

June 2019; Issue 6

KINGFISHER ESIA PUBLIC HEARINGS: GOVERNMENT MUST STOP DECEIT IN OIL ESIA PROCESSES



Participants at the second Kingfisher ESIA public hearing on June 21, 2019 in Hoima district.

Over 12,000 people attended the public hearings in Kikuube and Hoima districts.

In this newsletter:

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On June 19 and 21, 2019, the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU) in consultation with the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) held two public hearings on the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report for the Kingfisher oil project. The public hearings took place in Kikuube and Hoima districts respectively.

The public's interest in the public hearings was overwhelming. Over 12,000 stakeholders including PAU, NEMA, Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Water, Ministry of Lands and Uganda Wildlife Authority officials participated in the two hearings. Other participants included MPs, district leaders, cultural leaders, civil society organisations (CSOs), the media and community members

Over 7,000 stakeholders participated in the public hearing in Kikuube district while over 5,000 participated in Hoima. Even more people wanted to participate.

At about 3pm when the public hearing in Kikuube district was well underway, community members were still trying to make their way into the venue. The same happened in Hoima district. At well past 4pm, some community members were trying to access the venue.

Community members we interviewed trying to access the venues at that time said that they first engaged in some work at home before coming for the public hearings.

No doubt, the quality of the public hearings became questionable with the huge numbers. Over 12,000 stakeholders could not effectively submit their views on the over 4,000-page ESIA report within the two days given for the public hearings.

The big number of participants only served the interests of the developer, NEMA and PAU who use the big numbers to legitimise decisions made to allow oil activities in critical biodiversity areas.

This is more so the case when one considers that community members that were allowed to speak were only permitted to each ask one question! This was contrary to Guideline 15 of the 1999 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) public hearing guidelines. Several other laws were violated!

Citizens should be alert to the fact that the single biggest challenge facing Uganda is failure by government and all her institutions to comply with national laws and respect international best practices.

PAU and NEMA indicated that the Kingfisher ESIA public hearings were organised under Regulation 21(2) of the 1998 EIA regulations. This regulation provides for mandatory public hearings for any projects where there are transboundary concerns or the project is controversial.

A controversial project that will affect the livelihoods of millions of people and one that raises transboundary concerns is bound to attract a lot of interest such as that attracted by the Kingfisher project.

The two government agencies therefore needed to organise public hearings at all parishes in the affected districts to enable relevant and interested stakeholders to effectively participate in the public hearings.

Further, more could have been done to ensure that the public hearings were inclusive and addressed the needs of the elderly, disabled, sick and others. However, NEMA and PAU failed on this and other aspects.

In our **Word from AFIEGO and partners** therefore, we remind NEMA and PAU about the importance of public hearings and the need to comply with laws and guidelines that guarantee effective public participation in ESIA processes to enable decision making that avoids or mitigates the dangers of oil exploitation in Uganda.

We also call on citizens to demand for accountability from PAU, NEMA and other relevant government agencies. PAU and NEMA must not be allowed to hoodwink the public into thinking that they are involving citizens in oil and ESIA processes when they are not effectively engaging citizens.

If citizens do not demand that PAU and NEMA effectively engage citizens for the right decisions to be made, the oil sector will harm our environment and community livelihoods. This must not be allowed.

The failures in the public hearings notwithstanding, stakeholders raised a number of gaps and weaknesses in the Kingfisher ESIA. In our **pictorial** section, we bring you highlights of the key gaps and issues that were raised.

In our **lobbying** section, we share a protest letter that we and our partners wrote to the Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) over plans to build a hydropower dam at Murchison falls. AFIEGO and our partners are against building such a dam as the letter showed.

Further, NEMA wrote back to us following a letter we and our partners wrote in April 2019. In the letter, we requested for a certified copy of the Tilenga EIA certificate, the presiding officer's report from the Tilenga ESIA public hearings and the final Tilenga ESIA report that captured citizens' comments.

The comments were made through written submissions to NEMA and at the Tilenga ESIA public hearings that were held in Buliisa and Nwoya in November 2018.

NEMA informed us that the authority will avail us with the above items following payment of money. We paid the money and are waiting for NEMA to avail the items.

Finally, in **in the media** section, we share some of the 18 newspaper articles that were written by our staff and partners. The articles were published by the leading media houses in Uganda. We also bring you some of the media products that arose from our activities.

