NAPE LOBBY

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31st Edition

Development in Turmoil

Land Grabbing, Oil, Bujagali....

Uganda's Experience

Funded by the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation

Africa has become the target of a new form of investment that is strongly reminiscent of colonialism. Investors from both industrialized and emerging economies buy or lease large tracts of land across the continent, either to guarantee their own food security or pursue their corporate interests.

Spectacular deals are made by governments and conglomerates they promote. Whether Africans will profit from these investments is another matter altogether. The wave of foreign investment is leading to new abuses of the environment and peoples!

File photo

Land wrangles: Police at a scene of disagreement over land ownership in Oil-rich Bunyoro

Editorial

Land grabbing is perhaps the most unfortunate happening in Uganda today. Virtually every piece of land developed or fallow is under threat. Foreign and 'local' investors are taking up land under the guise of development.

Already, tempers are rising high among people as they feel insecure over their most precious resource, land. Even institutions that are supposed to safeguard people and their property are not effectively doing their job. A state of lawlessness is emerging as people lose trust in these institutions. A number of deaths have been registered as a result. If a solution is not found immediately, the situation may collapse into a state of quagmire!

Economic crisis is exacerbating the situation. We are at the beginning of the global economic crisis. Investors are taking advantage of this to get as much as they can out of a bad situation. Thousands of investment funds, from small to large, have begun applying the most basic formula of man eat man, including their own.

The world's population is increasing, while food production has decreased. The combination of more people and less land makes food a safe investment. Industrialized economies use food as a weapon of control. Food is becoming the new oil. High food price is reminiscent of the high oil prices in the oil crisis of the 1970s.

Industrialized nations are either buying or given land in Africa and other developing countries with the hope to address the food and energy situation. All these efforts have two hopes. One is the hope of poor nations to achieve the development and modernization of their ailing agricultural sectors. The other is the world's hope that foreign investors in Africa and other developing countries will be able to produce enough food for a growing population and bring along what is lacking in poor countries such as technology, both social and physical capital and knowledge. In the best case scenario this could be a win-win situation with profit for the investors and development for the poor. However, we are yet to see if Africa will stand the test of time.

In this issue, NAPE Lobby discusses how the scramble for resources in Africa is negatively affecting development in Uganda.

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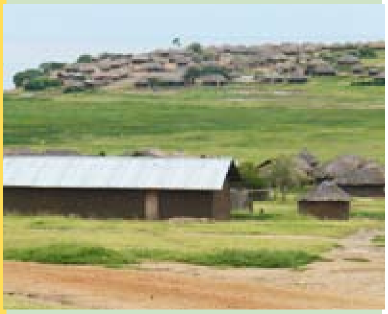

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Uganda's Oil Production Sharing Agreements: The Devil is in the Detail!

By: Guest Writer

Uganda's nascent oil industry is entering a crucial 12 months – a period which could well define the economic and environmental future of the country. And yet the contractual agreements that will do so much to determine whether Lake Albert provides a springboard for genuine development or just another case of the 'oil curse' in Africa remain unpublished, with no sign that President Museveni is responding to growing public criticism of the secrecy surrounding the deals. If anything, the Government's rhetoric on the issue has become increasingly aggressive, with claims that "confidentiality clauses" provide no room for manoeuvre and compromise.

Oil well in Kaiso Tonya on Lake Albert

There is, however, widespread recognition that the full release of the Production Sharing Agreements (PSAs), in particular those signed with Tullow Oil and Heritage Oil & Gas, has to be the fundamental first step towards forging a democratic, open, accountable and socially-responsible extraction of oil in the Albertine rift.

Civil society groups are mobilizing to exert pressure on the government and the developer, through political lobbying, community education, among others. Despite these positive developments, a considerable degree of confusion reigns over what precisely is at stake here. Yes, the PSAs will reveal the relative share of 'profit oil' between the government and the companies (those close to the government who say they have seen the relevant clauses disingenuously assert hat the state will take 'at least 70%' of the proceeds) but these complex agreements cannot be reduced to a headline figure in this way, however much the government would like us to believe otherwise.

The oil profit percentage (see table next page) is merely one measure – and a misleading one at that – of whether the existing contracts are a good deal for the country. The terms of a production sharing contract determine not just how the extracted resources will be shared between state and investor but also the legal rights and obligations of both parties. The devil is all in the detail: it is of the greatest urgency that Ugandans are informed of the PSA clauses over duration, cost recovery, economic risk, and where financial responsibility will lie in the event of economic delays and environmental problems.

The lesson of PSAs from around the world is that they are designed by companies to load the risks and responsibilities on to governments; providing for deals which, once signed, lock countries into damaging contracts that can last for over 25 years.

Whereas in the old concession system, foreign companies had rights to the oil in the ground, and compensated host states for taking their resources (via royalties

A table from Oil Production Agreement

The Profit oil Percentage – (Article 10.3)		
Production	**Government**	**Licensee**
0-5,000	40%	60%
5,001-10,000	45%	55%
10,001-20,000	50%	50%
20,001 - 30,000	55%	45%
30,001 – 40,000	60%	40%
> 40,000	65%	35%

and taxes), a PSA leaves the oil legally in the hands of the state, while the foreign companies are compensated for their investment in oil production infrastructure and for the risks they have taken in doing so.

Although many in the oil industry were initially suspicious of the move towards the PSA model in the late 1960s, they soon realised that by setting the terms the right way, a PSA could deliver the same practical outcomes as a concession, with the advantage of relieving nationalist pressures within the country.

According to industry consultant Daniel Johnston, "At first [PSAs] and concessionary systems appear to be quite different. They have major symbolic and philosophical differences, but these serve more of a political function than anything else. The terminology is certainly distinct, but these systems are really not that different from a financial point of view."

So, the financial and economic implications of PSAs may be the same as concessions, but they have clear political advantages especially when contrasted with the 1970s nationalizations in the Middle East. Professor Thomas Wälde, an expert in oil law and policy at the University of Dundee, describes them as: "A convenient marriage between the politically useful symbolism of the production-sharing contract (appearance of a service contract to the state company acting as master) and the material equivalence of this contract model with concession/ licence regimes in all significant aspects ... The government can be seen to be running the show - and the company can run it behind the camouflage of legal title symbolizing the assertion of national sovereignty."

Uganda's PSAs are likely to:

• Fix the economic terms for 25-40 years, preventing future elected governments from changing taxes or other economic policies.

• Deprive the government of control over the development of the oil industry, instead giving key economic decisions such as the depletion rate to the foreign companies.

• Use 'stabilization clauses' to over-ride any current or future legislation that compromises company profitability, effectively limiting the government's ability to improve environmental regulation and human rights protection.

• Specify that any disputes between the government and the foreign companies will be resolved not in national courts but in secretive international arbitration tribunals which will not consider the Ugandan public interest.

James Arnold of Tullow says there are now 700m barrels of proven reserves on the Ugandan side of Lake Albert. In 5-10 years, the country could be producing 100,000-150,000 barrels a day. But before we can begin to assess what this means in dollar terms for the national treasury, the 70%-30% "profit" oil split has to be viewed in the context of the 'cost recovery' provisions which will dramatically reduce Ugandan proceeds in the short to medium term. This means that in the first years of production, the company will take up to 60% of the profits to recoup the capital it has invested over the exploration period. Only once that money has been made will the 'normal' profit split become relevant.

