

EACOP-AFFECTED PEOPLE OF KYOTERA DISTRICT

27th/April/2022

Hon. Patrick Kintu Kisekulo,
The L.C. 5 Chairman,
Kyotera District,
Kyotera (U).

Dear Sir,

RE: REQUEST FOR A MEETING OVER EACOP PROJECT GRIEVANCES

Greetings from the people whose land and property are being compulsorily acquired for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project in Kyotera district. We take this opportunity to appreciate you for the work that you and your team are doing.

We would also like to bring to your attention a number of compensation and other grievances that we hope your office will resolve once and for all.

As you are aware, Kyotera is one of the ten districts from which land is being compulsorily acquired for the EACOP project in Uganda. Over 524 people's property in two sub-counties is being compulsorily acquired in the district.

Unfortunately, low and unfair compensation rates were set for the crops owned by the affected people.

For instance, a coffee plant in Kyotera district was valued at Shs 33,000 while that in Lwengo was valued at over Shs. 88,000. In addition, Lwengo valued a banana plant at Shs. 50,000 while that in Kyotera was valued at Shs. 25,000.

As you will recall, the affected people have previously engaged you and TotalEnergies through petitions and meetings over these compensation grievances. During these engagements and in media interviews, you, Hon. Kintu Kisekulo, were a good leader and sided with us. In October 2021 for instance, you urged us not to open bank accounts until our compensation grievances are addressed.

In addition, in a meeting held in December 2021, Kyotera district indicated that 2021/2022 compensation rates had been put in place by the district. The district indicated that Kyotera was

waiting for approval from the Chief Government Valuer (CGV) before the 2021/2022 compensation rates could be used to compensate us.

We would also like to bring to your attention that on November 3, 2021, we wrote a petition that that was titled, “*Petition to TotalEnergies: Address Kyotera and Lwengo EACOP PAPs grievances*”. The petition was received by Total on November 5, 2021.

Total replied to our petition through a letter dated November 25, 2021. In the letter, the EACOP Company and TotalEnergies noted that the EACOP Company was “*actively engaging with [Kyotera] District in relation to the value of some specific crops, notably coffee and bananas.*”

The letter further read, “*Kyotera District has written to the CGV proposing that they use rates similar to Lwengo. Upon CGV instruction, EACOP would apply the updated rates.*”

Before the Kyotera district leadership and EACOP Company could update us on whether the Kyotera EACOP project-affected persons (PAPs) would be paid based on the 2021/2022 Kyotera district rates however, an informal meeting was held in Maya-Kakuuto in Kyotera district on Tuesday April 5, 2022.

Two EACOP PAPs from Nabigasa sub-county in Kyotera district were transported by NewPlan to the meeting. The PAPs were requested to convince other PAPs in Nabigasa sub-county, Kyotera district to accept to be paid based on the low compensation rates of Shs. 33,000 for a coffee plant and Shs. 25,000 for a banana plant. We have roundly rejected these rates.

To resolve our grievances once and for all, we are requesting for a meeting with you Hon. Kintu Kisekulo, our Members of Parliament (MPs), the chairperson of Kyotera District Land Board, our L.C. 3 leaders and the EACOP Company/TotalEnergies E&P (U). The meeting should take place in Nabigasa sub-county in Kyotera district on **May 6, 2022** or another date that is convenient for you.

We hope that in the meeting, we will once and for all address the issues related to:

- The low and unfair compensation rates that the EACOP Company wants to use to compensate the Kyotera EACOP PAPs. The district leaders and the EACOP Company should tell us whether we are going to be compensated based on Kyotera district’s 2021/2022 compensation rates as previously promised.
- The district should also work with us to end the intimidation and continued underhand methods being used to force us to open bank accounts to receive low compensation.

We look forward to a positive response from you.

Thank you!

CC:

- The Chairperson, Kyotera District Land Board
- All Area MPs
- The Executive Director, Petroleum Authority of Uganda
- The Chairperson, Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC)
- The Resident Representative, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights