



Uganda Land Alliance www.ulaug.org

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Land, Oil & Gas

More Inside ➤

Editor's communiqué



Dear reader,

I hope you are enjoying the New Year.

Thanks for taking time off your busy schedule to open our Newsletter for the first quarter of this year. The agenda for The Alliance remains unchanged—advocating for fair land laws and policies for vulnerable women, men and children.

In our pursuit for the above agenda, we have put emphasis on issues regarding land, oil and gas in this publication.

Being a profitable sector, it [oil] attracts attention from everyone. This attention is directly linked to land tenure security.

Our main story covers the risks involved in oil exploration and related land activities and gives guidance to sector players on how to mitigate those risks. We also captured views from the Ministry of Energy official on the same topic in an interview. There are expert write-ups on the topic in addition to having a well summarized report on project activities which were implemented in the various parts of the country during the quarter.

Enjoy your reading as we all pursue the right agenda that will lead us towards achieving a people centered land governance system in our country.

Julius Businge
Communications Officer

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On June 19, 2015, the Kampala based *Observer* Newspaper published a news story entitled: *Oil to worsen livelihoods of local residents*. The article cited more than 7,118 people who had been displaced from 13 villages in Kabaale Parish, Hoima district to pave way for the construction of the oil refinery.

The Paper added that 200 families in Rwamutonga village Bugambe Sub county, Hoima district were evicted without compensation after their land was sold to McAlester Energy Resources, an American firm, to construct a waste treatment plant.

The Newspaper was quoting a report that based on a survey of 1,437 households in the oil lead districts of Nwoya, Hoima, Buliisa, Nebbi and Ntoroko.

This revelation is in line with what human and property rights activists have been citing over the years.

Such a resource should not be termed as a curse. It should be referred to as a blessing to a poor country like Uganda yearning for middle income status as stated in government's policy papers.

Forceful evictions, unfair compensation, corruption, phony land titles, undervaluation of peoples' land which [all] tantamount to land grabbing are signs that the resource is being abused.

This ideally means that responsible authorities,

Land, Oil and Vulnerable Communities

By Julius Businge



actors should do their job right to save vulnerable Ugandans from losing what belongs to them.

These vulnerable people are leaders, mothers and fathers of today and tomorrow and so, they deserve fair treatment.

Such treatment, in the case of land, oil and gas is an uphill task to accomplish and requires committed and trusted individuals going by what is at stake.

Data from the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development indicates that there are 21 oil and/ or gas fields in the country's Albertine Graben. The ministry adds that, appraisal of these discoveries has established that petroleum resources in these fields are estimated at over 6.5 billion barrels of oil equivalent in place with 1.4 billion barrels of these resources estimated to be recoverable.

Cumulative Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in petroleum exploration in the country since 1998 was estimated to be US\$ 2.8 billion (Approx. Ush 9.4 trillion) at the end of 2014 and was projected to be over US\$ 3 billion (Approx. Ush. 11 trillion) at the end of 2015.

Investment in the petroleum sector is expected to increase significantly as the country enters the development and subsequently the production, transportation and refining phases of the petroleum value chain.

As a result, the scramble for land and other property by genuine dealers and crooks has become eminent.

Land has become a commercial commodity and investors are interested in using the formal land titling system to purchase land in the Graben. This means that land ownership in the region is fast-becoming more monetized leaving weaker groups with less access to financial resources at a loss.

The Alliance's interventions

As Uganda Land Alliance, we have strategically supported vulnerable communities to fight for their rights on land in the oil Graben.

With funding from our courteous development partner, Ford Foundation, we are implementing a project entitled: *Building capacity of networks of grassroots organizations on land, oil and gas governance in Hoima and Buliisa districts.*

The project that began at the end of 2015 is skilling over 40 organizations. It aims at building the capacity of networks of grassroots organizations on land, oil and gas governance in the two districts and promoting active citizens' participation in the sector's governance.

Project activities will ultimately improve natural resources management and forge ways for conflict prevention in the two districts.

The actors in question are categorized as Community Based Organizations, Faith Based Organizations, Civil Society Organizations and Land Administration Structures.

"It is a good project and we hope to gain a lot of knowledge and apply it in our advocacy work," said Paolyel MP Onencan, the Executive Director for Buliisa Initiative for Rural Development Organization (BIRUDO).