Moreover, the profit oil split is designed on a sliding scale which reduces the Government take as a whole. Using the draft

PSA negotiated with Hardman Petroleum Africa (taken over by Tullow two years ago) for Block 2 in 2001 – it is of course unclear how this was modified prior to final signature - the highest government share of 65% only kicks in for each barrel produced over the 40,000 mark. In other words, at potential production of 100,000 a day for that particular block, it is not simply a case of dividing total profit by 70% to find the Government share. Rather, Uganda's proceeds will be leveled down as a whole.

The existing PSAs will also reveal details of renegotiations and addenda, particularly as production forecasts have rocketed and the exploration companies seek to bring in bigger partners to build a pipeline to Mombassa. The Government may now be adamant it wants Uganda to refine its own oil and meet domestic needs, but without the PSAs being public, no one can be sure of the true legal position and how much space Uganda ultimately has to pursue its national interest.

If President Museveni has signed good deals, then he has nothing to lose by making them public. If, as many now fear, the Government is simply desperate to conceal the terms of PSAs that are dangerously skewed in favour of international companies, maximum democratic engagement and participation must be brought to bear to ensure amendment before it is too late.

There are some questions that remain unanswered, and these include;

• Where are the details on stabilization clause?
• Who guarantees over the IRR?
• Is there a periodic right to renegotiate?
• Do companies have the right to extend contract automatically?
• Is there a reference to commercial arbitration courts in case of disputes?
• Are there details on whether government is responsible for costs and losses if there is a breach of security?
• Are there situations in which "Force Majeur" can be declared by companies?
• How much tax do the oil companies pay (the standard corporation tax in Uganda?)
• Which of their investment can they write off against tax?

Race for Africa: Is Uganda up for Grabs?

By: Betty Obbo

Every crisis has its winners and losers. It is clear that a new scramble for Africa has begun. War is not on the table but the thirst for profits, and the will to stake out unclaimed turf, is as potent as it was when European powers vied for African territory in the late 19th century. What is different about the new colonialism is that African governments are readily allowing their countries to be conquered.

Virtually everything in Africa is up for grabs - land, oil, minerals, rivers, lakes, falls, social security savings, children, women, etc. Uganda mirrors very well what is happening in the rest of Africa. There are three main grabbers: top-level politicians, the military and foreign investors -call them politico-military-corporate powers. It is a symbiotic relationship of robbery, which is sub-served by specifically designed laws and policies to make it appear legal and legitimate.

Because of the political sensitivity of this modern land grab, it is often only a click of people in the rulling class who knows the details. No one is sure exactly how much land is at stake, God help us all!

A list of land grab investments

of 2008 has been put together by a Barcelona NGO, GRAIN. Industrialized countries, like Japan and Sweden, and developing nations like China, India, oil-rich countries from the Arab Gulf, and Libya are buying large estates in Africa. Below are some of the land grab of in Africa;

- The Sudanese government has leased 1.5 million hectares of prime farmland to the Gulf States, Egypt and South Korea for 99 years. Paradoxically, Sudan is also the world's largest recipient of foreign aid, with 5.6 million of its citizens dependent on food deliveries.
- Kuwait has leased 130,000 hectares of rice fields in Cambodia.
- Egypt plans to grow wheat and corn on 840,000 hectares in Uganda.
- The president of the Democratic Republic of Congo has offered to lease 10 million hectares to the South Africans.

A new ownership society is emerging in Uganda. The main agents of this society easily acquire land titles for land which is not theirs. They have no respect for sacred places and will even in the night invade such places, replacing cemeteries with buildings, factories, etc.

Prisons, police and the military are no longer public institutions but serve the interests of the triumvirate. The focal interest is uninterrupted business for profits by hook or crook. Government manifests to ensure the people do not interfere but have their minds and actions controlled for maximum profit to individuals and firms rather than the country.

Most annoying is that benefits to the host governments and local communities are often short-lived. In the long-term, the local communities will suffer the consequences of over-fertilizing; deforestation; water pollution, reduction of ecological diversity. This is frequently seen in creeping desertification and climate change.

Natural Forests in Bugala Island erased and replaced with Palm Oil grass

Already, large chanks of land have been converted into investor-led initiatives like palm oil projects in Kalangala Islands, sugar cane plantations, paddy rice schemes, to mention but a few. Interestingly rain forests such as Mabira forests are officially targeted for replacement with grass (sugar cane or so-called palm trees).

Recent attempt to address energy shortage through establishment of bio-fuels in Uganda brings in a new dimension of land grabbing! Mukwano Group of Companies has acquired large chunks of land in Northern Uganda earmarked for cultivation of sunflower and simsim used in production of oil and gel. This is resulting in the further pauperization of citizens made homeless by wars initiated by elite interested more in power and grabbing of resources than serving the interests of local communities.

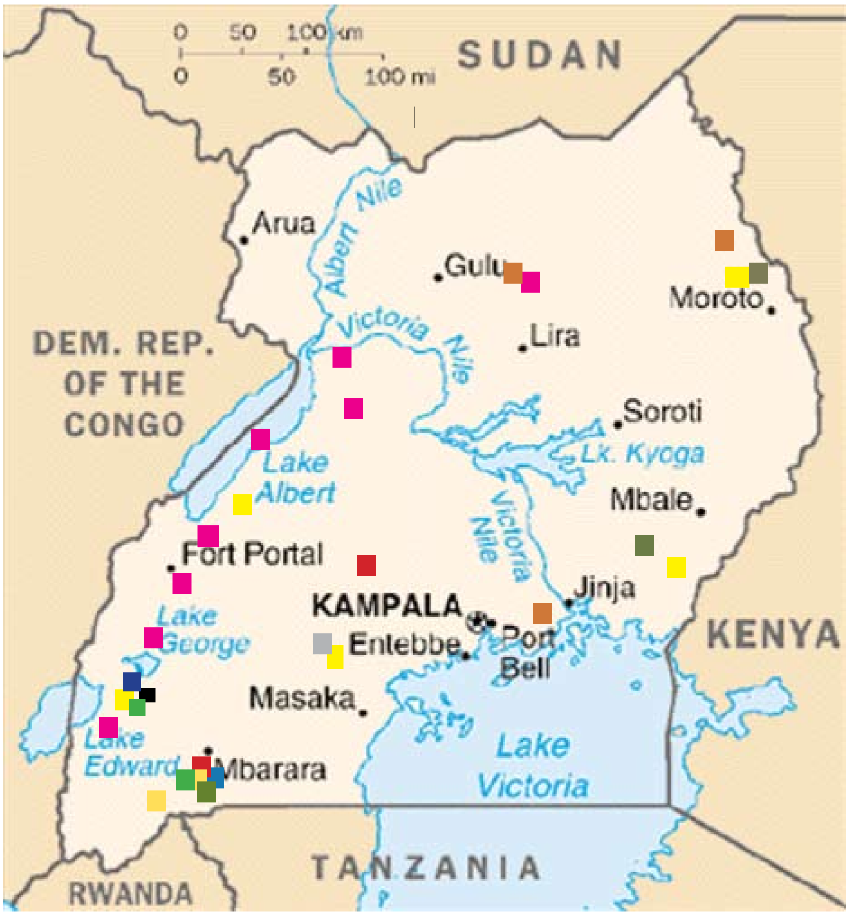
Even International Financial Institutions (IFIs) like World Bank are continuing its role as a neo-colonial consensus agent by actively pursuing and financing access to 'under-utilized land' around the world.

Ten years ago government and World Bank plotted together to grab a large section of River

Nile, including Bujagali falls, to construct a facility for electricity production. The lie was that the facility would produce 250 MW of electricity but independent analyses put the highest it can produce at only 162 MW.

