



## New Laws Related to Oil Extraction Rights and Social Safeguards are Affecting Socio-Economic Well Being of Communities in the Albertine Graben

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### ABSTRACT

The study was carried out in order to assess how the new laws related to extraction rights and social safeguards are affecting socioeconomic well-being of communities in the Albertine Graben.

The study concentrated both on primary and secondary data. The primary survey was critical component of the study as it would yield crucial data on the oil governance and socio-economic well-being of communities in the Albertine Graben (Respondents), and officials from the ministry of lands zonal office, Officials from international oil companies, Local government officials, Political/religious leaders, Local council members, Bunyoro kingdom officials and Community members. The study was conducted in four districts on Hoima, Buliisa Kikube, and Kakumiro in the Albertine Graben region; where a sample of 158 respondents was selected from these districts.

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Districts were selected using judgmental sampling and 158 respondents were selected using simple random and purposive sampling. Parameters on the basis of which research questions were formed to investigate the new laws related to extraction rights and social safeguards are affecting socioeconomic well-being of communities in the Albertine Graben.

From the field findings, it was found out that there was need for the employment of the local people and from across all districts in the Abertane graben, environmental protection was embraced through a forestation, frame works for effective revenue collection from oil companies are said to have been put in place, communities in the Albertine graben have been secured from dangers of oil spilling and this has been done through compensation of all communities that are found where the pipeline was being constructed. Existing and new measure of controlling corruption from government officials have tightened up, monitoring of exploration is being observed wholeheartedly, sensitization of community awareness on danger of oil wastes has been carried out in all Abertine graben communities and lastly there has been establishment of cumulative effect assessment systems.

In regard to Land Laws, Ugandan government and all the stakeholders involved needs to reform its land policy to ensure that every Ugandan can access the land or can 'legally' own the land they live in by providing them with required documents to prove their ownership. In addition, there is need for workers in Uganda to organize and demand their social- economic rights and accountability from the government.

## Introduction and Background

Governance relates to how the board of directors and managers "govern" the business organization. Regardless of whether the business is organized as a limited liability company (LLC), cooperative or corporation, it has a board of directors (board of managers for LLCs) that are elected by the membership or investors to represent the member's or investor's interest in the company.

Governance of a cooperative is a bit different from governance under the other forms of legal organization. A cooperative's unique business organization is structured to provide benefits to its members through the various marketing and service transactions it provides. Conversely, LLCs and corporations are organized to provide returns to the owners/investors.

These are broad rules that underlie the business organization of a cooperative. Let's think about a value-added cooperative.

- 1) **Cooperative benefits** - Benefits arise in a cooperative where net income is distributed to patrons based on earnings. This is a unique role that publicly held organizations or private corporations don't have; the members that use the cooperative are the ones that share the benefits from it. This principle has been the founding principle for cooperatives that still exist today. Over time it has been a very important principle for cooperatives.
- 2) **Control function** - When we think about cooperative control we think about the democratic principle. Typically cooperatives are represented by the one member, one vote principle. There are cooperatives that represent by volume, but these are not common. So each member has one vote to cast for the board of directors, or any other issue at the annual meeting that affects the membership.
- 3) **Ownership function** - For LLCs and corporations, the individuals who invest money in the business are the owners of the business. For cooperatives, the individuals who use the cooperative are the owners of the business. Ownership is provided by the patrons who invest in the cooperative.

Patrons (the individuals who use the cooperative to buy or sell) who use the cooperative are the individuals who finance the cooperative by providing a portion of their patronage refund as equity. This equity is provided proportional to patronage in the cooperative. So the patrons own the cooperative. This is an important principle of cooperatives.

- 4) **Other principles** - Other governance principles often relate to things like education. The principle is that the directors have a duty to educate the cooperative patrons and its members about the benefits of the cooperative and its unique organization.

### Uganda's Legal Framework for Oil and Gas

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda vests the ownership and control of Petroleum in the Government on behalf of the people (Article 244 of the Constitution of Uganda). Accordingly, the Government of Uganda holds in trust for the people of Uganda all the natural resources, such as minerals and petroleum. Within the constitutional context, the primary framework that guides the management of Oil resources in Uganda is the National Oil and Gas Policy (NOGP) (MEMD, 2008, 2014). With the overarching theme of using the resource to eradicate poverty and create lasting value to Ugandans, NOGP recognizes that to attain the ultimate goal, it should have as a primary objective the "development of institutions, including legislation and manpower, necessary for effective management and regulation of the sub-sector."

The Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production) Act 2013 governs upstream activities as is known as the Upstream Act. The Act provides for licensing and management of the Oil resources and the establishment of the principal institutions that are charged with overseeing and supervising the Oil exploration, production and distribution processes in the country.

The second relevant legislation is the Petroleum (Refining, Conversion, transmission and midstream Storage) Act, 2013 ("Midstream Act") that focuses on the subsequent process of refining. The Oil exploration and production activities are also guided by the following subsidiary legislations passed in 2016. These are:

- ✓ Midstream National Content Regulations
- ✓ Midstream General Regulations
- ✓ Midstream HSE Regulations
- ✓ Upstream General Regulations
- ✓ Upstream HSC Regulations
- ✓ Upstream Metering Regulations
- ✓ Upstream National Content Regulations

The Government of Uganda also developed a model Production Sharing Agreement (PSA) that is central in guiding negotiations with potential licensees in the Oil exploration and production activities. A model Joint operating agreement has also been put in place.

The Oil fiscal regime is defined in the model PSA and the relevant tax legislation, including the Income Tax Act, (Cap. 340 of the Laws of Uganda), and the Value Added Tax Act, (Cap. 349 of the Laws of Uganda). The Public Finance Management Act, 2015, is another legal document that defines a framework for the collection, deployment and management of the revenue from the Petroleum resource. This includes the establishment of a Petroleum Fund (under Section 56 of the Act) that will keep the

petroleum revenues collected by Uganda Revenue Authority and the Petroleum Revenue Investment Reserve that will keep the petroleum revenues for investment. Additional laws relevant to the Petroleum Sector include:

- a) The Land Act, 1998, which defines property rights in relation to land, and governs access and utilization of land in Uganda.
- b) Access to Information (ATI) Act, 2005, that guides access to information especially of public interest in Uganda. The ATI Act grants every Ugandan citizen a right of access to state-held information, with exception to infringement of national security or sovereignty, and individual privacy.
- c) Investment Code Act (CAP 92 of Laws of Uganda), which defines access to investment opportunities, especially in respect to a foreign investor. Crucially, Uganda is a liberalized economy and there are no ceilings or limits on foreign or local shareholdings.
- d) Penal Code Act, (CAP 120 of Laws of Uganda), which defines basic standards in (of) compliance in the country.
- e) Wildlife Act, (CAP 200 of Laws of Uganda), is significant in that a number of National parks and wildlife sanctuaries lie within the Albertine Graben. It is estimated that the Albertine Graben accommodates up to 39 per cent of Africa's mammal species, 51 per cent of its bird species, 19 per cent of its amphibian species and 14 per cent of its plant and reptile species (Viet et al, 2011).
- f) National Forestry and Tree Planting Act, 2003, is also important as the Albertine Graben region is home to a number of multiple-use natural and planted forest reserves.
- g) Public Health Act, (CAP. 281 of the Laws of Uganda), is also important in that Oil exploration and production activities have implications for the health of the citizenry. This is primarily because there will be public health perils if there are no deliberate quality controls imposed on oil production and products.
- h) Water Act, (CAP. 152 of the Laws of Uganda). This Act governs management of water extraction activities in Lake Albert for use in petroleum activities. It is pertinent in the sense that without proper environmental and water management guidelines, water resources would be polluted and mismanaged to the detriment of the society.

The Oil and Gas sector is also being developed and governed in accordance with the National Development Plan that is underscoring programs such as fiscal expansion for front-loading physical infrastructure investment, industrialization through resource beneficiation, fast-tracking skills development and strengthening governance or enabling business environment. The next section explores and analyses the different institutions and practices that have been put in place in Uganda to manage and regulate the Oil and Gas sector.

