

AFIEGO's Weekly Energy News Roundup (May 25-29, 2020)

CSOs protest eviction of fishing communities on Lake Albert

Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) is leading 23 other civil society organizations protesting the impending eviction of 10,000 occupants of several landing sites on Lake Albert in Hoima and Kikuube districts.

The CSOs in a press release shared Thursday revealed that the eviction is reportedly premised on the directive of President Yoweri Museveni to stop inward migration through Uganda's porous borders.

According to the CSOs, security operatives in Hoima reportedly led by the Resident District Commissioner (RDC), the District Internal Security Officer (DISO), the District Police Commander (DPC) and a UPDF commander have gone to several landing sites asking residents to vacate within three days or else face eviction.

The affected villages include Sebigoro B and Nkondo 1 in Kabwoya Sub County, and several villages in Kyangwali sub-county including Kyenyanja, Osusa, Busigi, Kyabasambu, Nzuzu A&B, Kiina and Kachumbe. There is already a heavy UPDF deployment across the affected areas.

It is alleged that the authorities claim that the above villages are illegal landing sites, which must be vacated immediately. Tens of thousands of people have been affected, and some have already voluntarily left in fear of an assault by the army.

The CSOs are now calling upon the government of Uganda to immediately take the following actions to protect the vulnerable communities and stop human rights violations. [Read more](#)

CNOOC elects not to pre-empt Tullow sale of Ugandan assets

Chinese oil firm, CNOOC, has chosen not to pre-empt Tullow Oil's sale of its assets in Uganda to Total according to a statement published on May 28 on Tullow's website.

"Tullow Oil plc announces that CNOOC Uganda Limited (CNOOC) has informed both Tullow and Total that it will not pre-empt the sale of Tullow's assets in Uganda to Total," noted the statement.

On April 23, Tullow announced that it had agreed to sell its assets in Uganda to Total. Total said it would pay Tullow US \$575 million (Approx. Shs 2 trillion), with an initial payment of US \$500 million (Approx. Shs 1.875 trillion) at closing (of the deal) while US \$75 million (Approx. Shs 281bn) would be paid when the partners finally take the final investment decision to launch the project.

Under the terms of the deal, Total would acquire all of Tullow's existing 33.3334% stake in each of the Lake Albert project licenses EA1, EA1A, EA2 and EA3A and the proposed East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) system.

The transaction was, however, subject to a number of conditions, including approval by Tullow's shareholders, customary government approval, the execution of a binding tax agreement with the Government of Uganda and the Uganda Revenue Authority that reflects the agreed tax principles previously announced as well as CNOOC's right to exercise pre-emption on 50% of the transaction. [Read more](#)

Court summons 3 firms over Tullow oil tax case

The Commercial Court has summoned three United Kingdom-based law firms who were the masterminds of the deal in which Tullow Oil plc avoided paying taxes worth \$1.1 billion (about Shs 4.1 trillion) to the Ugandan national treasury following an agreement with the central government and Uganda Revenue Authority (URA).

In the May 18, 2020 summon, court has also asked Three Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Three Crown Services, together with Tullow Uganda operations PTY Limited, and its affiliate Tullow Uganda, URA and the Attorney General, to file their responses to a suit recently lodged by Jackson Wabyona, a private citizen, within 15 days.

Before the main case in which he essentially challenges the settlement deed saying it is illegal and has corruption written all over it is heard, Wabyona has asked the court to first determine a separate application he filed on May 15. [Read more](#)

Company awarded Shs 181bn for cancelled sand mining licence

Court has awarded Shs 181 billion to a company dealing in sand mining and fish farming whose licence was cancelled by government in 2016.

DMW Uganda Limited, owned by Pastor Daniel Walugembe, in 2019 petitioned the civil division of the High court challenging the directive by parliament in October 2016 to ban their activities of sand mining in Lwera wetland.

The parliamentary committee on natural resources called for the cancellation of the licence following complaints by locals and area politicians that several companies were engaged in illegal sand mining and export especially by the foreign companies.

In the aftermath, the committee directed the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) to cancel licenses of the companies within three weeks.

[Read more](#)

NEMA halts issuance of permits in wetlands

The National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) has halted the issuance of all permits in wetlands across the country.

The NEMA Executive Director, Dr. Tom Okurut, notes that the decision is part of the temporary interventions aimed at reducing the ever-rising cases of misuse and encroachment of wetlands and other sensitive areas in several parts of the country.

According to Dr Okurut, several people with permits have failed to adhere to the guidelines. Okurut was on Wednesday speaking during the NRM Manifesto week.

He says that people who have defied the guidelines will have their permits revoked and told to vacate the premises.

David Kureeba, an environmentalist and programme coordinator at the National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) welcomes the move. He says that wetlands should not be priority areas for developments.

[Read more](#)

Upcoming events

June 1, 2020;
Hoima, Buliisa,
Kikuube: Radio
talkshow on land
rights amidst
the COVID-19
pandemic

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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