One of these activities was media interviews that our CEO had with international media houses such as France Channel 24. The interviews followed filing of a legal notice over Total E&P (U)'s activities in Uganda that threaten biodiversity and livelihoods.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Editorial team:

1. Diana Nabiruma
2. Sandra Atusinguza
3. Balach Bakundane
4. Cyrus Kabaale

Word from AFIEGO and partners

LESSONS FROM KINGFISHER PUBLIC HEARINGS: GOVERNMENT MUST STOP DECEIT IN OIL ESIA PROCESSES

On June 21, 2019, Mr Godfrey Byaruhanga, a resident of Hoima, and several others stood at Kabaale Public School in Hoima pleading with a policeman.

The school was one of two venues for the public hearings held on the Kingfisher oil project's Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) report. The hearings were organised by PAU in consultation with NEMA. One hearing was held in Hoima while another was held in Kikuube district.

Section 20 (8) of the 1995 National Environment Management Act provides that all public hearings in Uganda must be conducted in line with the EIA Public Hearing Guidelines of 1999.

Guideline 3 of the EIA public hearing guidelines states the purpose of public hearings as being:

- (b) To provide for public input in the EIA review process and receive submissions and comments from any interested party;
- (c) To find out the validity of the predictions made in an environmental impact study and;
- (d) To seek information to assist the Executive Director [of NEMA] to arrive at a fair and just decision and promote good governance in environmental impact assessment processes.

In line with the objectives of the 1999 EIA public hearings guidelines, Mr Byaruhanga and his fellow community members should have been allowed into the venue of the public hearing because NEMA needed to hear from them to guide decision-making on the Kingfisher ESIA.

But there stood Mr Byaruhanga and other community members pleading.

"Please let us in. We want to make presentations," Mr Byaruhanga and the others pleaded with the policeman.

When the policeman looked like he could

not budge, the people called their L.C.1 chairperson to intervene.

The L.C.1 chairperson spoke to the policeman but he still refused to let the people in.

AFIEGO staff and our partners intervened and told him that the public hearing was meant to enable NEMA to hear from people such as Mr Byaruhanga and other community members.

"It is past 5pm and that is why I am not allowing any more people in," the policeman said citing security concerns as the reason he was not letting more people into the public hearing.

Following further discussion with AFIEGO staff and our partners, the policeman let Mr Byaruhanga, who wanted to make an informal presentation, into the venue for the public hearing.



Community members such as Mr Godfrey Byaruhanga (4th L) who wanted to make informal presentations were denied access to the public hearing in Hoima. They were only permitted access after AFIEGO and our partners intervened

FAILURES IN KINGFISHER ESIA PUBLIC HEARINGS

The above was one of several failures that undermined the Kingfisher ESIA public hearings. It is true that NEMA and PAU learnt from the Tilenga ESIA public hearings and did some things right.

For instance, they appointed a presiding officer without conflict of interest in line with guideline 5(3) of the 1999 EIA public hearing guidelines. They also used languages understood by communities and handed out translated ESIA summary reports to communities to enable them make input into the ESIA.

However, for the most part, the kinds of public hearings that PAU and NEMA have organised for the oil sector cannot allow NEMA to make decisions to conserve the environment amidst oil dangers. In fact, the public hearings are organised in such a way as to minimise effective public participation while legitimising NEMA's decisions to allow oil projects in ecosensitive area.

The section below discusses the failures that happened in the Kingfisher ESIA public hearings:

a). Big numbers: The number of participants at the public hearings was too big. Over 12,000 stakeholders attended the two public hearings. This number of participants was big and unmanageable. In reality, the two Kingfisher events were more like political gatherings than public hearings.

Having big and unmanageable numbers at the public hearings was as a result of failure by the presiding officer to appreciate that the nature of the project affected many sub-counties, parishes and villages in the two districts. This required PAU, NEMA and the presiding officer to hold at least a public hearing for each sub-county and even parish. This was not done and only two public hearings were held. Failure by PAU, NEMA and the presiding officer

to organise more than two public hearings failed effective public participation. It was also contrary to guideline 6 of the EIA public hearing guidelines.

The guideline empowers the presiding officer to hold public hearings in various locations in the country depending on the location, nature of the project and the cost involved in holding the public hearing.

The excuse that government was minimising costs by holding only two public hearings does not suffice because the costs of risking environmental degradation and loss of livelihoods due to oil activities are higher.



Community members in Kikuube outside the tent where presentations on the Kingfisher ESIA were being made.

Failure by PAU and NEMA to organise adequate public hearings led to an overwhelming turnout in Kikuube and Hoima.

Such big numbers help NEMA to legitimise bad oil decisions yet communities do not effectively participate to influence such decisions.

b). Limited time: During both public hearings, the presiding officer asked community members who made informal presentations to ask only one question. This contravenes Guideline 15 of the 1999 EIA public hearing guidelines which gives a right to interested parties to use ten minutes to make their presentations. While the guideline provides that the presiding officer may extend or limit the duration of a presentation, limiting community members who are most affected by

a project was against the principles of natural justice. It showed that the hearings were not organised to listen to the views of the people but were a formality meant to mislead the public that there was public participation in the project.

c). Lack of fairness: Moreover, the public hearings were against Guideline 4(4) that requires that all public hearings be conducted in a structured manner so as to permit a fair and just examination of all information and matters relevant for the hearing. Organising two public hearings for two districts which were participated in by over 12,000 people meant that NEMA and PAU failed to ensure that a fair presentation of views by the interested stakeholders was undertaken. Indeed, while the developer used over one hour to make a presentation, communities were given little time. This was unfair and could not lead to a just examination of all information.



Community members lining up to submit their comments at the public hearing in Kikuube. Community members were limited to asking one question.

This undermined effective public participation and fairness, contrary to environmental laws.

d). Lack of inclusiveness: The location and time of the public hearings did not take into account the participation of women, the poor and other vulnerable groups who more often than not cannot attend meetings in far away places and for long hours due to time, transport costs and other challenges.

AFIEGO and our partners saw community members who had walked for over 16 km while returning home from the public hearings. Women, the elderly and other vulnerable groups affected by the project found it difficult to walk such distances. More so, the public hearing event lacked sign language interpreters to enable vulnerable groups such as the deaf to follow the proceedings.



Mzee Nyakatura Akiiki, an elderly gentleman, said that oil processes were not inclusive of the old. This was at the public hearing in Hoima district.

e) Bias: While we appreciate that the presiding officer was a qualified person of good standing with no conflict of interest, it was unfortunate that during the public hearings in Kikuube, NEMA and PAU exhibited bias. PAU kept exciting participants by talking of the jobs the oil sector offers while NEMA talked about being unhappy with the delayed oil production! They created an impression that the hearings were being conducted to facilitate the decision to exploit oil. Yet the public hearings were meant to enable the public to submit their views on the Kingfisher ESIA based on balanced discussions that showed both the potential positive and negative impacts of the Kingfisher project. The bias by NEMA shows that they may fail to make just decisions.

f) Failure to involve transboundary communities: The Kingfisher oil project will impact Lake Albert, a shared lake between Uganda and DRC. River Nile also crosses through Lake Albert on its way to Sudan, Egypt and the Mediterranean Sea. This means that the project will affect

transboundary communities. However, the communities were not involved in the public hearings. Petitions from the communities should have been sought by NEMA.

g) Impelementing RAP before ESIA approval a big mistake: Further, the ESIA report that was reviewed at the public hearings did not include a Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) report. Yet community members raised many land acquisition challenges they were facing. Indeed, participants noted that in absence of a project RAP, the ESIA was incomplete to merit public comments.

h) Further, the Kingfisher ESIA public hearings took place at a time when the High Court of Uganda is still failing to fix a hearing for the cases challenging NEMA's decision regarding the approval of the Tilenga project. It should be noted that some of the failures in the Tilenga ESIA public hearings were repeated in the Kingfisher one.

Recommendations

To guard against the dangers of oil activities on the environment and livelihoods in Uganda, there is need to promote and ensure effective ESIA processes as well as compliance to laws. The following recommendations are part of our contributions to the above efforts:

i). NEMA and PAU must stop violation of environmental and other relavent laws. NEMA and PAU should at all levels of ESIA processes comply with the National Environment Act of 2019, the 1998 EIA regulations, the 1999 EIA public hearing guidelines and others.

ii). With the above being said, NEMA must avoid relying on outdated and absolute EIA regulations and public hearing guidelines. Critical oil decisions such as those on the Kingfisher oil project's ESIA are being

made at a time when there are no up-to-date ESIA regulations and public hearing guidelines. The existing regulations and guidelines were formulated in 1998 and 1999 respectively under the 1995 National Environment Act. The above law was repealed by the 2019 National Environment Act.

