

**A PROCEEDINGS REPORT OF THE NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER FORUM**

***Theme: "The Nexus between Trans-boundary Power Transmission Projects in the Nile Basin and Community Livelihoods in Uganda"***

**22<sup>ND</sup>/03/2012, FAIRWAY HOTEL KAMPALA**



**Organized by:**  
**Uganda Nile Discourse Forum (UNDF)**  
**&**  
**Africa Institute of Energy Governance (AFIEGO):**



**"One Nile – One Family"**

## **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

Way back in 2010, a regional advocacy initiative by the Nile Basin Discourse (NBD) and the Nile Discourse Forums (NDFs) in the NELSAP Region (Burundi, Kenya, DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) commenced, to increase community awareness about the NELSAP Power Program and the Regional Power Interconnection Projects, as well as creating awareness of the project implementers about the impact these projects are having on the local communities in the project areas. National and regional discussions and forums have been undertaken over the two years. In Uganda, this was the fourth forum around these issues, and field assessment exercises have been done.

This Stakeholder Forum was a follow-up of the three stakeholder dialogues that were carried out in Tororo, Ntungamo and Jinja. Prior to the three stakeholder dialogues UNDF carried out an assessment in the Project affected districts of Mbarara, Ntungamo, Jinja, Mayuge, Iganga, Bugiri and Tororo. The assessment was focused on the implementation process of the **172 km, 220 kV Mbarara-Mirama Hills (Uganda) – Shango (Rwanda) Electricity Interconnection Project** and the **256 km, 220 kV Jinja (Uganda) - Lessos (Kenya) Electricity Interconnection Project**. Different complaints and concerns of the project affected people (PAP) and their leadership were identified and this formed a basis for the three dialogues.

The stake holder information sharing dialogues provided a platform for the affected people to discuss and share their concerns with UETCL (the project implementers). At these dialogues recommendations were made on how to address the PAPs concerns and regional committees were formed to act as the link between the people, the implementers and policy makers. The Stakeholder Forum on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012 was therefore a higher level meeting whose main objective was to bring together the leaders of the affected communities, project implementers, policy makers and other selected stakeholders to consider and discuss the recommendations from the regional dialogues and come up with a national consensus on how to address the concerns/challenges faced by the people in the power project areas.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING**

- To bring together the project affected people, the developers and policy makers to discuss the concerns and problems faced by power project affected communities.
- Build national consensus regarding solutions necessary to address the above problems.

## **WELCOME REMARKS BY ARCHILLES BYARUHANGA, CHAIRMAN, UNDF**

Mr. Achilles Byaruhanga, Chairperson of UNDF Board chaired the Forum. He welcomed participants to the meeting and appreciated them for taking time in discussion of the important issues regarding electricity and community rights in Uganda. He went on to introduce UNDF's objectives to the participants. UNBDF is a national network of civil society organizations whose main goal is to promote sustainable managed of Nile Basin Resources. That UNBDF is part of the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) family that currently operates in the 10 Nile basin countries which include Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda .He added

that UNBDF strives to ensure that development programmes in the Nile basin lead to poverty alleviation and sustainable development without negatively affecting peoples livelihoods and environment.

Achilles also thanked AFIEGO for facilitating the regional dialogues and the forum. He recognized the presence of distinguished participants such as the regional Manager NBD, district leaders, members of parliament and the representative of the Energy Minister, Eng. Henry V. Bidasala. He concluded by inviting the participants to introduce themselves and the regional Manager UNBD to make brief remarks and a presentation.

### **REMARKS BY THE REGIONAL MANAGER, NILE BASIN DISCOURSE**

She expressed how happy she was to be part of such discussions and thanked members for honoring their invitations. She began by reminding people of the story of King Solomon in the bible as a wise king who was fair in his judgments especially with the two women who were fighting over a baby. She said the region is characterized by many conflicts and therefore CSOs have to come in as a third party and make fair judgments in solving such issues so that at the end of the day every one is a beneficiary. “We should not let the baby die”. She made a video presentation which highlighted the role of the Nile Basin Initiative, the challenges in the Nile Basin and the role of the Nile Basin Discourse. The challenges of the Nile basin include Poverty, disease, food insecurity, climate change, water contamination and many others. Therefore it is important and necessary to promote and maintain the Nile cooperation in order to solve the above challenges. She concluded calling upon CSOs such as UNDF to continue working with institutions such as the NBI to empower stakeholders especially the local communities in the basin to promote social and economic development.