Prior to the coming in force of the National Oil and Gas Policy (NOGP), Uganda's Oil and Gas activities were regulated under the Petroleum Exploration and Production Act, (1985) Cap 150 of the Laws of Uganda that was implemented by the Petroleum Exploration and Production Department under the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD). This was a single department handling all the Oil and Gas activities in the country. This 1985 law, covered exploration operations but did not have adequate provisions to cover development and production operations. The NOGP recommended the establishment of:

- ✓ The Petroleum Authority of Uganda to handle the regulatory functions;

- ✓ The National Oil company to handle the commercial interest of the state and
- ✓ Directorate of the Petroleum to advise on policy issues and resource management.

These were eventually established under the Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production) Act, 2013. Figure 3 shows the interaction of the recently established institutions together with other Government ministries, Departments and Agencies.

### **Problem Statement**

Globally, oil and gas constitute one of the natural resources' countries have relied on to spur growth and development (Stevens 2003). Countries such as UAE, Norway and in Africa Botswana have been able to turn around their development trajectories and to raise the standards of living/wellbeing of their nationals due to the benefits accruing from oil and gas exploitation (Sarraf and Jiwanji 2001: 9). Larsen (2006) attributes this success to Norway's ability to prevent rent-seeking and corruption which have been identified as core elements of the resource curse.

In Uganda, community policies responsible for promoting oil governance reforms have generally tended to place a stronger emphasis on the accountability rather than the capacity-strengthening aspects of the oil governance agenda. The key elements involve the separation of policy, commercial and regulatory functions, often through the unbundling of national oil companies (NOCs) that have been performing multiple roles; new rules on transparency and accountability (T&A), particularly with regard to agreements between international oil companies and governments and on the management of oil revenues; and new public financial management rules regarding the management and expenditure of oil revenues, including a focus on sovereign wealth funds (Humphreys, Sachs and Stiglitz, 2007)

In addition, according to HOCADEO (2012) report on the baseline study on the current trends of oil exploration and social-economic implications of the emerging oil and gas industry on the livelihood security of the local communities in the Albertine region focused mainly on land ownership, employment, business opportunities, markets and access to health services. The report indicates that business opportunities from oil and gas exploration activities in the Albertine graben, local communities have not yet benefited. According to HOCADEO report (2012), 70% of the study respondents believed that oil and gas exploration has not yet benefited local communities, hence having a very huge bearing on the socio-economic wellbeing of the local communities. Many households have lost their land and property due to land grabbing, and the level of poverty continued to grow. And it's against such a background the study seek to examine the role of oil governance on socio-economic wellbeing of communities in albertine graben- Uganda.

### **Literature Review**

This study was underpinned on basic of Institutions concerned in the governance of oil exploration.

Political ecology as a driver for institutions: The concept of Political ecology is defined differently by various scholars (Robbins,2012; Watt, 2000; Le Billion, 2001) with the term sustaining fundamental changes in the management of nature and rights of people working directly or indirectly with institutions like states or organizations to challenge current conditions. Le Billion (2001:564) argues that the people face unusual ecological circumstances when they have too much or too little resources, exposing them to high risks of violent conflicts. *Resource scarcity (generally renewable resources) and resource abundance (with respect to non-renewable resources)* all generate strife hence the best mode is to enlist the two angles. The linkage between these two elements puts forward the basic theoretical



root for this study. This concern is explored more in the sustainable livelihood approach and Institutional theory.

Political ecology is seen as a measure that seeks to appreciate complex relations between nature and society through observant examination on means of access and control over resources and their implications for environmental welfare and sustainable livelihoods. (Watts, 2000: 257) This means that social institutional structures grant valuable controls over resources to avert conflicts that could emerge. Most recent research by Forsyth (2013:11) shows that previous approaches to political ecology embodied insufficient steps that aimed at separating environmental issues and politics in the environmental plan. This not only causes grave problems that lead to environmental strategies to inflict undue restrictions on livelihoods of marginalized people; it also heightens conflicts. In comparing political ecology to other rational meaning, *Forsyth (2013:20) identifies political ecology as an approach to environmental politics that allows the booming integration of political analysis with the formation and dissemination of understanding of ecology reality.*

Historical materialism by Karl Marx explains that in most cases especially in undeveloped economies like Uganda, the ruling class controls the means of production and the state. And the state provides institutions for the regulation and controlling conflict between the ruling classes and the appropriated classes which include workers, peasants, on behalf on the ruling class (Mamdani, 1976).

