

# **EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE-AFFECTED PEOPLE'S NETWORK (EACOP-N)**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
HOIMA, UGANDA**

## **EACOP COMMUNITIES DEMAND THAT SINOSURE AND CHINA EXIM BANK CONSULT THEM BEFORE EACOP FINANCING**

Today, 2,461 households that have been affected by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), Kingfisher and Tilenga oil projects in Uganda have written to the China Export and Credit Insurance Corporation (Sinasure) and the Export-Import Bank of China (China ExIm bank).

The households have expressed concerns over news that Sinasure and China ExIm bank are set to provide financial support to the EACOP project. The households are calling on Sinasure and China ExIm bank to conduct an independent field visit organised in collaboration with the affected communities before making any decision related to the EACOP.

The households also say that their preferred source of energy is off-grid solar, not oil and gas.

It will be recalled that in September 2023, Ms. Irene Bateebe, the Permanent Secretary of Uganda's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) was quoted as saying that the Exim Bank of China and Sinasure were set to provide over half of the \$3 billion EACOP project loan.

In their letters to Sinasure and China ExIm bank, the aforementioned oil-affected households under the leadership of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline Affected People's Network (EACOP-N), raised the following concerns as regards the EACOP, Kingfisher and Tilenga oil projects.

- **The EACOP project developers are displacing 13,546 households in Uganda and Tanzania** with over [86,000](#) people. The displacement, which has been characterised by violations against Uganda's 1995 Constitution and IFC Performance Standards, especially Standard 5, has caused impacts such as food stress, income losses, school drop-outs, and failure by many project-affected persons to replace their property due to being paid delayed, inadequate and unfair compensation, among others. The people noted that the project has left many affected people worse off and some call it a curse.
- **Further, the people brought to the attention of the banks** that on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023, EACOP-affected households of Hanang, Kiteto and

Simanjiro districts of Manyara region in Tanzania were served with eviction notices by the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC), which is working on behalf of China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), Total, the Ugandan government and Tanzanian government -the EACOP project developers- to acquire land for the EACOP project. The people were not given an opportunity to harvest their crops such as pigeon peas and cassava, which stands to impoverish the households. The people asked whether a project that impoverishes people can be called good.

- **In addition, the people noted that as farmers who rely on good climate and a healthy environment, they are worried about the environmental and climate impacts of the EACOP.** The people observed that since activities such as construction of roads, central processing facilities, feeder pipelines, Hoima International Airport and others to enable development of the EACOP, Kingfisher and Tilenga project started in Uganda, trees and other vegetation have been cleared. The people noted that they have noticed a change in weather patterns in their areas and civil society organisations (CSOs) had told them that the weather patterns have changed because of climate change, which is caused by deforestation, the global use of oil and gas and others.
- **The people decried the loss of livelihoods that have already been incurred.** The people observed that on Lake Albert where CNOOC's Kingfisher oil project activities are located in Uganda, some fisherfolk have lost access to fishing grounds. In addition, the light from the Kingfisher oil rig that was launched in January 2023 has made access to fish more difficult. Due to the above factors, fisherfolk have been pushed to fishing on the part of Lake Albert that is found in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), where the fishermen face insecurity. The people said that they are worried that when construction of the EACOP starts, fisherfolk that work on rivers such as Kafu, Nabakazi, Katonga, Kagera, Sigi and others in Uganda and Tanzania that have been affected by the EACOP could also lose their livelihoods. The people expressed low confidence in CNOOC, Total, the Ugandan government and Tanzanian government's capacity to manage their project's impacts because experience shows that they mismanage impacts and their grievance management systems are lacking.
- **Further, the people complained about the militarisation** characterised by security checkpoints, development of new military detachments and others seen in Buhuka in Kikuube district, where CNOOC operates the Kingfisher oil project. The people further observed that in Tanzania, security surveillance has also increased in Chongoleani-

Tanga, where the marine storage terminal (MST) for the EACOP project will be located. The increased militarisation is aimed at protecting CNOOC's Kingfisher oil project infrastructure and the EACOP. The military presence has however caused fear amongst community members and caused the abuse of fundamental human rights such as the right to free movement, the people said.

- **The people raised other concerns such as increased human-wildlife conflicts** arising from oil drilling in Murchison Falls National Park and noted that they were losing their crops and some people had been killed by elephants.

The people gave Sinosure and China Exim bank up to 10 November 2023 to get back to them as regards their request to be consulted through the EACOP-affected people's network before any decision on the EACOP is made among others.

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\*EACOP-N was formed by EACOP-affected community members in March 2023 and is composed of EACOP project-affected persons from six of the ten districts where land is being acquired for the EACOP project in Uganda.

This press statement was contributed to by community-based organisations from Tanzania.