The new act provides for ESIA while the outdated and obsolete regulations and guidelines provide for an EIA regime. This is a grave contradiction that will only serve to undermine enforcement and compliance thus allowing oil threats to destroy the environment and livelihoods.

It is not surprising that in the case of the Tilenga oil project, an ESIA study that covered environmental and social impacts was undertaken but NEMA chose to title the Tilenga cetificate as a "Certificate of approval for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)". NEMA left out the social component which could undermine compliance. NEMA must urgently put in place new ESIA regulations and public hearing guidelines to harmonise laws and improve enforcement and complinance.

iii). No decision on the Kingfisher ESIA should be made until the Tilenga ESIA case is concluded. NEMA and PAU must work with the entire government to ensure that those who feel that their rights have been violated can access justice without undue delay and prohibitive costs. While youth who filed a case against NEMA and PAU over violations in the Tilenga ESIA process are still waiting for court to fix a hearing for their case, NEMA and PAU are going ahead with other related oil decisions yet matters relating to a related oil project are outstanding. Moreover, they continue to violate laws and abuse community rights. NEMA should delay making a decision on the Kingfisher EISA until the case against the Tielnga ESIA decision in the High Court is concluded.

iv). NEMA and PAU should organise more public hearings at all affected sub-counties in Kikube and Hoima districts. The Kingfisher ESIA public hearings contravened the EIA regulations and public hearing guidelines that require the presiding officer and

the lead agency to determine the number of public hearings taking into account the nature of the project. Over 12,000 people were interested in the Kingfisher ESIA public hearings but they were denied a chance to effectively participate in the public hearings because only two were organised.

Further, any hearing should consider the distance the affected people must cover to reach the hearing venue. In the case of Kingfisher hearings, people walked for over 16km to attend the hearings. The organisers did not take gender and other inclusive considerations into account as women, the elderly, disabled and sick were hard pressed to participate. This must be remedied through organising more public hearings.

v). Further, citizens need to pressure NEMA and PAU to stop organising political gatherings disguised as public hearings. This undermines government efforts to avoid or mitigate the risks and threats of oil on the environment and people.

vi). In addition, RAPs must be considered and approved as part of ESIA. Despite the enactment of the National Environment Act of 2019 which clearly provides for the conduct of ESIA, NEMA is still failing to use her mandate to ensure that all RAPs are considered and approved as an integral part of ESIA. Any ESIA report that does not have a RAP report should be considered as incomplete and must be rejected by NEMA. Citizens should call on NEMA not to hold any public hearing on such incomplete reports.

vii). Finally, NEMA and CSOs must ensure that transboundary communities are involved in the Kingfisher ESIA processes to avoid or mitigate existing tensions especially by the DRC.

By AFIEGO and our partners

Pictorial of our activities

AFIEGO, our partners and others mobilised stakeholders to participate in the Kingfisher ESIA public hearings. With our partners, we also participated in the public hearings. In this newsletter, we bring you comments made by stakeholders at the public hearings.



Hon. Pius Wakabi, the MP for Bugahya county, Hoima district, said that the Kingfisher project had not benefitted communities.

He also said that the report should have clear mitigation measures to resolve transboundary challenges.

Hon. Wakabi said that there have been issues especially with fishermen from DRC attacking fishermen from Uganda. He feared that the Kingfisher project would increase these attacks.



Hon. Daniel Muheirwe Mpamizo, the MP for Buhaguzi county, Kikuube district, said that the report does not have a clear plan to respond to the climate change that may arise as a result of the proposed project activities.

He advised CNOOC, the developer of the Kingfisher project, and PAU to consider giving indigenous tree species to the affected communities and the people in Kikuube district at large as part of climate change mitigation efforts.



The woman MP of Kikuube district, Hon. Tophas Kaahwa, said that oil and gas projects have escalated domestic violence in homes of project-affected people. She noted that the report should have a clear plan showing how it will deal with gender issues.



Mr Kirungi Kadiri, the L.C.5 chairperson of Hoima district, said that as the district, they did not receive the report in time and it was had to make proper analysis of it.

He also said that it is very unfortunate that a report which was developed for over a year is just presented in one day.

Mr. Kadiri added that the mitigation measures for the influx of people in the Hoima and Kikuube district are insufficient.



