

# **Enforcement and Awareness of the Existing Legislation on Environment and the Development Mineral Sector.**

**In the 5 Sub Regions of the Eastern Policing Area of  
Busoga, Bukedi, Elgon, Teso, and Karamoja**

**Name; ASP David Samuel Muyinda**

**Position: The Kiira Region Environmental Protection Police Unit Officer in Charge, in the Eastern Policing Area.**

**Email; [muyonigent@gmail.com](mailto:muyonigent@gmail.com)**

**Mob. No. +256 782 413 564/+256 752 413 564**

### **Project Description.**

The mining industry is central to the economy of Uganda. The industry generates quite a substantial amount of money in terms of royalties and revenue to government and lower local governments. It employs thousands of people directly, and its impacts reach across the life of the country.

Developing and regulating the mining industry requires striking an often difficult balance between apparently conflicting interests. Government has to attract new investment and encourage growth at the same time as placing conditions on mining intended to deliver appropriate financial returns, maximise social and economic benefits, and protect the environment.

How agencies regulate mining has been the subject of ongoing attention within Government. Agencies have been making progress in other social and environmental areas however; ensuring compliance with conditions on mining has not received the same level of attention.

The project assessment and approval process of the mining industry is critical, but so too is knowing and ensuring that the conditions placed on mining projects are being met. Without effective sensitization, monitoring and enforcement, Government risks losing financial, economic and social returns and suffering potential long term liabilities from the mining sector.

Therefore, it's a viable recommendation for government to create an Integrated and Independent compliance and enforcement unit for mining activities, with a mandate to ensure the protection of the environment, the artisan miners, rights, Properties and other rights of individuals. This proposal focuses on the 5 Sub Regions of the Eastern Policing Area of Busoga, Bukedi, Teso, Elgon and Karamoja.

### **Expected outcomes.**

1. Enlightened public on the different types of minerals and their use especially in their surroundings.
2. Enlightened public on the existing legislation on the development minerals.
3. Enlightened public on the law, enforcement agencies and other structures on the development mineral sector.
4. Law abiding people on Mineral Exploitation.
5. Enlightened Public on the mitigation measures to a number of mining related concerns.

### **Expected outputs.**

1. An enforcement unit of Development Minerals in the Police Force.
2. Minerals Management Focal Point Persons at different levels of governance.
3. Mapping and categorization of different minerals and mineral sites in the Eastern Policing area.
4. Various stakeholders engaged in mineral activities at different levels.
5. Development Minerals management committees at different levels.

### **Key Partnerships in implementation of the project.**

- a) Artisan Miners.
- b) Contractors
- c) Mineral Management Committees at Lower Local Levels.
- d) Division/Sub-County Leaderships
- e) District, Urban authorities leadership (Municipalities, Town councils, Town Boards), Minerals Management Focal Point Persons.
- f) NGOs and CBOs in line with minerals development and Environment.
- g) DWD
- h) Commandant EEPU
- i) Commissioners of Minerals in MEMD
- j) Territorial Police Commanders.
- k) Judiciary.
- l) NEMA
- m) Directorate Environmental Affairs MOWE.

### **Indicators of success.**

- a. Number of mineral sites identified and visited.
- b. Number of community Development Minerals action plans developed.
- c. Number of awareness crusades made on Development Minerals.
- d. Number of bye laws on Development Minerals enacted.
- e. Number of partners engaged in mineral law enforcement.
- f. Number of Development Minerals registers made in the regions.

### **Strategic Opportunities contributing to the Success and Sustainability of the project.**

- a) Existence of Legislation on mining in the country (the Mining Act, 2003).
- b) Existence of possible sources of funding.
- c) Existence of NGOs and CBOs engaged in Development Minerals.
- d) Training Manuals on Development Minerals.
- e) Existence of reference material for information dissemination.

- f) EPPU induction course on Environmental management, Compliance and Enforcement, 2013.
- g) My deployment in the police force as a trainer.
- h) Existence of minerals in various parts of the country with definite specifications.

### **Aspects of Training most useful to project implementation.**

- 1) Training of a selected Enforcement team in Mapping and categorization of different minerals and mineral sites in the Eastern Policing area.
- 2) Training of Districts Leadership (Political and Technical personnel) on Sustainable Development Minerals strategies in their localities.
- 3) Training of Development Minerals Management Committees.
- 4) Creating Public Awareness on Development Minerals.

### **Future Plan.**

To enhance knowledge in substantive and procedural laws in development minerals and the Environment, it's important that capacity building be done in;

- 1) Environmental laws;
- 2) Development Mineral laws;
- 3) Public health; and
- 4) Occupational Health and Safety of artisan miners.

### **Activities.**

- a. Capacity building of the law enforcers on the laws reforms.
- b. Identification of mineral community sites by physical visitation in the six sub regions.
- c. Mass mobilisation orientation and profiling of the different mineral practitioners.
- d. Inventory of minerals and mineral sites.
- e. Identification of the environmental, social, health and safety impacts.
- f. Inventory of the licensed and non licensed practitioners.
- g. Identification of area law enforcement agencies in the development mineral sector.
- h. Formulation of bye laws in the Development Minerals communities.
- i. Public Awareness creation of communities engaged in development minerals.

## **Action Plan.**

No.	Activities	August	Sept	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
1.	Public Awareness creation of communities engaged in development minerals	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2.	Mass mobilisation orientation and profiling of the different mineral practitioners.	x	x					
3.	Identification and inventory of mineral community sites by physical visitation in the six sub regions.			x	x			
4.	Capacity building of the law enforcers on the law reforms.					x	x	
5.	Identification of the environmental, social, health and safety impacts.			x	x			
5.	Inventory of the licensed and non licensed practitioners.			x	x	x	x	
6.	Identification of area law enforcement agencies in the development mineral sector.			x	x			
7.	Empowering Local Governments in Formulation of bye laws in the Development Mineral communities.	x	x	x	x			
10.	Implementation of Action Plan	Public Awareness in Development minerals will be a continuous process.						
11.	Evaluation	After 6months from February 2018						

**Conclusion;**

Focus on awareness and enforcement has always considered one aspect of the licensing system, the mining stage, ignoring the other stages of compliance enforcement.

Consideration of the other essential stages for the development of mines in the country is paramount i.e. the initial exploration stage, the further detailed exploration and assessment stage, the mining stage and Utilization Stage.

The type of licence issued by government will generally depend, in large part, on the stage of development of the particular project. And this will accordingly guide enforcement at all stages of Development Minerals in the country. Mining or mineral exploitation is an element of compliance hence enforcement needed to touch on the mining spots of all mineral resources.