation. They were paid and they left the refinery area. Children were left without teachers.

Worse, the refinery area became bushy owing to disuse of footpaths. Parents became afraid to send their children to school as the bushy paths harbor pythons and other wildlife! Government has been careless about enabling the children go back to school, even as it talks highly about local content. Yet the headmistress, Mrs. Mary Gulyetonda, has solutions as we will show you.



Mrs. Mary Gulyetonda

3/3: As we told you, the headmistress of Nyahaira P/S says that children should not be out of school.

She says, “If government could provide us with security and some food, we would create a boarding school facility and us the two teachers would teach a class of P.1s. We can manage it [with teacher Mrs. Rehema Kugonza]. It is especially the young children who are not going to school because they cannot walk three miles to Kabaale to study.”

The ball is now in the hands of government who in a May 25, 2016 meeting with the refinery-affected people promised to have their children back in school by third term!

Mrs. Gulyetonda says that they need food because some parents stopped growing it as they were stopped by government while others relaxed.

She also says that she has been “tortured” and her skill compromised because she has not taught for over three years. She needs to teach and the children below need to learn. Their peers are in school!



Some of the children who should be in school but are not. This picture was taken on a school day, Wednesday June 8, 2016. The children's parents were attending a meeting by AFIEGO.

**In addition to the press conference in Hoima, the refinery-affected people will hold one in Kampala too. They are also still pursuing their court case against government and have said that they will file a new one against government owing to emmerging issues that are not catered for in the old case.*

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