BIRUDO is among the over 40 organizations benefiting from the project.

Onencan said there is still a big gap when it comes to organizations understanding their roles in the sector. He cited the legal and policy framework, which he said remains too complex for them to understand and apply in their advocacy activities.

"Once we the leaders don't understand these things, the other people too won't," he said, I am looking forward to taking part in the project implementation process, he added.

The Alliance's Community Liaison Officer for the two districts, Emmanuel Adiiiba agrees to both the Observer report and Onencan.

We noted a lot of gaps amongst organizations while we were identifying those to support, Adiiiba said, adding, the project will try to close the gaps especially those related to understanding the rights of communities on land.

He added that land conflicts in Hoima and Buliisa are real. "Every time I interact with people in the two districts, I get the impression that they are losing land to rich people because of oil," he said, this is an issue that needs tangible attention from government and non-state actors.

He adds that the so-called 'rich people' know the law but [they] seem not to want to respect it.

Impunity, greed, selfish interests and the lack of transparency mechanisms in land, oil and gas transactions are at play.

Adiiba and the entire Alliance are committed to equipping knowledge amongst civil society players so they skillfully manage conflicts arising from oil business. This will ultimately pave way for realization of socio-economic benefits for all.

Legal and policy framework

In 2013, two new laws were enacted to update the legal framework for the sector. These are; the Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production) Act 2013 and the Petroleum (Refining, Conversion, Transmission and Midstream Storage) Act 2013.

Regulations to operationalize these laws have been drafted and these include Technical aspects like metering, National Content together with Health, Safety and Environment aspects for both the Upstream and Midstream Sub-sectors.

In addition, the Public Finance Act 2015 was enacted during March 2015 and this Act provides for among others the management of revenues accruing from petroleum activities.

These pieces of legislation together with other relevant laws and statutes like those on Land, Environment, Wildlife, Water, and Income Tax among others are used in regulating the country's petroleum sector.

Theoretically, Uganda wins on having very good structured legal and policy framework across sectors.

Our problem has always been effective implementation of these legal provisions.

Equipping people with land rights knowledge may not be enough to attain tenure security in the oil Graben. Rather additional support in terms of respect of the law and its effective implementation by relevant actors would serve a good purpose.

The good purpose should reflect improved livelihoods for the people who are assured of security for their land.

The Albertine Graben has got

complicated land tenure system and therefore, paying attention to the rules of the game is critical.

It is not the first time the Alliance is working in the oil region. A study conducted by us (the Alliance) in 2011 in the same area regarding tenure and livelihood issues indicated that land had been historically held customarily within community groups in the region.

In a 2014 study, Civic Response on Environment and Development (CRED) found more specifically that 76.6% of land in the Albertine Graben was held in customary private land tenure systems while 21.1% was held in customary communal ownership.

Article 237 (4) (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda recognizes customary tenure as one of the forms of holding land in Uganda.

Majority of Ugandans hold land under this tenure. This provision, therefore, guarantees them security of land ownership.

Tenants on customary land can acquire a certificate of customary ownership (CCO) on the land they occupy and they can convert it to a freehold title.

The CCO is accorded value under the Land Act enabling it to be transferred, mortgaged, or otherwise pledged. This will enable holders of the certificate to access credit.

Government has already issued some CCOs. Officials from the Ministry of Lands say plans are there to have the program rolled out in most parts of the country. These certificates will ensure there are high levels of tenure security.

Customary tenure risks

CRED report says that due to the rarity of formal land transactions among customary communities, the tenure security of residents in the region is at risk.

It says that despite recognition of the legality of customary land ownership in Uganda's Constitution and Land Act, customary land ownership is respected less in practice.

This is because, the report adds, the formal land titling system offers codified land ownership which is treated as more legitimate than non-codified customary ownership. Therefore, those employing the formalized land titling system supersede those within the

customary system, regardless of true land ownership.

In this way, the land system in the Graben is effectively formalizing without incorporating the rights of weaker groups holding land customarily.

ULA's 2011 study highlighted information from District Land Boards showing an increasing trend in conversions of land from customary tenure to formal tenures, either leasehold or freehold.

