

February 2026; Issue 2

JUSTICE IN ACTION: HOW CLIMATE LITIGATION ELEVATES COMMUNITY VOICES



EACOP affected persons and the legal team during a court hearing at the East African Court of Justice's Appellate Division in Arusha, Tanzania.

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Dear reader, welcome to AFIEGO's February 2026 newsletter.

On February 24, 2026, AFIEGO supported the oil refinery Project Affected Persons (PAPs) to appear at the High Court in Hoima district. For these PAPs, attending court is no longer unusual. It has become part of a struggle that began in 2012, when they were displaced from their land in Kabaale parish, Buseruka sub-county, Hoima district to pave way for the oil refinery project. In total, 7,118 people from 1,221 households lost over 29 square kilometres of land. This is also the land from which the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) will begin its journey in Uganda.

The court case was filed in March 2014 with support from AFIEGO.

During the compulsory land acquisition process, government imposed a cut-off date and stopped families from planting perennial food and cash crops or putting up new developments because any new activity on the land would not be compensated. It is worth noting that for households that depended entirely on farming, this decision was devastating.

Food production dropped, incomes depleted and many families struggled to meet basic needs such as school fees, health care and decent shelter. Of those affected, more than 3,500 were children and about 1,500 were women, alongside elderly persons and people living with disabilities.

Unfortunately, when compensation

eventually began in June 2013, it was calculated using outdated and unapproved rates from 2011. Furthermore, the government had committed to complete payments by February 13, 2014, but many households were paid outside this timeframe.

In fact, 98% of the affected people received their compensation late, after the legally prescribed period had passed. By then, inflation had eroded the value of the money and what might have enabled families to rebuild their lives in 2011 was no longer adequate years later.

Also, some households remained unpaid even after the government's own deadline. Sadly, those who opted for in-kind compensation were in 2018, forcefully resettled in a camp-like settlement at Kyakaboga village in Hoima district long after the acquisition process should have ended.

In court, the affected people argue that stopping them from using their land without prompt compensation violated Article 26 of Uganda's Constitution. They contend that the use of a cut-off date was unlawful, that compensation was neither prompt nor fair, and that the outdated rates used were unjust.

Therefore, they are seeking declarations that their rights were violated, orders for government to review and pay compensation using up-to-date rates, and general damages for the losses and suffering they have endured.

The case has been before six (6) judges and has moved between High Courts in Kampala, Masindi and now Hoima.

After more than a decade, this case has come to symbolise more than a compensation dispute. It reflects the broader question of whether development can proceed without sacrificing constitutional rights and human dignity.

Around the world, communities are increasingly turning to the courts to demand environmental and climate justice and this case forms part of that growing movement.

For the families displaced for the oil-refinery, it is about land lost, livelihoods disrupted and years spent waiting for fairness. Their persistence is a reminder that while justice may be delayed, the demand for it does not fade.

In our **Word from CEO**, we explore a profound shift on how communities are using climate litigation to fight local battles of climate injustices. We also discuss the challenges of climate litigation and way forward.

In this newsletter, we also bring you our **pictorial** section. In this section, we share the activities that we and our partners implemented this month (February).

For instance, AFIEGO supported women and youth to engage in advocacy to align the 2026/2027 national budget proposals with Uganda's Energy Transition Plan (ETP).

AFIEGO also supported the oil

refinery project-affected persons to participate in the hearing of their case at Hoima High Court.

Further, AFIEGO participated in a national dialogue on decent work, labour standards and emerging workers' grievances in Uganda's oil sector.

In addition, AFIEGO supported the dissemination of research assessing the EACOP Livelihood Restoration Programme (LRP) in Uganda. Further, with our Inclusive Green Economy Network- East Africa (IGEN-EA) partners, we organised a meeting to discuss proposals for the national budget of FY2026/27. And as a result, we developed position papers for the tourism sector, Sustainable Energy Development Programme and agro-industrialisation.

In the **lobbying** section, we share some of the lobby and advocacy products that we produced and disseminated in February 2026.

Finally, in **in the media** section, we bring you some of the newspaper articles written by our staff and partners that were published in the leading newspapers in February 2026.

We hope you enjoy the newsletter.

Editorial team:

Patrick Edema

Rachael Amongin

Jen Apio

Justice in action: How climate litigation elevates community voices

Did you know that climate change could push over **130** million people in Africa into poverty by 2030? A World Bank report warns that this projection is not a distant threat.

In Uganda, it's already visible in the lines etched on the faces of women in flood-ravaged communities. Currently, over 50,000 people are **estimated** to be affected by climate-related impacts in Uganda annually, costing the country \$62 million and with figures projected to double by 2030.

