



Uganda  
*Community Green Radio*  
*Bazza Green, Hurra Green*  
**WEEKLY ROUND UP**



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**What RT Global Resources pull out of oil refinery construction means for the affected communities in Hoima**

**By Julius Kyamanywa and Allan Kalangi**

RT Global Resources a Russian state owned company was awarded a contract by government of Uganda in February 2015 as a preferred bidder against South Korea's SK Engineering & Construction Group as an alternative bidder. The selection raised eyebrows among sections of the public as to how the company was going to raise the money for the oil refinery construction following sanctions imposed on its country by the European Union and USA for her alleged support of rebels in Ukraine. It was noted that such a country and her companies might find it extremely difficult to borrow from International Financial Institutions such as the World Bank and others to invest.



Chris Opio showing the bushy place where they are now staying and in a distance where people have started planting maize

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## *Community Green Radio weekly roundup*



### **Editorial**

We welcome you to the third edition of the Community Green Radio weekly events roundup. The Community Green Radio operates under the larger Sustainability School programme of NAPE which mainly focuses on issues of community rights and sustainable livelihoods. The radio seeks to give a platform to local communities, cultural leaders, CSOs, government technocrats, companies and other development partners to debate and share information on environment and sustainable development issues.

We realise that there are many people who are interested in the programmes of the Community Green Radio but who don't get opportunities to listen to it on a regular basis. There is also an issue of language. The radio mostly broadcasts in Runyoro/Rutooro, Runyankore/Rukiga, but there are other people interested who don't speak those languages. This publication was therefore introduced to supplement other efforts already put in place to publicise what the Uganda Community Green Radio stands for and what it does on a regular basis.

**Frank Muramuzi**  
**Executive Director,**  
**NAPE**

### **About us**

The Uganda Community Green Radio (UCGR) is an initiative of NAPE and is funded by partners. It officially began operations in August 2014. It doesn't have its studios as yet but operates through affiliation with Liberty Radio on 89.0 FM. UCGR is always on air, Thursday to Sunday from 1:00 pm-3:30 PM. Because of the demand from the listeners to have the radio accessible on daily basis, NAPE is now working on arrangements to have all it takes to have the radio broadcasting on its own and using its own equipment. The UCGR aims at providing a platform for the marginalized and voiceless communities to share their views and opinions as regards environmental, human rights, gender issues and sustainable use of natural resources. Listeners clubs are the blood life of the community radio and a number of them have already been established, chief among with include Kyehoro, Kaiso-Tonya, Kigaaga, Butimba, Kyakatamba, Kijangi, Sebagoro and Kasomoro in Hoima, Ngwedo and Buliisa Town council in Buliisa District.

More information on the UCGR can be accessed on: [greenradio.ug](http://greenradio.ug) or [nape.or.ug](http://nape.or.ug). You can also like our Facebook page; **Community Green Radio** to get more detailed news. Your feedback will be most welcome. You can contact us via:

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On 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016, the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD), Dr. F.A. Kaba-gambe-Kaliisa issued a press statement on the withdrawal of RT Global resources from the constructing oil refinery sighting failure to negotiate in good faith and failed execution of shareholders' agreement

The pulling out of Global Resources from the refinery project was not so much of a surprise to many people considering that ever since they were awarded the contract last year, they had hardly done anything on the site. Nonetheless, observers are saying that the withdrawal of RT Global Resources from the construction of the refinery will result into more delays and therefore painful to those who had high expectations in the oil sector. On the other hand, this should be an opportunity for the government to plan well and ensure that the oil sector development processes are guided by evidence-based decisions and concerns delaying oil production are addressed.

It is now believed that the government has given the refinery construction business to the second best bidder, SK Engineering of South Korea. This belief is heightened by the fact that the President of South Korea was in Uganda recently and that she discussed a number of business deals with President Museveni. Whatever case might be, what is clear is that construction of the 60,000 barrel refinery is going to delay. The delay of the construction may also result in the delay of settling the disputes and resettling the families living in Kabale parish in Hoima District whose land was demarcated for the refinery. Over 80 families that opted to be resettled by the government instead of receiving cash compensation are still staying in the refinery area which has become so bush thus attracting wild animals from the nearby Buseruka Wild Life conservation area. Until recently, they were not allowed to grow crops that stay long in the garden thus seriously undermining their food security.

Innocent Tumwebaze, one of those yet to be resettled said that recently he battled a python in his garden until he killed it.

"Staying in this deserted area is not easy. The experience of battling with a python left me shaken. I don't know what other wild animals I am to encounter next," he said.

Chris Opio another resident said that accessing services for those who stayed in the refinery area is a big problem.

"The school we had here in Kyapalooni was closed so there is no nearby place for kids to go to school. Even there are no shops here. One has to travel a long distance to buy even soap.

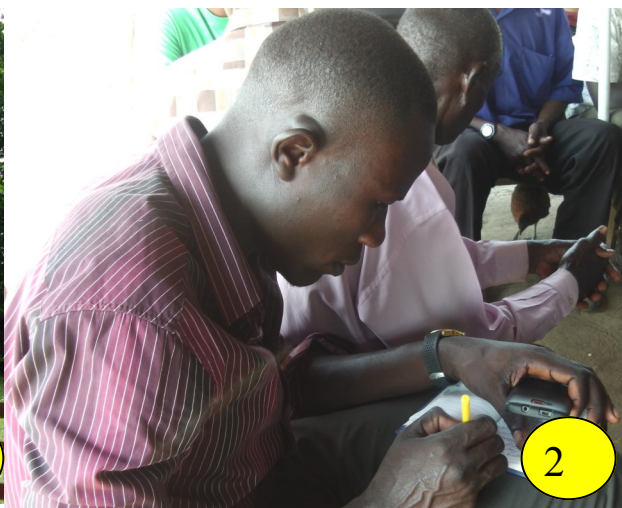
One of the Police officers staying in the refinery area who preferred anonymity told the Community Green Radio that he fears that the delay to construct the refinery is likely to lead into more conflicts between the state and the people.

"Some people who were given compensation money blew it up very fast and are now staying on the periphery of the proposed refinery area. When the government allowed those who are yet to be resettled to grow crops, the other people also started coming slowly and they have established gardens. If the construction of the refinery delays further, more and more of these people are going to come back into their former lands and sending them away later will be a big problem," the officer said.



One of the remaining houses in the refinery area surrounded by a thick bush





**PHOTO 1:** Rev. Fred Musimenta the chairperson Butimba Sustainability Conservation Association, BUSUCA handing over a work plan for the establishment of a seed bank on indigenous seeds to Mr. Vincent Nyegenya the NAPE Field Officer for Bunyoro Sub Region. The seed bank is part of the NAPE campaign on food security and sovereignty. **PHOTO 2:** General Secretary Sebagoro Listeners, Mr. Onenchan Sadique taking notes during a meeting of the listeners club. The listeners clubs informs the programming of the radio through their opinions.

**PHOTO 3:** Farmers in Ngwedo Sub County Buliisa District displaying disease infected cassava to Community Green Radio reporters and NAPE Sustainability School Programme Manager Allan Kalangi(T-shirt). This was during a field visit by Mr. Kalangi at the end of June.