Whether Bujagali will produce electricity remains in balance as the project is once again delayed due to poor design, and unforeseen calamities such as the robbery of Bujagali-bound machines by Somali pirates on the Indian Ocean and climate change. Who knows? In a country now famous on corruption on the African Continent, corruption and lack of transparency could be playing a critical role in making Bujagali unviable!

Unending problems with Bujagali dam: a new design in the offing!



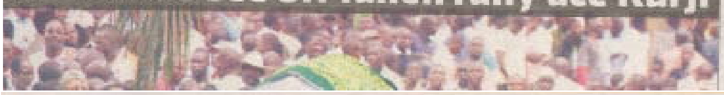
Minerals resources and location

- *Gold (Busia, Bushenyi, Moroto)*
- *Copper (Kaesese*
- *Cobolt (Kasese)*
- *Oil (Rift Vall Grabin, Amur)*
- *Limestome (Kasese, Tororo)*
- *Kaolin (Bushenyi)*
- *Magnetite (Mbale, Tororo, Kotido, Moroto)*
- *Tin (Mbarara)*
- *Mica (Kitgum, Kotido, Mukono)*
- *Talc (Moroto, Kasese)*
- *Zinc (Mbarara)*
- *Iron Ore (Kisoro, Mbarara)*
- *Lead (Mbarara)*
- *Silva*

Press Clippings

Cash crisis halts Karuma project

Thousands see off fallen rally ace Kurji



Norway quits project

Yasiin Mugerwa
Parliament

BUNYORO WANTS LAND FOR VOTES

Banyoro: We want our land, jobs back

Heritage Oil seeks merger

LONDON

UK-based oil explorer Heritage Oil said on Tuesday it had entered a preliminary deal to merge with Genel Energy International, a unit of Turkey's Cukurova Group, creating a Kurdish-focused group worth around $5.5b.

Heritage said in a state-

Bujagali hydropower unit delayed to 2011

Reuters
Johannesburg

Power output at Uganda's 250 megawatts Bujagali Hydro Plant on the River Nile has been postponed to at least mid-2011 due to changes in project design, a government official said yesterday.

Mr James Baanabe, the Acting Commissioner for Energy in the Ministry of Energy, said the first of the five 50 MW turbines would not be commissioned before the middle had previously been scheduled for commissioning by the end of 2010.

"We are hoping to have the first turbine up and running by 2011 ... we still hope for the middle of 2011, but all depends on when the government will approve the changes in design," Mr Baanabe told *Reuters* on the sidelines of an Africa hydropower conference in Johannesburg.

He said it had been discovered during construction that the rock in part of the site was

flow of water to the plant.

A revised project plan had been submitted to the government for approval and the changes could raise the cost

'We are hoping to have the first turbine up and running,'

James Baanabe
Acting Commisioner for Energy

of the project to close to $900 million, Mr Baanabe said.

percent annually, the official said.

Mr Baanabe also said the plant would lower the cost of power and reduce Uganda's reliance on expensive thermal plants.

"(With Bujagali) tariffs will be more affordable and sustainable," he earlier told the conference.

The project's developer, Bujagali Energy Limited, will sell electricity directly to Uganda's transmission company under a 30-year

Early oil production scheme dropped

Market Intelligence

By Ibrahim Kasita
in Kaiso-Tonya, Hoima

THE Early Production Scheme (EPS) has been

ARTHUR KINTU

Tullow suspends oil drilling in some areas

By Ibrahim Kasita

resources (oil and gas)."

been gathered. We now need

The scale and timing of

IGG office short of Shs4b as donors cut aid

Donors cut aid from Shs4.4 to Shs574m

About 3,000 graft cases are pending

Yasiin Mugerwa
Parliament

Donors have cut about 87 per cent of aid to anti-corruption efforts in the country, leaving the Inspectorate of Government on the brink of financial cross-roads.

To stem the new financial crisis, the acting IGG, Mr Raphael Baku, in his 2009/10 budget estimates to Parliament has pleaded for urgent government intervention to plug the donor vacuum.

"There has been a reduction of donor funding from Shs4.4 billion approved for the financial year 2008/09 to Shs574 million for the next financial year, which is a reduction of Shs3.8 billion (87 per cent)," Mr Baku said in his latest statement to Parlia-

Without delving into the specifics of who has cut what and why, Mr Baku added: "This will affect the IGG operations since donor funds have been supporting investigations, prosecution [of corruption cases], public awareness programmes, training, verification of declarations and Systems Studies."

Under the investigation of corruption cases, Mr Baku

'This will affect the IGG operations since donor funds have been supporting our investigations, public awareness programmes,'

Raphael Baku
IGG

said, an additional Shs4.5 billion will be required for carrying out investigations of pending 3,000 complaints

authority and corruption and meeting.

Asked why donors were cutting aid to his office, Mr Baku said: "We were not given reasons. If the government doesn't give us more money, we shall use what we have to achieve what we can achieve."

A source at the IGG's office who requested for anonymity, told *Daily Monitor* yesterday that the Shs574 million as donor contribution in the budget will come from Danida and UK's Department For International Development.

"We were told that we will be receiving only Shs574 million this financial year. We put our case for increased funding, but this is what the donors promised. We suspect the financial turmoil crisis, could be the problem," a source said.

Finance Minister Syda Bbumba yesterday asked for more time to find out why donors cut aid.

This year, the IGG's office

Special Report

People and Oil in Uganda: Facts and Perceptions

By: Frank Muramuzi and Rajab Bwengye

Oil-rich Kaiso Tonya: With the oil transform this village

The postponement of the Early Production Scheme (EPS) by government was perhaps a blessing in disguise since the actual facts and perceptions on ground reveal looming conflicts ahead of actual production of the oil.

During a field visit to the oil-rich region particularly the districts of Amuru, Masindi, Buliisa and Hoima NAPE found that the people in the oil-rich region are wondering whether oil is already being transported to the neighboring countries and beyond. They see fleets of heavy trucks frequenting the area. Many think pipes have already been secretly connected under Lake Albert by the oil companies. They fear their oil could already be siphoned to neighboring Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The people of Buliisa think the Airfield in the area could very soon be used as a strategic gateway for aeroplanes coming to steal their oil.

What all this means is that the people are anxious and suspicious about Government's consorting with the oil companies. It seems government is ignoring the signals. Even the concerned government department (The department of Petroleum in the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development) seems to be comfortable with the entire confusion of the general public. By now it should have come up to provide the public with rightful information on what is exactly going on but alas! Legislators (parliamentarians) and the district leadership of the region will tell you that they are totally green on the next exploration /production step that will follow the recently abandoned EPS.

In Hoima, for example, some locals are wondering whether the oil wells will be like boreholes to which they will flock with Jerrycans and fetch oil, use it in their homes and sell the excess to the non-Banyoro. Others are wondering whether oil products such as petrol, paraffin and diesel, and byproducts such as soap, insecticide, etc will be as cheap as 400 Ug. sh for a liter of parafin in the areas where the oil wells exist. Another section of the population seem to be less bothered by the revenue benefits from oil but, rather, by their land since there is looming talk that oil has been found everywhere, including under their houses.

On the side of the Kingdom of Bunyoro, which represents the interests of its subjects, the burning issue is the share on royalties. The kingdom believes that oil has a historic connotation. The elders, advisers and administrators of the kingdom say that their famous and invincible King Omukama Kabalega spent years and years fighting endless wars with colonialists and neighboring kingdoms such as Buganda to protect the precious resources of the kingdom, particularly, oil. They are flabbergasted to see the Government working tirelessly with the Foreign Oil companies to steal the kingdom's resources. They think this could be the reason why the government never involved, or even consulted, them during the planning phase of the exploration processes.

