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JUDICIAL IMPUNITY AGAINST OIL-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES SHOULD BE STOPPED



Some of the 80 EACOP project-affected persons that were sued by government and their lawyers from AFIEGO at the Masaka High Court in September 2024

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Dear reader, welcome to AFIEGO's September 2024 newsletter.

This month (September), government's determination to misuse the judiciary to violate the rights of Ugandans including the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) affected people was evident.

This is because following government filing a court case on August 20, 2024 against 80 EACOP-affected people from Greater Masaka, the High Court in Masaka allowed government to deposit the affected people's compensation in court and evict them.

Government filed the case against the people, including the sick, elderly, deceased and others from Kyotera, Lwengo and Rakai districts in Southern Uganda. The people had interests in 41 parcels of land.

In its application, government asked the court to allow it to deposit the compensation for the 80 EACOP project-affected persons (PAPs) in court, to give it vacant possession of the PAPs' land as well as eviction and demolition orders against them.

The Attorney General (AG), who filed the court case on government's behalf, also asked for a court order discharging government from any liability that may arise from the illegal and irregular compulsory land acquisition.

The AG relied on Section 6 of the outdated 1965 Land Acquisition Act to seek the above orders. The

constitutionality of Section 6 of the 1965 Land Acquisition Act has been challenged several times including through the recent Constitutional Petition No. 16 of 2021. Unfortunately, for over three years, the Constitutional Court has deliberately refused to rule on the above case.

Yet the cases filed by government against oil-affected people are fast-tracked and completed in a matter of days from the date of filing. Rulings are also usually given in favour of government and oil companies.

It will be recalled that in 2020 and December 2023, government filed court cases against nine and 41 Tilenga oil project-affected families respectively from Bullisa district. The Tilenga oil project is operated by TotalEnergies. Government sued the families to compel them to accept low or unfair compensation that they had rejected.

In those cases, the high courts in Hoima and Masindi districts respectively ruled in favour of government, with the December 2023 case being filed, heard and ruled upon in a record four days. The courts allowed government to deposit the affected people's compensation in court.

Failure by the judiciary to rule on the above constitutional petition while denying oil-affected communities justice has allowed government to continue violating the rights of Ugandans with impunity.

In our **Word from the CEO and Partners**, we bring you the stories

of some of the EACOP PAPs that were sued while discussing how the judiciary continues to be used by government to commit injustices against communities.

We make recommendations to address the injustices. Worth noting is that the EACOP project is owned by the Ugandan and Tanzanian governments, China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) and TotalEnergies.

In this newsletter, we also bring you our **pictorial** section which captures the activities that we and our partners implemented this month.

For instance, AFIEGO organised a clean energy conference for women. During the conference, the women discussed the challenges they are faced with due to oil and gas activities. They also shared insights on the opportunities and benefits that come with the clean energy sector.

Furthermore, AFIEGO staff and lawyers organised meetings with oil affected communities and conducted interviews with the 80 EACOP-affected people sued by government. The lawyers collected information to defend the PAPs in court.

Besides, AFIEGO supported oil affected communities from Buliisa district to participate in a radio talkshow at Radio Biiso. The community representatives used this media opportunity to share the challenges they are experiencing

because of the Tilenga oil and gas activities.

In addition, AFIEGO supported PhD students from Makerere University Business School (MUBS) to organise a workshop which discussed the application of Uganda's Energy Transition Plan (ETP) and its potential to promote access to clean affordable and reliable energy for all.

You will see the above and much more in our pictorial section.

In our **lobbying** section, among others, we share a letter that over 90 tourism operators, hoteliers, small-scale farmers and fisherfolk sent to the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) asking them to stop TotalEnergies' planned deployment of a second oil rig within the Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP).

We also share a petition that communities sent to TotalEnergies to address the challenges caused by the Tilenga feeder pipeline. We supported the communities to share the letter.

