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# Project Affected Persons frustrated over delayed compensation



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Project affected persons along the East Africa Crude Oil Export Pipeline (EACOP) Project expressed their dismay over delayed compensation for the disturbances. This was during the public hearing(s) for the EACOP environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) report held at Kasana playground in Kitenga sub-county, Mubende district. The public hearing was attended by people from Mubende, Gomba and Sembabule districts.

The speaker of Mubende district council, Museveni William Ndooli, who is also a project-affected person along the pipeline route explained that “ever since the evaluation exercise was conducted in this area, it is now close to one year without any payment. We do not know when we are to be paid. This has affected us in our development programs because you cannot now decide on what to do with the portion of land which was demarcated for the construction of the oil pipeline,” he narrated.



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He also shared that, “we were instructed to stay off this demarcated land yet we were not even paid for it. I intended to use the money which I was supposed to receive from the demarcated portions of land for other developments or use the land for other developments and none of this can be achieved. I thought the compensation would be timely to enable me to shift my farming to another area, but they have not paid me yet and am not even sure when it will be done,” Ndooli wondered.

Katongole Joseph, also a project affected person shared that, “one of the officials from the EACOP project who visited the area after the evaluation found me digging the pits for a banana plantation and he instructed me to stop using this portion of the land because it was allocated for the oil pipeline. It is now close to a year, this piece of land has all overgrown because I cannot dig it, neither have I received the money for compensation. These people should come out clearly and give us a particular time frame when exactly they are going to pay the compensation monies,” he advised.

Maxim Marchenko, the director of the EACOP Project explained that the project affected persons have to wait a little longer to allow a thorough review of the reports from the chief government valuer before they start acquiring the land. After that, the compensation processes shall also follow.

Peter Lokeris the then minister of state for mineral development appealed to the project affected persons to be patient because the project cannot kick off before all the affected parties are compensated.

Ernest Rubondo, executive director of the Petroleum Authority of Uganda explained that “the company assessing the route tested the ground to see whether it has the capacity to host the proposed infrastructure of the pipeline and the designs are complete and the technical testing of the ground is complete. We are now undertaking environmental and social impact assessment. When NEMA receives these comments and

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completes the ESIA process, they will make a statement so that the process is finished and now we shall wait for the taking of the final investment decision plus the eventual commencement of the construction of the pipeline.”

The proposed EACOP project involves the development of a 1,443 kilometers long-buried pipeline from Hoima in Uganda to Tanga in Tanzania. The pipeline will traverse ten districts in Uganda including Hoima, Kikuube, Sembabule, Kyankwanzi, Gomba, Rakai, Lwengo, Kakumiro, Mubende and Kyotera.

*By Josephine Nnabbaale*

*Edited by Muhumuza Didas*



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