This theory will help me understand whether the oil production in Uganda will the ordinary Ugandans will benefit or will be exploited since most of whom are subsistence farmers and workers (appropriated class); or whether it will benefit the ruling class and the politicians, plus the International Oil Company investors, who are financing the exploration and other investments in the oil industry. It should be noted that the majority of Ugandans 70-80% are subsistence farmers and small scale workers or retail traders, who mostly depend on land production, about 15% are professionals and entrepreneurs, politicians and military officers these form the middle class; and the ruling class is composed of top politicians, the top military and their close relations.

### **Justice and Rule of Law in Uganda: Governance challenges and the GoU's approach to dealing with these capacity constraints**

The JLOS has traditionally been dramatically under-resourced in Uganda, in terms of manpower, physical premises (courts, prisons etc.), training for judges and lawyers and accessibility to civilians physically and financially (through legal aid, paralegals etc.) (World Bank 2009) Access to justice has been particularly curtailed for those in conflict-affected areas (northern Ugandans largely relied on 'traditional justice' institutions during the 1986- 2006 conflict in the region), those in rural areas and for women and children.

The GoU has, nevertheless, introduced a range of institutions and reforms during the 2000s (in partnership with donors) to address many of these challenges including creation of coordination bodies for the criminal justice system, family and children courts, Local Court Councils and the Judicial Service Commission (whose responsibility is to educate Ugandan civilians on justice matters, advise the President on judicial appointments and oversee disciplinary procedures within the justice sector, including removal of judges). Authority to decide on a range of issues has also been devolved to Magistrates' Courts during the 2000s to deal with growing backlogs in caseload (World Bank 2009).

Investment in the prisons sector and human resource field, however, remains limited and the GoU has remained deeply ambivalent about the role of traditional institutions in northern Uganda's judicial sphere, in spite of the greater trust many civilians have in these mechanisms compared to those of the

state (Allen 2006, 2010). A growing challenge in the JLOS sector, however, is its growing neglect by the GoU in the latter's move towards investing in more 'growth-focused' sectors (see above) – a development which has exacerbated the backlog issue. An emerging challenge in this regard, therefore, relates to the growing reliance of the JLOS on development partner funding to function - an issue which not only undermines Ugandan ownership of JLOS but also makes this sector particularly vulnerable to shifts in the political economy of international funding patterns.

### **Corruption**

Another longstanding challenge to the provision of efficient, effective and equitable justice in Uganda has been the prevalence of corruption among justice personnel before and since the contemporary Museveni era. The current GoU initially demonstrated significant commitment to tackling this systemic problem – within and outside the judiciary - through the establishment of a range of investigative and oversight bodies during the 1990s and early 2000s tasked with identifying corrupt practices, from the top downwards, including the Inspectorate-General of Government (Tangri and Mwenda 2006; Watt et al. 1999). This practice has continued into the present day with the opening of an Anti-Corruption Court (established in 2009) in 2013 (CMI 2013; NTV Uganda 09/01/2014). These institutions have a mixed record with a range of senior GoU officials and Museveni advisers investigated by them (leading, on some occasions, to their arrest and imprisonment) since the late 1990s including Museveni's brother Salim Saleh and former close ally Jim Muhwezi, Ugandan foreign minister (Sam Kutesa), health minister (Mike Mukula) and former vice president (Gilbert Bukenya).

As Roger Tangri, Andrew Mwenda and others have shown, however, the GoU has increasingly manipulated and interfered with these institutions' work to ensure that they 'punish' officials out of favour and absolve those close to the presidency (Tangri and Mwenda 2013). Moreover, the demands of 'inflationary patronage' (see above) since the mid-2000s have led the GoU to increasingly sanction and even engage in corrupt practices at the local and national level to retain the support of key stakeholders and mobilisers (Tangri and Mwenda 2008, 2013). This has, naturally, rendered its commitment to tackling corrupt practices, within JLOS and elsewhere, substantially reduced.