Finally, in **in the media** section, we bring you some of the newspaper articles written by our staff and partners that were published in the leading newspapers in September 2024.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter

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THE JUDICIARY SHOULD STOP AIDING INJUSTICES AGAINST EACOP-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

A huge battle that pitted the Ugandan government against its citizens raged in 2016. Seeking to ease compulsory land acquisition processes at the expense of citizens' land rights, the government mooted a bill to amend Article 26 of the 1995 Uganda Constitution.

Government argued that due to the aforementioned article providing that government must pay citizens prompt, fair and adequate compensation before compulsorily acquiring their land, public projects that required citizens' land were delayed.

The delays were occasioned by citizens rightfully refusing to accept low or unfair compensation.

To support its expeditious acquisition of land, the government sought to amend Article 26 of the 1995 Uganda Constitution to give itself powers to compulsorily acquire citizens' land before compensation in case of disputes.

Government said that those who rejected compensation that they considered low would be taken to court, and their monies deposited there, while it took over their land.

Citizens resoundingly rejected

the proposed amendments, and they were never passed by the Parliament.

However, since the above amendments were rejected, government has been using the judiciary to resort to Section 6 of the 1965 Land Acquisition Act to indirectly amend the Constitution.

Indeed, while Article 26 of the Constitution clearly provides that compulsory acquisition of citizens' property can only take place after prompt payment of fair and adequate compensation has been made by the government, the government has continued to file court cases to secure court orders for displacement, eviction, demolition and others against oil affected people. The orders are issued and executed in violation of Uganda's Constitution.

The first such case was filed in 2020 at the Masindi high court against nine families. The families were displaced for the Tilenga oil project in Buliisa district. The families had rejected compensation that they considered low or unfair. In 2021, court ruled that government could deposit the compensation money that the families had rejected in court. Thereafter, the government could take over the affected people's land in disregard of Article 26 of the Constitution.

Some of the families that were affected by the above ruling do not own their own land today. They were lent small pieces of land by their clansmen, and they live on that land, at the clansmen's mercy today.

Energized by the Masindi high court ruling, in December 2023, government, using Section 6 of the Land Acquisition Act filed another case against 41 families including dead people affected by the Tilenga oil project. The case was filed at the Hoima High Court.

Government sought for orders to deposit the affected families' money in court and evict the people. Within a period of four days from the date of filing, the Hoima high court went ahead to rule in favour of government.

Court granted government orders to displace, evict and demolish people's houses to allow oil companies to proceed with their oil activities.

Recently, on August 20, 2024, government filed another case against 80 EACOP project-affected persons (PAPs) from Lwengo, Kyotera and Rakai districts in Southern Uganda. After the case was filed, there was genuine fear that the court would rule in favour of government to evict the EACOP affected people without adequate compensation.

The above cases clearly indicate that government is using the judiciary to undermine the Constitution of Uganda in order to frastrack oil exploitation.

Unfortunately, poor families and vulnerable people have to pay the price of court's failure to protect citizens' rights.

Take the most recent case filed by government against EACOP PAPs from Lwengo, Kyotera and Rakai districts. Government filed the case against the sick, elderly, persons with disabilities (PWDs), women and others.

One of these people is 78-year old Mr. John Mary Nsamba. Mr. Nsamba, who is a farmer, was born and raised in Lukoma village, Kakuuto sub-county in Kyotera district. Mr. Nsamba is a father of eleven children; seven boys and four girls; sadly, four of his children have died over the years.

Mr. Nsamba's land, which is being acquired for the EACOP, was handed down to him by his grandfather, who was a World War II veteran. The land that Mr. Nsamba owns is a prized heritage, so much so that he had never sold any portion of it, and he has no desire to ever part with it.

Despite the above, in 2019, Mr. Nsamba was informed by TotalEnergies' sub-contractor,

NewPlan, that 2.137 acres of his land would be taken for the EACOP project. Mr. Nsamba rejected the compensation he was offered because he felt it was unfair and inadequate.

The land was not only a prized heritage, but the family's only source of livelihood. It is also strategically located at the Mutukula border with Tanzania.

Mr. Nsamba asked that if his land was to be taken away, fair and adequate compensation needed to be paid. He was sued by government in August 2024 because he wanted fair and adequate compensation.