Government investigates fake land titles

Francis Elungat, the officer in the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development told the Alliance that the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development is conducting investigations into acquisition of land titles in some of the areas with oil and gas activities.

This is theoretically encouraging. The Alliance appeals to government to transparently manage the matter to its logical conclusion.

Elungat said the Ministry of Energy is closely working with the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development to sensitise stakeholders on land rights. Capacity building workshops have also been conducted for the land management institutions in some of the districts in the region.

The laws of Uganda – Land Act Cap 227 – the Registration of Titles Act Cap 230 – say, any application for a title or land conversion that does not inform all relevant stakeholders in and around the piece of land under application would be deemed fraudulent and unlawful.

Amidst such mixture of issues in the eye-catching sector, the interest in land has the potential of land disputes and escalating evictions as people continue to position themselves for potential benefits.

It's therefore, important for all of us to play our cards right. Let us not be blamed for failing our future generation. ■



Hoima evictions: One woman's shock

Beatrice Ngonzebwa sits outside her demolished home (Photo: S.Mwesigye)

Seventy-year old Beatrice Ngonzebwa balances her frail body with difficulty as she walks through the wreckage of what has been her home for the last fifty years, finally clutching onto a door frame, the only structure left standing of her mud and wattle house.

Ngonzebwa is one of the more than 200 families in Rwamutonga village, Hoima District, who were left homeless when unidentified men, reportedly acting on the orders of a business man called Joshua Tibangwa stormed the area and brutally evicted them from their land.

She painfully recalls that sad 25th day of August when she lost her home.

She was in the kitchen preparing her breakfast when suddenly, she heard the sound of bullets and commotion outside.

A very afraid Ngonzebwa raced back into the house, and crawled under her bed for cover. Even when the sound of bullets progressively drew nearer, it never occurred to her that her house was one of the targets. In fact when she heard a loud bang outside, she thought someone was attempting to steal the breakfast she had abandoned in the kitchen.

But when the walls of her house started to shake and crumble, she realised she was in immediate danger.

"I called out to them," narrated Ngonzebwa. "Please don't kill me, have

mercy on me, I am inside the house."

Upon hearing her desperate screams, the plain-clothed 'attackers', who were in the company of armed policemen, paused briefly, allowing her to get out of the house, but only to resume the destruction as soon as she had exited.

"They did not allow me to rescue anything. They continued to break my house until they were satisfied that it was uninhabitable," narrates Ngonzebwa. "I could not believe what I was seeing. My house and what has been my life was destroyed in front of me."

The destruction did not just stop with the house. Her garden of maize and cassava was slashed to the ground. Her banana stems were also cut down, potatoes uprooted and her dried maize and beans burnt. Even her goats were looted.

“**Please don't kill me, have mercy on me, I am inside the house...**”

This was also the fate of all the other families in the village.

The land, totalling 485 hectares, is being claimed by Mr. Tibangwa who intends to lease it to McAlester Energy Resources Limited, to construct a waste management facility.

He claims he has owned the two plots of land namely Block 5 Plot 34 and Block 7 Plot 44 located in Kakoora, Rwamutonga, Bugambe Sub-county since 1972.

Company denies involvement

When *Oil in Uganda* contacted US-based McAlester Energy Resources Limited, the company denied any involvement in the evictions, but acknowledged entering a deal with Joshua Tibangwa to buy land on which they plan to set up an oil waste management plant.

According to Leonard Durst, the Operations Manager in Kampala, he only learnt of the evictions through the media.

"We had nothing to do with it," he said. "Our deal was with the land owner and he has not passed the land on to us."

Mr. Durst said he has never been to the controversial land, but revealed that his company has interest in two pieces of land in Hoima.

Report compiled by OIL in Uganda & Global Rights Alert



Vulnerable Land Owners Get Freehold Titles In Masindi

By Proscovia Nnamulondo

“*...Masindi district leaders are determined to do everything to protect people’s land.*”

The discovery of oil and gas in the Albertine Graben turned the area into a hub of land related activities. Land became the centre of focus as government and private investors rushed to acquire expansive areas for oil and gas exploration, and attendant infrastructural developments.

Masindi is one of the districts located in the oil rich region. Land in the area, like in many other districts in the region, is mostly held under the customary system of ownership either by individuals or communities of varying sizes, and it is largely unregistered.

