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Bayeremi d.
Mayor's Office.
0709839080.



20th October, 2025.

Received
#Kampala
21/10/2025
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- 0414377080

The Minister,

Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development

Kampala, Uganda

Dear Madam,



RE: OPPOSITION TO THE ALLOCATION OF 150 ACRES OF KITUBULU CENTRAL FOREST RESERVE TO TIAN TANG GROUP.

We, the undersigned environmental groups, Civil Society Organizations, and concerned citizens, write to register our strongest opposition and deep disappointment over the recent government decision to allocate 150 acres of Kitubulu Central Forest Reserve in Entebbe to the Chinese investor, Tian Tang Group, for the construction of government offices and a commercial shopping mall.

Kitubulu Central Forest Reserve is a legally protected forest under the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, 2003, and is managed by the National Forestry Authority (NFA) as part of Uganda's national efforts to conserve biodiversity, protect water catchment areas, and mitigate climate change. It is not just any forest, Kitubulu is a forest planted and nurtured by the people of Entebbe over many decades, making it both an ecological treasure and a symbol of community-led environmental stewardship.

The move to alienate and allocate part of this protected forest to a private investor, under the pretext of public infrastructure development, amounts to blatant environmental degradation, a violation of national environmental laws, and a betrayal of public trust.

We note with concern that this decision has angered local authorities, including leaders of Entebbe Municipality per the article published in Daily Monitor page two dated October 13th, 2025, and has been met with overwhelming condemnation from environmental activists, civil society, and citizens at large. The notion that the government can quietly convert protected ecological zones into commercial real estate for foreign interests sends a dangerous precedent that no natural resource is safe from the ambitions of short-term economic gains.

We categorically reject this allocation on the following grounds:

- i) Kitubulu is a protected forest reserve by law, and any encroachment, degazettement, or reallocation violates the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act.
- ii) Forests like Kitubulu serve critical ecological roles regulating the local climate, protecting the Lake Victoria shoreline, sequestering carbon, and providing a habitat for biodiversity.
- iii) The allocation process has lacked transparency and public consultation violating the principles of accountability and inclusive governance.
- iv) The construction of malls and government offices is neither urgent nor appropriate justification to destroy a central forest reserve, especially when alternative land options exist.
- v) The move undermines Uganda's commitments under international environmental conventions, including the Paris Agreement.

OUR DEMANDS

In light of the above, we hereby demand the following:

- a) Immediate cancellation of all land titles, leases, letters of allocation, or any other legal instruments issued to Tian Tang Group or any other entity in connection to the 150 acres of Kitubulu Central Forest Reserve.
- b) A public statement from the Ministry of Lands and NFA clarifying the legal status of Kitubulu and reaffirming its protection as a central forest reserve.
- c) A parliamentary inquiry into the matter to investigate how protected land was alienated without due process or stakeholder consultation.
- d) A halt to all ongoing or planned activities on the allocated land, including surveying, clearing, or construction.

- e) Restoration of any damaged part of the forest and recommitment to its preservation through community engagement and reforestation efforts.

We remind the government that forests like Kitubulu are not just lines on a map to be redrawn at will, they are living ecosystems, irreplaceable in value and essential to our survival. Destroying them for concrete and commerce is not development; it is ecological vandalism. We stand ready to pursue all legal, civic, and environmental means to protect Kitubulu and other threatened ecological sites in Uganda. We trust that your offices will treat this matter with the urgency and seriousness it deserves.

Sincerely,



Aryampa Brighton

Lawyer and Environmental Human Rights Defender.

CC;

1. The President of the Republic of Uganda.
2. The Speaker of Parliament of Uganda.
3. The Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda.
4. The Minister of Water and Environment.
5. The State Minister of Finance for Investment and Privatization.
6. The Executive Director, National Forestry Authority (NFA).
7. The Executive Director, National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).
8. Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee of Natural Resources.
9. The Resident District Commissioner, Wakiso District.
10. The Mayor, Entebbe Municipality.
11. Media houses.

Received on
21/10/2025
Amim B

Undersigned Signatories;

NB. YOU CAN ADD YOUR ORGANISATION LOGO AT THE TOP OF THE DOCUMENT

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3	Action for Climate and Environmental Justice	Climate.environmentaljustice@gmail.com
4	Women on Environment Mission	info@wemug.org
5	Fridays For Future Uganda	fridaysuganda@gmail.com
6	African Initiative on Food Security and Environment	
7	Initiative for Green Planet	info@igpug.org
8	Youth Concern on Environment and Development	executive.yced@gmail.com
9	Center for Environmental Research and Agricultural Innovations	info@cerai.org
10	Nature Talk Africa	info@naturetalkafrika.org
11	National Association of Professional Environmentalists	rajab@nape.or.ug
12	Women for Green Nature	
13	Civic Response on Environment and Development (CRED)	<u>cred@creduganda.org</u>
14	Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO)	<u>afiego@afiego.org</u>
15	Health Equity and Policy Initiative (HEAP)	info@heapi.ug
16	Liberty Pro Bono Initiative	libertyprobonoinitiative@gmail.com
17	Strategic Response on Environment Conservation (STREC)	<u>info@strecug.org</u>
18	Center for Conservation and Ecoenergy	<u>info@cceni.org</u>

	Initiative (CCEI)	
19	Youth for Environmental Justice and Climate Action (YECA)	info@yecaug.org
20	Youth for Nature Conservancy (YNC)	
21	Environment Governance Institute (EGI)	info@egiuganda.org
22	Global Rights Alert (GRA)	
23	Nature Talk Africa (NaTA)	info@naturetalkafrika.org

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