Worth noting is that Mr. Nsamba is a cancer patient. Today, he is battling for his life, and his land.

Another of the people that government sued in August 2024 is Ms. Sarah Namatovu. Ms. Namatovu is a resident of Kisalira B in Lwengo district. In 2018, she was approached by NewPlan, a sub-contractor of TotalEnergies, regarding her family land which was to be taken for the EACOP. She was chosen by her family to be an administrator of the family estate.

However, NewPlan informed

her that the death certificate she presented to them was not valid since it was not issued by the National Identification Registration Authority (NIRA), leading to complications. Thereafter, NewPlan offered to help the family secure a legitimate death certificate to facilitate the processing of letters of administration, but NewPlan failed to deliver on this commitment.

After being disappointed by NewPlan, Ms. Namatovu and her family sought assistance from the Administrator General, only to be informed that a government directive had been issued halting the issuance of certificates of no objection and letters of administration for estates listed under the Succession Register. This situation left her family in a precarious position, as they lacked the necessary legal representation to manage the estate effectively.

Even if court rules that the compensation due to Ms. Namatovu and her family is deposited in court, she and her family members will not be able to access it as they lack legal representatives.

There are scores of families like Ms. Namatovu's, and Mr. Nsamba's. They are battling life's challenges and instead of being supported to receive fair and adequate compensation, government sues them, and the judiciary makes rulings against them.

Recommendations

In light of the continuing misuse of the judiciary by government that results in untold suffering of the oil affected people, the following actions are required:

i. The oil affected people and other Ugandans should urgently file a petition to the Constitutional Court to challenge Section 6 of the Land Acquisition Act.

ii. Civil society organisations working to defend the rights of oil affected communities should proceed under the Human Rights Enforcement law of Uganda to file cases against all the individual government officials who violate citizens' human rights by depriving them of their property rights.

iii. An compliant should be lodged with the Judicial Service Commission (JSC) to investigate and punish the judge in the Masaka high court case for allowing a case against dead people, un-administered estates and others as part of the defendants.

iv. If the Masaka high court allows government to deposit unfair compensation money into court, the PAPs should be supported to appeal the decision of the high court.

v. Members of Parliament especially those from oil-affected areas should table

a Private Member's Bill before Parliament to repeal the 1965 Land Acquisition Act, especially Section 6 which is used to abuse citizens' property rights.

vi. The Principal Judge, Deputy Chief Justice and the Chief Justice should be petitioned to use their administrative powers to ensure that all the cases filed before the high court and the court of appeal by the oil affected people and civil society are heard without further delay. Today, while cases filed by government are heard expeditiously, those filed by the affected people are not.

For instance, cases such as one filed by the nine Tilenga oil project-affected families appealing the Masindi High Court ruling in 2021 are yet to be fixed for hearing.

vii. A reference should be filed at the East African Court of Justice in Arusha to challenge the violation of the rights of oil affected communities.

viii. Oil affected communities and others should be mobilised and empowered to protest the actions of the judiciary including demands for resignation of the judges who are being used to indirectly amend Article 26 of the 1995 Uganda Constitution.

By CEO and Partners

Pictorial of our activities

AFIEGO ORGANISES A HIGH-LEVEL CLEAN ENERGY CONFERENCE FOR WOMEN



Between September 19 and 20, 2024, AFIEGO in partnership with the Inclusive Green Economy Network-East Africa (IGEN-EA) organised a high-level women's conference on off-grid renewable energy and energy transition in Uganda.

The conference, which took place in Kampala, was aimed at empowering women to champion the clean renewable energy agenda in East Africa. The conference brought together over 50 participants from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and the DRC.

The participants discussed the challenges faced by women displaced by oil projects, the available clean cooking technologies and gaps in skilling women for clean energy entrepreneurship among others. The participants made recommendations to address the above challenges.