The past five years, have seen massive displacement of people particularly in the neighbouring Hoima district through compulsory land acquisition by government and land grabbing by some well-connected individuals. The widely reported suffering being experienced by displaced persons in Hoima has turned out to be a big lesson to their neighbours in Masindi district.

Masindi district leadership is taking a proactive approach to protect people’s tenure security by issuing freehold land titles to vulnerable land owners and promoting certificates of customary ownership (CCO).

According to James Mugoya, the District Senior Lands Officer, 45 freehold titles have been issued to some residents in two villages in Miirya sub-county. The target is to issue 150 freehold titles to identified individuals in the two villages who are considered most vulnerable particularly the elderly, people with disabilities, female headed households and the very poor.

“The district used funding received under the livelihood program supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development to identify the 150 beneficiaries and survey their land. Although the project ended last year, we shall use local resources to process and issue the remaining freehold titles to beneficiaries,” he said.

Despite the ending of the project, Masindi district leaders are determined to do everything to protect people’s land. The district, with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is currently working with civil society organisations to promote certificates of customary ownership (CCOs) which can be acquired cheaply.

“We are sensitizing residents about the importance and process of acquiring certificates of customary ownership because they are much cheaper to acquire than freehold land titles,” explained Mugoya.

He indicated that while the process of acquiring a freehold title costs an average of Ush 2, 000, 000, a CCO costs about Ush 100, 000.

However, the district has not started issuing CCOs to owners because it is waiting for the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development to issue codes for registering them.

“Although residents are demanding for the certificates of customary ownership, our hands are tied until the Ministry gives us a go ahead,” said Mugoya.

According to Kennedy Mugume, the Programs Coordinator of Midwestern Regional Anti-corruption Coalition which has been involved in promoting CCOs, residents have been sensitized to appreciate the importance of their land and the ominous problem of land grabbing.

“We hold meetings with residents at parish and sub-county levels to raise awareness about CCOs and the process of acquiring them. The meetings are held frequently to prevent residents from losing focus due to negative propaganda by opportunists,” said Mugume in an interview with the writer.

Mugume noted that the role of political and local leaders is very crucial in the entire process of supporting communities to register their land. He said that village and parish councils play a critical role in helping residents to agree on boundaries of their land with their neighbours.

Civil society organisations are also using the opportunity of promoting CCOs to educate residents on issues regarding gender in land access, ownership, use and control in the entire oil Graben.

QA

Big Land, Oil & Gas Opportunity



The government of Uganda, international private oil companies and other players have undertaken several developments in the Albertine Graben regarding oil and gas business. Francis Elungat is an officer in the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development and has expert knowledge on land, oil and gas. He spoke to the Editor in an interview. Excerpts:

Q: How is the legal and policy framework that govern lands, oil & gas playing out in the Albertine region at the moment?

A: The relevant framework is the Land Policy, 2013, the National Oil and Gas Policy, 2008, the Constitution, the Land Act, Land Acquisition Act, the Physical Planning Act, 2010, the Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production) Act, 2013 and the Petroleum (Refining, Conversion, Transmission and Midstream Storage) Act, 2013. Most of the above legislation is new and efforts are being taken to implement them in a coordinated manner. For instance, the Albertine Graben was declared a special planning area and a Physical Development Plan for the region has been developed. Planning has also been undertaken for some urban and growth areas like Buliisa Town Council, Butiaba, Sebugoro, Kaseeta, Nyamasoga etc. These planning efforts are geared towards designating areas for oil and gas activities to ensure their harmonisation with other land uses. The above legislation is also guiding land access and acquisition for oil and gas activities.

Q: Could you give tips to stakeholders in the Albertine region on how to go about land acquisition, control and use?

A: The most important consideration is rationally balancing the competing land uses in the region to ensure harmonisation. This can only be achieved through proper land use planning and strict implementation of the approved development plans. It is also important to recognise and respect the land rights of the different groups of land owners and users including communal and customary land owners. This is vital in minimising land disputes and landlessness. When land acquisition is planned, it is important to sensitise the Project Affected Persons early enough and continuously.

Q: How is government handling issues concerning compensation for land owners in the region?

A: It is recognising and respecting the rights of land owners and occupiers by ensuring that adequate and fair compensation is paid to all land and property owners. Government also ensures that the right information is given to the land owners.

