

Host communities not reaping from oil

Recently, *Daily Monitor* carried a story where government revealed best and worst performing districts for the financial year 2016/2017. To my disappointment, oil-rich Buliisa District was ranked as one of the worst performing districts, performing below 40 per cent of the target. The discovery of oil in Bunyoro sub-region was termed as a "blessing" to the region and the country. Both government and residents were excited about the impact oil would bring. Expectations included creation of jobs for the youth, improving roads, schools, hospitals, etc.

As for Buliisa District, there are still many challenges, including bad roads, schools, land-grabbing, delayed and inadequate compensation for land, etc. Furthermore, many youths from the oil host communities are still unemployed even when they do not have a source of livelihood. The environment has been degraded with oil activities negatively affecting fish life in Lake Albert. Host communities deserve more and the government should do more for them benefit from activities linked to oil.

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