But here's the good news. A global movement for climate litigation is rising. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), communities, youth activists and Environment and Human Rights Defenders (EHRDs) are no longer waiting for permission to be heard. They are walking into courtrooms and demanding their rights to a clean and health environment.

Climate litigation has proven to be a powerful tool that can stop harmful projects, restore community rights, ensure adherence to the rule of law and promote climate action while opening up civic space.

It also serves as a mobilisation tool, drawing public attention to the negative impacts of harmful projects hence galvanising collective action to stop them.

In Africa, environmental

degradation is often rooted in weak governance, corruption, and the unchecked power of multinational corporations. Whether due to economic incentives or lack of capacity, governments frequently fail to enforce environmental regulations. This failure results in environmental degradation, human rights violations, pollution and others.

In this context, courts have emerged as a crucial avenue for seeking justice. Through legal cases, communities can challenge environmental violations and demand accountability.

If successful, courts may impose fines against offenders, mandate reparations and even issue injunctions to halt harmful activities. These rulings send a strong message that environmental violations will not go unpunished.

And indeed, there have been numerous inspiring instances of courts holding corporations accountable. For instance, in Nigeria, Royal Dutch Shell was finally found responsible for environmental **devastation** caused by oil pipeline spills in a 2021 verdict.

The court in the Netherlands that made the **ruling** ordered the oil company to pay compensation to affected farmers in the Niger delta and engage in clean-up efforts.

In Kenya, the National Environmental Tribunal's 2019 decision to **revoke** the license for a proposed coal plant in Lamu highlighted the power of legal processes in preventing ecological disasters. The tribunal determined the project's Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be inadequate and emphasised the need to protect local livelihoods and United Nations, Education and Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)'s recognised world heritage site over corporate interests.

Further, in South Africa, the judiciary's suspension of Shell's seismic surveys along the **Wild Coast** showcased its ability to uphold environmental and community rights. In its decision, the court cited insufficient consultation with affected people and the risk to marine ecosystems.

Similarly, AFIEGO, like other civil society groups across Africa, has undertaken strategic climate litigation to explore the courts' potential to serve as guardians of human and environmental justice.

For communities ravaged by environmental crimes and caught in disputes with powerful corporations and complicit governments, the legal system is becoming their last beacon of hope.

Together with communities, AFIEGO is currently pursuing over **23 court cases**. Here are a few examples:

The East African Court of Justice (EACJ) case: AFIEGO and our partners filed a case at the EACJ in Arusha, Tanzania, seeking to stop the construction of EACOP.

The case, filed against the governments of Uganda and Tanzania, as well as the Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC) challenged the construction of the EACOP.

Unfortunately, the EACJ's Appellate Division upheld the decision by the First Instance Division and dismissed the case based on procedural grounds in November 2025.

Despite the outcome, it represents a critical effort to use regional legal mechanisms for environmental protection.

The case against TotalEnergies in France: In June 2023, AFIEGO together with other civil society partners from Uganda and France alongside over 20 people affected by the EACOP and Tilenga oil project, filed a case against TotalEnergies in France.

Through this lawsuit, we seek to hold TotalEnergies liable for human rights violations committed under the Tilenga and EACOP oil projects.

The case, which continued through 2024, is key not only to restoring the rights of the affected people but could also stop financial flows to the EACOP project if successfully prosecuted.

The oil refinery-affected people's court

case: In March 2014, a case was filed at the Ugandan High Court on behalf of over 7,000 people from Hoima district who were displaced by the government for an oil refinery project.

The lawsuit alleges that the Government of Uganda (GoU) failed to provide prompt, fair and adequate compensation, violating Article 26 of Uganda's Constitution.

A successful prosecution of this case would restore the compensation rights of these over 7,000 people, including more than 3,000 women and thousands of children.

However, despite efforts to seek justice for communities through the courts, significant obstacles and challenges remain. Judicial proceedings are often expensive, time-consuming and largely inaccessible to marginalised communities that lack legal expertise or the financial resources to afford legal services.

Below, we discuss some of the challenges of climate litigation

a). Failure to establish legal standing: Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) often face procedural hurdles in establishing legal standing, as courts typically require litigants to demonstrate a direct and tangible interest in the matter.

This principle poses a challenge for groups representing broader environmental concerns, where harm is often ecological or community-wide rather than specific to a single legal entity.

Unlike an individual who can show personal injury from pollution, CSOs must convince the court of their sufficient stake in the case.

As a result, cases are frequently dismissed on technical grounds before the substantive issues are addressed, forcing organisations to either partner with directly affected individuals or navigate complex legal exceptions to access the judiciary.

b). Slow court processes: This also poses a major challenge for CSOs involved in climate litigation because the prolonged judicial processes undermine their ability to deliver timely justice to affected communities.

Delays caused by crowded dockets, procedural complexities and systemic inefficiencies place a disproportionate burden on CSOs, which often have limited resources and cannot sustain years of long legal battles against well-funded governments and multinational corporations.