Q: There have been complaints by some people in the region that there has not been fair compensation for their land given out for oil activities?

A: Compensation for land and property affected by land acquisition for oil and gas activities is determined in accordance with the land acquisition laws of Uganda. Furthermore, the Land acquisition framework followed in acquiring land for oil and gas activities provides for grievance registration and management and all registered grievances are addressed in accordance with the laws on land acquisition.

Q: How is the ministry reacting to complaints regarding illegal land acquisition by well connected, rich individuals in the Albertine region?

A: The Ministry has closely worked with Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development to sensitise stakeholders on land rights and protection thereof. Capacity building workshops have also been conducted for the land management institutions in some of

the districts in the region. The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development is conducting investigations into acquisition of land titles in some of the areas with oil and gas activities.

Q: What opportunities in your view are there for stakeholders in the land, oil & gas sector in the region?

A: Oil and gas presents enormous opportunities for agriculture, tourism, the hospitality industry among others and this has been documented in the Regional Albertine Graben Physical Development Plan. Stakeholders should therefore use this plan as a guide to these opportunities.

Q: Limited or no documentation of land in the region is still an impediment to ensuring a transparent process of transferring ownership of land from one party to another. What collaborative measures has the ministry undertaken to address this problem?

A: The Ministry has engaged with the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development to consider the possibility of undertaking systematic demarcation in the region. Proposals have also been made for issuance of certificates of customary ownership and registration of communal associations to document and protect customary and communal land. We hope that at an appropriate time the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development will be able to undertake some of the above interventions.

Q: What other challenges do land owners face in the region and how is the ministry helping on that?

A: There are many speculators who are duping the unsuspecting land owners to sell them their land cheaply. This has been rampant in Buliisa District. There are also some Civil Society Organisations which mislead and misinform land owners on the land acquisition process and oil and gas activities thereby impeding their ability to make proper choices regarding their land.

Q: Finally, how do you rate the role of non-state actors in addressing challenges or gaps in the legal and policy framework regarding land, oil and gas activities in the region?

A: Some non-state actors like religious institutions, NGOs and CBOs and cultural institutions have had positive and meaningful engagement with government. They contributed immensely in making final laws regarding petroleum in the country. However, a few non-state actors including some NGOs and CBOs have concentrated on undermining government efforts in ensuring proper implementation of projects in the sector. This has to change so they can make meaningful contribution to the sector. ■

Mr. Government; You Have Five Years to Tackle Land Reforms

By Edmond M. Owor



On January 18, 2016, prior to voting for the various elective positions, top Ministry of Lands officials were commanded by President Yoweri Museveni handlers to rush to Kibaale District, Western Uganda to issue land titles as a mechanism to manage land conflicts in the highly populated district.

This directive came ahead of President Museveni's visit to the district to campaign for presidency.

Sadly, since then, ministry officials have never returned to the district to issue more titles to land owners. I highly suspect that this was a political gimmick to lure Kibaale voters to support President Museveni.

Similarly, President Museveni and other candidates that yarned for the top office and other lower elective offices traversed parts of the country and made a million promises regarding LAND REFORMS.

These promises came about because land conflicts

were underlined as one of the major problems facing the electorate in almost all parts of the country.

Whereas I agree that the issuance of titles in Kibaale and promises on land reforms were good moves, my message to whoever went through and made these promises must endeavour to do their best to fulfil them. Obviously, this is what voters want if they are to believe that their vote counted.

Historically, land conflicts in Uganda rotate around illegal evictions and resettlement, fraudulent land acquisitions [or land grabbing], limited demarcation and titling of land, discrimination in terms of land access, ownership and use, limited sensitization of masses on their land rights, failure to effect issuance of Certificate of Land Ownership [in the case of customary land] and failure to organize communities to form groups to fight or manage land wrangles.

The other irking issue has to do with building capacity of duty bearers to capably take part in land governance –policy and legal framework formulation and implementation.

There has to be a limit on the powers given to non-experts or politicians to manage land conflicts. This category includes police officers, officials from the Office of the President and Resident District Commissioners – RDCs, local leaders and politicians.

There are cases where these [‘respected’] categories of leaders have tried to manage land cases but, there are cases which have been mismanaged.

