

EACOP AFFECTED PEOPLE OF GREATER MASAKA

November 16, 2022

Mr. Martin Tiffen,
The General Manager,
East African Crude Oil Pipeline Co. Ltd,
Kampala-Uganda

Dear Sir,

RE: PETITION REQUESTING THE EACOP COMPANY TO ADDRESS EMERGING GRIEVANCES OF EACOP-AFFECTED PEOPLE (PAPS)

Greetings from the people whose land and property are being compulsorily acquired for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project in Greater Masaka. We take this opportunity to appreciate you for the work that you and your team are doing.

We would like to bring to your attention a number of compensation and other grievance that we hope your office will resolve once and for all.

As you are aware that land in Greater Masaka is the most important asset that we community people own. We use it to grow food for our families and for sale. Some of us also own land that we use for economic activities such as sand mining. Our land also has cultural importance because some of our families have owned it for decades and this is where we bury our dead.

The government connive with Total Energies (U) Ltd's sub-contractors such as NewPlan and the company's community liaison officers to intimidate us. Total Energies is the current lead developer for the EACOP project. The company contracted NewPlan and ICS to assess our properties such as land, crops and others that are being acquired for the EACOP project.

We are therefore determined to defend our land because it is our everything. However, as we try to defend our land rights, the above-mentioned companies intimidate us.

OUR CONCERNS

i). Delayed compensation: Since 2018 when the cut-off dates were placed on EACOP PAPs properties by government and oil companies, they are yet to be compensated or relocated which is taking longer than expected. This has subjected them to poverty, increased borrowings from money lenders and SACCOs which has also increased cases of domestic violence in the PAPs' homes across all districts.

In addition, the EACOP PAPs are decrying food insecurity mostly during this prolonged drought which had never happened time immemorial in these districts known as food baskets for Bunyoro

and Greater Masaka regions. The low compensations by the government which is contrary to article 26 of the constitution that calls for prompt, fair, and adequate compensation before land acquisition remains a challenge and they are not sure whether they will benefit from the so-called compensation.

Furthermore, the PAPs are dissatisfied with the fact that those who chose relocation as compensation are being given priority over those who chose cash compensation yet they are all affected by the EACOP.

ii). Limited financial literacy: The EACOP PAPs also reported an issue of failure to be trained and sensitised during the exercise of opening bank accounts for their compensation. For instance, in October 2021, TotalEnergies' sub-contractor, NewPlan, tried to get PAPs from Kyotera district to open bank accounts where their compensation was to be deposited. Several of the PAPs refused because they have several outstanding grievances.

It was observed that in the district of Kyotera, there are three (3) PAPs that are owning the same piece of land that was affected by the EACOP project, however, to their surprise, during the bank opening exercise, Total engaged only one PAP excluding the other two (2) PAPs. The PAPs' grievance has up to date not been addressed. Their names were not included on the bank account yet they are also shareholders of their land.

Failure to leave us with signed copies of compensation forms: The EACOP-affected people of Nabigasa-Kyotera would also like to bring to your attention strange behaviour that is worrying us. While we the Nabigasa-Kyotera EACOP PAPs are signing for updated compensation based on the supplementary valuation report that was approved by the CGV, some of us were not left with copies of our signed compensation forms. We are wondering: how sure can we be that we will receive our updated compensation without any evidence that we entered into an agreement with the EACOP Company to pay us the updated compensation? We request that you engage your sub-contractors to come back to all the PAPs who did not receive copies of the signed forms and these forms are given to us.

Poor grievance handling: Sir, your company has failed to put in place sufficient grievance handling mechanisms to help us. Although grievance committees were put in place to assist us to address our grievances, the committees cannot adequately address our issues. The members on the committees can only work on minor grievances yet we are experiencing challenges that require the EACOP Company to urgently intervene. A case in point is the grievance by the Kakuuto-Kyotera PAPs who are not signing for compensation based on updated rates. Moreover, some PAPs have had your sub-contractors telling them that their grievances were closed and are not addressed in the supplementary valuation report. We therefore cannot overemphasize the need for the EACOP Company to directly engage the affected people.

Water sources affected: Another grievance that needs urgent handling is the need to replace water sources for communities in the villages of Kamusoga, Kitakomoga, and Kisalira B in Lwengo district. The communities' water wells are being acquired as part of the land that is being taken for the EACOP project. The PAPs in Lwengo have started receiving compensation and women as well as girls are worried because no alternative water sources have been provided yet. There is urgent need to drill boreholes to replace the water wells that are being acquired.

Small and culturally-inappropriate houses: The PAPs that opted for relocation are concerned by the houses that the EACOP Company is constructing for them. Some PAPs currently own houses with over nine rooms but standard, smaller houses are being built. These houses will not be able to accommodate big families. We have heard that the EACOP Company is saying that they are building us very strong houses. But strong small houses that fail to restore us to our original status are against the commitments your company made in the Land Acquisition and Resettlement Framework for the Lake Albert oil project. We request you to abandon the plans to build us small houses and replace our houses based on the sizes we had before you displaced us.