



MINUTES: PLANNING MEETING BETWEEN THE PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE (PFCC) AND THE SAVE BUGOMA FOREST CAMPAIGN (SBFC)

LOCATION: PARLIAMENT

DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2021



Some of the SBFC members after the meeting with the PFCC

Agenda

1. Welcome remarks by the PFCC
2. Introduction to the SBFC
3. Discussion of how the PFCC and SBFC can work together to support tabling of a motion before parliament to protect Bugoma forest

Participants

No.	Name	Sex	Organisation	Contact
1.	Diana Nabiruma	F	AFIEGO	dnabiruma@afiego.org 0782-280073
2.	Bashir Twesigye	M	CRED	bashirtwesi@gmail.com

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3.	Joshua Mutale	M	WEMNET	mutalejosh@gmail.com 0777-227553
4.	Nicholas Businge	M	PFCC	busingenike@gmail.com / pfcc@parliament.go.ug 0782-454695/0703-552241

Minute 1: Welcome remarks by PFCC coordinator

Mr. Nicholas Businge, the acting coordinator of the PFCC, welcomed the SBFC members to the meeting. He introduced PFCC and noted the following:

- The forum was formed in 2008 by MPs in the 8th Parliament.
- The formation of the forum was supported by the Administration of Parliament Act which provides that MPs have the freedom to form associations and lobby for issues of common interest.
- MPs who are interested in joining the forum voluntarily register and subscribe to it.
- Currently, the forum has a membership of 70 MPs.
- The forum works towards addressing the pressing environmental, social and economic issues presented by climate change.
- The forum has been successful in various ways. For instance, it successfully lobbied parliament to put in place a standing committee on climate change.

Following the above introduction, Mr. Businge invited the SBFC members to introduce themselves.

Minute 2: About the SBFC

Mr. Bashir Twesigye introduced the SBFC. He noted that the campaign to save Bugoma forest commenced in 2016 when Bunyoro Kitara Kingdom (BKK) and Hoima Sugar Ltd (HSL) were issued with freehold and leasehold land titles respectively for 8,000 hectares of Bugoma forest.

Mr. Twesigye observed that todate, the SBFC, which is chaired by Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO), has a membership of 25 civil society and private sector leaders working to save Bugoma forest from land grabbing, sugarcane growing and oil threats.

He further noted that since it was formed, the SBFC has engaged various stakeholders including cabinet ministers, parliamentary committees, the National Forestry Authority (NFA), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), development partners and others to save the forest.

Ms. Diana Nabiruma also observed that the SBFC had engaged communities, the national and international media and others to mobilise the public to save the forest.

The gains made from the above engagements were stated. Mr. Twesigye noted that it was important to continue to fight against destruction of Bugoma forest because if nothing is done, a bad precedent that would see other forests being grabbed and destroyed would be set.

Minister 3: Plans to table a motion on Bugoma forest

Thereafter, Mr. Twesigye introduced the objective of the meeting. He observed that on **September 9, 2021**, the SBFC held a meeting with the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Jacob Oulanyah. During the meeting, the ongoing destruction of Bugoma forest for sugarcane growing by HSL was discussed.

Ways in which parliament could support efforts to stop the destruction of the forest were also discussed. During the discussion, Hon. Oulanyah advised the SBFC to mobilise MPs to table a motion before parliament to stop the destruction of Bugoma forest.

Consequently, the SBFC reached out to the PFCC to determine whether MPs belonging to the forum could table the motion before parliament.

Minute 4: Reactions by PFCC

Mr. Businge made the following commitments after the above discussion. The commitments were discussed with and adopted by the SBFC members at the meeting. They included the following:

- Mr. Businge agreed to mobilise five MPs to ensure that a motion on saving Bugoma forest was tabled before parliament.
- It was agreed that a meeting to discuss the draft motion with the MPs would be organised by Mr. Businge that week. The SBFC agreed to participate in this meeting.
- It was agreed that the motion would be finalised and would be tabled before parliament by the MPs on either Tuesday September 21 or Wednesday September 22 the following week.

The meeting was concluded following the above.