For instance, prior to the official opening of campaigns, in August last year, President Museveni visited Karamoja sub-region and was briefed about the issue of land grabbing by “investors” in the mineral rich area.

He tasked his handlers to investigate the matter and give a detailed report. My understanding here is that if found true, he would resolve the matter. To those in the know, this may have created hope that finally the increasing land grabbing in Karamoja was going to be tamed. I have not seen the report yet.

On our part as Uganda Land Alliance, through funding from development partners, one of our major interventions in the region has been formation of over 52 Communal Land Associations to support the fight against land grabbing.

ULA has already recorded success on this. For instance, in Moroto district, a mining company agreed to pay Ushs120 million (about US\$ 48,000) to the Rupa community before it started mining marble on seven (7) hectares of the communal lands. Members of the CLA management committee as well as representatives of the local government were involved in the negotiations, which were supported by the District Land Board. This intervention has sold our work internationally and won us an award from the International Land Coalition– a coalition of 152 organisations representing 56 countries, working together to promote secure and equitable access to land for rural people, mainly through capacity building, knowledge sharing and advocacy.

Section 15 of the 1998 Land Act of Uganda provides a legal basis for the formation of these CLAs by any group of persons for the purpose of managing communally owned land.

This example serves to justify the argument that solutions to land problems in this country are with us.

You will agree with me that, the problem has not been necessarily the lack of laws; it has been failure to implement the laws in place.

For instance, Article 237 (1) of the 1995 constitution states that land belongs to the citizens of Uganda, making Uganda one of the few states in Africa to vest the ownership of land as property in its citizens. Additionally, articles 242 and 245 are more reassuring; they confer the state and government with power to limit undesirable land use in the interest of public welfare and orderly development without revoking ownership interests or rights. We have the National Land Policy, the 1998 Land Act, among other legal frameworks.

The overriding opinion among informed Ugandans is that with the legal and policy framework in place, what is left now is a high level of commitment by the new government to respond to the needs of Ugandans in the sector of land for the coming five years.

Empty promises in our country today mean nothing to the population that is badly seeking for tangible services that would see us achieve our development agenda well noted in Vision 2040 and other policy documents.

Once the voters receive this service, they will live to remember you and your positive contribution to their wellbeing and that of the economy in general.

To the voters; the ball is in your hands. Whenever there is space task these politicians to fulfil the promises they made before you. Being the commander of everything, President Museveni must take lead on this land agenda!

Edmond is the Executive Director for Uganda Land Alliance

“
...the problem has not been necessarily the lack of laws; it has been failure to implement the laws in place.
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Activity Highlights For Quarter 1

Awareness raising

- During the quarter, interventions were tailored towards increasing awareness for rural communities in Amuru, Katakwi, Apach and Napak on issues pertaining land rights and formal legal system. This was done with funding from considerate development partners – DGF, TROCAIRE and OSIEA. The activities included sensitization outreaches, radio talk shows, spot messages, talking circles and dissemination of information education and communication materials. These interventions aimed at increasing knowledge for rural communities on land rights and formal legal system for land related conflicts. Sensitization sessions were facilitated by Land Rights Information Centres staff and paralegals. They effectively mobilised communities to ensure high turn up (9823 people) against the planned 3230 thus implying eagerness of communities to gain knowledge on issues that affect them in regard to land rights.
- Radio talk shows and spot messages were conducted to reach out to more communities beyond project operation area in Amuru and Katakwi. They were conducted on Joshua FM and Radio Rupiny.

Legal aid services

- In a bid to increase access to legal aid and enhance protection of land rights for the vulnerable people in target communities, ULA extends support to clients daily at the LRICs. The entire walk-in clients are registered and then accorded the relevant service ranging from guidance and counselling, mediation, litigation and mapping and demarcation. The centres registered a total of 116 cases (59 Females, 57 Males) all of whom were accorded legal advice in relation to the most relevant approach to conflict resolution. In such instances, out of those who received counselling, two (02) cases under the Trocaire partnership were referred to traditional leaders as the project was within transition process.
- Beyond counselling, 12 cases

(6 Females, 6 Males) were filed in court for litigation under DGF and TROCAIRE partnerships in Amuru, Katakwi and Apach. This was meant to provide free legal support to indigent persons with in these communities. It should be noted that four (04) more cases were identified under the DGF support for litigation although not yet filed and therefore their filing shall be followed through to enable achievement of the planned target.