In addition the Bunyoro Kingdom believes that it was government's hidden agenda to gazette about 60% of the kingdom land and later it could claim it as land under central government jurisdiction so that powerful individuals in government could easily steal the precious resources existing in the gazetted areas.

The cardinal question that remains unanswered is: "If oil is discovered on peoples land currently threatened by the influx of other peoples such as Congolese, Banyankole, Bahima/ Banyarwanda, Bakiga and Sudanese *(also locally known as bafuruki)*. Where will people shift to, since their land will already have been taken by the oil investors?"

Another source of confusion to the Bunyoro Kingdom and its subjects is the petroleum institute at Kigumba in Masindi District. The Banyoro had hoped that the institute would be the life-blood of their future as it would position their sons and daughters better in the petroleum job market. The institute would breed a new brand of Banyoro petroleum experts who would fill the fatty jobs in the Petroleum industry. However, when listened to the grievances of the kingdom elders, advisors and cabinet officials, their hopes seem to be diminishing towards zero since none of them up to now knows:

- How the institute will operate
- Who has been recruited or enrolled and how
- What its curriculum is
- What the courses that it will offer are

The available information reveals that the institute will open this September 2009. The Banyoro see this as a government move to give professional jobs to the preveleged few, leaving Banyoro to be modern-day serfs in the petroleum industry.

People are divided regarding which district should enroll a larger number of students in the institute, or which one should get the largest revenue share. "Will this depend on the size of the oil deposits in each district or how much is being mined in each district", they ask.

One also wonders what formula the government will employ since the oil-rich districts want a share and the Kingdom as an institution its share of the oil revenue basing its position on the provisions of 1933 and 1955 Agreement between Bunyoro Kingdom and the colonial government at that time. Would it be double counting if the Kingdom demands a share on oil royalties and also the districts, whose people are actually its subjects, also demand a share on oil royalties?

When you move northwards to Amuru, the oil issue is gaining momentum. The communities boast of having the largest oil reserves in Murchison Falls NP. The district being the latest oil find, the locals feel other oil rich districts, most especially Hoima and Bulisa, are already ahead of them in terms of information and capacity to negotiate, and that could puts them at a disadvantage when it comes to who should take the lion's share. They say that when it comes to joint discussions on Oil issues, the only preferred language of communication is "Runyoro", which Acholis don't understand. Some people of the Sudan's origin living on Acholi land want to have a share of the oil resources. They believe that oil was discovered in Sudan long before it become an issue in Uganda

The million dollar question is: "Are we really ready for early oil production?" It's, important that Government and all concerned stakeholders join hands to adequately sensitize peoples and, where possible, educate them on what their expectations should be. It is absolutely important that thorough explanations and facts on their key worries and perceptions are given. It's commonsense that people understand what is going on first before rushing to produce oil that will fuel hatred, conflicts and human suffering. All of us will lose when we should be gaining by joining the oil producers club.

The Impacts of Global Economic Crisis on Uganda's Education Sector

By: Mukeele Timothy

Amidst other global crises that are mutually reinforcing, the global financial crisis/economic crunch is likely to have hard hitting impacts on the Ugandan educational system at all levels There are already manifestations of this economic melt down and if solutions are not sought then we are heading for the dogs.

This turmoil comes in at a time of politically manoeuvered process of getting more children into school, with Universal Primary Education(UPE) enrolments increasing at a much faster rate. And the need for improved higher education.

Makerere University Ivory Tower: Will it regain its glory with the current turmoil ?

With this status quo the challenge Uganda is going to face is in expanding access, building more classrooms, training, hiring more teachers and improving the quality of learning at all levels.However all this will not be met because less funds will be will be availble to cater for the expansion The social sectors includinge the ducation sector are already beginning to be hard hit by spending cuts. The poorest children and youths are most at risk of dropping out of school because of poverty. The Uganda government and donor countries are most likely to be under pressure to reduce, their social spending and aid budget..

Our government-sponsored schools are in dire financial constraints. In this economic crisis, the government has less to spend on education. Privately- owned schools are likely to brace up for sharp falls in numbers during the recession because the owners may not have enough financial base to sustain them mush as they will go to extraordinary lengths to hold on to students. There is likely to be a surge in parents requesting for fee reductions.

Aparently even before the recession, the Ugandan educational system has been on a path of decay .The situation was much worse before 1997 when the UPE was commissioned to improve and widen access to primary education.

Matters have become worse since then. Corruption has continued to dog the Universal Primary Education which has been reduced to political gimmicking The result is more children out of school, dilapidated infrastructures as UPE schools are no better than detention centers A visit to any of our UPE schools at all levels will reveal a nation whose education policy makers have perfected official deceit as an art

The impact of the economic crisis on higher education in Uganda will even be more profound. Already these institutions have faced continuously; decreased funding from government at all levels. With the global financial meltdown, it is likely that higher educational institutions will face harder times. This is evident with Makerere where there is already discontent following the recent hike in tuition fees . This implies that a majority of Ugandan children will not afford university education. To the people who are in the know, this means that everything is being quickly crafted under the guise of the global crisis to enable only a few rich ones to have access to higher education. The questions that can be posed here are:

- Are the lecturers at Makerere going to benefit from the increased pay?
- Is the research which is evidently lacking at Makerere going to be revitalized?
- What about the infrastructure at the university?

I bet this will not happen. Money will be either swindled or diverted to other aspects that will benefit a few privileged ones in the ruling echelons of power.

Uganda will find it hard to push for increased aid in-flows to education sector because donors are under pressure to reduce their overall aid package. According to the World Bank, a 1% drop in donor-country GDP is associated with a 1% drop in aid flows over the 1990-till date. But external aid is essential for supporting the expansion of education in Uganda. It is all the more reason for making it more effective.

Times of crisis call for making choices and setting priorities. The global economic crisis has not swept away the knowledge society – on the contrary. Early childhood education, girls' education, literacy and skills training for youth and adults are foundations for inclusive social and economic development. Technical and vocational skills must be developed. This will enable the people who do not access university education to be more creative, innovative and imaginative to survive after all universities like Makerere give more theory than practice

Rethinking the relationship between skills, work and employability within a lifelong perspective will be crucial for positioning education in Uganda in the current economic crisis. Higher education also is a force for finding solutions to today's global challenges from hunger to climate change. Most importantly there is also the need to stress the importance of social responsibility, institutional cooperation and networking to strengthen research and the knowledge. There is therefore need to structure our education system to address issues of climate change and food shortages or else it may be a catastrophic to Ugandans sooner or later

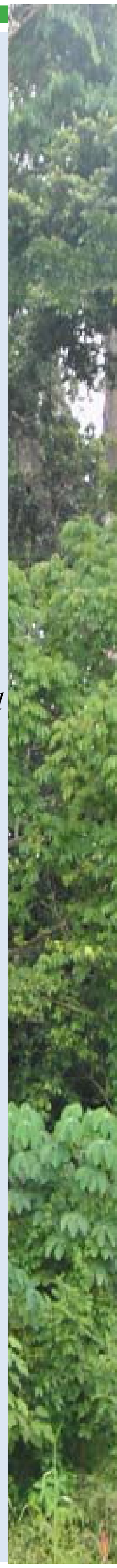
Finally, in the area of education, through its work on quality, curricula, standards, norms, teachers and rights, all Ugandans have to respond to the crisis by promoting values such as respect, justice, equity and diversity as foundations of education, and more broadly, for building more sustainable financial and economic systems.

