

Attach value to environment while constructing roads

Huge crowds in Kabaale, Buserukira in Hoima District recently witnessed President Museveni and Tanzania's Foreign minister unveiling a foundation stone where the construction of the 1,445km East African Crude Oil Pipeline will start. Another stone was laid by Presidents John Magufuli of Tanzania and Mr Museveni at Luzinge village in Kyotera District for the construction of oil pipeline.

In President Museveni's speech, he noted that there will be roads con-

structed along the pipeline.

But won't this leave many people displaced without adequate compensation? An example is the Oil Refinery-affected residents where 20 families are yet to be compensated and more than 70 are still waiting for government to fulfil the promises made to them in the 2012 Resettlement Action Plan for the Refinery Project.

It was noted by the Uganda National Roads Authority that the roads will pass through some important

ecosystems of Budongo Forests and Murchison Falls National Park. This will affect the environment as trees will be cut down for the construction of the roads.

I am disappointed that the government is moving to develop the oil sector without first putting in place environmental law reforms.

Failure to have law reforms will see Uganda suffer like other oil producing African countries such as Nigeria.

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