For poor and vulnerable communities relying on swift action to stop environmental harm, these prolonged proceedings can mean continuous exposure to pollution, displacement and loss of their livelihoods.

c). Judicial independence is not

guaranteed: In most African countries, political interference and weak institutional capacity undermine the ability of courts to deliver fair and impartial judgments.

Even when rulings favor communities and CSOs, enforcement remains a critical challenge as government agencies and corporate actors often delay or disregard compliance without consequence.

Beyond these judicial obstacles, engaging in high-profile environmental litigation can expose Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and CSOs to political backlash and public scrutiny, potentially jeopardising their operations and funding streams.

This dynamic was evident at the 29th Conference Of Parties (COP29), where activists faced **restrictions** and challenges in staging demonstrations, reflecting the broader pressures faced in environmental advocacy.

Compounding these difficulties, powerful corporations frequently exploit legal loopholes or leverage their financial clout to prolong proceedings and stall compliance, further entrenching the inequities within the justice system.

d). Resource constraints: Climate litigation is resource intensive and often requires substantial financial investment and specialised legal expertise.

For NGOs and CSOs operating with limited budgets, sustaining prolonged

legal battles against well-funded corporate entities is particularly difficult.

These challenges are compounded by high legal costs including attorney fees, expert witnesses and logistical arrangements for community participation in court proceedings.

This also comes along with the broader constraints of a shrinking civic space.

e). Limited understanding of climate litigation: Court officers including judges have limited understanding of climate litigation.

Climate cases often involve complex science, future projections of harm and new legal theories that do not fit traditional court frameworks focused on immediate and local impacts.

When judges lack knowledge of climate science or the nuances of emissions and ecological impacts, they may struggle to evaluate the evidence or hold the seriousness of the harm.

This knowledge gap leads to unfavorable rulings, narrows interpretation of who has standing and prevents courts from granting strong remedies.

As a result, courts may be less likely to recognise the importance of climate cases, making it harder for these lawsuits to succeed and effectively stop harmful projects.

f). Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP): Corporations may file counter-lawsuits intended to

intimidate and silence critics through costly and lengthy legal proceedings.

These SLAPPs can deter NGOs and CSOs from pursuing legitimate environmental and climate litigation due to the fear of financial and legal repercussions.

g). Navigating complex legal frameworks: Climate litigation often involves intricate legal and scientific issues, requiring NGOs and CSOs to navigate complex national and international laws.

This complexity can pose significant challenges, especially for organisations lacking specialized legal expertise.

h). Proving causation: Demonstrating a direct link between a corporation's actions and specific environmental harm is complex.

Climate change involves numerous contributors, making it challenging to attribute responsibility to a single entity.

Way forward

Based on the above-mentioned challenges, AFIEGO believes that a number of approaches have to be undertaken to effectively engage in climate litigation and environmental advocacy.

This requires strategic legal reforms, capacity building and strengthening protection of project-affected communities and human rights defenders. These strategies include;

i). Pursuing strategic cases before regional bodies such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) and others that have developed progressive environmental jurisprudence.

ii). Engaging with UN special procedures and treaty bodies to highlight systemic failures and seek recommendations for reform.

iii). Work with partners to develop regional hubs of legal expertise that provide specialised training, share knowledge and coordinate litigation strategies across borders.

iv). Continue building international solidarity networks and rapid response mechanisms to provide legal and financial support to organisations facing retaliatory litigation.

v). Engaging with regional and international human rights bodies to document and publicise instances of repression, creating diplomatic pressure on governments to respect civic space.

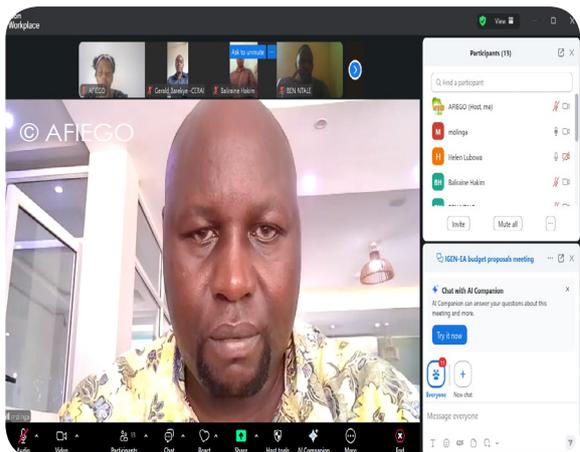
vi). Advocating for specialised environmental courts or fast-track procedures for climate-related cases to reduce delays caused by crowded dockets and procedural complexities.

vii). Continue undertaking different legal strategies including advocacy, media engagement, policy engagement and community mobilisation to complement litigation.

By CEO

Pictorial of our activities

AFIEGO AND PARTNERS UNDER IGEN-EA HELD A MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET PROPOSALS

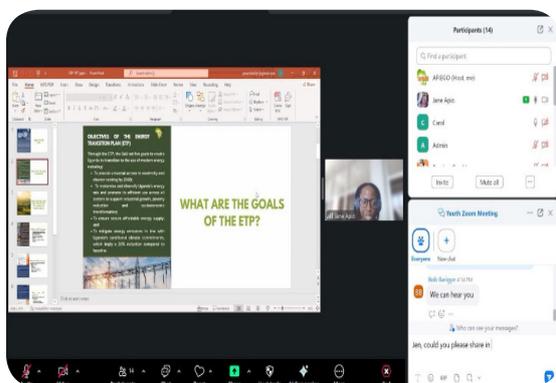


On January 27, 2026, AFIEGO and IGEN-EA partners met to discuss the national budget proposals for the FY2026/27.

During the meeting, members discussed the national budget proposals under the Sustainable Energy Programme among others for FY2026/27 budget that are captured in Uganda's National Budget Framework (NBF) Paper of FY2026/27-2030/31.

A position paper was submitted to Parliament advocating for sustainable resourcing for clean, affordable and accessible energy.

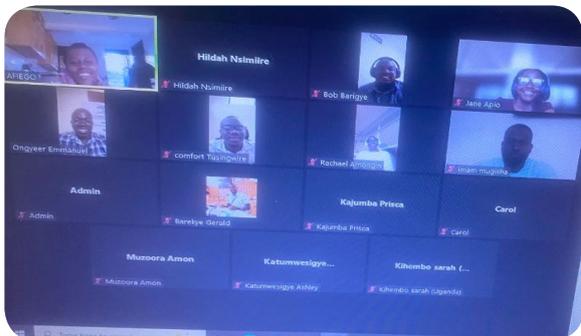
AFIEGO ORGANISES AN ONLINE MEETING WITH YOUTH CLIMATE ADVOCATES



On February 3 2026, AFIEGO convened an online meeting with youth climate advocates to discuss the FY 2026/27 national budget proposals that are contained in the 2026/27-2030/31 National Budget Framework Paper of December 2025.

During the analysis, the youth discovered that the national budget priorities under the Sustainable Energy Programme are not aligned to the goals within Uganda's Energy Transition Plan (ETP).

As a result, the youth submitted a position paper calling for the alignment of FY2026/27 national budget to the ETP.



AFIEGO AND ITS LEGAL TEAM MEET AN AGGRIEVED OIL SECTOR WORKER



On February 11, 2026, AFIEGO organised a meeting between an aggrieved oil sector worker and its legal team.

The injured former oil worker is seeking redress for a workplace injury he sustained while working with CIVTEC, a subcontractor of TotalEnergies.

During the meeting the injured worker and the legal team agreed on steps to ensure that his concerns are properly addressed.

AFIEGO PARTICIPATES IN A NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES AND THEIR IMPACTS ON WORKERS



On February 17, 2026, AFIEGO participated in a national dialogue on oil and gas activities and their workers' rights in Kampala.

The dialogue was organised by National Organisation for Trade Unions (NOTU). It brought together government agencies, oil companies, trade unions and labour officers from some districts with ongoing oil activities.

AFIEGO also distributed booklets with stories of aggrieved oil sector workers.

AFIEGO SUPPORTS OIL AFFECTED PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR COURT CASE HEARING



On February 24, 2026, AFIEGO supported its legal team and some members of the oil refinery-affected community to take part in their court case hearing at the Hoima High Court.

The case, filed in 2014, challenges delayed and unfair compensation arising from government's compulsory land acquisition for the oil refinery project.

During the court hearing, the judge directed that the matter proceeds to hearing on May 21, 2026, when valuation evidence will be presented.

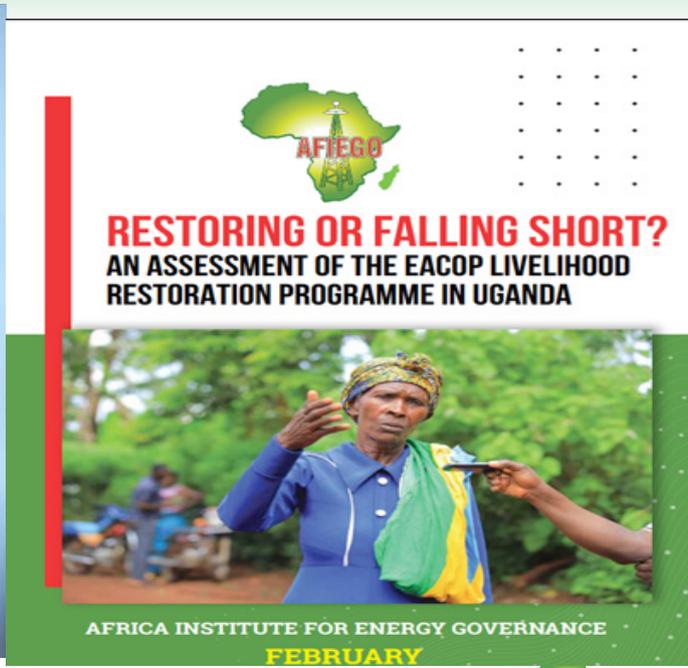
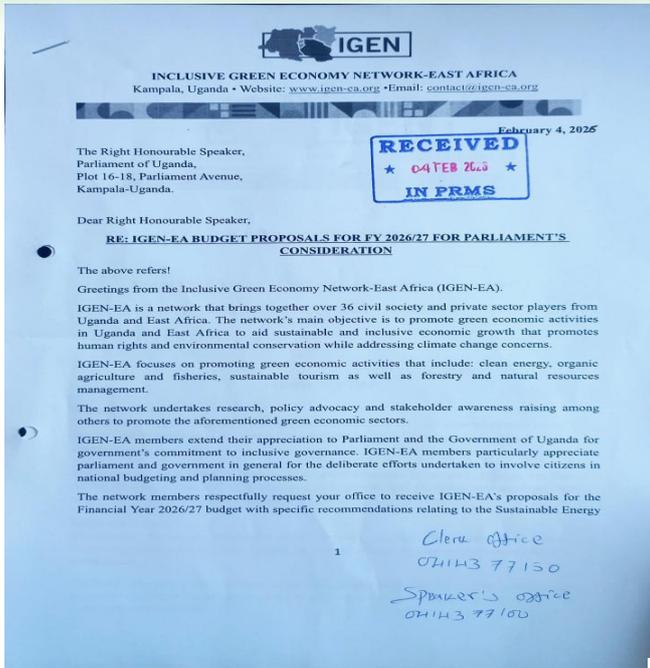
Lobbying

In February, AFIEGO produced and disseminated a research brief that assesses the EACOP Livelihood Restoration Programme (LRP).

In addition, AFIEGO and partners under IGEN-EA submitted a position paper to Parliament calling for increased investment to sustainable energy, agriculture, forestry and tourism sectors.

At the same time, AFIEGO supported youth climate advocates to develop and submit their own position paper on the national budget proposals. Furthermore, we disseminated press statements regarding civic space challenges, the youth position paper and the oil-refinery court case.

These and other advocacy material can be seen below.



YOUTH FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND CLEAN ENERGY
February 18, 2025

The Speaker of Parliament,
Parliament of Uganda,
Plot 16-18, Parliament Avenue,
Kampala-Uganda.

Dear Rt. Hon. Speaker,

RE: YOUTH'S BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR FY 2026/27 FOR PARLIAMENT'S CONSIDERATION

The above refers!

Thank you for the good work that you are doing.

I am writing to you today on behalf of 176 youth from across Uganda that are working to promote climate action and clean energy access.

The youth extend their appreciation to Parliament and the Government of Uganda for government's commitment to inclusive governance. The youth particularly appreciate parliament and government for the deliberate efforts undertaken to involve citizens in national budgeting and planning processes.

On February 3, 2025, the youth held a meeting to discuss the national budget proposals for the Financial Year 2026/27. The proposals are contained in the National Budget Framework Paper 2026/27 of December 2025.

The youth discussed whether the proposals relating to the Sustainable Energy Development (SED) Programme are aligned to the priorities identified in Uganda's Energy Transition Plan (ETP) of December 2023.

The youth found that though the Sustainable Development Programme contains important proposals for enhancing clean energy access, there are major gaps that could undermine attainment of the ETP goals.

The youth are therefore seeking parliament's intervention to ensure that the FY 2026/27 promotes off-grid solar electrification, clean cooking and e-mobility among others as aspired to under the ETP. This will enhance clean energy access, climate action and the promotion of green jobs for youth.

The youth kindly request you to forward the proposals they make in line with the above to parliament's Committee on Budget and the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources through the chairpersons of the respective committees.

February 4, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Kampala

RIGHTS IN LIMBO: YOUTH ACTIVISTS CONDEMN JUDICIAL DELAYS IN DELIVERING CRITICAL RULINGS

Eight (8) youth activists who filed court cases against ten police officers in 2024 over violation of their rights to freedom of assembly, freedom from torture, freedom of movement and others have written to various judges to express concerns over the judges' delay to deliver rulings in the youth's cases.

The youth wrote to the following High Court judges: Justice Simon Peter Kinobe, Justice Isaac Teko, and Justice Collins Accellam. The youth want the aforementioned judges to fast-track delivery of the rulings in their cases.

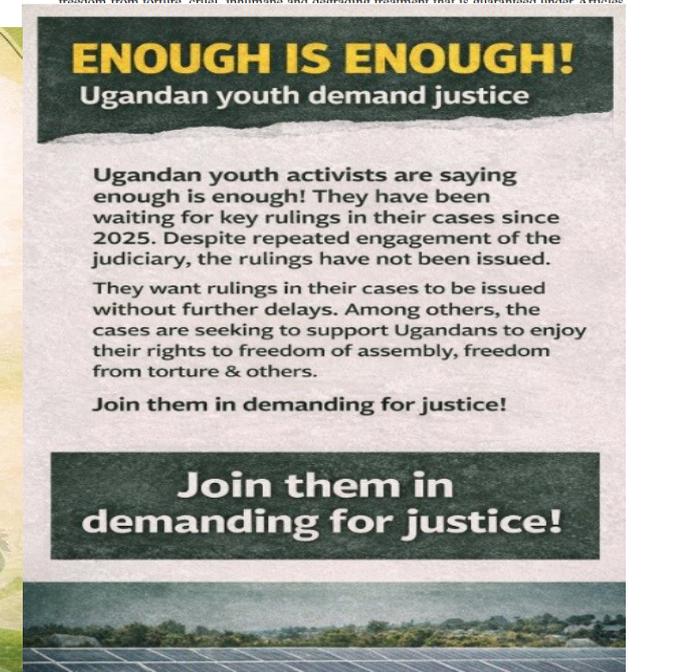
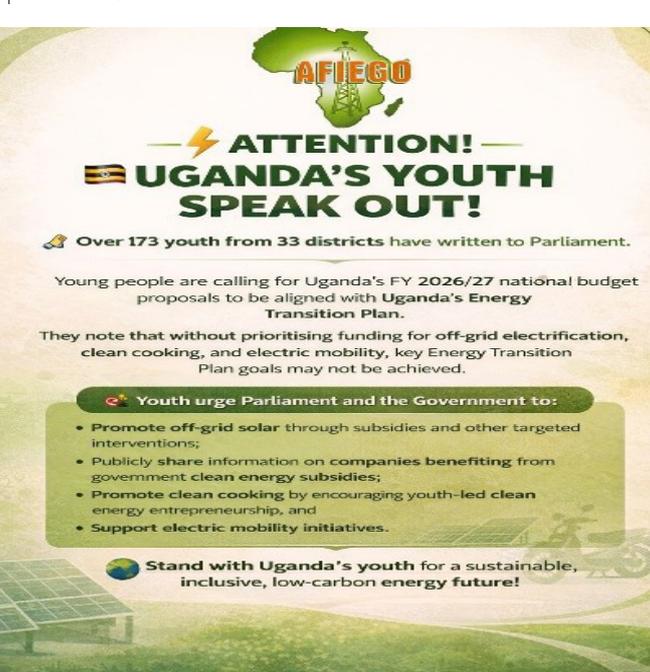
BACKGROUND TO THE CASES
Between October 2022 and May 2024, the eight environmental and human rights youth activists held peaceful marches to the Parliament of Uganda, European Union (EU) offices in Uganda and the Chinese embassy in Uganda.

The activists sought to deliver petitions against development of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project owing to the project's immense human rights, biodiversity conservation and climate change risks.

On their way to the aforementioned offices, the youth activists were arrested and brutalised by the ten police officers. They were detained at the Central Police Station (CPS) and Jinja Road Police station, both located in Kampala.

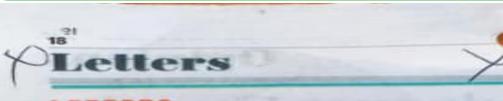
The youth separately filed three court cases including Misc. Cause No. 133 of 2024, Misc. Cause No. 123 of 2024 and Misc. Cause No. 0124 of 2024, between May and June 2024. The cases were filed before the High Court.

RIGHTS ABUSES
Through the cases, the youth argued that the police officers that they sued violated their right to freedom from torture, cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment that is guaranteed under Article 44



In the media

In February 2026, AFIEGO staff and partners wrote newspaper articles that were published in the leading newspapers. Some of the published articles are captured below.



LETTERS

Why Uganda's clean energy transition lies in the hands of its communities

Uganda's electricity generation is increasingly renewable, with hydroelectric, geothermal, bagasse, and solar PV accounting for about 92 percent of installed capacity.

The 600mw Karuma Hydropower Project increased total capacity to over 2,000 MW. Despite this, traditional biomass still provides around 90 percent of energy consumption, posing health and environmental challenges.

The country has steadily expanded electricity access through grid and off-grid solar solutions. However, as of 2024, Uganda's clean energy access rate remains low with approximately 25.3 percent of the population having access to grid electricity and less than six percent having access to clean cooking fuels.