Tribute to Gallant Environmentalists

By: Byakagaba Patrick
Faculty of Forestry
Makerere University

Oh! Comrades in the struggle
lying in your ancestral homes
Close to your forefathers
who saved our forests
So that the human race
and other God's creatures that make
the world beautiful can survive
We can never get the right words to
express our gratitude
You are men of valour
You died for a noble cause
You died so that Ugandans, the World
and Posterity
May have a chance to live
Oh! You great men whose spirit to
protect our beloved forests
could not be threatened by ordinary
mortal human beings
We shall always cherish your contri-
bution to forest conservation
Your death while on duty gives us
more reason to carry on with the
struggle
Those cowards who ended your
lives on earth prematurely should be
ashamed
For we shall not be deterred even
by an ounce from protecting Mother
Nature
Richard Kalemera and family
Emmanuel Asiimwe
Alfred Ezati
You will always remain our heroes
and posterity will always celebrate
your lives

May your souls rest in eternal peace



Will Post-Retirement Social Security Survive the Economic Crunch?

By: Oweyegha-Afunaduula

It is common knowledge that the world is agonizing and organizing under a deadly economic crunch never before experienced by the global economy since the economic depression of the 1930s. This, in my view, could be the most glaring manifestation of failed or failing globalization, or globalization gone wild. Never before have Europe, USA, China and Japan been jointly or individually brought to their knees as is happening now. Not even military and economic power of these countries -individual or combined -could save them from the invisible and invincible enemy.

Many of their citizens have lost gainful employment and many families have collapsed, leading some family heads to commit suicide or abandon their families to fence for themselves. Many can no longer afford their mortgaged houses, which are reverting to the banks that lent them money to buy the houses.

Joint action to ward off the enemy has only been able to provide temporary relief. This is because the real cause, which is the combination of insatiable consumerism, corruption, environmental bankruptcy and overdependence on and exhaustion of other countries' ecological footprints, is not being tackled. Consequently this is undermining the long-term global foundations of survival, thereby laying the foundation for another similar or worse economic crunch well in the future. The focus of dealing with globalised economic failure has, instead been, and continues to be, on the financial aspects of the crunch, which explains why billions, perhaps trillions, of dollars have been pumped into the economies of European countries, USA, Japan and China.

For Iceland, once an island of prosperity and peace, the economy virtually collapsed necessitating a global financial rescue. Whether it works is for time to judge. However, so much of the prosperity of Iceland has in the past depended greately on whaling, a failing industry, which has attracted global civic action to save the dwindling populations of the whale.

In Africa in general and Uganda in particular it is as if government (s) have conspired together to be silent altogether about or denythe possible impacts of the global economic crunch. One who is not so sophisticated in the knowledge of African and global issues may even begin to believe that the crunch is a problem of the other big countries only. However, we are now aware that the crunch is indeed affecting Uganda's economy badly.

For example, Ugandan workers in the UK (called Nkuba Kyeyo) most of whom live there without official documents remitted US $ 291m to Uganda in 2004, but this rose to over US $ 1bn in 2008, making this avenue the biggest foreign exchange earner in the country. There are disturbing reports that since the onslaught of the global economic crunch, remittances have been taking a nosedive. Hopefully the Bank of Uganda will issue an official statement on the true picture of remittances by Ugandans from UK.

One thing, however, is true of Uganda. Government totally opened the country's economy fully to the global social and economic forces to the extent that the country was since 1996 referred to as the first truly international Bantustan of the world. It is, therefore, unlikely that globalised economic failures would not be felt in Uganda greatly. Our political or economic governors must tell us the truth even when the truth hurts.

Institutional failure

It goes without saying that many institutions –global, continental, regional, national or local –must be reeling under the economic crunch wave. However, little has come to the fore regarding institutional failure, save for what we hear about collapse and mergers of banks and large industries in the West. The question, however, is: to what extent is the global economic crunch affecting institutional stability and survival in the short-, medium- and long-term? Already there is abundant evidence that donors are slashing aid to the poor countries of Africa.

In Uganda, many non-governmental organizations are finding it difficult to operate. If we take Universities in the country, most of which are private, as NGOs, then we begin to see how slashing of donor aid to them may affect them and tertiary education adversely. The same can be said of State Universities, such as Makerere, which depend so much on donor funds, although government still supports them heavily despite their individual efforts to raise funds through privately sponsored programmes and/or students.

Social security worries, fears and concerns

Our concern here is to what extent and how declining income to the institution could affect the social security of its workers. It is probably too early to suggest that lay-offs of workers of the type we saw in the early years of President Museveni's rule may come back. This will not be so much to improve quality and efficiency of staff as to meet the worst of the effects of the economic crunch.

It is worrying if many lose jobs because we are going through times of high and fluctuating inflation rates, when the price of everything in the market is sky-rocketing, and when every service is becoming extremely expensive. Retiring at this time is not so enviable but we can't stop the aging process that culminates into retirement. Almost every adult has (or should have) a personal concern about retirement. Most workers are concerned about whether the combination of their social security benefits, pensions and savings will produce adequate retirement income. Fears that the social security system may go bankrupt add to this concern.

Younger workers may be concerned that their social security 'contribution' will be more than they will get back in benefits. Many workers worry about whether they are saving enough to assure themselves of a comfortable retirement. Older workers may wonder when or if they should retire. They may have difficulty deciding whether the joys and benefits of retirement outweigh the loss of income, status and purpose that retirement may cause. They may fear that retirement causes declines in health, happiness, activities and even early death. Others are only concerned to retire as early as possible. Persons who have already retired may wonder whether they would be better off returning to work. Such concerns, worries and fears affect not only the retiree but the retiree's spouse and family as a whole.

Institutionalising retirement

Part of the institutionalisation of retirement through adequate public and private pension schemes has been the growing acceptance of the idea that older workers have a right to retire by virtue of many years of service at a job. Despite passage of laws and policies preventing compulsory retirement before ages 55, 60, 65 or 70 (depending on country or institution) many people still believe that older workers have a duty to retire in order to make room for younger workers.

Social security institutions and schemes

Of great concern is that as the economic crunch bites alongside reports of spiraling corruption in our institutions, the first casualty is social security, especially of the elderly, retiring and retired workers. This is what is sometimes referred to as post-retirement social security. Special institutions or schemes are often established to provide what are called retirement benefits in order to ensure that, after rendering their services to their institutions, retiring citizens are assured of post-retirement social security.

Monthly deductions are usually made from each employee's salary or wage as his or her contribution to the retirement benefits scheme. The employer contributes some more, monthly, to constitute the total monthly investment by both the employee and the employer in the future social security of the employee. The employee is supposed to start enjoying his or her retirement benefits on/from the day of retirement, which is 60 years for the majority of employees. The reality is that this is a rare occurence in Uganda where social governance at national level is at shambles.

This article will be continued in the next issue.

Uganda is Not a Surviving Island in the Current Turbulent Sea!

By: Kamese Geoffrey

When the global economic crunch first came into the limelight, it soon emerged that it was like a roaring lion in search of any country and people to devour. Ugandan government assured worried citizens that this invisible monster would not devour them or their country Uganda because "our financial systems are strong and sound". However, as time went by clear evidence began to sprout indicating that Uganda cannot be the only surviving island in the centre of a turbulent sea.

The crunch was entrenching itself against the backdrop of official denials and was already having an adverse effect on development interventions run by different sectors of the economy and on individuals, communities and families everywhere. It was beginning to complicate the delicate balance between Nature and Ugandan society, and the deteriorating environmental security situation dominated by debilitating poverty, ignorance, disease and environmental decay and collapse.