### **Executive interference**

The independence of the Ugandan judiciary is guaranteed by Uganda's 1995 Constitution and judges have security of tenure (World Bank 2009: 37-38). During the first two decades of the Museveni Government this arrangement was largely observed by the GoU and a range of judgments issued during the mid-2000s which undermined or criticised GoU policy were nonetheless respected by actors in the executive. Since the dawn of the multi-party era, however, executive interference in judicial matters and police officers' ignoring of judgments overturning arrests of opposition leaders or closure of media houses (see below) has been increasingly commonplace (Anderson and Fisher forthcoming). Most notoriously, following a judge's decision to release opposition leader Kizza Besigye from prison on bail in the midst of the 2006 presidential election, paramilitaries linked to the GoU stormed the court house and refused to allow anyone in attendance (including some Western diplomatic personnel) to leave until Besigye was re-arrested and re-imprisoned (Makara et al. 2009: 196- 197).

Militarisation of the police force In contrast to much of the rest of the JLOS, the Ugandan Police Force (UPF) have benefited from considerable and sustained investment from the state since the mid-2000s leading to their total strength growing from 14,352 in 2003/04 to 18,000 in 2006 and 40,000 in 2012 (New Vision, 16/07/2013; World Bank 2009: 31). The GoU's focus on recruitment has meant that the ratio of Ugandan police to civilians has substantially exceeded the international standard ratio of 1:500

since the early 2000s although the Government has also allocated significant funds to address and improve police welfare, particularly in the areas of housing and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment (substantial numbers of UPF personnel were lost to HIV/AIDS on an annual basis during the 2000s; World Bank 2009: 31).

The Museveni Government's growing intolerance of perceived threats to it posed by domestic opposition groups and critics has nevertheless led to the GoU's steady militarisation and politicisation of the UPF in the last decade including the appointment of senior military allies of the President to the UPF's highest office, Inspector-General of Police (IGP), since 2001 (Anderson and Fisher forthcoming; Mwenda 2007; Tripp 2010: 135-140). During the tenure of the current IGP, Kale Kayihura (2005-), in particular, the UPF has come to act increasingly like a presidential guard of the NRM leadership. Dressed in fatigues almost indistinguishable from those of the UPDF, UPF personnel have been involved in a range of crackdowns of dubious legality on media houses, opposition parties and leaders and even on internal NRM critics themselves since the early 2000s (Anderson and Fisher forthcoming; Perrot 2014). This politicisation of the role of the Ugandan police represents a major challenge to maintenance of the rule of the law in the country.

### Methodology

This study used a survey method as it would give an idea on how the policies on exploration, production and revenue sharing can be of significant value as far as corporate social responsibility (social investments) is concerned in the Albertine Graben, Uganda.

The study was carried out in Albertine Graben located in the Midwestern part of Uganda, mainly in the Buliisa, Kikuube, Kakumiro, Masindi, Kibaale, Kagadi, Kiryandongo and Hoima districts around Lake Albert. It extends from the northernmost part of the western rim of the East African Rift Valley to the border with South Sudan. This area was chosen because the development of oil in the Albertine Graben, which is the most species rich eco-region for vertebrates in Africa, will have an unquestionable ecological impact. Numerous parks and wildlife-protected areas are found along Lake Albert, Lake Edward, and the Nile River.

This study considered the population directly involved in the study was is 260 people and these were involved because of their knowledge on the role of oil governance on the socio-economic well-being of communities in the Albertine Graben and included: 8 officials from international oil companies, 150 community members, 36 political/religious leaders, 20 local government officials, 46 local council members.

### Results and Discussion

This finding attempts to draw socio-demographic profile of women respondents covered in the study. It includes Profile of the respondents and the entrepreneurial activities.

#### Gender of Respondents

**Table 4: Gender Distribution of respondents**

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	88	56%
Female	70	44%
Total	158	100

*Source; Primary data (2022)*



The above findings table 4 shows that; males greatly participated in the study as represented by 56% whereas 44% of the respondents were females; implying that the male respondents actively participated in the study and had good views since they take control of their families with a lot of concerns in as far as oil governance issues and activities in relation to socio-economic well-being of communities in the Albertine Graben are concerned. It further shows that the researcher was keen on matters of gender balance since issues of socio-economic wellbeing of communities concern both genders. This was important in the of oil governance and socio—economic well-being of communities as an aspect of gender was respected where both male and female were involved through this study.

