

# **BULIISA EVICTIONS: STATEMENT TO THE HOIMA HIGH COURT**

**To:** The President of Uganda, The Chief Justice of Uganda, The Minister of Energy and Mineral Development

**From:** EACOP-PAPs and Concerned Citizens of Uganda living in Buliisa region

**Subject:** Urgent Appeal for Fair Compensation and Due Process in Tilenga Oil Project Evictions

We, the undersigned, are deeply concerned about the recent court ruling ordering the eviction of 42 families in the Buliisa District to make way for the Tilenga oil project.

Our concerns are as follows:

- **Inadequate Compensation:** Landowners were offered significantly lower compensation than the true value of their land.
- **Unresolved Land Disputes:** Several families have ongoing land ownership disputes that should have been resolved before the eviction order.
- **Denial of Justice:** The swift court ruling, delivered within four days and after one hearing, raises serious concerns about procedural fairness that requires effective judicial remedy. The desire to save time and expedite the proceedings does not justify disregarding such a fundamental principle as the right to adversarial proceedings.
- **Limited Access to Justice:** Suing families in a distant court disadvantaged them due to short notice, lack of transportation and money to fund it, and unawareness of the lawsuit.
- **Potential Collusion:** The communities fear that the government is prioritizing the interests of oil corporations over the rights of its citizens.

We demand the following:

- Immediately halt the eviction and compensation processes until an independent expert conducts a thorough, inclusive, and transparent review.
- Ensure fair and adequate compensation for the affected landowners based on independent valuation and in consultation with the community.
- Address the outstanding land disputes and unclear land ownership issues before proceeding with the project.
- Guarantee the affected communities' right to fair process and access to justice by affording them a reasonable opportunity to present their case in a reasonable time and by properly examining the submissions, arguments, and evidence adduced by the parties.
- Protect the fundamental human rights of the local communities and prevent further abuses by the government and corporate interests.
- Set up an impartial investigation into the allegations of collusion between the government and oil corporations.
- Ensure speedy and expeditious adjudication of oil-related community cases.

We urge you to uphold the principles of justice with fair, equitable proceedings and respect for the people of Uganda. Failure to do so will perpetuate a grave injustice and erode public trust in the government and the rule of law.