

EACOP-AFFECTED PEOPLE OF KYOTERA DISTRICT

April 13, 2022

Mr. Martin Tiffen,
The Managing Director,
East African Crude Oil Pipeline Co. Ltd,
Kampala (U).

Dear Sir,

RE: REQUEST FOR A MEETING OVER EACOP PROJECT GRIEVANCES

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

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

As you are aware, Kyotera is one of ten districts from which land is being compulsorily acquired for the EACOP project in Uganda. Over 524 people's property in two sub-counties is being compulsorily acquired in the district.

Unfortunately, low and unfair compensation rates were set for the crops owned by the affected people.

As you will recall, the affected people wrote to you on November 3, 2021. Kindly refer to our petition that that was titled, "*Petition to TotalEnergies: Address Kyotera and Lwengo EACOP PAPs grievances*", that your office received on November 5, 2021.

In the petition, we noted that a coffee plant in Kyotera district was valued at Shs 33,000 while that in Lwengo was valued at over Shs. 88,000. In addition, Lwengo valued a banana plant at Shs. 50,000 while that in Kyotera was valued at Shs. 25,000.

We referred you to the Guidelines for Compensation Assessment under Land Acquisition (GCALA) that were developed by the Ministry of Lands. The guidelines recognise that neighboring districts may have similar compensation values and provide that where a district lacks updated compensation rates, the rates of the immediate neighbouring district shall be adopted and applied.



Your office replied to our petition through a letter dated November 25, 2021. In the letter, the EACOP Company and TotalEnergies noted that the EACOP Company was “*actively engaging with [Kyotera] District in relation to the value of some specific crops, notably coffee and bananas.*”

The letter further read, “*Kyotera District has written to the CGV [Chief Government Valuer] proposing that they use rates similar to Lwengo. Upon CGV instruction, EACOP would apply the updated rates.*”

Before the EACOP Company could update us on whether the Kyotera EACOP project-affected persons (PAPs) would be paid based on the updated compensation rates as indicated in your office’s letter of November 25, 2021, an informal meeting was held in Maya-Kakuuto in Kyotera district on Tuesday April 5, 2022.

Two EACOP PAPs from Nabigasa sub-county in Kyotera district were transported by NewPlan to the meeting. The PAPs were requested to convince other PAPs in Nabigasa sub-county, Kyotera district to accept to be paid based on the low compensation rates of Shs. 33,000 for a coffee plant and Shs. 25,000 for a banana plant. We have roundly rejected these rates.

It is notable that a banana bunch may go for Shs. 25,000 but the EACOP Company wants to compensate us for a whole banana plant that provides us with annual harvests at the same price. This is unfair.

Further, Kyotera EACOP PAPs are being forced to open bank accounts yet issues related to unfair compensation haven’t been addressed. In March 2022 for instance, the TotalEnergies’ Community Liaison Officer for Kyotera district took PAPs to Centenary Bank in Kyotera district to compel them to open bank accounts.

To resolve our grievances once and for all, we are requesting for a meeting between the EACOP Company, TotalEnergies E&P (U) and the Kyotera EACOP PAPs. The meeting should take place in Nabigasa sub-county in Kyotera district on **Wednesday April 20, 2022** or another date that is convenient for you.

We hope that in the meeting, which our MPs and district leaders should participate in, we will once and for all address the issues related to:

- The low and unfair compensation rates that the EACOP Company wants to use to compensate the Kyotera EACOP PAPs;
- The underhand methods being used by TotalEnergies’ sub-contractors to compel the Kyotera PAPs to accept low compensation and;
- The intimidation and other tactics being used to compel the Kyotera EACOP PAPs to open bank accounts to receive low compensation.

We look forward to a positive response from you.

CC:

- The Minister of Energy and Mineral Development
- The Minister for Lands, Housing and Urban Planning
- The Chairperson, Natural Resources Committee of Parliament
- The Chairperson, Human Rights Committee of Parliament
- The L.C. 5 Chairperson, Kyotera district
- The Chairperson, Kyotera District Land Board
- The Executive Director, Petroleum Authority of Uganda
- The Chairperson, Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC)
- The Chairperson, UN Human Rights Office
- All Area MPs