

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 others 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.ug/system/files/atoms/files/tilenga_project_to_liaised_rap_4_report.pdf

also limits our capacity to farm our land unhindered. We request that you address this challenge.

- (a) Flooding and property damage:** Further, we request that you address the challenge of flooding that has arisen due to the feeder pipeline construction activities. As earlier indicated in this petition, excavation of trenches to enable development of the feeder pipeline is ongoing in our village, Kasinyi. The excavation coincided with the rainy season, which has caused flooding. The flooding, which is caused by development of the pipeline in swampy lands amidst lack of alternative drainage channels, has affected gardens and homes. We depend on farming to make a living, yet the floods have led to a loss of crops. This has impacted our ability to sustain ourselves. We are also worried that should the losses continue, we will be unable to meet our households' needs, including paying school fees for our children. This will increase school dropouts, teenage pregnancies, domestic violence and others. Our ability to feed ourselves is also at risk!
- (b) Children and animal safety:** Our children and animals are a major concern to us. Where the trench for the feeder pipeline has been excavated amidst the separation of families, no provisions have been made to allow children, the elderly and others to cross from one place to another. In addition, no provisions have been made to allow our animals to cross from one grazing area to another. We thus continue to worry about the safety of our animals and children, fearing they might fall into the trench. Unfortunately, because the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) never held public hearings on the Tilenga feeder pipeline's Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report, we do not know whether NEMA approved the pipeline project without putting in place conditions to guard our safety.
- (c) Diseases:** In addition Buliisa district is well known for being a malaria-prone area. An assessment¹ by the Office of the Prime Minister indicates that malaria and HIV/AIDS are the most prominent human diseases in Buliisa district. With the flooding from the excavation of the trench for the feeder pipeline, our risk to malaria has increase. This is because several farms contain stagnant water that is caused by the Tilenga feeder pipeline floods. Vulnerable groups such as children, pregnant women and the elderly among others are most at risk to malaria. We request you to protect them by addressing the flooding challenges.
- (d) Intimidation:** In September 2024, community leaders reported the challenge of the feeder pipeline-induced flooding to TotalEnergies in Buliisa. Unfortunately, instead of encouraging dialogue to address the challenges, the leaders were intimidated.

¹ Office of the Prime Minister; *Buliisa district: Hazard, risk and vulnerability profile*: <https://necoc.opm.go.ug/HzWestern/Buliisa%20District%20HRV%20Profile.pdf>

Through this petition therefore, we request that the following is done:

- (i) **Compensation:** We request that the families that have lost property due to the floods be fairly and adequately compensated without delay. The compensation should follow consultation with the families to determine the losses they have suffered, and the compensation that they need.
- (ii) **Effective drainage solutions:** We request that your company takes immediate steps to provide proper drainage solutions to prevent further water stagnation and flooding in our village due to the Tilenga feeder pipeline activities.
- (iii) **Relocation:** We request that your company consults and relocates the families that want to be relocated due to being separated by the pipeline.
- (iv) **Community consultation:** We request an immediate end to the intimidation of community leaders and others that report grievances. We also request that the company engages in continuous dialogue with communities to ensure that the Tilenga oil project activities prioritise the safety, health, and wellbeing of community members.
- (v) **Sensitisation on ESIA:** We also request NEMA to work with your office to sensitise us on the mitigation measures contained in the Tilenga feeder pipeline ESIA reports. This way, we will better be able to promote compliance to the conditions that NEMA set to protect people and the environment.

We kindly request that you respond to this petition within 14 days. In your reply, we request that you outline the measures that you intend to urgently take to address our challenges.

Thank you,

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Tholith Emmanuel,
0775-260374

Signatories affected by floods

No.	Names	Contact	Village
1.	Tholith Emanuel	0775260374	Kasinyi
2.	Okumu Loice	0787602498	Kasinyi
3.	Wanok Ginaro	0765491866	Kasinyi
4.	Gubaza Stephen	0786296524	Kasinyi
5.	Blikurungi Bandi	0766620421	Kasinyi

6.	Katehe Selina	0775260374	Kasinyi
7.	Omuson David		Kasinyi
8.	Jamerimbe David	0761241311	Kasinyi
9.	Owinyi Charles	0775243790	Kasinyi
10.	Opar Aruwa	0761988915	Kasinyi
11.	Okumu Charles	0761634418	Kasinyi
12.	Oronya Charles	0778682657	Kasinyi
13.	Ocul Francis	0762363798	Kasinyi
14.	Okwonya Acen	0763861422	Kasinyi
15.	Abasungu Francis		Kasinyi
16.	Okello Pitua	0777399314	Kasinyi
17.	Orimabe Jerrimi	0786495430	Kasinyi
18.	Rinbinile Pitua	-	Kasinyi
19.	Angei Maria	-	Kasinyi
20.	Ugen Francis	-	Kasinyi
21.	Ofoyoru Richard	-	Kasinyi
22.	Jakuma Alfred	-	Kasinyi
23.	Gipatho David	-	Kasinyi
24.	Okwai Joseph	-	Kasinyi
25.	Atima Owola	-	Kasinyi
26.	Otueki Francis	-	Kasinyi
27.	Nyirembe Joseline	-	Kasinyi
28.	Aruwa John	-	Kasinyi
29.	Olyera Juliana	-	Kasinyi
30.	Judith Asimwe	-	Kasinyi
31.	Yaniju Bwola	-	Kasinyi
32.	Ocaya Ronald	-	Kasinyi

CC

- The Executive Director, NEMA
- The Executive Director, Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU)