

YOUTH CONCERN ON ENVIRONMENT & DEVELOPMENT



QUARTERLY
NEWS LETTER

“

In a moment of shrinking civic space and continued decrease in funding for Non for-profit entities, YCED remains committed to working towards resilience of all environmental justice youth groups. Together our partners and all allies are better positioned to face uncertainty. In this quarterly newsletter, learn about how we are already doing just that , including inspiring stories from the youth at the grassroot resisting corporate impunity by corporate entities, updates from our advocacy for an Afro-centric just and equitable energy transition through our campaign dubbed **Community Engagement on Energy Transition (CEET)** but also continued engagement of project Affected Persons in the Albertian Graben.

”

Understanding the role of young people in shaping an equitable, just and Afro-centric energy transition.



Figure 1: imam Mugisha (YCED) sharing with youth on their role in Uganda's journey to net-zero by 2065.

YCED engaged young people on their role in shaping energy transition, we emphasized the critical role of community engagement in energy transition, putting grassroots communities at the Centre of all clean energy transitions not only improves people's lives but is also key to successfully implementing energy and climate policies. Local energy communities, or community-based energy projects, are showing clear benefits across the globe in deploying renewable technologies, improving efficiency, supporting reliable power supply, reducing bills, and generating local jobs. At the same time, these initiatives are garnering increased attention as effective vehicles towards more inclusive, equitable and resilient energy systems.

Uganda held at crossroad between producing its oil or keeping it underground as a stranded asset, understanding that the global energy transition has far-reaching repercussions: countries whose economies rely on fossil fuel extraction face the prospect of lower demand, and countries producing minerals needed for clean technologies risk the negative impacts of an unregulated mining boom. This piece draws on transition experiences in Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal and Uganda.

It makes the case that only a people-powered and equitable transition can achieve the scale of transformation necessary for a green future. It proposes an operational framework for just transitions that respect universal human rights, address socio-environmental impacts, ensure affected communities and citizens can meaningfully participate in decisions, and put in place strong and accountable governance systems. It shares lessons on context-specific policies for ensuring a fair distribution of both the costs and benefits of planet-saving climate action.

Emphasizing the critical role of young people in advocating for Responsible Business Conduct in Uganda's extractives sector...

When it comes to the future, young people have a lot at stake. And the field of business and human rights is no exception.

Irresponsible business practices affect the prospects of young people living in a fair and livable world in the future. But they are speaking up. In many arenas, youth are already playing an important role in galvanizing support for responsible business among States and businesses, from climate activists to human rights defenders to young parliamentarians and entrepreneurs

With the ongoing stop EACOP campaigns , we have also joined efforts with fellow Human Right Defenders to show our dissatisfaction with the so-called development that is coming at the cost of communities, We have released several information materials on the need to implement the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, The NAPBHR serves a key tool in providing guidance to the State and non-State actors on the requirement that all business operations are to be conducted in line with human rights standards. It's believed that its implementation will contribute to positive human rights outcomes, including the creation of decent jobs, the provision of health, education and other services, protection of the environment, and contributing to the advancement of equality by providing opportunities for marginalized groups.

It's a measure to strengthen the State duty to protect human rights, enhance the corporate responsibility to respect human rights, and ensure access to remedy for victims of human rights violations and abuses resulting from non-compliance by business entities in the Country.

Enhancing the corporate responsibility to respect Human Rights in Uganda's oil and gas sector.



Figure 1: YCED staff undertook a fact-finding mission to understand the impacts of Tilenga and EACOP projects.

Uganda is undertaking oil and gas project developments despite the global noble commitments for climate action made under 2015 Paris agreement to phase out fossils. This has been orchestrated by TotalEnergies in Uganda on behalf of the other project shareholders who have spearheaded compulsory and involuntary displacement of about 5,527 persons affected by Tilenga project and approximately 3,648 persons affected EACOP project. According to EACOP, TotalEnergies and PAU, approximately 3,295 (90%) of EACOP PAPs and 98% of Tilenga PAPs have been compensated. However, several PAPs have complained of undervaluation of their property including land, crops, houses among others contrary to national laws and international best practice. In fact, most

PAPs claim that they were unable to secure equal amount of land in other locations because they were unfairly compensated and land has since hiked in prices. PAPs indeed claim that compensation process was not fair, was seriously delayed (not prompt) and not adequate as the 1995 Constitution of Uganda stipulates. Therefore, it became increasingly important to undertake a deeper study to analyze and audit the compensation rates related to evictions in Tilenga & EACOP projects in Uganda and propose appropriate recommendations to all relevant stakeholders.

Why a levelled democratic playing field for free and fair elections?

f i t www.croozefm.com

EIHANGA RYEITU

HOSTED BY JOHN TURINAWA

TOPIC

THE THORNY GROUND FOR HUMAN RIGHT DEFENDERS IN THE CONTEXT OF ELECTIONS

TUES 21ST JAN | 7PM - 8PM

ONLY ON WESTERN UGANDA'S BIGGEST RADIO

Crooze FM 91.2
GREAT MUSIC. GREAT FRIENDS.



IMAM MUGISHA
TEAM LEAD YCED



MS JOVIA MATSIKO
NCHRD - FOCAL PERSON
ANKOLE SUB-REGION



ATWETA ABDULWAHABU
ED - HOPEFFU



NATAMBA EDWARD
ED - SOWIPA



TO JOIN THE DISCUSSION CALL:
0752912912 | 0780912910

www.croozefm.com/stream 91.2 Crooze FM

YCED participated in different Radio talk shows aimed at contributing to observation of Human rights in the Uganda's elections, Uganda's elections are marred by rights violations and its through such talk shows that we call upon different MDAs to keeping respecting and protecting Human Rights during the election period, The abuses included killings by security forces, arrests and beatings of opposition supporters and journalists, disruption of opposition rallies, and a shutdown of the internet. The authorities should always ensure thorough investigation and prosecution of those responsible for abuses.

Since election campaigns began in November 2020, security forces have clamped down on opposition members and journalists, violently arresting scores of people, including the presidential candidates Patrick Amuriat of the Forum for Democratic Change and Robert Kyagulanyi, of the National Unity Platform.

On November 18 and 19, security forces clamped down on protesters demanding the release of then detained Kyagulanyi, popularly known as Bobi Wine, resulting in at least 54 deaths.

There's no levelled democratic playing field for free and fair elections, instead of restricting free expression, movement, and assembly, the Ugandan government should take concrete steps to improve respect for human rights for all and remove all remaining restrictions."

Two days before the January 14, 2021, elections, the Uganda Communications Commission ordered internet service providers to block access to social media. The next day, the government shut down internet access across the country for five days. Access to social media sites including Twitter and YouTube remained restricted.



**Youth Concern on Environment
and Development**

"Toiling and conserving for the future"

We're not against oil; We're against breaching **Human Rights.**

The development of large oil and gas and infrastructure projects in Uganda is underway and has necessitated huge chunks of land intake, and thus the involuntary resettlement of affected persons and the compulsory acquisition of land has been ongoing. Over 5527 households (called "Project Affected Persons" or "PAPs"), corresponding to a total of 31 716 individuals, settling over 1,183 hectares have been displaced paving the way for the Tilenga project located in Buliisa and Nwoya districts. In addition, in Uganda only, a total of 3,648 households (PAPs), corresponding to almost 25,000 individuals, settling over 1,402 hectares of land (2740 acres) have been displaced to pave way for 1445 kilometers heated East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP). In Tanzania, a total of 9,898 households (PAPs) and about 61 524 individuals) with over 4,063 hectares (10039 acres) of land have been displaced as well.

The ongoing protests continue to clearly show how frustrated Project Affected Persons are, and some research has



actually shown that most PAPs who were compensated in cash failed to acquire similar pieces of land elsewhere.

Last year on 11th November 2024, 15 activists who were protesting Uganda's ongoing oil developments were arrested by police and remanded to Luzira prison. The activists, primarily young Ugandans, were demonstrating against the construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), a major project they argue threatens the environment and the livelihoods of local communities. Kampala Metropolitan Police spokesperson Patrick Onyango confirmed the arrests, stating that the demonstrators are facing charges of common nuisance.

TotalEnergies responded to our request by stating that despite engaging with Police and advocating for their release, the Police maintained their protocols, charged them in court the same day and remanded them to prison.

Today 4th April 2025, students we violently arrested as they marched to the Stanbic bank headquarters in Uganda lifting the voices of communities displaced by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline. Standard Bank still chooses profit over people, ignoring the suffering of thousands of Project Affected Persons,

Uganda adopted and launched its National Action Plan (NAP) on Business and Human Rights on October 28, 2021, this is an extract of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) dubbed- the “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework, which underpins one of the commitments in the Universal Periodic Review. The NAPBHR is a key tool in providing guidance to the State and non-State actors on the requirement that all business operations are to be conducted in line with human rights standards. It’s believed that its implementation will contribute to positive human rights outcomes, including the creation of decent jobs, the provision of health, education and other services, protection of the environment, and contributing to the advancement of equality by providing opportunities for marginalized groups.

The Government of Uganda is committed to implementation of the NAPBHR as a measure to strengthen the State duty to protect human rights, enhance the corporate responsibility to respect human rights, and ensure access to remedy for

victims of human rights violations and abuses resulting from non-compliance by business entities in the Country.

The Action Plan lays out clear strategies and roles of all stakeholders in its implementation.

prevention of violation and abuses of human rights in business operations, mitigation of the

negative impacts of businesses on the communities and enhancing access to remedies for the victims of human rights violations and abuses arising from business.

References.

<https://www.omct.org/en/resources/statements/uganda-crackdown-on-activists-protesting-against-large-scale-oil-projects>

https://www.banktrack.org/article/mass_arrests_in_uganda_as_hundreds_gather_worldwide_urging_china_to_halt_eacop

<https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/business-human-rights-environment/business-and-human-rights/eacop-kingfisher-tilenga-uganda-72-arrests-august-2024>

<https://www.fidh.org/en/issues/business-human-rights-environment/business-and-human-rights/eacop-kingfisher-tilenga-uganda-72-arrests-august-2024>

<https://www.globalwitness.org/en/press-releases/global-witness-condemns-escalating-arrests-climate-campaigners-uganda/>