

GUILD PRESIDENTS' FORUM ON OIL GOVERNANCE (GPFOG)
P.O BOX 34913 KAMPALA UGANDA
TEL:(+256 704 977 468/+256 704276 554)
gpfoguganda@gmail.com

The Inspector General of Government (IGG),
Justice Irene Mulyagonja,
P.O Box 1682, Kampala (U).



Dear Madam,

**RE: A PETITION BY GUILD PRESIDENTS' FORUM ON OIL GOVERNANCE (GPFOG)
ABOUT THE LACK OF TRANSPARENCY IN THE AWARDING OF CONTRACT AND
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESETTLEMENT ACTION PLAN**

WE wish to thank you for giving us an opportunity to meet and present our petition to you. Allow us first to thank you and your team for the wonderful work you have done towards fighting corruption in our country hence improving transparency and accountability amongst government institutions. We as the youth have strong belief in your works and hope that even this time round transparency and accountability will prevail and the innocent Ugandans affected by the oil refinery project in Kabaale, Buseruka-Hoima district will get justice.

Madam IGG, the Guild Presidents' Forum on Oil Governance (GPFOG) is a university youth based association started in November 2014 comprising of guild presidents, guild ministers and other university district associations' 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 responsible for mobilizing the university students and other key stakeholders to promote good oil governance in Uganda.
- 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), Makerere University, 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.
- We have conducted various field visits in the oil region including a meeting with the oil refinery-affected people at Kabaale, Buseruka- Hoima district,

- March 2015, where we observed many problems being experienced by the local communities because of displacement.
- 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 local people also shared the suffering they are going through as a result of oil activities ranging from poor compensation.
- Held a second public dialogue at Makerere University where we engaged with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD).
- In April 2015, GPFOG 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.
- GPFOG has 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.
- We have also petitioned the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) concerning the violation of Human rights of the refinery affected people.
- In general, GPFOG has engaged with over 5,000 stakeholders to build their competence in promoting equity and social justice in Uganda's oil sector.

From the **ABOVE ENGAGEMENTS**, Madam IGG, we observed a number of governance challenges including;

Conflict of interest: Madam IGG, we observed that the same company that developed the Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) in October 2012 and allocated a budget of **shs. 70,915,217,225.12** for the implementation of the RAP is the same company that was awarded the contract to implement it. This was against the recommendations of the same company, which indicated, **“The implementation of the RAP will be contracted out to an independent entity.”** Moreover, in the same report, the same SFI recommended over UGX3 billion as fees for the implementer. This means that the company drafted the budget in their own favor already knowing they would implement the project and connived with the MEMD to close the door for open and competitive bid

ding that would have allowed many companies to compete for the project. What was the hurry for selective contract? How can Ugandans be sure that they got value for money in a case where the judge is an interested party?

We believe, it is lack of transparency that has for over 3 years failed the MEMD and SFI (from 22nd June 2012 to date) to resettle any of the 93 households who asked for relocation. While the people who asked for cash compensation, most of them have since been compensated (apart from those who rejected the compensation amounts), all the 93 households who asked for relocation are still living in the ghost villages with no basic services such as clean water, housing, food, health, education for their children and no right to use their land freely.

- Further, the RAP report recommended against isolating the refinery affected people through a resettlement camp and this is what convinced some of the people to opt for relocation but after three years of waiting, the 93 households are being told that they will be resettled in one resettlement camp at Rwakabengo in Buseruka. This in itself is corruption, as it does not tally with the promises made in the RAP.
- In addition, recently the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development promised to construct houses for only 46 families out of the 93 families that opted for relocation. This is also against the Resettlement Action Plan where everybody who opted for relocation had to be given a land title and a house.

In general, there is lack of transparency in the refinery processes and as a result, the refinery communities have been deprived of their rights such as right to an effective remedy where they had to receive adequate, prompt and fair compensation prior to the acquisition of their land as provided for under the Constitution.

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

- You investigate the conflict of interest in the award of a contract to SFI by the MEMD with a view of prosecuting those found responsible.
- Investigate how the MEMD gave Strategic Friends International (SFI) a contract and now for three full years has failed to relocate 93 families who asked for relocation. Why the ministry of energy has not taken action against the SFI for the delay.

- Investigate why the MEMD and SFI ignored hiring a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to carry out compliance audits as required by the RAP.
- Investigate why the MEMD and SFI diverted from the RAP, which had recommended not to resettle the refinery affected people in a camp but rather on a case-by-case basis. Now, they are being camped in one place with the risks of isolation and hard to integrate with other communities.
- Direct the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development to ensure that the 93 households who opted for resettlement are resettled within two months from the date of this petition. Each of the 93 households be given a land title and a house as per the RAP. And compensated within two months from now to give way for the development of the oil refinery.

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

Signed

.....

YORAM BANYEZAKI

Chairperson GPFOG

.....

SSEBYOTO ASADHU

General Secretary GPFOG