### Classification of respondents by age

**The table 5: Below displays the summary of statistics on age of respondents.**

Age group	Frequency	Percentage
20-29	69	44%
30-39	47	30%
40-49	25	16%
50+	17	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Source; Primary data (2022)*

From the figure above; the biggest percentage of the respondents represented by 44% was found to be 20-29 years these were followed by 30% of the respondents who were in the age bracket of 30-39 years, then 16% of the respondents were between 40-49 years and lastly were 10% of respondents who were 50 years and above. The age group (20-29) comprises of the biggest percentage which reflect a likely high number of many youth in the Albertine graben making districts of Hoima, Kakumiro, Kikube, and Buliisa. This finding compares well with the national youth unemployment rates of the country which imply that the oil governance system has not catered the youth section in as far as the socio-economic wellbeing of communities in the selected district of Albertine graben are concerned.

### Classification of respondents by marital Status

**The table 6: below presents the summary statistics of the respondent's marital status.**

Marital status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single	60	37.9
Married	70	44.3
Separated	20	12.6
Widow	8	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>100</b>

*Source; Primary data (2022)*

An assessment of the respondents' marital status was as follows; the biggest percentage of the respondents were found to be married as shown by 44.3% where as 37.9 % of the interviewees were found to be single, 12.6% of them were separated lastly 5.0% of the respondents were widowed implying that majority being married, they were responsible people with families and children to look after and hence need a better state of socio-economic at a community which can only be achieved through a good oil governance system. We disaggregated our respondents by marital status because experiences in oil producing countries has always posted varying results on the effects of poor oil

governance on the people with varying marital status for example, Dadiwei (2003) has indicated that Gbaran communities are confronted with an increase in the number of teenage mothers with fatherless babies as a result of poor oil governance system. Oil governance systems in the Albertine region if they are not put into practice are thus likely to create many single mother families due to the associate factors against the socio-economic wellbeing of communities in the districts of Kikube, Kakumiro, Hoima and Buliisa. Therefore the study had to make an analysis of the sample respondents based on their marital status.

### **Assessing the new laws related to extraction rights and social safeguards are affecting socioeconomic well-being of communities in the Albertine Graben.**

In this section the researcher describes the findings on how the new laws related to extraction rights and social safeguards are affecting socioeconomic well-being of communities in the Albertine Graben. The items showed the average response from the respondents for each item in relation to seismic survey activities contribute to land conflicts. The items were rated on the 5 point likert scale ranging between strongly disagree, disagree, not sure, agree and strongly agree. The findings are shown in table 4.3 below-

**Table 1: Frequencies of how the new laws related to extraction rights and social safeguards are affecting socioeconomic well-being of communities in the Albertine Graben**

	Item	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Strongly agree	Agree	Mean	Std. Dev
		N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)	N (%)		
1.	Employment for locals	10 (7)	13 (9)	15 (10)	70 (45)	50 (32)	2.45	1.23
2.	Environmental protection e.g. a forestation	4 (3)	6 (4)	8 (6)	80 (51)	60 (38)	2.74	1.01
3.	Effective revenue collection from oil companies	60 (36)	50 (32)	15 (15)	10 (7)	23 (15)	2.65	1.10
4.	Controlled gas flaming	50 (32)	40 (26)	20 (13)	25 (16)	23 (15)	3.45	1.32
5.	Limited oil spilling	10 (7)	13 (9)	10 (7)	75 (48)	50 (32)	1.33	0.71
6.	Controlled corruption from government officials	6 (4)	7 (5)	5 (4)	90 (57)	50 (32)	1.33	.719
7.	Monitoring of exploration activities	60 (36)	75 (48)	15 (10)	3 (2)	8 (5)	2.1	.652
8.	Sensitization of community awareness on danger of oil wastes	60 (38)	40 (26)	10 (7)	28 (18)	20 (13)	1.69	.342
9.	Establishment of Cumulative Effect Assessment Systems	10 (7)	12 (8)	2 (2)	95 (60)	40 (26)	1.78	1.3
	<b>Total mean</b>						<b>19.52</b>	

*Source: Primary data (2022)*

The results shown in table above revealed that, respondents strongly agreed that there was need for the employment of the local people and from across all districts in the Abertane graben (45%) and 32% agreed to the statement.

