

**EACOP-AFFECTED PEOPLE OF BUNYORO AND GREATER  
MASAKA**

September 16, 2022

Mr. Martin Tiffen,  
The General Manager,  
East African Crude Oil Pipeline Co. Ltd,  
Kampala-Uganda.



Dear Sir,

**RE: PETITION REQUESTING THE EACOP COMPANY TO ADDRESS EMERGING  
GRIEVANCES OF EACOP-AFFECTED PEOPLE (PAPS)**

Allow us to greet you. We are a collection of persons whose land is being acquired for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project in the Bunyoro and Greater Masaka sub-regions. Particularly, our land is being acquired for the EACOP Right of Way (RoW).

As you are aware, TotalEnergies commenced on processes to acquire our land in 2018. We were informed that without consulting us, government, alongside the other EACOP project developers, had decided that the EACOP would pass through our lands.

We accepted this decision. Some of our leaders told us that the EACOP is a government project and we have no right to refuse government from taking our land. We were promised to be paid fair and adequate compensation very soon.

Our properties were assessed and cut-off dates were placed. These were placed in May and June 2019 for Greater Masaka and Bunyoro respectively

Since then, we have experienced untold suffering as we were stopped from using our land to grow perennial crops and to set up other developments. It is as if we committed a crime.

Currently, we are experiencing some relief as compensation has either been received or some of us are signing for compensation. However, there are emerging grievances that we hope you can address.

What are our challenges?

**CHALLENGES**

- a) **Different compensation rates for the same district:** Sir, as you must be aware, the EACOP-affected people of Kyotera district were not satisfied with the compensation rates that were set for our crops. As you know, a coffee plant in Kyotera district was valued at

Shs 33,000 and a banana plant at Shs. 25,000. Lwengo district, which neighbours Kyotera, set compensation rates for each coffee and banana plant at over Shs. 88,000 and Shs. 50,000 respectively. We, the Kyotera EACOP-affected people, have complained against these rates since 2019. In August 2022, the EACOP-affected people of Nabigasa sub-county in Kyotera district started signing for compensation based on higher updated compensation rates. These rates were approved by the Chief Government Valuer (CGV) in July 2022 based on a supplementary valuation report. The Nabigasa-Kyotera EACOP PAPs are signing for Shs 88,400 and Shs. 50,000 for each coffee and banana plant respectively. In **Kakuuto sub-county** in Kyotera district however, nothing is happening. We the Kakuuto-Kyotera PAPs also want to sign for higher compensation rates. Affected people in the same district cannot be compensated based on different rates! We are therefore requesting that the EACOP Company engages us and we sign compensation agreements based on the updated rates in the supplementary valuation report that was approved by the CGV in July 2022.

- b) Failure to leave us with signed copies of compensation forms:** The EACOP-affected people of Nabigasa-Kyotera would also like to bring to your attention strange behaviour that is worrying us. While we the Nabigasa-Kyotera EACOP PAPs are signing for updated compensation based on the supplementary valuation report that was approved by the CGV, some of us were not left with copies of our signed compensation forms. We are wondering: how sure can we be that we will receive our updated compensation without any evidence that we entered into an agreement with the EACOP Company to pay us the updated compensation? We request that you engage your sub-contractors to come back to all the PAPs who did not receive copies of the signed forms and these forms are given to us.
- c) Opening bank accounts without authorisation:** We would also like to bring to your attention that in some instances, the affected people are being made to sign compensation forms before they open bank accounts. As you know, in districts such as Hoima and Kyotera, some PAPs refused to open bank accounts. Strangely however, they are being told to sign compensation agreements and are told that bank accounts were opened for them. We have requested before that the EACOP Company organises meetings with the affected people so that you can hear these grievances directly. Perhaps they will be resolved. Otherwise, we are worried that compensation will be paid on bank accounts of people that we do not know.
- d) Poor grievance handling:** Sir, your company has failed to put in place sufficient grievance handling mechanisms to help us. Although grievance committees were put in place to assist us to address our grievances, the committees cannot adequately address our issues. The members on the committees can only work on minor grievances yet we are experiencing challenges that require the EACOP Company to urgently intervene. A case in point is the grievance by the Kakuuto-Kyotera PAPs who are not signing for compensation based on updated rates. Moreover, some PAPs have had your sub-contractors telling them that their grievances were closed and are not addressed in the supplementary valuation report. We therefore cannot overemphasize the need for the EACOP Company to directly engage the affected people.

- e) **Water sources affected:** Another grievance that needs urgent handling is the need to replace water sources for communities in the villages of Kamusoga, Kitakomoga, and Kisalira B in Lwengo district. The communities' water wells are being acquired as part of the land that is being taken for the EACOP project. The PAPs in Lwengo have started receiving compensation and women as well as girls are worried because no alternative water sources have been provided yet. There is urgent need to drill boreholes to replace the water wells that are being acquired.
  
- f) **Small and culturally-inappropriate houses:** The PAPs that opted for relocation are concerned by the houses that the EACOP Company is constructing for them. Some PAPs currently own houses with over nine rooms but standard, smaller houses are being built. These houses will not be able to accommodate big families. We have heard that the EACOP Company is saying that they are building us very strong houses. But strong small houses that fail to restore us to our original status are against the commitments your company made in the Land Acquisition and Resettlement Framework for the Lake Albert oil project. We request you to abandon the plans to build us small houses and replace our houses based on the sizes we had before you displaced us.
  
- g) **Good quality houses:** We have also heard and seen some of the houses constructed for the Tilenga-affected people, those whose land was acquired for a Central Processing Facility (CPF) in Buliisa district, are breaking down. Doors and ceilings are breaking. We hope that we will not receive sub-standard houses.
  
- h) **Failure to pay a third-year uplift:** There are still outcries from communities over the EACOP project developers' failure to pay us an uplift of 15% covering three years. We have spent over three years waiting for compensation and you yourselves know that the inflationary pressures in Uganda have risen over the last months. Cement, water and other materials that some PAPs need to replace their houses are now more expensive. Compensation is also expected to end in 2023. Despite this, you are paying an uplift of only two years. This is unfair and we request that the EACOP Company pays us an uplift covering the third year.
  
- i) **Limited financial literacy:** Sir, we are concerned by the inadequate financial literacy efforts that your team undertook. Some PAPs that have received compensation in Lwengo, Hoima, Kikuube and other districts are using their money to drink alcohol, marry new wives and purchase old cars. Your company should conduct better and coordinated financial literacy to ensure that PAPs do not waste their compensation.

## CONCLUSION

We hope that you will implement the recommendations we have made and remain open to engaging with you to ensure that the emerging grievances we have discussed above are addressed.

Thank you,

For 

Comfert Aganyira for the affected people  
[caganix@gmail.com](mailto:caganix@gmail.com)

**CC:**

- Minister of Energy and Mineral Development
- The Chairperson, Natural Resources Committee of Parliament
- The Chairperson, Human Rights Committee of Parliament
- The Executive Director, Petroleum Authority of Uganda
- The Chairperson, Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC)
- The Chairperson, UN Human Rights Office