

China to train Uganda oil experts

A total of 43 top performers from the last cohort of 200 Ugandans under the localised employee skills training programme will be selected for training.

BY STEPHEN OTAGE

Sinopec, the Chinese Company constructing the Central Processing Facility (CPF) at Tilenga, is sending 43 Ugandan engineers to China so that they are ready to operate the CPF when the first crude oil comes out as projected in July.

Stakeholders expect first oil to flow between July and October, with some analysts projecting a delay into next year. Mr Daniel Emodu, the training coordinator for Sinopec, said they are going to select 43 top performers from the last cohort of 200 Ugandans under the localised employee skills training programme, whose training commenced last week.

"The first group went to China and all returned. We shall select 43 top performers and send them to China, preparing them for the first crude oil that is happening in July. We are finalising the details with the training providers in China," he said.

Asked if the crude oil will be relevant



Ugandan oil engineers pose for a photo with Chinese Embassy officials in Kampala. PHOTO/STEPHEN OTAGE

to the country at that point, he said what will be produced will be the first oil for running the entire central processing facility, including flaming up the oil that will be sent to the East African Crude Oil Pipeline.

Mr Emodu added that the company has finalised most of the contracts, preparing the facility to start production.

Mr Eric Odong, the enterprise development officer for the national content department at the Petroleum Authority of Uganda, explained that Sinopec, which was contracted by TotalEnergies to construct the central processing facility, has been training over 800 Ugandans in three batches be-

cause the country did not have the required expertise to handle the facility.

He said the training has resulted in the country employing 86 percent of the current workforce at the central processing facility.

Ms Rosette Kyomugisha, the national content lead at TotalEnergies Uganda, told the trainees that once the crude oil reaches the central processing facility, the project will be categorised into four packages, which require several services where the skills they are learning will be highly needed.

Mr Solomon Hans Ruyonga, the senior public relations officer for the In-

ternational Petroleum Service Corporation, Uganda, said the CPF Industry skilling and training programme provides internationally certified expertise across a range of technical trades.

"The training areas include pipe fitting, structural and coded pipe welding, electrical and instrumentation installation, scaffolding, rigging, banksman and heavy equipment operation (mobile crane and articulating boom lift), telecommunications installation, NDT engineering, piping inspection, PTW (Permit to Work) monitoring, foremanship, thermal insulation and material management," he said.

The CPF skilling programme start-

THE TILENGA PROJECT

Petroleum Authority of Uganda says the Tilenga Project is operated by TotalEnergies Exploration, and Production (TEPU) in the form of a joint venture partnership comprising of the China National Offshore Oil Company (CUL) with a 28.33 percent stake, the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC) with 15 percent, and TEPU holding the majority participating interest of 56.67 percent.

The project is expected to produce 190,000 barrels of oil per day (bopd) at peak, which will be processed and cleaned up at the Central Processing Facilities (CPF) located in the Industrial Area. The CPF consists of a series of tanks and piping systems through which the produced oil and the associated gas will be processed to remove any unwanted mixtures such as water and sand.

ed in April 2025 with over 300 Ugandans trained in technical skills for oil and gas. The programme currently maintains a combined placement success rate of 68.2 percent for completed trades, aiming to ensure Ugandans get transferable skills that transcend the Tilenga Project.



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