Even government and private institutions have started to feel the pinch. For example, the media has reported that institutions such as the Inspectorate of Government (IGG), have run short of funds to implement some of their activities because donors cut aid. National and private universities have more than doubled their tuition fees in the last few months to enable them effectively run their institutions and their staff to make ends meet. If the global economic crunch continues to bite, these institutions are likely to downsize their staff. Students from poor humble backgrounds will not be able to afford education or realize their aspirations in life.

Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), which have often acted to supplement government's effort in environment and development, are variously feeling the pinch too. Many now say they are not receiving funds committed by their partners in the metropolis on or in time for them to carry on their activities. Some have been compelled to downsize their work force.

There is a general hike in prices of food commodities as a result of food shortage in the whole country. Some areas of the North-Eastern part of the country have registered deaths as a result of famine. In a country where alternative energy resources are officially viewed as inferior to hydropower, electricity tariffs are spiraling upwards almost uncontrollably leading to numerous individual and institutional consumers, including government departments and Ministries, to consume electricity without paying for it.

A recent first ever East African Bribery Index found that Uganda has the highest bribery impact in the region, in terms of likelihood, prevalence, severity, frequency, share and average size of bribes. Ranked by institution, Uganda Police, Uganda Revenue Authority, Uganda Public Service, Ministry

President Y.K Museven

" No cause to panic, Uganda's financial systems are strong and sound!"

of Defense, Northern Uganda Social Action Fund, Judiciary, Mulago Hospital, UMEME, Prisons Department, National Social Security Fund and Ministry of Lands lead the table in that order. We do not know yet to what extent the global economic crunch is confounding the corruption situation.

Government has pledged politically to do everything possible to address the effects of the economic crunch. This, however, will only be possible if as a country, the cardinal challenges of corruption, lack of transparency, and accountability, and increasing nepotism, tribalism and ethinicism, are adequately addressed. Government should also ensure that effective policies and laws for example, food policy to guide the country on production, distribution and sell of food are in place. Committed political leadership will be needed.

Commentary...

Rwanda Rises as Neighbours Sink

By: Our Staff Reporter

Fifteen years ago, Rwanda was the killing field of Eastern Africa. Close to one million people perished in a well-executed genocide in 1994 that pitied minority Tutsis against majority Hutus. This figure strikes a curious similarity with a religious cult-related genocide in Kanungu, Uganda, not many years after the Rwanda genocide. Unbelievably, the majority of the dead were not from Kanungu. At that time, Uganda boasted of having one of the most security-conscious governments in Africa. Surprisingly it helplessly looked on as people were burnt to death in an inferno never before known to have taken place anywhere in Uganda.

The to p1717 most political leaders of both Rwanda and Uganda were, together with that of Ethiopia, once called "the new breed of leaders" in Africa by the USA. Uganda soon served as the base and origin of the insurgency that ignited the genocide in Rwanda. Lake Victoria became the receptacle of numerous dead human bodies that undermined the fisheries industry. Everyone who saw fish feeding on the carcasses placed a personal ban on eating fish from the lake. There are many people who have never included fish in their diet since then although the fish that feasted on human bodies must be since dead.

That is now history. Rwanda is a different country altogether. The Rwandan government has been able to usher in law and order, trust between and togetherness of Tutsis and Hutus, environmental sanity and economic development. This is the more important during the global economic crunch.

On the contrary the Ugandan government is presiding over a country that is more divided than before. The same thing obtains in Kenya, Sudan and DRC. Uganda's economy is on the downside, although recent revelations indicate it has not only struck oil in Bunyoro and Amuria but numerous minerals scattered virtually everywhere in its landscape. The productive capacity of the country is declining while the cost of almost everything, including administration and the patronage chain, is sky-rocketing.

Many families in Uganda cannot afford two meals a day. Those who use electricity are failing to pay the high tariffs. Quite a good number have taken to stealing electricity just as the provider UMEME is concocting impossible electricity bills for hapless, mainly middle class, Ugandans who are the most taxed of all middle classes in the East African region.

Virtually every Ugandan is asking "Where is all that money UMEME is stealing from Ugandans going?" The answer could be "building a formidable corruption industry", which is sustaining some unscrupulous top political leaders, bureaucrats and business people. This is not far-fetched. Uganda is threatening to overtake Nigeria as the most corrupt country in Africa. Uganda also boasts of a good position in corruption globally. However, for Rwanda, corruption is a comfortably contained vise at this time when the temptation to get rich quick is burdening Uganda.

Unlike Uganda, Rwanda has become the region's investment paradise. In fact Rwanda is fast becoming top investment destination in the great Lakes region. Even Uganda's highly successful businessman, Sudhir Ruperalia, is seeing Rwanda as a more attractive target for investment. He is investing $US 75 million to construct a mall with 1,500 shops in Kigali. Indeed this is happening at a time when Rwanda's construction industry is booming. Of course one is tempted to say that is nothing since Ruperalia has Munyonyo Resort Hotel, Speke Hotel, Kabira Country Club and Bujagali Resort Hotel, etc. However, the fact is Rwanda is attracting him at a time when the global economic crunch is biting.

The truth is that as Uganda is suffering under the sharp knife of the economic crunch, Rwanda is booming despite the global recession. Rwanda's Kigali Free Trade Zone, which is to open up the Great Lakes region, promises to show how correct political leadership is all that is needed to overcome the worst impacts of the global economic crunch. Besides, Rwanda is busy pursuing sector reforms to ensure that its citizens access credit despite the crunch. Citizens have renewed confidence that their country is putting the genocide behind it and aiming higher without looking back.

True, Makerere University's Faculty of Computer Science and IT is the biggest in Africa. However, as if there is no economic crunch, Rwanda is moving steadily to becoming the regional hub of IT.

Look! In 2008 Rwanda for the first time experienced double digit real growth rate of 11.2% in over 5 years. Agriculture grew by 15% up from 0.7% in 2007. Industry grew by 10.7% while services grew by 7.9% Food production grew by 16.4%. Export crops grew by 20.3%. Electricity, gas and water production grew by 16.9% over from only 3.7% in 2007. Construction activities grew by 25.9% from 11.6% in 2007.

Overall, revenue collections in Rwanda for 2008 far exceeded expectations, rising in leaps and bounds 36% higher that was predicted for that year. Because of favourable growth in revenue and success in fighting corruption, human development and social sectors now constitute 32% of the total budget. Governance and sovereignty constitute 34.5% of the budget.

These figures are not cooked, concocted or just good for text book reading. They are the reality on the ground. This is a far cry from Uganda where cooking or concocting figures for political engineering of confidence of the economy and public approval is a common occurrence. When one goes to the ground one quickly notices the great disparity between myth and reality.

Unlike Uganda, which is investing heavily in militarism and building a formidable patronage chain, Rwanda is investing heavily in people, unity, nature, the environment and good governance.

Environmentally, Rwanda has conquered the ban on plastic bags. While Uganda has proposed a ban on plastic bags more than three times, but has failed to effectively implement the ban. Plastic bags remain a menace in both Uganda and Kenya. Rwanda has also instituted a national day of cleaning and it is now the cleanest city in Africa.

When it comes to the road network, Rwandan roads are excellent and well-maintained. Unlike the in Uganda, Kenya, Sudan and DRC that are full of potholes in many sections of the road network.

Rwanda has also instituted a tree-planting day, which is a National Tree Planting Day. Tree cover in Rwanda has increased tremendously. This is supported by good policies and strict enforcement of the laws. Cutting of a tree in Rwanda is only done with clearance from highest authority. The tree-planting strategy is indeed helping to ward off the worst effects of climate change, which is sweeping across the African Continent.

