

LETTER OF THE DAY

# Oil communities need information on oil, gas laws

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**EDITOR:** In February 2017 the energy ministry developed the national content policy for the petroleum sub-sector in Uganda, whose goal is to promote the competitiveness of Ugandan labour and enterprises in the oil and gas industry and associated sectors of the economy and also use the country's oil and gas resources to contribute to early achievement of poverty eradication.

The national content policy stipulates that the Government has a key role in ensuring effective participation of Ugandan citizens in the petroleum sub-sector, local communities, individuals, professionals and enterprises have a primary responsibility to participate in the implementation of this Policy including: Participating in the provision of goods, services and human resources in the oil and gas industry.

As the oil and gas sector shifts to the developments phase, in Bunyoro region, many oil and gas activities have been taking place and currently the construction of the Kabaale (Hoima) airport is yet to begin, the central processing facility in Kasenyi village, Ngwedo sub-county, Buliisa district and the pipelines from various oil wells to the central processing facilities.

A lot of employment opportunities have been promised to Ugandans when the development of this infrastructure kicks off, but the question remains on how and what recruitment procedures will be used to identify the local persons from these communities despite the presence of local political structures. Previously there have been sentiments building up on denial of Bunyoro communities to access jobs from oil

company companies.

There is need for the energy ministry and other key players to come up with strategic information disseminating channels, to ensure that grassroots clearly understand the oil and gas policies and laws for effective participation in the industry.

Also the energy ministry must build capacities of the other stakeholders such as the technical teams at the districts, sub counties and village leadership where oil and gas activities are taking place.

This will enable them acquire the information about oil and gas laws and later share with the communities of oil and gas resources, to benefit current and future generations.

*Sandra Atusinguza, AFIEGO Field co-coordinator*

PICTURE BY RAMADHAN ABBEY

**A POINT A VIEW**

Children fetch water from a hole in the ground in Kitala village in Kayunga district. Clean water is a big challenge in this village.

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