AFIEGO SUPPORTS EACOP-AFFECTED PEOPLE IN COURT CASE BROUGHT AGAINST THEM BY GOVERNMENT



In September 2024, AFIEGO provided legal support to EACOP-affected people from the Greater Masaka sub-region in Southern Uganda that were sued by the Government of Uganda (GoU).

The GoU sued the people in August 2024 to, among others, compel them to accept low compensation for their land that is being compulsorily acquired for the EACOP.

AFIEGO provided lawyers for the people to enable them to file responses to the suit that the GoU brought against them. Many of the people that the GoU sued are poor and vulnerable.

AFIEGO PARTNERS UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS TO ORGANISE ENERGY TRANSITION WORKSHOP



On September 26, 2024, AFIEGO supported PhD researchers from Makerere University Business School (MUBS) under RAASE Consults to organise a workshop in Kampala that discussed Uganda's energy transition agenda.

The workshop brought together over 50 participants including government officials, members of the academia, civil society actors, youth and others.

During the workshop, participants reviewed Uganda's Energy Transition Plan and discussed the energy transition that Uganda needs to enable attainment of SDG 7 on universal clean energy access among others.

AFIEGO ORGANISES RADIO TALKSHOW FOR TILENGA OIL PROJECT HOST COMMUNITIES



On September 6, 2024, AFIEGO organised a radio talkshow for representatives of Tilenga oil host communities at Biiso FM in Buliisa district.

The participants discussed the current challenges communities face due to TotalEnergies' Tilenga oil and gas activities in the district.

These include oil-induced elephant-human conflicts characterised by elephant raids on community gardens as well as floods due to development of the Tilenga feeder pipeline and a Central Processing Facility (CPF) among others.

AFIEGO SUPPORTS MEETING BETWEEN IGEN-EA AND BOTHENDS



On September 23, 2024, AFIEGO supported members of IGEN-EA to hold a meeting with BothENDS, a Dutch organisation.

The meeting was aimed at discussing the work that IGEN-EA is doing to enhance financial flows towards East Africa's green economic activities.

The meeting also discussed the work that IGEN-EA is doing to improve community livelihoods through the promotion of clean energy entrepreneurship, apirary, sustainable tourism, and others.

Lobbying

In September 2024, AFIEGO mobilised over 90 tour and travel operators, hoteliers, small scale farmers and fisherfolk to write to NEMA to stop the construction of a second oil rig in the Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP) for the Tilenga oil project.

In addition, we disseminated IEC materials aimed at creating public awareness on why the commissioning of Karuma hydropower dam may not result in lower power tariffs. We also partnered with IGEN-EA to disseminate IEC materials to celebrate World Tourism Day.



The government of Uganda is this week expected to commission the Karuma hydropower dam. Construction of the 600 MW dam, which is located on River Nile, has been bedeviled by various challenges, including:

Procurement challenges: The dam's procurement processes were marred by allegations of corruption and violation of procurement procedures. SinoHydro Corporation Limited constructed the dam.

Construction delays: Development of Karuma dam started in 2013, with a completion timeline of 2018 being set. However, completion of the dam was delayed, and it has taken nearly 11 years to commission the dam.

Resettlement challenges, with project-affected persons going unpaid. Several of them sought parliamentary support this month (September 2024). Available information shows that the project affected 119 households.

Inflated costs with the Auditor General noting that Uganda has to pay USD 30 million (about 113.933 billion Shillings) over delayed payments relating to the dam.

The above and other challenges stand to undermine the government's promise that commissioning of the Karuma and Isimba dams will result in lower power tariffs for citizens.

The government promised that power from Karuma dam would be sold to citizens at Shs. 179.5 per unit for the first ten years after commissioning of the dam. However, this promise may not materialise due to the above-discussed challenges

World Tourism Day

On this World Tourism Day, we celebrate the exciting opening of chimpanzee trekking in Bugoma Forest. Join us on this adventure and support vital conservation efforts that protect these magnificent creatures and their habitat!

September 26, 2024

Dr. Akanwasa Barirega,
The Executive Director,
National Environment Management Authority (NEMA),
Kampala (U).