Unlike Rwanda, however, it is not common to see unplanned and indiscriminate cutting of trees in Uganda, Kenya Sudan and DRC. In Uganda government is sometimes the leader in destroying, or proposing to destroy, priceless forests in the name of development. It is not uncommon for government, which is not owner but custodian on behalf of the citizens, to give away large tracts of forest land to so-called foreign investors, endangering the environmental security of everyone.

In one sentence we can write that the global economic crunch is not a crisis but an opportunity for Rwanda to move forward, and that is what is happening. As is often said, behind every success or failure in development is leadership. However, like all African countries, Rwanda is faced with the challenges of human rights, democracy, justice, accountability and transparency.

There is evidence that the leaders of Rwanda are taking these challenges seriously but the ultimate judge of whether or not the country will succeed on these scores is time. Nevertheless Uganda's leaders need to swallow their pride and learn a lesson or two from their counterparts in Rwanda. This is cost free and cost effective. The alternative is steadily leading Uganda into sinking to the abyss, once again.

The Difficult Balance Between Oil and Nature

Adopted from the New Vision

Tour operators, lodge owners and conservationists are up in arms about the latest plans of Heritage Oil to test seven more wells in the northern part of Murchison Falls National Park.

The seven new sites, each of which will take about three months to be tested, come on top of two other wells - Buffalo 1 and Giraffe 1 - that were explored earlier this year.
According to preliminary plans, distributed during a recent stakeholders' meeting, four of the new wells will be located at both sides of the Pakwach-Paara track. Two others are expected to be in the first part of the Buligi track, one of the main tourist routes running into the Delta valley, while the last one, called Heartbeast, will be near the Nile Delta.

Bufallos in Queen Elizabeth National Park

The area is home to hundreds of giraffes, elephants, buffaloes and antelopes and provides some of the most magnificent sceneries of the world-famous park.
At the meeting, which took place on August 4 at the museum in Murchison Park, the stakeholders were eager to know from Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) if the Buligi circuit would be closed during the testing.

When works were going on at Buffalo 1 and Giraffe 1, part of the Buligi track was closed for six months - from November 2008 to May 2009.

But UWA officials reassured the tour operators and lodge owners that this time, the Buligi circuit would remain open for those who do not mind the oil exploration activities.

"However, at some stage people may not want to use this circuit because of the activities that will be taking place and we do not know the effects of oil spill," according to the report of the meeting.

Alternative tracks
For tourists who insist on a pristine and undisturbed environment, UWA is looking at making alternative tracks.
One possibility explored during the meeting was a loop connecting Tangi gate to the Chobe-Pakuba road.

As the second part of Buligi circuit will be free from oil testing, another track was proposed to run from the bridge near Paara Safari Lodge to run along the river to Buligi.

However, this would require building three to four bridges. "UWA does not have enough money to make these tracks but will be looking for the funding," the report said.

The wildlife body argues that these were roads used in the 1960s and it was going to re-open them anyway considering the improved security and the increased number of visitors.

"Visitation went up from 3,000 in 2003 to 40,000 today. With increased visitation and security, we planned to open new tracks and start up new activities such as rafting and fishing," UWA boss, Moses Mapesa, told Business Vision at his office in Kampala.
He suggested that the oil exploration could be used as a

bargaining chip to fast-track some of these projects.

"The companies drilling oil would have to contribute to a trust fund. We should not beg them for money. They have an obligation to support conservation in a transparent and sustainable manner - through the trust fund," Mapesa said.

Movement of animals

Conservationists are also worried about possible movement of animals once the testing of the new wells start.

"When they tested the previous two wells, the animals migrated," said Kenneth Mugira, the general manager of Paara Safari Lodge.

"They fled because of the disturbance caused by the vehicles and drilling but also because of the lights at night as exploration was going on 24 hours."

The stakeholders noted that it was not possible to determine at this stage where the animals would move to.

Since the animals cannot go to the south or the west because of the River Nile, they are bound to migrate to the east and the north and might cross into villages of Amuru district.

Environmental destruction

Another question bothering conservationists is the environmental destruction caused by the oil company.

Although an environmental impact assessment study was done for the previous wells, three months after Heritage left, Buffalo 1 looks like a big chunk eaten out of the landscape.

Despite promises to restore the area into its original state, the new road created by Heritage cuts right through the scenery and there is a visible clearing where the trucks and machines were parked.

The testing site itself, the size of two football pitches, looks barren, despite efforts by the oil company to replant some grass.

"There are a number of concerns about hazardous waste, chemical pollution of soil and the destruction of micro-organisms. We have tasked the company to have this corrected," said Mapesa.

A more fundamental question raised in the meeting was what would happen if sufficient oil deposits were found to warrant drilling. The first two wells proved to contain more gas than oil.

The stakeholders wondered what kind of machines would be used once extraction of gas or oil starts, and whether these would be visible or noisy. They also asked what would be done with the oil.

"Will there be a refinery in the park? Will the pipeline go through the park and will the pipes be on the surface or underground? Or will the oil be transported in containers? There were no answers to these questions."

Balancing oil and tourism.

Realising that they cannot stop the oil exploration, the stakeholders asked UWA to have the sites tested one by one to minimise the disturbance, a request Mapesa supports.

"Let's have fewer sites drilled at a time since each site requires a support camp, roads and other infrastructure," he said.

The stakeholders also asked for off-tracking, which is allowed in Kenya but attracts a $100 fine in Uganda.

The main concern of the tourism sector, however, is the secrecy surrounding oil exploration activities in the park.

"The public does not know what is taking place. There is need for UWA to let everyone know what is going on," the stakeholders demanded.

Relevant Links

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Even if oil activities were transparent, it will be a challenge for the Government to strike a balance between its need for oil and increased revenues from tourism.

Tourism reached an all-time peak last year, with over 840,000 arrivals. On average, every tourist spends $750. This means that Uganda could have earned sh1.4 trillion from tourism in 2008.

That is why Mapesa has resisted degazetting Kabwoya and Semliki wildlife reserves for oil activities in the past.

That is also why President Yoweri Museveni defended him in a recent meeting at State House. "I was accused of blocking oil exploration and production," he narrates.

"But the President said: Mapesa is doing his job. This oil thing is temporary. In 30 or 50 years, it will not be there. The parks and the animals are there to stay. If UWA says exploration should be done with minimal impact, then that is the way to go."

Water Governance: A Critical Parameter for Development

By: Staff Reporter

Water shortage and critical environmental degradation is affecting Kampala city and Mukono districts.

One associated problem is increasing water shortage. another is deteriaoting sanitation and health.

Two out of five people in Kampala and Mukono do not have access to safe and clean water .Communities of Nakawa division in Kampala are the worst hit by the problem Inadequate town planning deficient political frame work and marginailisation of the poor from decision making are to blame

Water and sanitation crisis in Uganda is an issue of water governance. There are a number of policy frameworks that are redirected towards provision of safe and clean water for domestic use and production. However, There is no clear implementation strategy serving this purpose. Yet effective water governance is critical to sustainable development.

The National Association of Professional Environmentalists (NAPE) with support from water Aid and African Network on Water and Sanitation (ANEW) has started a five year programme on water and sanitation governance and advocacy. The water users Multistakeholders dialogues in Uganda targets Mukono town council and Nakawa division- Mukono district.

