

# Hoima oil waste company blacklisted in South Africa

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AND AGENCIES

THE parent company of Hoima-based oil waste management company EnviroServ Uganda Limited has been blacklisted in South Africa for allegedly dumping smelly waste at a landfill.

A South African newspaper *Business Day* reported that EnviroServ was temporarily banned by the High Court in Durban recently.

In 2014, EnviroServ Uganda started construction of its facilities with an initial \$20m investment for the first phase of the project. Subsequently, in 2015, it commenced operations.

The company, among others, was licensed by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) to handle both solid and liquid waste.

Others are Strategic Logistics, McAlister Energy Resources, and White Nile Consults in a joint venture with Chinese firm Tianjin Teda Landoo Oilfield Service Company.

The one million cubic metre facility, sitting on 100 acres, is located in Nyamasoga village, Bugahya county. The modern laboratories, waste treatment and disposal facility, sieve waste produced from the 14 oil appraisal wells in the Albertine Grabben.

Officially, Uganda has a

projected 6.5 billion barrels of crude oil. Oil production is scheduled to start in 2020, with exploration having commenced in 2006.

## ■ NEMA INSTRUCTIONS

The authority has official instructions on waste management. The companies have alternatives, among which is site disposal of waste in man-made or natural excavations such as pits.

For petroleum waste, solid waste must be diluted with soil and then spread on the land. The liquid waste must be pumped down the disposal wells and subjected to bio-treatment.

Prior, NEMA permitted waste

from the exploratory stage to be concealed at site.

But junk resulting from the production stage must undergo stringent detoxification before it is concealed in a dumpsite.

## ■ UGANDA OIL STATUS

China oil giant China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), French oil giant Total, alongside London stock exchange listed Tullow, are developing the oil fields.

Apart from the civil suit, EnviroServ is also battling criminal charges. The National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) of South Africa formally charged EnviroServ at the Durban Magistrates Court. The case is

pending, and the next court schedule is August 17.

The company's chief executive Dean Thompson has maintained that the suspension is based on numerous incorrect technical and scientific conclusions.

Prior in February, the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA), suspended the company's licence over non-compliance. The company's woes arose over dumping waste at the Shongweni landfill site in the city of Durban. On its profile as outlined on its official website [enviroserv.co.za](http://enviroserv.co.za), the company prides in 39 years of experience and service. Justice Gregory Kruger

suspended dumping on the site, pending the company's appeal at the Appellate Court. "The time for playing games is over. I am here to protect the community and not the pockets of your client. The buck stops here and it stops today," Kruger stated.

The court decision was prompted by an application by civic lobby group Upper Highway Air, which championed the dump shut down, citing an unbearable odour in the area.

The lobby claimed the foul smell resulted in respiratory and health issues for residents, a claim which EnviroServ has denied, demanding an independent firm.