Respondents strongly agreed that; environmental protection e.g. a forestation as revealed by; (51%) and those who agreed were 38%; respondent from interview guide stated *“in Oil exploration areas, land acquisition for road construction, waste treatment sites, bush clearing sites affecting biodiversity of the area”*

Responses on whether effective revenue collection from oil companies were as follows (36% strongly disagreed, 32% disagreed and 15% were not sure). Whereas responses on whether controlled gas flaring (32% strongly disagreed and 40% agreed) responses from interview guide revealed

An analysis on whether community will be limited to oil spilling was as follows; (48% strongly agreed and 32% agreed). Also to note controlled corruption from government officials was as follows (57% strongly agreed and 32% agreed). In contrast, Responses on whether monitoring of exploration activities ranged from; (36% strongly disagreed and 48% disagreed) from the interview guide it was quoted *“no don't relate because they don't give us information regarding oil activities and also don't engage community meetings and yet it's important for us”* and responses on whether sensitization of community awareness on danger of oil wastes was as follows; (38% strongly disagreed and also 26% disagreed to the statement). Respondents strongly agreed that establishment of Cumulative Effect Assessment Systems with 60% and 26% agreed.

From the same table above, how the new laws related to extraction rights and social safeguards are affecting socioeconomic well-being of communities in the Albertine Graben received a weighted mean of 2.16.

This change in sources and forms of livelihoods meant that their agrarian occupations became either diminished or are lost entirely. Again, this in turn meant more scarcity of farming land or fishing area and thus affected their livelihoods greatly. This change which has affected the people's forms of economic subsistence equally meant that more people in oil communities become landless, leading to many forms of violent struggles over the remaining farming land or fishing water. A member of the first INTERVIEW GUIDE painfully reflects on the

*“Destruction and changes brought about by the oil resources on their old forms of livelihoods: “*

*“For a long time we were into farming and fishing at Lake Albert. But with the result of oil exploration, we don't have fertile land as oil production is affecting us. The rivers for fishing are without fishes for example River Wambabya again due to dam construction which links to supply of electricity in support of oil exploration. And this developed hardship for the people. Our land are either collected from us or given to the oil companies for oil wells by government for little compensation. Our lands now belong to the government, which gives such land to the oil companies to explore oil. We now depend on what we get as land dwellers, as we are banned from such land and this has led to so many problems in our communities”*

## **Conclusion and recommendations**

The National content law will also be a guideline for local community development planners as it will show how much they expect from the oil revenue and projects in the oil industry. It also makes it easier for them to predict their income in flow or the local supplies they can provide in the Oil industry whether it is agricultural produce or jobs cut, which will enable them do long term planning for their

community. Even though the Oil Companies are not yet employing enough Ugandans in the industry, there is still lack of petroleum related skills which denies many young Ugandans a chance to get jobs in the oil industry. Therefore, there is a need for more research and training in this sector and young Ugandans should be encouraged to undergo further training to acquire the technical skills required. Those who already have skills should be employed and government can ensure this by putting up quotas of how many Ugandans each company should employ at the licensing stage, as a conditional requirement to be fulfilled by all the companies.

The study recommends that communities especially Albertine Graben region require information regarding customary tenure and statutory law, legal registration processes, land markets and land acquisition procedures aimed at minimizing the problem of land grabbing.

There is need for a campaign to address low levels of knowledge related to land tenure and rights; despite legal protections offered by the 1995 Constitution of Uganda and the 1998 Land Act, people continue to be disenfranchised because of lack of knowledge of basic land and resource right protected by law.

The government should consult the community before kick starting the project. In addition, a legal analysis must be conducted in to the practical and long-term ramifications of the current land laws as they are applied; including the protection of customary tenure governed by indigenous law, the benefits/drawbacks of customary land registry and registering via certificates of customary ownership and determine the extent to which land governance structures-including District Land Boards and Area Land Committees-are debilitated by bribery and fraud. Both the government and oil companies should demonstrate sincere commitment in oil pollution clean-up exercises and apply international standards.

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