Hajji Buruhani Kyakuhairwe Akiiki, the minister in charge of cultural affairs in Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom, had fears over the project's potential impact on culture.

He said that oil and gas companies operating in Bunyoro must preserve, respect and protect Bunyoro cultural values and heritage such as tombs shrines, stones, valleys, grass, hills, Lake Albert, forests and reserves like Bugoma forest.



The former bishop of Bunyoro Kitara diocese, Rt. Rev. Nathan Kyamanya, feared that oil spills could happen as they do in other countries yet the ESIA report lacked an oil spill management plan.

He asked NEMA and PAU to task CNOOC to include the management plan in the ESIA report.

He also said that the project should increase on the number of locals it plans on employing.



The Shared Resources, Joint Solutions (SRJS) partners represented by AFIEGO's Ms Diana Nabiruma noted that the Kingfisher and other oil projects were inconsistent with the Paris Climate Change Agreement that's seeking to reduce global temperature rises.

She also said that the Kingfisher project was a threat to food security, water provisioning and community health due to the project's potential to contaminate Lake Albert and soils through oil spills.

She pointed out that the ESIA lacked an oil spill management plan.



Mr James Muhindo, the national coordinator for the Civil Society Coalition on Oil and Gas (CSCO), said that the Kingfisher ESIA report has unclear biodiversity mitigation measures.

He also said that the social and livelihood issues had limited coverage in the report. He noted that this could lead to a lot of negative impact on community livelihoods.



Mr Yoram Banyezaki, the chairperson of Guild Presidents' Forum on Governance (GPFOG), said that the terms of reference for the Kingfisher ESIA were based on the old laws and regulations. He said that this could undermine compliance.



Mr Innocent Tumwebaze, the chairperson of Oil Refinery Residents Association (ORRA), said that the report recognises that water will be polluted from the different activities under the Kingfisher project. However, the mitigation plans in the report did not cover all the potential sources of pollution, he said.

He also noted that the report did not provide for community participation in monitoring compliance to the ESIA.



Mr James Bachondoza, a concerned citizen from Kiziranfumbi who was affected by the finished petroleum products pipeline, informed the hearing that government didn't adequately and promptly compensate project affected people.

He noted that the money offered by government cannot buy land equivalent to what they had. He appealed to government to look into their conditions because it was not their will to leave their ancestral land.



Ms Betty Bagadira, a fish trader from Kaiso landing site, demanded that CNOOC includes clear alternative sources of income for fishing communities whose lives entirely depend on Lake Albert since the Kingfisher project is on the lake shores with some project components being in the lake.

She said despite the promises not to pollute the lake, anything can happen to the lake, affecting their lives. She appealed to NEMA and other government agencies to consider fisherfolk's concerns with outmost care.

Lobbying

This month, ERA invited stakeholders to make comments on the application by Bonang Power and Energy (PTY) LTD to be granted a license to establish a 360MW hydropower plant at Murchison Falls.

In partnership with 16 CSOs, cultural leaders, CBOs, youth and women groups, we issued a protest letter in which we called on ERA to reject the application by Bonanga Power and Energy Ltd.

Further, NEMA wrote to us and committed to avail us with a certified copy of the Tilenga EIA certificate, the presiding officer's report and final Tilenga ESIA report that captured citizens' comments. We paid the money NEMA requested for and are waiting for NEMA to avail the items.

AFIEGO also received an invitation letter from PAU to participate in the Kingfisher ESIA public hearings.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (NEMA)

NEMA/4.5.5.4

17th May, 2019

Mr. Dickens Kamugisha
Chief Executive Officer
Africa Institute for Energy Governance
Plot 1288, Seane Centre Building Suwatta -Nagere
P.O. Box 34913, Kampala

RE: REQUEST FOR A COPY OF THE CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL FOR THE TILENGA PROJECT

Reference is made to your letter dated 18th April, 2019 on the above subject.

We have considered your request and this Authority will avail you a certified copy of the EIA Certificate of Approval and a copy of Presiding Officers Report as requested upon payment of the prescribed fees indicated below:

S/N	ITEM DESCRIPTION	NO. OF PAGES	COST
1	Certified copy of the certified EIA certificate	23,000/-	
2	Copy of the presiding officers report	11,000/-	
TOTAL			34,000/-

Regarding your request for a copy of the revised ESIA Report, this Authority will send a copy of the same to your email address. The fees are payable into the NEMA account details indicated below:

Account Title: National Environment Fund
Account No: 00700088000000
Bank: Bank of Uganda
Branch: Kampala Road

Dr. Tom O. Okurut
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PETROLEUM AUTHORITY OF UGANDA

Reference: PAU/315/432/1

31st May, 2019

The Executive Director,
Africa Institute for Energy Governance,
KAMPALA.