### **OFFICIAL OPENING BY THE GUEST OF HONOR**

The official opening was made by Eng. Henry Bidasala Igaga, an Assistant Commissioner Electrical Power, in the ministry of energy who represented the Minister of Energy and mineral development. He welcomed the participants to the forum and mentioned that he was happy to have officiated a forum aimed at addressing the PAPs problems as regards the NELSAP power project. He said that all the power project implementation plans are based on Uganda energy policy whose main objective is to promote socio-economic development in the country.

He also said that the government is working with partners countries through NBI to ensure effective transboundary sharing of natural resources in basin as exemplified by the new Nile Treaty regarding the use of R. Nile waters. He mentioned that UECTL is a government company and must conform to the national development objectives. He acknowledged some of the problems in the project and encouraged CSOs and other stakeholders to continue working with government and its agencies to ensure success of the projects for national development. He concluded by thanking UNDF for organizing the forum and officially opened the forum.

### **PRESENTATION OF THE FIELD ASSESSMENT FINDINGS BY KIWANUKA ACHILLEO FROM UNDF**

Mr. Kiwanuka's presentation mainly focused on the issues regarding the findings of the assessment that was carried out in the seven affected districts of eastern and western Uganda that included Jinja, Mayuge, Iganga, Bugiri, Tororo, Mbarara and Ntungamo where UNDF researchers visited and discussed with PAP and local government leaders as well as project developers. The assessment compiled evidence on the impacts of the proposed 256km, 220KV Jinja [Uganda]-Lessos [Kenya] electricity interconnection project and 172km, 22kv Uganda-Rwanda interconnection power project. Below are some of the main findings/concerns that Mr. Kiwanuka highlighted from the assessment report:

- Secrecy by UETCL around projects processes.
- Lack of electricity dispute tribunals in the affected areas
- Lack of awareness among communities regarding their rights .
- Expensive court system especially in the traditional courts.
- Delay in payment of compensation which has caused wrong information, mistrust and dishonesty
- Intimidation of the PAPs (some of them illiterate) to sign the declaration forms by UETCL officials.
- The issue of low compensation rates
- Undervaluation of property by the project surveyors
- Limited involvement of district leaders, UETCL on many occasions did not consult the District leaders; they usually go direct to the communities.
- Perceived lack of transparency by UETCL.
- The tendency of UETCL of stopping land owners from using their land before compensation.
- Individual PAP files are kept by UETCL, and PAPs have no copies for reference. It is thus difficult to even remember the documents they have signed.

Achilleo gave an example of a case in Jinja where PAPs were intimidated by UECTL officials that even if they refused the low compensation government was offering them, government would increase the compensation packages, and the project will just continue. They will thus lose. is presentation was followed by the presentation about the recommendations that were made at the 3 community dialogue meetings in Ntungamo, Iganga and Tororo. Mr. Dickens Kamugisha, the Chief Executive Officer of AFIEGO, facilitated this session.

### **PRESENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS BY DICKENS KAMUGISHA FROM AFIEGO**

Dickens began his presentation by observing that the forum was one of the rare opportunities where the people suffering are brought together with the person causing the suffering to discuss and come up with agreed solutions. As NGOs, we are proud of these efforts and the acceptance of the PAP and government to sit together and discuss. Dickens therefore appreciated the participation of PAPs, CSOs, NBI, government officials and other stakeholders and invited them to discuss the recommendations genuinely in order to forge the way forward. The following are some of recommendations that were highlights by Dickens:

- UETCL should only offer up-to-date and current valuation rates of the concerned districts.
- UECTL should always provide accurate and timely information to the project affected people.
- Each district should always review and ensure that current valuation rates are put in place by end march of every year.
- Government and CSOs need to educate and sensitize people on laws, policies and their rights.
- UECTL's compensation to the affected people should take the problem of inflation into account.
- PAPs should be given a copy of any document they sign with UECTL for easy reference.
- UECTL should a clear set time frame for compensation payments.
- ERA should establish branch offices in the affected districts to offer affordable justice to affected people who are poor to afford the expensive traditional courts.
- Government should also establish Electricity Disputes Tribunals in the respective districts affected by the above power projects.
- UECTL and all other developers should always involve district, sub-county, parish and village leaders in issues regarding power projects.
- There should be affirmative action for the PAPs to access affordable electricity as a reward for their support of the projects.
- EIAs should be done with involvement of the local people and final reports be distributed to Local Government Offices in in relevant local languages to the local communities.