Dear Sir,

RE: STOP SECOND OIL RIG IN MURCHISON FALLS NATIONAL PARK

Greetings from the undersigned signatories including hoteliers, tour and travel operators, small-scale farmers and fisherfolk.

First and foremost, allow us to extend our deepest gratitude to you and your office for your efforts towards ensuring sustainable management of the environment.

We have seen an invitation that NEMA sent to hoteliers and tour operators operating within and around Murchison Falls National (MFNP) inviting them for a stakeholder engagement that took place on August 28, 2024 at HB Hotel in Buliisa district.

Through the invitation, NEMA indicated that the authority wanted to collect stakeholder views before making a final decision on an application made by TotalEnergies E&P Uganda (TEPU) to introduce a second oil rig in MFNP.

We take this opportunity to appreciate NEMA for undertaking the important stakeholder consultation and through this letter, we share our views on the introduction of a second oil rig in MFNP.

We hope that NEMA will take these views into consideration while making its final decision.

OUR VIEWS

TEPU is already operating an oil rig, the SINOPEC 1503 Jobiri rig, in MFNP under the Tilenga oil project. Operation of the rig has had some negative impacts and we are afraid that the introduction of a second oil rig in the park could escalate these impacts, which would negatively impact our livelihoods. Some of these impacts and threats are discussed hereunder.

(a) **Threats to wildlife, especially elephants:** Uganda's tourism industry is eco-based with the country selling itself as the great ape capital of the world, and one where tourists can see the big 5 that include elephants, lions, leopards, buffaloes and others. The tourists that visit Uganda and contribute millions of dollars to the economy while supporting our livelihoods come to see the big 5, and other wildlife. Unfortunately, oil exploitation activities in Murchison Falls National Park are a danger to this wildlife. Already, elephants which were abundant in the park and are called the landlords of Murchison Falls NP, are already being displaced. Available information shows that vibrations from the existing oil

26th /September/2024

To: Mr. Philippe Groueix,
The Managing Director,
TotalEnergies E&P Uganda (TEPU),
Kampala (U).

Dear Sir,

Petition from families affected by Tilenga feeder pipeline in Buliisa district

We, the undersigned residents of Kasinyi village, Nile Parish, Ngwendo sub-county, Buliisa district are writing to bring to your urgent attention the impacts that the Tilenga feeder pipeline construction activities have had or are having on our community. We request you to address these impacts.

As you are likely aware, TotalEnergies is developing a 95-km feeder oil pipeline from a planned Central Processing Facility (CPF) in Buliisa to the Kabaale Industrial Area in Hoima district. The pipeline is expected to transport oil from the six Tilenga oil fields to the above-mentioned industrial area. The oil is expected to be refined or transported to export markets through the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP).

Land for the pipeline was acquired from 1,056 households in Buliisa, Kikuube and Hoima districts¹. The households have an estimated population of 8,103 people¹. Of these, 51.5% are female while 48.5% are male¹.

The people that were displaced are from 94 villages and 16 sub-counties in Buliisa, Hoima and Kikuube districts¹.

Construction activities including the excavation of trenches started in April 2024 in Buliisa district. The displacement of families and construction activities have had the impacts discussed hereunder:

(a) **Division of families:** According to the Tilenga oil project's Resettlement Plan 4 that covers the feeder pipeline, over 333 acres of land, excluding orphan land, protected areas and public land, is being acquired for the Tilenga feeder pipeline in Buliisa district only. Of this land, 8,312 acres is located in Kasinyi village. The land acquisition activities were completed and with construction activities having started, we have seen some affected families being separated by the pipeline. The pipeline runs between our homes, separating us from our relatives and gardens. This situation has caused a lot of psychological distress, especially where elderly family members were separated from relatives who are their caretakers. The separation also limits the freedom of our children who cannot play well. It

¹ TotalEnergies, Tilenga RAP 4:
https://totalenergies.us/system/files/stoms/tilenga_rap_project/tilenga_rap_4_rap_2023.pdf

In September 2024, AFIEGO staff, research associates and youth champions wrote newspaper articles that were published in the leading newspapers. Some of the published articles are captured below.

