

AFIEGO's Weekly Energy News Roundup (July 6-10, 2020)

AFIEGO's June 2020 newsletter

AFIEGO's June 2020 newsletter discusses the current threats that Bugoma forest is faced with including land grabbing, sugarcane, oil and others. The land grabbing and sugarcane threats were occasioned by government giving away 20% of the forest land to Bunyoro Kingdom, which leased the land to Hoima Sugar Ltd in 2016.

Government institutions, which are constitutionally mandated to protect natural resources such as Bugoma for Ugandans' well-being, played key roles in the giveaway of the forest, reports indicate.

Today, efforts by key players such as the National Forestry Authority (NFA), civil society actors and others to save the forest continue to be curtailed, including by government institutions.

Through our June 2020 newsletter, AFIEGO and our partners bring you the events that led to the giveaway of the forest and highlight the roles played by different government institutions to facilitate the give-away.

The newsletter calls for accountability by those who made bad decisions and makes recommendations to save the forest. Read more <https://www.afiego.org/download/afiegos-june-2020-newsletter/?wpdmdl=1983&refresh=5f06cd97d66581594281367>

Parliament summons Minister Anywar over Kiwula forest action report

The Speaker of Parliament, Rebecca Kadaga, has summoned the State Minister for Environment, Beatrice Anywar, to present to parliament a report on actions taken to save Kiwula Central Forest Reserve in Kayunga district.

Kadaga's summon to the State Minister to present a report on Thursday follows an earlier directive by the House to the ministry to order the removal of private and government tractors from the forest reserve.

Earlier, Kayunga Woman MP Idah Nantaba reported that tractors were being used to destroy the forest reserve. Nantaba said that 1,000 out of the total 5,000 hectares of the forest land is contested in court.

She expressed concern that court orders have been ignored with more than 40 tractors already on the ground clearing the forest. Nantaba then asked parliament to send its Natural Resources Committee to the area to ascertain facts about the forest and ensure that it is not ruined. [Read more](#)

Climate activists turn up heat on Standard Bank during AGM

Standard Bank came under fire from activists over climate issues at its annual general meeting on Friday, though shareholders did not heed their calls to vote out directors over links to fossil fuels.

Climate advocates have increased the pressure on Africa's largest bank by assets in recent weeks after it declined to table two climate-related resolutions from activist shareholder, JustShare, at the AGM.

Activists from JustShare and other groups flooded the virtual meeting with questions and concerns about Standard Bank directors with ties to fossil fuels, its climate-related disclosures and its involvement in projects including a Ugandan crude oil pipeline and gas developments in Mozambique.

"Please can you explain how the development of massive new oil and gas projects in Africa, many of which Standard Bank is involved in funding, are in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement?" Tracey Davies, director of JustShare, wrote, referring to the 2015 pact signed by almost 200 countries. [Read more](#)

Explosion at Nigeria oil facility kills seven

An explosion at an oil production facility in southern Nigeria has killed seven workers, the country's state-run oil group said Wednesday.

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) said the blast happened during operations at the Gbetiokun OML 40 production platform in the Niger Delta region of the West African country.

"The incident, which occurred on Tuesday during the installation of a ladder on a platform ... unfortunately caused seven fatalities," the NNPC said in a statement.

The company said other workers on the facility have been accounted for, and an investigation has been launched into the incident. The NNPC said the victims were employees of a firm engaged for the job.

Although Tuesday's incident was due to an operational factor, pipeline and tanker truck explosions are common in Nigeria, where most people live in poverty even though the country is the biggest oil producer on the continent.

[Read more](#)

Energy ministry must change electricity sector investment strategy to reduce financial losses

Government continues to sign bad Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) which fail to guarantee access to power by its citizens.

This is evident with the curious case of the 42MW Achwa II hydropower power dam. Following commissioning of the dam in October 2019 in the absence of a power evacuation medium, government is losing Shs. 39.4bn due to paying for deemed energy.

Government failed to secure land for construction of a transmission line to evacuate power to the national grid.

Uganda Electricity Transmission Company (UETCL) says that the evacuation lines will be ready in two years.

Government could therefore lose more money than was invested in the project. The project cost Shs. 290bn to develop. If multiplied with the average rate of US cents 9.83 per kilowatt-hour that is being charged, government will pay about Shs. 224 trillion for deemed energy in two years.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

July 13, 2020; Buliisa, Hoima and Kikuube: Media engagements to empower stakeholders on the Tilenga and Kingfisher oil projects' environmental certificate conditions

Coronavirus: AFIEGO continues to call on communities and stakeholders to stay safe through following the Ministry of Health and World Health Organisation's guidelines.

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