RE: INVITATION TO THE KINGFISHER DEVELOPMENT PROJECT PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU) is organizing public hearings for the Kingfisher Development Project in Kibudde and Hoima Districts. The public hearings shall provide a forum where all stakeholders are brought together to express opinions and offer suggestions on the proposed Kingfisher Development Project in order to influence the decision making process during review of the Kingfisher Development Project Environmental and Social Impact Assessment report. The report can be accessed on the PAU and National Environment Management Authority websites: www.pau.go.ug and www.nema.go.ug respectively.

The Africa Institute for Energy Governance has been identified as a key stakeholder in the above process. The purpose of this letter is therefore to invite you to participate in the Kingfisher Development Project public hearings which are scheduled to take place on 19th June, 2019 at **Rwenzwira Primary School, Rwenzwira Village, Kyungwa Sub-county in Kibudde District** and on 21st June, 2019 at **Kabale Primary School, Kabale Village, Buseruka Sub-county in Hoima District** from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

We look forward to your participation.

Dr. Joseph Kobuthahe
For EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY GOVERNANCE

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17th June 2019

Eng. Ziaa Yibesia Wako,
Chief Executive Officer,
Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA),
Kampala, Uganda

RECEIVED BY REGISTRY

18 JUN 2019

Dear Madam,

PROTEST LETTER TO ERA AGAINST PLANS TO BUILD A HYDROPOWER DAM AT MURCHISON FALLS

1. Introduction

On behalf of the undersigned signatories and on my own behalf, I take this opportunity to thank you for the work the Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERA) is doing for the country and for the people of Uganda.

Among others, the undersigned civil society groups appreciate ERA's efforts to involve the public in the regulation of electricity sector. We believe that it is through the above efforts promote public participation that ERA promoted a notice in the New Vision of June 7, 2019.

Through the notice, ERA invited directly affected communities, directly affected government agencies and interested parties to make comments on an application by Bonang Power and Energy (Pty) Ltd to be granted a license to establish a 360MW hydropower plant at Murchison Falls.

The signatories to this letter from the Acholi and West Nile regions where the planned dam will be located wish to inform you that we are strongly against the planned licensing.

It is unfortunate that at a time when tourism remains one of the vibrant sectors of government investment at a time when Murchison Falls and the entire Murchison landscape is being degraded by all activities, ERA allowed companies to commence discussion to conduct feasibility studies that may lead to destruction of the Murchison Falls.

As you will recall, tourism remains the main sustainable source of government revenues. During visiting of the 2018/2019 budget speech on June 13, 2019 at the State Conference Centre in Kampala, the Minister of Finance, Hon. Mate Ramezi, informed Ugandans that the services sector contributed the highest growth at 7.0% during the 2018/2019 financial year.

Good Governance in Development

AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY GOVERNANCE

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26th June 2019

Dr. Tom Okurut,
The Executive Director,
National Environment Management Authority (NEMA),
Kampala (U.S.).

RECEIVED

26 JUN 2019

Dear Sir,

RE: REQUEST FOR COPY OF CERTIFIED TILENGA EIA CERTIFICATE, PRESIDING OFFICER'S REPORT AND REVISED TILENGA EIA REPORT

Reference is made to the letter, Request for a copy of the certificate of approval for the Tilenga project, dated May 17, 2019 which NEMA wrote to Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO).

In the letter, NEMA acknowledged AFIEGO's request to the Authority to be issued with:

- The Tilenga EIA certificate of approval and its conditions;
- The presiding officer's report from the Tilenga EIA public hearings and;
- The revised Tilenga EIA report that addressed comments made by the public on the Tilenga EIA.

The request for the above was made through a letter written to NEMA on April 18, 2019 by AFIEGO and 16 other civil society organizations (CSOs).

In the aforementioned May 17, 2019 letter, NEMA agreed to assist AFIEGO with a certified copy of the Tilenga EIA certificate of approval and its conditions, the presiding officer's report and the revised Tilenga EIA report following payment of a total sum of UGX 34,000 through bank of Uganda.