LETTERS

Let's harness the power of tourism to foster a sustainable future for all



World Tourism Day is celebrated on September 27 every year. This year's tourism day was celebrated under the theme, "Tourism and Peace".

This theme highlights tourism's role in bridging cultural gaps, encouraging economic development, and fostering mutual understanding between nations.

It encourages people worldwide to explore the beauty and diversity of our planet while recognising the responsibilities that come with it.

Tourism allows us to discover new places, promotes peace, and contributes significantly to local economies.

World Tourism Day holds great significance as it underscores the role of tourism in various aspects of human life.

Firstly, it promotes cultural exchange, encouraging people from different backgrounds to come together and learn from one another. It increases economic growth by creating job opportunities and stimulating local businesses.

Additionally, it creates environmental awareness and highlights the importance of sustainable tourism practices to protect our planet for future generations.

As international travel continues to grow, the private sector's role in promoting peaceful interactions, sustainable development, and economic stability becomes increasingly significant.

Tourism is a powerful tool for fostering international understanding, cultural exchange, and global peace.

In a world increasingly divided by geopolitical tensions, economic disparities, and cultural misunderstandings, tourism offers a unique avenue for bridging gaps and building lasting connections and bringing government leaders and policymakers together to discuss and strategise on how tourism can be leveraged to promote peace and unity.

In addition, the financial support is very crucial when it comes to preserving the country's unique biodiversity such as mountain gorillas.

Therefore, tourism helps in the protection of ecosystem and wildlife species.

In conclusion, as we join hands to celebrate this year's tourism day, I call up on the government to promote tourism by exploring the potential for partnership with the

LETTERS

Leverage the tourism sector for greater gains

Every year on September 27, Uganda joins the rest of the world to celebrate the World tourism day and this year's theme will be "Tourism and peace".

This day is a significant global observance introduced by the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) to increase public awareness of the significance of tourism on a global scale and to demonstrate to the public how tourism benefits not only the economy but also the social, political, and cultural fabric of a destination.

Tourism is projected to employ over 348 million people in 2024 worldwide, which means that its development should be well planned since it offers a great opportunity to citizens' quality of life and region's economy vitality.

Therefore, this celebration underscores the potential of tourism in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals stated by the UN, including poverty alleviation, job creation and environmental preservation.

Under the National Development Plan (NDP) 111, the government identifies tourism as the priority economic sector that must be developed to reduce poverty levels, increase jobs, strengthen local economies and accelerate economic growth.

It is noted that the sector attracted over 1.5 million visitors in 2018 and earned the country \$1.6b in the same year. In the 2024/2025 fiscal year, the tourism sector was identified as a priority for sustainable development, with a funding increment of Shs289.6 billion from Shs249 billion in 2023/24 dedicated to tourism development programmes. The budget aimed at bolstering both international and domestic tourism through marketing and promotional activities.

Despite the increase in finances and all the above strategies to boost the sector, it is noted that the tourism sector still faces a lot of challenges that need to be addressed such as destruction of forests reserves like Bugoma forest reserve in Bunyoro, Zoka central forest reserve in northern Uganda through activities such as sugarcane growing, logging, and oil exploration in game reserves like Murchison falls national park which is a popular area for tourism.

Notably, the government of Uganda made commercial oil discoveries in pristine, ecosensitive and biodiverse Albertine Graben in 2006, Ugandan government alongside oil companies decided to commercialise Uganda's oil reserves through three projects that is Tlienga, Kingfisher and EACOP projects.

The oil projects which were commercialised partly cover Murchison Falls National Park. However, it is noted that this park which is an important biodiversity conservation resource and supports tourism is facing unprecedented pressure from oil and gas threats.

More so, Murchison Falls National Park is said to be the heart and pride of Uganda's tourism industry and has been a significant contributor to the annual tourist numbers in Uganda's national parks.

It is noted that in the year of 2023 only, the park received 141,335 visitors, making 36.4 percent of all Uganda national parks visitors.