Dickens concluding his presentation by highlighting some of the relevant key provisions of the Constitution, the Electricity act, The Land act and the Land Acquisition Act. He assured the participants that both UNDF and AFIEGO respect the laws and will always operate within the law. Thereafter, Dickens asked the forum to propose specific ways for the implementation of above recommendations as solutions to PAPs' concerns.

### **PROPOSED ACTIONS**

To get the recommendations implemented, the forum agreed to under take the following:

1. Write a petition and submit it to the Speaker of Parliament and ensure that all the members of parliament from the affected areas participate. Parliament should use her legislative and oversight powers to address the problems of PAP.
2. Write a memorandum of issues and submit to the minister of energy and mineral development for policy action. UETCL will be requested to attend the meeting regarding the submission of a memorandum to the minister.

### **LEAD TEAM**

The forum elected seven (7) people, one from each of the seven affected districts to draft the petition and memorandum and, make arrangements for submission to the Speaker of Parliament and the Minister of Energy and Mineral Development. This team was given 3 weeks to complete its work. Names and contacts of National Committee members to spearhead the implementation of recommendations as follows:.

No.	Name	district	Telephone no.
1	Mayengo Richard .k	Jinja	0774375398,0703548435
2	Padde J Etoori	Tororo	0702377576
3	Mquarta Usuf Halfan	Iganga	0772020299,0704120299
4	Mgirimugabo Lydia	Mayuge	0775423085,0775423085
5	A Kususi	Bugiri	0772467761,0751423085
5	Kateeba Stella	Ntungamo	0392916199,0701358635
7	Kirego Martin	Mbarara	0772651729, 0702676228

### **CLOSING REMARKS BY ENG.HON.IGAGA BIDASAALA, THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTER**

Eng. Bidasala noted that most of the issues that had been raised were genuine and should be attended to by the concerned bodies. He added that if UECTL is acting outside the law, they will be advised to change. He emphasized that people should always try other alternatives only after UETCL has failed to address their concerns. He advised people that in some cases, they should accept and be willing to sacrifice if they want development and noted “if you want to eat a sweet omelet, you have to first break the egg”. He then closed the meeting and wished everyone a safe journey back home.

### **LIST OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER DIALOGUE ON THE INTERCONNECTION POWER PROJECTS, 22<sup>ND</sup>/03/2012, FAIRWAY HOTEL KAMPALA**

	NAME	DESIGNATION	CONTACTS
1.	Abby Onencan	Regional Manager, NBD	0772522727
2.	Achilles Byaruhanga	Nature Uganda/Chairman UNDF	0772522727
3.	Achilleo Kiwanuka	UNDF	0774720089
4.	Agaba Gershom	NECOM Uganda	0712157080 <a href="mailto:necomuganda@yahoo.com">necomuganda@yahoo.com</a>
5.	Agrippinah Namara	UNDF	0772485996
6.	Aguti Caroline	SPO/Environment, MEMD	0772619300
7.	Alikwan A. Kisubi	CAO, Bugiri District	0772304086
8.	Asiimwe Agrey	Mayuge DLG driver	07013528117
9.	Azalwa Malijhan	Chairman, Bugiri District	0782380738, <a href="mailto:malijhanazalwa@yahoo.com">malijhanazalwa@yahoo.com</a>
10.	Barbara Kamugisha	Mirama Hills, Ntungamo	0772-456422, <a href="mailto:kamigishab@yahoo.com">kamigishab@yahoo.com</a>
11.	Balidawa Paul	Vice Chairman, Jinja DLG	0772644941