Programme goal

The programme goal is to promote good governance, accountability and equitable sharing of the benefits of water and sanitation services in Uganda

Specific objectives are to:

• To empower local communities to negotiate (demand)for their rights, transparency, participation, accountability and equitable sharing of the benefits of water and sanitation services

• To influence the governments' and action plans for water and sanitation in Uganda with a view of obtaining better Water and sanitation services

• To monitor and evaluate the provision of services in water and sanitation sector in Uganda

• To build the capacities of the communities in setting water and sanitation priorities, planning them to achieve better and affordable WASH services

The water user multi-stakeholders dialogues are intended to serve as a platform for:

• Developing and effectively managing water resources and providing water services equitably

• Raising awareness among local leaders, duty bearers, decision makers of the need for effective water governance. This is very critical because water is a right and everybody ought to uphold this notion

• Mobilize political support with a view to providing solutions for more effective water governance

• Facilitate discussions among a wide range of actors on water governance issues and encourage them facilitate the required changes with solutions that respond to the priority needs of the marginalized water users especially the water stressed communities

• Determine what works and what does not work in the quest for provision of water to the marginalized people and why it does not work

• Promoting various concrete outcomes for enhancing water governance systems and capacity building. These outcomes are intended to lay the foundation for the continued work on implementing action plans, improve existing water Programmes as well as initiating new water governance Programmes

The expected impacts

The following impacts are expected:

• Local leaders and service providers are more capable, accountable and responsive to the WASH needs of the poor people

• At least 50% of the targeted groups are empowered to plan, prioritize, implement strategies, advocate and lobby for quality services in water and sanitation

• Communities are aware of the WASH related policies, rights and entitlement

• Communities are in a better position to articulate and influence WASH related policies and demand for improved WASH service delivery

• Community's voice on WASH issues raised, documented and disseminated to relevant stakeholders

• CSOs capacity built in issues of WASH related policies, rights and entitlements and are in a better position to disseminate and explicate the acquired information to the respective operational areas

• Increasing the influence of stakeholders (particularly the poorest and most marginalized) on the planning and decision-making process for the use and management of water resources,

• Enhancing vertical and horizontal linkages and information flows among water stakeholders,

• Documenting the learning process.

Interventions to date

The project was introduced to the leaders of Mukono town council and Nakawa division in Kampala districts. The leaders met were, the town clerks, the mayor of Mukono town council, the technocrats on health, water and environment, and the planners. They were enthusiastic and expressed readiness to work with NAPE. They helped in identifying the areas for the survey

A base line survey was carried out in sampled zones in Mukono Town Council and Nakawa division to establish the Water and sanitation status in the two localities. The key findings were that ::

- Generally, there is inadequate water supply and poor sanitation in both areas of study. Piped water is not afforded by all, but some people resort to streams, springs and boreholes.
- Garbage disposal and collection was found to be a problem to all areas of the study
- The communities do not participate in planning, budgeting and decision-making in regard to water and sanitation services due to lack of awareness and proper understanding of roles and responsibilities at various levels.
- The local people have little knowledge on water and sanitation governance.
- There are no clear mechanisms in place to demand for information and accountability from service providers and local leaders. There are no community meetings to discuss issues of water and sanitation.
- People are not aware of key policy issues that govern water and sanitation. There is no provision for the community to access the policy documents from the local leaders and service providers.
- There is clear structure in respect to technical and advisory support but it doesn't scale down to the community level. There is little effort on the part of service providers to respond to community needs. This is because there is no clear provision for feedback.
- There is little capacity for the community members to engage their local leaders to demand for proper services delivery and hold them accountable.

A multistakeholders workshop was conducted to have a shared understanding of the water and sanitation situation in the two districts.

Thirty members of the VAWSC were trained on their roles and responsibilities, water rights and policies on water and sanitation

The strategic planning meeting with the village action Water and Sanitation Committees(VAWSC) for Mukono and Nakawa achieved the following:

- Shared ideas and experienced on strategies for advocating for the WASH rights
- Examined various issues affecting WASH service provision in their respective areas and adopted criteria for problem prioritisation
- dentified priority areas for dialogues and engagement with government and service providers
- Prioritised areas for dialogue in the next two months
-

Members of the Village Action Water and Sanitation Committees (VAWSC)SC visited Kawempe Division to learn and share experiences from a project on water governance implemented by Community Intergrated Development Initiatives. This was an initiative aimed at fostering the exchange of information and learning on WASH engagements. This learning exchange programme offered a unique opportunity to the VAWSC, providing a platform to exchange notes, including experiences from Kawempe that would later on be translated practically or replicated in Mukono and Nakawa bto bring about change in the water and sanitation situation

Stop!! Stop!! Think Gender

By: Shilla Kyomugisha

Development is a product of many things: good education, effective health and welfare services, good governance, environmental sustainability, high rates of saving and investment, a dynamic private sector, a vibrant civil society and healthy trading regimes. However,any development to be productive it should be gender sensitive.

The current unsustainable development in Uganda has affected and will continue to affect livelihoods and the well-being of people as well as social and economic transformations. It has ignited high rates of unemployment. There are few infrastructures such as industries, good roads and markets. Issues like, high crime rates, drug trafficking and abuse, AIDS as a result of prostitution, financial instability, and reduced remittances characterized unsustainable development.

The decline in remittances from abroad to Uganda has created a number of problems. Trade has collapsed and commodity prices have continued to be volatile, pushing more families into extreme poverty and increasing mortality. The country has suffered and will continue to suffer disproportionately compared to the wealthier counterparts, witnessing falls in health and education indicators. Life expectancy, school enrolment and graduation rates will eventually drop. It is also likely that people, especially the vulnerable and (women and children) will bear more the brunt of the economic collapse.

From the gender perspective, men and women may be affected differently because of the gender specific inequalities in the labour markets and prevailing norms about their roles in the economy and society.

In Uganda, women still constitute the majority of temporary, casual, seasonal and low skilled workers. Skilled workers tend to be awarded more rights than unskilled ones. Men usually undertake work that is classified as "skilled" dominate middle class and higher management positions. For example, in the manufacturing sector, women frequently undertake unskilled work such as domestic work, cleaners, waiters, secretaries unlike their male counterparts occupy most of the managerial positions.

In other countries, unskilled female workers are, in most cases, not entitled to family reunification such as family visits. This encourage permanent settlement and family separation. In labour receiving countries of the world, policies for managing immigration often give greater rights and possibilities for regular migration to those taking up jobs usually performed by men. As such women tend to become more vulnerable and to be pushed into illegal channels and the informal sector where exploitation and poor working conditions are widespread.

Women a number of human rights violations, sexual abuse. They are normally discriminated depending on their entry labour status in the labour receiving country, whether as illegal migrant workers or as dependents of a male migrant worker such as a husband. In situations where they are dependent on their husbands, they face discrimination since they are always prohibited from working in the host countries. The entry status in most developed countries often determines residence and employment rights, ability to gain legal citizenship, access to social services such as health, education and other entitlements.

Therefore, to a large extent it is true to assert that unsustainable development coupled with discrimination, exploitation, family break ups, poverty, financial instability, refugee cases and unemployment have been a result of existing commotions in development where some individuals, women in particular, are looked at as "add ons" to development projects irrespective of their abilities and competences.

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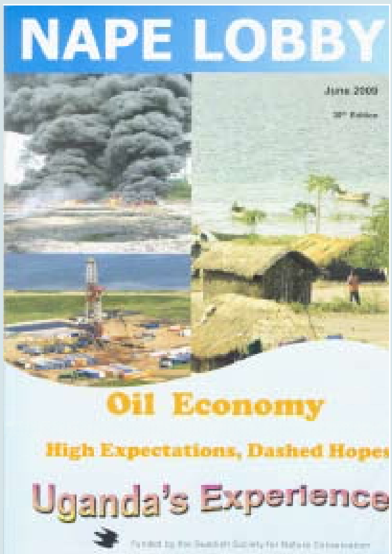

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