

# AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY GOVERNANCE

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The Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development,  
P.O. Box 7096,  
Kampala (U).



Dear Hon. Minister,

## **RE: LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF LANDS TO URGENTLY PRESENT THE LAND ACQUISITION BILL, 2018 TO PARLIAMENT**

Greetings from Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) and our other undersigned environmental and human rights civil society partners as well representatives of oil-affected communities.

AFIEGO and our undersigned partners have worked with communities whose land is compulsorily acquired for oil projects for over a decade. We have documented the challenges that these communities suffer due to grievous gaps in Uganda's land acquisition laws.

Because of this, we take this opportunity to appreciate the Ministry of Lands for compiling the draft Land Acquisition Bill, 2018. The bill seeks to repeal the 1965 Land Acquisition Act which has unconstitutional provisions and several gaps that have undermined the protection of communities' land rights during compulsory land acquisition processes.

We believe that the draft Land Acquisition Bill, 2018 has the potential to promote citizens' enjoyment of land and other property rights as provided for under Article 26 of the 1995 Ugandan Constitution.

However, we note with concern that since 2018, the Ministry of Lands has not tabled the above bill to parliament for debate and enactment into a law.

It should be noted that on March 30, 2020, the undersigned civil society groups reviewed the draft Land Acquisition Bill, 2018. The review was based on discussions with over 58,000 oil-affected people from 34 oil host communities in 13 districts. Following the discussions, we compiled a memorandum of proposals on gaps and weaknesses in the bill. We made recommendations to improve the draft bill.

Unfortunately, to date, no steps have been taken by the Ministry of Lands and government at large to complete the bill and table it before parliament for debate and enactment into law.

The main objective of this letter therefore is to request you to urgently table the 2018 Land Acquisition Bill before parliament for debate and enactment.

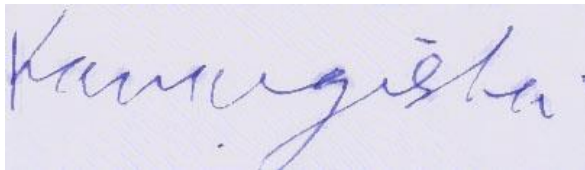
The bill should enable parliament to enact a law that facilitates citizens' enjoyment of their rights as provided for under Article 26 of the Constitution. The article provides for prompt payment of fair and adequate compensation to project-affected persons (PAPs).

We also call on you to ensure that government does not use the bill to amend Article 26 of the Constitution to give government powers to compulsorily acquire citizens' property before prompt payment of fair and adequate compensation in case of disputes. Government made attempts to amend Article 26 of the Constitution in 2017 and these attempts were roundly rejected by public.

Attached to this letter is a memorandum of proposals that we submitted to the Ministry of Lands on March 30, 2020 to fill gaps in the draft Land Acquisition Bill, 2018. We call on the ministry to adopt the recommendations contained in the memorandum in the bill that is presented to parliament.

Thank you!

**Signed by:**



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Dickens Kamugisha,  
Chief Executive Officer-AFIEGO

**Other signatories**

1. World Voices Uganda (WVU)
2. Oil Refinery Residents Association (ORRA)
3. Centre for Constitutional Governance (CCG)
4. Twimukye Womens Organisation
5. Graffen Organisation–Butimba
6. Youth Action for Environment-Kiryandongo
7. Center for Energy Governance
8. African Initiative on Food security and Environment
9. Kasese Citizens Coalition to Safeguard Biodiversity
10. Katwe Sanitation and Clean Energy Women's Club
11. Greenwatch Uganda
12. Citizens' Concern Africa (CICOA)
13. South Western Institute for Policy (SOWIPA)

**CC:**

- The Speaker of Parliament

- The Prime Minister of Uganda (Leader of government business)
- The Minister of Energy and Mineral Development
- The leader of Opposition in Parliament
- The Chairperson, Natural Resources Committee of Parliament
- The Chairperson, Human Rights Committee of Parliament
- The Chairperson, Uganda Human Rights Commission