- Two mobile legal aid clinics were conducted in Amuru and Katakwi under DGF support in order to reach out to far distant communities. Through these clinics, a total of 502 people (277 Males, 225 Females) were reached, where a total of 29 cases – seven (4 Males, 3 Females) in Amuru, 22 cases (12 Females, 10 Males) in Katakwi were registered and then referred to the LRICs for further management.
- Mediation was done for 18 cases vis avis the planned 10. In the same exercise, paralegals offered mediation support to some cases and were able to successfully mediate six (3 Males, 3 Females) cases.
- Successful mapping and demarcation exercise was done in Amuru and Katakwi. Eight (8) cases were handled in the two districts under the DGF project out of the planned 12. This exercise, normally results from cases handled under mediation. There are demarcations which were delayed and pushed to the following quarter.

Capacity building for land administrators

- Forty (16 Females, 24 Males) paralegals in Katakwi and Amuru were supported by DGF to participate in a review meeting. The meeting provided space for reviewing their (paralegals) progress in terms of their expected support to project implementation.
- Under Safer World, 34 traditional leaders were supported to build their capacity in handling land related conflicts in Adjumani district. The other 34 who were planned to benefit from the same

exercise under OSIEA project were pushed to the following quarter.

- Under Ford Foundation project, 15 Community Based Organizations in Hoima and Buliisa were lined up for support. The project relates to building their capacity in handling land, oil and gas governance issues. However, due to some challenges, the activity could not be completed as of close of the quarter. But initial preparatory processes were done to ensure that the process is dully completed in the first month of the following quarter.
- Under Saferworld, there were plans to conduct land conflict community led dialogue meetings aimed at providing an avenue for mentoring and accompaniment for local land conflict resolution structures & awareness on the Land Act and related policies. This would be conducted in one hotspot target district. However, this was postponed to the following quarter.
- ULA, under the DCA partnership was engaged in a number of activities to have co-management agreements signed between Uganda Wildlife Authority and National Forestry Authority. These were aimed at securing proper collaborative land resource management. In this direction, sensitization meetings were conducted to prepare the communities in Karamoja to enhance signing of these agreements, an event that was carried forward from the previous quarter.

National level engagements

- ULA participated in several meetings to influence legal and policy reforms. Some of these include the Annual Forum on Human Rights Defenders, National Dialogue on Divorce & Law, expert meeting to undertake Public Interest Litigation on customary tenure. There were meetings with the Ministry of Lands aimed at facilitating the registration of Communal Land Associations in Karamoja among other international engagements.

Reviewed by ULA's interns – Rachael Nambuba & Pauline Taata

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What We're Doing in Uganda

The LWF works through a variety of programs to help Ugandans – both young and old – achieve their rights and develop sustainably. We help local grassroots and district structures to organize and manage areas such as livelihoods, water and sanitation, health, and environmental management.

We assist families to engage in meaningful income-generating activities. As a result, many have bought assets such as bicycles, built houses, and taken their children to school. In addition, children achieve their right to education and to attend school – a fulfillment of the district, national, and millennium development goal.

We support agricultural production through farmer field schools, and have seen the increase in production of crops such as groundnuts, beans, and soya.

The Lutheran World Federation's Department for World Service offices in Uganda and Burundi are dedicated to working against poverty, promoting justice and defending human rights. Encouraging community empowerment and self-reliance, DWS is committed to building people's capacity and competence to positively change

their lives. LWF has been operating in Uganda since 1979 and in Burundi since 2006, and has programs in the thematic areas of returnee integration, sustainable livelihoods, community empowerment, emergency relief, water and sanitation and HIV and AIDS.

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THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

Department for World Service

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L-R: ULA's Legal Officer, Rose Akutui, Joyce Mary-Akunyo (Paralegal from Ngariam S/C) and John Robert, (CID) Police during the radio talkshow at Joshua fm on March 19 in Katakwi.



A police officer sensitizes the public on their land rights in Aparisia parish, Katakwi district in March, 2016.

