

MUSEVENI MEETS DANGOTE, BACKS REGIONAL OIL REFINERY

By Vision Reporter

President Yoweri Museveni has expressed Uganda's support for a proposed regional oil refinery project following talks with Nigerian billionaire industrialist Aliko Dangote on strengthening East Africa's energy and industrial co-operation.

During the meeting held at State Lodge Nakasero yesterday, Museveni said Uganda was ready to support the establishment of a large regional refinery in East Africa, as part of broader efforts to promote economic integration and African value addition.

"We shall support Mr Dangote and we are ready to buy shares in the regional refinery because our goal is regional integration and industrial development," Museveni said.

The President emphasised that Africa must move away from exporting raw materials and, instead focus on processing its resources locally in order to create jobs, build industries and strengthen economies.

UGANDA'S OIL JOURNEY

Museveni explained that Uganda's oil journey had taken longer because the Government insisted on ensuring that the country benefits from value addition before exporting crude oil.



Front row: Museveni (centre), Dangote (fourth-left), Bateebe (fourth-right), with other officials after their meeting on regional oil refinery held at the State Lodge in Nakasero, Kampala, yesterday

He said Uganda's planned refinery in Hoima would continue alongside broader regional discussions aimed at establishing a larger East African refinery capable of serving multiple countries.

"We have no problem supporting a broader regional refinery that can guarantee energy security for the region while Uganda also develops its own refinery," he said.

The President further said regional co-operation would help East African countries benefit more from shared infrastructure and industrial projects.

PPU PHOTO

DANGOTE'S REMARKS

On his part, Dangote said his team was currently assessing possible locations for the refinery, including Tanga, Mombasa and Lamu, while consultations with regional governments continue.

"This is a continuation of discussions we held with regional leaders in Nairobi. We want to establish a refinery that can support East Africa's growing energy needs," he noted.

Dangote said the project would process crude oil from different sources across the region and help reduce dependence on imported petroleum products.

"Jobs will not be a problem. In our refinery in Nigeria, we employ people from many nationalities and East Africans will also benefit from this project," Dangote affirmed.

He invited officials from Uganda's energy sector to visit the Dangote refinery in Nigeria for further discussions and technical engagement.

Eng. Irene Bateebe, the Energy Ministry Permanent Secretary, said Uganda's refinery plans remain commercially viable due to the country's quality crude oil and growing regional market.

ANTICIPATION

The proposed regional refinery is expected to strengthen East Africa's energy security, support industrialisation and complement ongoing infrastructure projects, such as the 1443km East African Crude Oil Pipeline linking Hoima in Uganda to Tanga in Tanzania.

The oil refinery project is expected to cost between \$15b (about sh56 trillion) and \$17b (about sh63.6 trillion) with a planned capacity of 650,000 barrels of crude oil per day. It is expected to serve East African countries and other regional markets.

The discussions followed recent engagements between Dangote and East African leaders during the *Africa*

We Build Summit 2026 held in Nairobi, Kenya, where proposals for a major regional refinery were discussed.