



WOMEN ON ENVIRONMENT MISSION

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29th / August /2024

Total Energies EP Uganda,
Course View Towers, Plot 21 Yusuf Lule Road
PO BOX 34867,
Kampala, Uganda

Dear Sir,

**RE: PETITION TO CHAMPION CLIMATE JUSTICE IN COMMUNITIES IMPACTED
BY FOSSIL FUELS DRIVING CLIMATE CRISIS IN BULIISA DISTRICT.**

Greetings from Women On Environment Mission (WEM), a female led organization dedicated to women empowerment in environment conservation, gender equality and women rights.

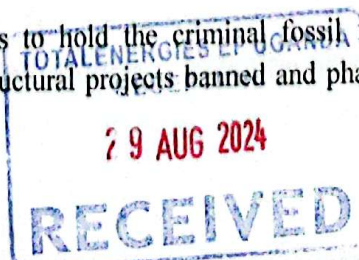
1. Introduction

Between June 28th to 30th 2024, grassroots women in Buliisa district met with Women On Environment Mission and partnered with Kakindo Integrated Women Development Agency (KAWIDA) a women led organization, to organize community consultations through meetings and documentaries with grass root movements and groups to share experiences on land rights, climate change, and environment conservations through a cultural event to celebrate feminist's efforts towards climate actions and bridge feminists gaps in championing climate justice.

The focus was against actions of breaking cultural norms that oppress women and girls such as discrimination, patriarchy, early and forced marriages, lack of access and ownership to land and economic resources, domestic violence, denial to education, employment opportunities and many more as a result of the ongoing oil and gas developments in their communities. The Feminists shared experiences and best practices on how they are achieving climate justice.

The objective of the community engagement was to hold the criminal fossil fuel industry accountable for their crimes, they want the infrastructural projects banned and phase out fossil

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fuels once and for all. The feminist demand for a fossil free future to achieve climate justice and prevent climate catastrophe.

2. Women Concerns

- 1. Loss of property due to flash floods from construction sites.** Floods from Central Processing Facility (CPF), NGR 01, KAS 01, GNA 01 and along access roads in Avogera and Kisomere villages have damaged crops and houses, community water sources like boreholes, open water sources and valley dams. Floods have also blocked path ways/ foot paths connecting to homes and gardens. There is no clear drainage plan from TotalEnergies and the local authorities have not helped at all. Women remain the most affected by these floods causing a lot of losses to their livelihoods and wellbeing. In some areas, assessments were done but no compensation was done for the damages. All these are due to oil and gas activities stimulating climate change impacts in Buliisa district.
- 2. Loss of property and livelihoods.** Since oil discovery in Buliisa there has been establishment of roads which could pass through gardens and grazing lands. Animals move along distance in search of water and pasture and have been knocked by Tilenga project vehicles most times and never compensated. Lower Buliisa has been a grazing area however oil and gas developments have ignored this aspect.
- 3. Damage of property due to cracks from vibrations from trucks at construction sites.** Construction of access roads and well pads in Kirama, Avogera and Uribo villages has led to cracks in houses due to vibrations from heavy trucks, rollers and excavators, these concerns have been ignored by Total Energies and her Contractors. Women live in fear that houses could collapse and fall on them and their children anytime and also be attacked by wild animals and insects at night through the cracks.
- 4. Increasing rates of gender based violence;** Men have abandoned their homes thus many female and child headed homes in Buliisa now. Girls and women have become bread providers as men spend all their time in oil and gas camps and sites, at the end they don't return any money back home but end up in prostitution and alcoholism whenever they get there work leaves. This has been coupled with increasing rates of school dropout's

especially girls who end up into early marriages. Women are hardly considered for these oil jobs thus discrimination in employment opportunities. Many homes have broken up because of Tilenga project in Buliisa district and beyond.

Recommendations

In view of the above, the following should be done:

- a) Uganda Women Parliamentary Association (UWOPA), local and national women led grass root organizations, vGovernment, JV partners and CSO's should build the capacity of women project affected persons at community level to enable them identify , report or mitigate climate change impacts due to fossil fuels.
- b) Government should conduct an independent evaluation on floods and cracks and Total Energies should conduct an immediate investigation and report of women concerns of floods and cracked houses as a result of fossil fuels financing in Buliisa district, the report findings should be disseminated to the public for transparency purposes. Development against women is not good development thus should be halted or stopped.
- c) Profiling and documenting women and girls impacted by climate change in Buliisa district in areas where oil and gas developments are taking place, covering aspects of early and forced marriages, school drop outs rates, unemployed women and girls with qualifications who try to seek for employment in the oil and gas industry, women and girls victims of gender based violence.
- d) Strengthening and recognizing local women led movements/groups/associations to champion the feminist approach on climate justice through sensitizations and awareness campaigns in Buliisa district through partnership and networking with women grass roots movements, Ministry of Gender Labor and Social Development, UWOPA, NGO's CBO's, Buliisa district local government and many more.
- e) Lastly women in Buliisa need trainings on local and international land laws on climate financing, climate justice, green developments thus Total Energies and her Contractors must always comply the regulative frameworks such as sustainable development goal 5 on Gender Equality and 13 on climate Action

Conclusion

The exploitation of women amidst oil and gas projects developments reflects deeper structural inequalities in the community hence marginalizing women. The feminists disparage climate crisis impacts, water pollution by storm water from oil construction sites, air and land pollution which makes them sick. The social capitalistic and patriarchy systems rely on oppressing women to exploit oil and gas resources. There is no inclusion in the energy sector, the structures and oil companies practices are an epitome of gender washing. The feminists demand for a fossil free future to achieve climate justice and prevent climate catastrophe

Once again, we thank Total Energies EP Uganda for accepting to receive our petition. We pray and hope that you will put this petition under your priority consideration.

CC

- Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development
- Uganda Women Parliamentary Association
- Uganda National Roads Authority
- Petroleum Authority of Uganda
- Buliisa District Local Government
- All Sub County leaders in Buliisa district

SIGNITORIES