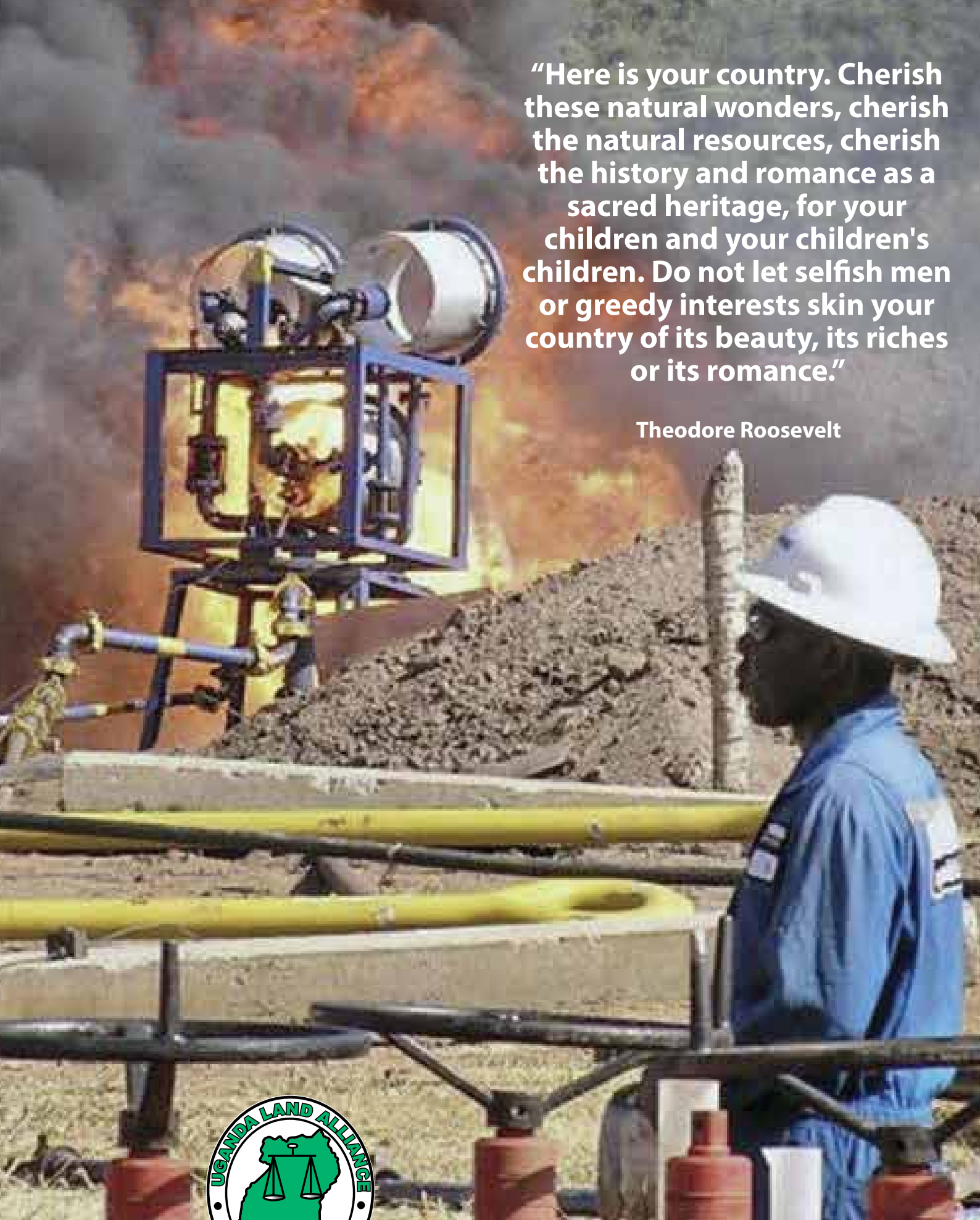


Emmanuel Egaru, ULA's Advocate addresses participants at one of the land rights sensitization workshops.



Justine, of Kaihora Village in Rwamwanja Refugee Resettlement Site, after gathering water from an LWF-built borehole.





“Here is your country. Cherish these natural wonders, cherish the natural resources, cherish the history and romance as a sacred heritage, for your children and your children's children. Do not let selfish men or greedy interests skin your country of its beauty, its riches or its romance.”

Theodore Roosevelt



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