

Oil advocacy NGOs decry restrictions

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HOIMA/KAMPALA. Civil society organisations (CSOs) involved in oil and gas advocacy in the Albertine Graben have decried the increasing restrictions allegedly imposed on them by the State.

While presenting research findings on the implications of Uganda's NGO Act 2016, on CSOs working in the oil and gas sector, Makerere University Law Don Prof Christopher Mbazira, argued that the act has imposed a tedious registration process, creating a thick layer of bureaucracy that could stifle the work of CSOs.

He was presenting a paper at a regional workshop on advocacy and civic space strategy for CSOs working in East Africa's oil and gas sector, which was held at Esella Country Hotel in Kampala recently. The two-day meeting organised by Global Rights Alert (GRA) was attended by more than 200 activists from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

The law

Under section 44(a) of the Act, an organisation that wishes to carry out activities in any part of the country, has to get approval from the district NGO monitoring committee from each district it wishes to operate in as well as enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the district.