



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**2nd April, 2025**

# **WOGEM UGANDA CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF THE ARRESTED STUDENTS AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS TO STOP FUNDING EACOP**

Today morning on 2nd April, 2025, Ugandan students marched to the Stanbic Bank headquarters in Kampala to deliver a memorandum condemning the bank's decision and demanding the withdrawal of financial support for the EACOP. Despite the peaceful nature of the demonstration, several students were arrested where 9 students have been arrested 2 women and 7 men. Students marched today to understand why Stanbic refuses to acknowledge- EACOP is a dead-end project.

Fossil fuels are a relic of the past, yet Stanbic is financing environmental destruction, and young people are demanding clean energy, not oil pipelines that devastate livelihoods.

In addition, On March 27th, 2025, Kampala city witnessed the devastating impacts of climate change. As many Ugandans faced the devastating impacts of floods, resulting in loss of life, it's

important to note that seven (7) lost their lives and a lot of properties such as infrastructure, crops also got deprived. The East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline is termed as the climate change boom due to its carbon gas emission that it produces per day.

Important to note, EACOP is the longest heated pipeline that trespasses ten (10) districts in Uganda causing violation of human and environmental rights, increased Gender Based Violence, early marriages, increased levels of poverty and climate crisis leading to food insecurity, water scarcity and others. Oil host communities especially marginalized women continue to live in fear due to the arrest of the EACOPs and activists that protest against EACOP and abduction of the project Affected persons. <https://www.stopeacop.net/our-news/where-is-stephen-kwikiriza-abduction-of-environmental-defender-highlights-urgent-need-for-international-intervention>

Last month, on 27th March 2025 <https://www.monitor.co-ug.webpkgcache.com/doc/-/s/www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/stanbic-four-other-banks-pool-cash-for-oil-pipeline-4980574> the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project secured a staggering USD 9 trillion funding from KCB Bank Uganda, the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD), the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank), and the Standard Bank of South Africa, the parent company of Stanbic Bank Uganda.

This funding is not only irresponsible but also an active assault on our planet and our people, particularly marginalized women. The EACOP project promises only to exacerbate the climate crisis, deepening droughts, floods, and extreme weather events that disproportionately affect marginalized communities. It is unfortunate that amidst climate crisis and violation of human and environmental rights, financial institutions continue to invest in fossil fuels such as EACOP that will worsen the climate crisis.

Furthermore, it should be noted that these communities contribute least to the climate crisis yet suffer its worst impacts. The 1,443km-long pipeline, expected to cost USD 5 billion, will transport 216,000 barrels of crude oil daily, releasing 379 million metric tons of carbon emissions. This will have devastating consequences for our environment and human health. The EACOP project has been marred by human rights abuses, including arrests, intimidation, and threats against women and community leaders. Women live in constant fear of arrest, intimidation, and violence, simply for speaking out against the project.

The funding of 9trillion would have been invested in greener economic alternatives that are inclusive, equitable, sustainable and just to the marginalized communities hence improving their social economic development. It's important to note that over 90% of population of Uganda especially local communities still depend on fossil fuels such as firewood, charcoal, Oil, gas and kerosene that continue leading to loss of biodiversity, health issues especially to pregnant women and children. It's clear that investing in solar, clean cooking alternatives, biogas and other green economic alternatives will promote and protect the marginalized women from depending on fossil fuels and improving their livelihoods since they don't devastate the environment nor abusing human rights. These alternatives would help in promoting sustainability to the communities.

### **Key findings,**

The women affected by EACOP highlighted the following challenges that they and other

affected communities face due to the EACOP project:

- Delayed and inadequate compensation to oil affected people
- Arrests and intimidation from the EACOP leaders
- Eviction of some affected people from their property before compensation; and
- Concerns over the potential environmental impact of the pipeline.
- Loss of biodiversity
- Increased Gender Based Violence
- Women not taking part in decision making during property negotiations

### **Recommendations**

- We call on financial institutions to respect, protect, and promote human rights particularly those of marginalized women.
- We urge the governments of Uganda, oil companies, world leaders, to prioritize investing in greener economic alternatives such as Renewable Energy projects that are community centered.
- Immediate release of the 9 students who have been arrested while delivering a memorandum of understanding to the Stanic bank headquarters in Kampala Uganda
- Lastly, we call for immediate stopping of financing fossil fuels such as EACOP that has caused violation of human and environmental rights, and release of Ugandan students that have been arrested.

# **END**

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