However, these oil activities in the park has disrupted the natural habitat and forced animals to move from the park because of the noise from the construction of oil infrastructures like roads thus posing more risks like increased human-wildlife conflicts, impacts on ecosystems and biodiversity, threats to tourists and local economies and this may cause a significant drop in the number of tourists and the income from tourism, which is vital for the economy of Uganda and this has raised concerns among the biodiversity experts and tourism sector players.

The government must address challenges affecting tourism sector such as oil and gas exploration in Murchison Falls National Park and the destruction of Bugoma and Zoka forest reserves.

These forests reserves must be restored and protected in order to increase the biodiversity and promote tourism, which contributes 10 percent to the country's economy and creates employment opportunities for Ugandans.

Address existing grievances first



Uganda has revealed plans to build a pipeline together with Kenya and Rwanda to facilitate the exportation of refined petroleum products from the oil refinery in Hoima. The pipeline is expected to connect from Kampala to both Eldoret and Kigali in Kenya and Rwanda respectively. Construction of an oil pipeline has various impacts on people's livelihoods, climate change as well as threats to biodiversity. The construction requires acquisition of a lot of land which subsequently causes negative effects such as land degradation, deforestation, displacement of people. Consequently, this leads to devastating effects to people's livelihoods and environmental effects.

The Eldoret-Kampala-Kigali pipeline will be the second in Uganda following the already ongoing EACOP project. The project has caused many injustices to the Project Affected Persons who have constantly come out to voice their grievances.

On August 26, 300 members from the directly impacted communities in Hoima came out to protest with numerous demands including unfair compensation, displacement, environmental degradation and the lack of meaningful consultation with communities. On the same day, a group of students and civil society activists also marched with similar concerns. Both groups were met with opposition from authorities resulting in the arrest of the youth in Kampala.

Besides those groups of people that came out to protest recently, Project Affected Persons have constantly expressed their frustrations against the various injustices they are experiencing, where their efforts to speak up have been met with violent arrests and silence from the government.

Civil Society Organisations involved in the promotion of human rights observance and environmental conservation in the oil host districts have created platforms where their concerns have been raised and to some, support has been given, but solutions from the government are paramount. Many Ugandans are struggling to make ends meet and disruptions to their livelihoods such as those caused by the oil exploration projects will only take them many steps backwards and this subsequently subtracts from the government's efforts to economic growth.

Therefore, it is only fair that a government that is for the people address the people's grievances before proceeding with a new project. The government should consider resolving the communities' concerns through follow up on the compliance with environmental regulations, meaningful engagements, zero violence against those who come out to protest and halt all oil exploration activities to address people's grievances first. The government should go on ground and assess the extent of the injustices so as to of

Upcoming events

October 4, 2024; Kampala: Meeting with representatives of religious leaders to discuss joint climate change activism opportunities

October 8-9, 2024; Greater Masaka: Lawyers' meeting with EACOP project affected persons (PAPs) of Greater Masaka that were sued by government

October 16, 2024; Buliisa: Community meeting to discuss challenges faced by oil-affected women

October 18, 2024; Kampala: Media workshop to strengthen climate change reporting

October 24, 2024; Kampala: Dissemination of a research brief on experiences of farmers with agrochemicals in Busoga sub-region

October 30, 2024; Kampala: Dissemination of a report on community demands to promote an inclusive just energy transition in Uganda (JET)

About AFIEGO

The Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) is a non-profit company limited by guarantee that was incorporated under Uganda's Companies Act. AFIEGO undertakes public policy research and advocacy to influence energy policies to benefit the poor and vulnerable. Based in Kampala-Uganda, the non-profit company was born out of the need to contribute to efforts to turn Africa's clean energy potential into reality and to ensure that the common man and woman benefits from this energy boom. Through lobbying, research and community education, AFIEGO works with communities and leaders to ensure that clean energy resources are utilised in a way that promotes equitable development, environmental conservation and respect for human rights.

Our Vision

A society that equitably uses clean energy resources for socio-economic development

Our Mission

To promote energy policies that benefit poor and vulnerable communities