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>	<b>CONTACTS</b>
12.	Barora Rebecca	Mbarara	0772853421
13.	Batambuze Mesusera	CDO, Bugiri District	0782615490
14.	Betty Ahwera	UNDF	0773269711
15.	Benon Kamurasi	Rweikiniro, Ntungamo	0782901920
16.	Bogere Moses	Committee Member	0755671889
17.	Byabashaija Jackson	Ntungamo District	0772965630
18.	Daniel Massamba M	Corporate Communication Specialist, Nile Basin Initiative	0754785642 <a href="mailto:dmassamba@nilebasin.org">dmassamba@nilebasin.org</a>
19.	Daniel Rutabingwa	Advisor, JICA	0772564933 <a href="mailto:Rutabingwadaniel.ug@jica.go.jp">Rutabingwadaniel.ug@jica.go.jp</a>
20.	David Rwiianingio	JICA	0772564933
21.	Diana Talemwa	AFIEGO	0701566113
22.	Dennis Wangira Okhikha	Chairperson, YES, Busia	0782422520, <a href="mailto:wangiradenis@yahoo.com">wangiradenis@yahoo.com</a>
23.	Dickens Kamugisha	AFIEGO	0782407085
24.	Echiria Steven	Councilor Tororo GPRC	0702162818/0783234836
25.	Emerita Mugowichyeza	Stakeholder Involvement Specialist, Nile Basin Initiative-SEC	0759304446, <a href="mailto:emugorewicyeza@nilebasin.org">emugorewicyeza@nilebasin.org</a>
26.	Erias M Igulu	Iganga DLG	0777502518
27.	Eng. Henry Bidasala-Igaga	AC/EPD, MEMD	0772658692, <a href="mailto:igaga@energy.go.ug">igaga@energy.go.ug</a>
28.	Gilbert Kermundu	Ag. Chif Government Valuer	0772501183, <a href="mailto:kermundugilbert@yahoo.co.uk">kermundugilbert@yahoo.co.uk</a>
29.	J.Wandera	PRO, ERA	0772391773
30.	Jaramongi Patrick	New Vision	0702426211
31.	J.B. Lusala	Jinja	0758989010
32.	Jennifer Karubejja	Nile Basin Discourse	0712808632
33.	Julie Nabulumbi	UWS	0752824665
34.	Kabishanga Emmanuel	New Horizon, Kampala	0712717105
35.	Kateeba Stella	Ntungamo District	0701358635
36.	Kirego Martin	Mbarara	0772651729/0702676228 <a href="mailto:mwemaki@yahoo.com">mwemaki@yahoo.com</a>
37.	Kibwika John	Driver, Bigiri, DLG	
38.	Kugonza Robert	NAPE/ARN	0772620987, <a href="mailto:robert@nape.or.ug">robert@nape.or.ug</a>
39.	Magemeso Isahaka	Chairman Land Board Mayuge	0782511137
40.	Mahirane Akhim	Rweikiniro, Ntungamo	0782879069
41.	Mayengo Richard K	Jinja DLG	0774375398/0703548435
42.	Mayengo Richard K	Jinja DLG	
43.	Moses Aisu Okurut	SAFE, Tororo	0772837861 <a href="mailto:safeuganda@gmail.com">safeuganda@gmail.com</a>
44.	Mquarta Usuf Halfan	Iganga District council	0772020299
45.	Mubangizi Jordan	Press, NBS TV	0702150900
46.	Muhwezi Robert	Police officer	0782890662
47.	Mulindwa Joseph	UEEF/UNDF Board member	0772642865, <a href="mailto:mulindwajos@yahoo.com">mulindwajos@yahoo.com</a>
48.	Mulumba Mathias	ED CEPARO, Board Member UNDF	0772537222

	<b>NAME</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>	<b>CONTACTS</b>
49.	Muramuzi Frank	Director, NAPE	0772492362
50.	Musika Annet	Jinja DLG	0772569269
51.	Mutyaba Ivan	CEPARD Consult	0774304205
52.	Nabulumbi Julliet	UWS	0752824665
53.	Nabirye Milly	ICHC-Iganga	0783393356
54.	Nabwiiso S.	Journalist, The observer	0752808923
55.	Namaganda Betty	Iganga District	0775424608
56.	Namilimu Angella	Makerere- STARGO	0718206309
57.	Nannozi .N.Grace	UEEF, Mukono	0772304086
58.	Ngirumugabo Lydia	Vice Chairperson, Mayuge DLG	0751423085
59.	Ogwal P willy	AUXFOURED/UNDF Board member	077309863
60.	Olango Joseph	Press, The Observer	0772421470, jolango@gmail.com
61.	Oliki Phillip	Driver, Tororo DLG	
62.	Okonera Vincent	Busia Happy Childhood Foundation	077262571 Happychildhoodfoundyaho.com
63.	Osuna Emmanuel	District Chairperson, Tororo	0772452421
64.	Padde J Etoori	Subcounty Chief Iyolwa	0702377576/0752377576
65.	Sarah Kisolo	RUDMEC/UNDF Board member	077588192
66.	Ssekade Julius	Press, UBC	0782074273
67.	Tashobya Karutsye Bonny	Mayuge DLG	0700783717
68.	Turyatamba Godfrey	Ruhaama, Ntungamo	0784875360
69.	Wandera Stephen	Press, Daily Monitor	0752440223, wanderaouma@gmail.com
70.	Were James	Sub county Chief Tororo	0775319414 don.makada@yahoo.com