AFIEGO and our partners have paid the requested amount and a copy of the payment slip is attached to this letter.

Through this letter, we therefore wish to inform you that we have paid the required fees and accordingly request you to give us the above information in line with Article 41 of the 1995 Constitution of Uganda.

AFIEGO and our partners' goal is to promote access to information by the public, effective public participation and access to justice in the natural resources, and other sectors especially by the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged.

In the media

This month, staff and research associates wrote over 18 newspaper articles which were published in the leading newspapers including the New Vision, Daily Monitor and The Observer.

Further, over eight newspaper and online media articles were published from our protest letter to ERA and other activities. Some of the published articles are captured below.

Leave Ngaji block out of oil licensing



DAN AGABA

During the East African petroleum summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on May 18, 2019, in the morning, the government of Ethiopia announced that it had blocked the licensing of oil and gas exploration in the Ngaji area. This move is a clear indication that the government is not ready to open the oil and gas sector to foreign investment and exploration. The government's decision is a clear indication that it is not ready to open the oil and gas sector to foreign investment and exploration. The government's decision is a clear indication that it is not ready to open the oil and gas sector to foreign investment and exploration.

Although the government is relying on using advanced technologies to drill in these sensitive areas, there is no guarantee this will stop serious environmental damage from occurring.

The author is the Executive Director of the Uganda Wildlife Society.

Other sections of the newspaper showed the green the necessary support and funding in agricultural activities. The country's foreign exchange earnings are being used to pay for the purchase of agricultural equipment.

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Other sections of the newspaper showed the green the necessary support and funding in agricultural activities. The country's foreign exchange earnings are being used to pay for the purchase of agricultural equipment.

Lessons to learn from Ethiopia and Zimbabwe

EDITOR: On May 18, the media reported that the government of Ethiopia was forced to cut electricity supply for five hours every day across the nation for two months following water shortage within the hydroelectric dams. The load shedding was divided into three sessions-long morning, afternoon and evening.

In the same month, the Zimbabwean government also announced long power cuts due to low levels of water in Kariba dam on the border with Zambia – the country's main hydropower source. The Zimbabwean businessmen and manufacturers cried out that electricity shortage had greatly affected their businesses.

This also forced some of the Zimbabweans to go for solar. This should serve as a lesson to the Ugandan government that it is good to heavily invest in other sources of renewable energy. The Government should heavily invest in solar rather than hydro-electricity. Despite the heavy investments in electricity in Uganda, many Ugandans still have no access to it. The power tariffs are high, which makes it unaffordable to Ugandans, thus leaving many to depend on dirty fuel.

What happened in Ethiopia and Zimbabwe could also happen in Uganda.

Catherine Twongyeziwe, Kampala

Water-thirsty oil sector: How will it be quenched?



Water-thirsty oil sector: How will it be quenched?

Water-thirsty oil sector: How will it be quenched?

Water-thirsty oil sector: How will it be quenched?

NGOs say French group Total failed to address impact of Uganda oil project

Date created: 25/06/2019 - 22:19



TOTAL IN UGANDA

TOTAL IN UGANDA

EARTH FINDS

search...

Headlines: New Conservation Tourism Investment

TEN REASONS WHY MURCHISON FALLS SHOULD NOT BE TAMPERED WITH

June 18, 2019 Written by Earth Finds

Published in Opinion 0 comments

Upcoming events

July 5, 2019; Kampala: Staff training on documenting and writing impact stories

July 12, 2019; Kampala: Public talk on sustaining pressure to stop dam at Murchison Falls

July 15, 2019; Kiryandongo: Research on impacts of oil refinery project on affected people

July 16, 2019; Katwe, Kasese: Community film screenings of oil experiences in Ecuador, U.S. and Uganda

July 18 -19, 2019; Hoima and Kakumiro: Community sensitisation meetings on EACOP ESIA report

July 22, 2019; Masaka and Mubende: Sensitisation radio talkshows on the EACOP ESIA report

July 24-26, 2019; District political and technical leaders' workshop for effective stakeholder participation in EACOP ESIA review

About Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO)

Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) is a public policy research and advocacy NGO dedicated to influencing energy policies to benefit the poor and vulnerable. Based in Kampala, Uganda, the organisation was born out of the need to contribute to efforts to turn Africa's 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 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 energy resources for socio-economic development

Our Mission

To promote energy policies that benefit poor and vulnerable communities