According to the National Population and Housing Census (NPHC) 2024 report, only 3.8 percent of households use clean fuels and technologies for cooking whereas urban areas have a slightly higher adoption rate at 6.5 percent, compared to just 1.9 percent in rural areas. This places Uganda among the countries with the lowest electrification and clean cooking rates in sub-Saharan Africa.

Indeed, the government has set ambitious targets for expanding electricity access, aiming for universal coverage by 2030, including putting in place policies, interventions and initiatives to ensure increased access to clean energy of the communities. However, achieving this goal requires infrastructure investment, a skilled workforce to drive innovation in the sector.

In the recently participated in meeting that was organized by Community Climate and Energy Skills Initiative (CCECSI), under the theme 'Building resilient communities through equitable energy transition', it was realized that putting communities especially women and youths at the center of all clean energy transitions not only improve their lives but is also key to successfully implementing energy and climate policies.

The local energy communities are showing clear benefits across the globe in deploying renewable technologies, improving efficiency, supporting local jobs. At the same time, these initiatives are generating increased attention as effective vehicles towards more inclusive, equitable and resilient energy systems.

With ever-growing pressure to accelerate decarbonisation and to mitigate the impacts of the energy crisis on households and businesses, community-based energy communities can help address numerous challenges faced by power systems, including losses, grid congestion and the need to accommodate growing peak demand. Recently the IEA estimated that one gigatonne of carbon dioxide emissions come from grid losses, equal to almost 3 percent of current global energy-related CO2 emissions.

Yet local community based generating, sharing and consuming of electricity can significantly avoid these losses and enhance energy efficiency. To address the urgency of tackling climate change, as highlighted in the recent COP30 final agreement, installed clean energy must triple to at least 11,000 gigawatts (GW) by 2030 but it will only grow smoothly and with a solid base if we can guarantee strong community support. The energy transition can create millions of new jobs and industrialization.

For those whose territory is now targeted for investment, it must mean a new chance for a brighter future through reskilling and upskilling. It must mean being respected and heard and it must mean that marginalized groups have equitable access to the opportunities and shared benefits of clean energy. This means strong and dedicated engagement and therefore, communities must be empowered to be the driver for transition.

LETTER OF THE DAY

Communities should play the biggest role in wetland preservation

Every year on the February 2, Uganda joins the rest of the world to celebrate World Wetlands Day to raise awareness about the importance of wetlands for people and our planet. This day is also an occasion to commemorate the signing of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands. Celebrated under that theme Wetlands and Traditional Knowledge: Celebrating Cultural Heritage. This year's global focus highlights how traditional knowledge, cultural practices and community lifestyles have long played a vital role in sustaining wetlands and preserving cultural identity around the world.

Wetlands are among the world's most diverse productive environment cradles of biological diversity that provides the water and productivity upon countless species of plants and animals depend on them for survival. Wetlands are indispensable for the countless benefits they provide to humanity ranging from freshwater supply, food, biodiversity recharge and climate change mitigation.

Often referred to as the "kidneys of the Earth," wetlands possess a natural ability to filter and purify water. Acting as sponges, they absorb and store excess rainfall, reducing the risk of downstream flooding. Moreover, wetlands serve as crucial habitats for a diverse range of plant and animal species, contributing to biodiversity conservation and ensuring the survival of numerous rare or endangered species.

However, in Uganda wetland coverage has reduced from approximately 13 percent of the country's total land surface to about 8 percent. Through agricultural crops and rearing livestock, which have been expanding into wetland areas, leading to the destruction of the ecosystems and the loss of valuable habitats for wildlife.

If nothing is done to halt this trend the country will lose its entire wetland coverage sooner than later. According to the World Heritage and Ramsar Conventions, 64 percent of the world's wetlands have disappeared since the beginning of the last century.

In most regions across the world, wetlands continue to decline, compromising the benefits that wetlands provide to people. According to the Global Wetland Outlook, we lose wetlands three times faster than natural forests.

Therefore, the conservation of wetlands is a vital task of humanity, which can help in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Additionally World Wetlands Day serves as a reminder of the urgent need to protect and restore wetland ecosystems. As Uganda and the global community work towards a sustainable future, conserving wetlands remains essential for safeguarding biodiversity, and building climate resilience.

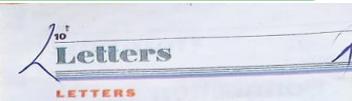
Since wetland management in Uganda was decentralised to the local governments, there is a need for community empowerment in conservation of the wetlands. Therefore, there is need for the government to invest in economic valuation of wetlands to assist in the policy and decision making during difficult situations such as the allocation of the resources to the sectors.

Furthermore, community sensitisation should be done through various media such as newspapers, radio, television, and others like public education campaigns to ensure that the community is well versed on the wetland benefits, policies, by-laws and ordinances to ensure that wetlands are sustainably managed. The community should also be well versed on the wise use of wetland for the sustainable supply of water.

In conclusion, let us renew our commitment to the preservation of wetlands, recognising their vital role in maintaining biodiversity, regulating water resources, and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Through embracing sustainable practices and promoting awareness, we can ensure that these essential ecosystems continue to thrive for generations to come.

Mercy Nuwamanya,
nuwamanyamercy94@gmail.com



LETTERS

FY2026/27 energy budget interventions misaligned with Uganda's Energy Transition Plan

Uganda's Energy Transition Plan (ETP) sets out a clear vision: universal access to clean energy by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050.

It recognises that achieving these goals requires prioritising clean cooking, rapidly scaling off-grid energy, supporting renewable-powered industrialisation, and transitioning transport away from fossil fuels.

However, a closer look at the FY2026/27 National Budget Framework Paper (NBFPP) budget interventions under the Sustainable Energy Development programme reveals a worrying misalignment between ambition and allocation.

First, while the ETP emphasises clean cooking as a national priority given that only about 15 percent of Ugandans currently use clean cooking solutions, the budget largely focuses on awareness creation, standards enforcement, and tax exemptions.

These measures are important but insufficient. They fail to address the biggest barrier faced by households, especially women and youth: high upfront costs and limited access to financing. Without direct subsidies or dedicated financing mechanisms, the goal of universal clean cooking by 2030 remains unrealistic.

Second, the ETP projects that by 2030, at least 25 percent of Ugandans will rely on off-grid solutions such as solar home systems and mini-grids.

Yet the FY2026/2027 Budget continues to prioritise large, grid-based infrastructure, including hydropower rehabilitation, with limited resources directed toward off-grid solar.

This undermines one of the ETP's core pathways for rapidly expanding electricity access, particularly in rural and hard-to-reach communities.

Third, despite Uganda's renewable energy potential of over 5,300 MW, the budget does little to incentivise industries to shift to renewable energy.

Instead, it sits alongside continued support for oil and gas development, even as the ETP warns that fossil fuel use in industry could double by 2030.

Finally, the transport sector where energy demand is projected to grow by 50 percent by 2030 receives little attention in terms of clean mobility.

The absence of clear budget lines for electric public transport and EV infrastructure, contradicts both the ETP and national climate commitments.

In sum, the FY2026/2027 Budget does not yet put Uganda's money where its energy transition goals are, risking a future where plans exist, but progress stalls.

Racheal Amongin,
ramongin@afiego.org

Feb 19, 2026 | Last Update: Feb 23, 2026
Energy, Justice

Ugandans living near new oil pipeline let down by compensation programmes

Ugandans whose lands and livelihoods were affected by the oil pipeline do not think enough was done to leave them better off



An elderly EACOP-affected woman during a media interview in Hoima district, 2025. Photo: AFIEGO



DIANA NABIRUMA - Senior Communications Officer, AFIEGO

AFIEGO report highlights efforts to restore livelihoods

Upcoming events

March 03, 2026; Online: Disseminate messages on World Wildlife Day

March 06, 2026; Buliisa: Support a role modelling radio talkshow to enhance women's participation in advocacy on oil and gas matters

March 08, 2026; Online: Disseminate audio-visual messages in commemoration of International Women's Day

March 12, 2026; Online: Host a webinar to disseminate research assessing compliance by the EACOP project developers and their sub-contractors to the project's livelihood restoration plan

March 13, 2026; Kampala: Support oil-affected women and other community members to petition the Chief Justice to fasttrack justice in community and environmental cases

March 20, 2026; Kampala: Support IGEN-EA to convene a strategic meeting to review key 2025 achievements and set priorities for 2026

March 26, 2026; Hoima: Support the Tilenga oil project-affected persons to participate in the hearing of their case at Hoima High Court

March 31, 2026; Kampala: Support the publication of a storybook documenting the impacts of oil activities on women

About AFIEGO

Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO) is a non-profit company limited by guarantee that was incorporated under Uganda's Companies Act. AFIEGO undertakes public policy research and advocacy to influence energy policies to benefit the poor and vulnerable. Based in Kampala-Uganda, the non-profit company was born out of the need to contribute to efforts to turn Africa's clean energy potential into reality and to ensure that the common man and woman benefits from this energy boom. Through lobbying, research and community education, AFIEGO works with communities and leaders to ensure that clean energy resources are utilised in a way that promotes equitable development, environmental conservation and respect for human rights.

Our Vision

A society that equitably uses clean energy resources for socio-economic development

Our Mission

To promote energy policies that benefit poor and vulnerable communities