



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT

OPENING REMARKS

AT THE

PROFESSIONAL DRIVER TRAINING – UGANDA (PDTU) PROJECT

By

Eng. Simon D'Ujanga (MP)

MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY

KCCA GROUNDS

6th JULY, 2017

- **Honorable Minister of State for Transport, Henry Bagiire**
- **Her Excellency the Deputy British High Commissioner, Clare Higgins**
- **Her excellency the Norwegian Ambassador, Susan Eckey**
- **The Country Director of GIZ Uganda, Christian Schnurre**
- **Representatives of the private sector**

Introduction

1. Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, I welcome you all to this launch of the Professional Driver Training- Uganda Project.
2. I salute our friends and partners, GIZ E4D/SOGA – Employment and Skills for Eastern Africa, which is the implementing agency for this professional driver training project; the German Government, DFID and NORAD, for the continued support to my Ministry and Uganda at large, more especially on aspects related to National Content Development.
3. In the next 3 to 5 years, we expect a total investment of about \$20 billion in the oil and gas sub-sector alone, which is significant in comparison with our GDP of \$27billion. It is therefore important that we prepare the country's population for the opportunities that this emerging sub-sector is bringing to the nation especially at the next stage of Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) scheduled to start next year.
4. Indeed, as a Ministry, we have made notable progress in preparing and facilitating National Participation in the country's emerging oil and gas sector. Some of our achievements in this regard include:

- Putting emphasis on national participation and development and maintenance of the national skills and expertise in our National Oil and Gas Policy and the Upstream and Midstream Laws;
- Development of a Draft National Content Policy and Plan for the oil and Gas Sector;
- Establishment of a National Content Section in the Ministry;
- Mobilization of local service providers into an Association of Uganda Oil and Gas Service Providers;
- Regulation of employment of expatriates; licensed oil companies are required to develop Nationalization Plans which are approved and monitored;
- Capacity Building and Skills development with an emphasis on Vocational Skills Development;
- And a supplier database for oil and gas sector has been setup to provide an overall database of Ugandan suppliers and ascertain the standards among companies who want to supply the oil and gas sector.
- Undertaking various studies in partnership with Joint Venture(JV) partners and the World bank which include; study on enhancing national participation in the oil and gas sector; Industrial base line survey(IBS); Workforce Skills Development Strategy and Plan (WSDSP);

SUPPORT FROM DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

5. Government is now in the process of implementing the recommendations of these studies. The Workforce Skills Development Strategy and Plan and the industrial Baseline Survey (2013) studies show that during the construction phase, there will be about 2000 competent drivers required.
6. Almost every company will need drivers. The logistics and transportation activities that includes the transportation of materials, equipment and people in line with the planned developments. For example, most of the materials coming in from Mombasa will be delivered by lorries, large and heavy trucks. These trucks will need drivers, thousands of them.
7. These drivers will require special training and hold necessary licenses and certificates especially those transporting hazardous goods. Given the considerable numbers required, this presented a challenge for Uganda to meet in the short-term.
8. Through our engagements with Uganda Driving Standard Agency, we noted that a large number of Passenger Service Vehicle (PSV) and Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) drivers in Uganda have licenses but have not been trained. They usually learn in a friend's vehicle then get the license so many may not know the rules or how to drive safely.
9. It's in this regard, therefore, that we would like to appreciate GIZ E4D/SOGA – Employment and Skills for Eastern Africa development partners which is the implementing agency for this professional driver training project. The development partners for this project include the

German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ); the UK's Department for international Development (DFID); and NORAD who are working with the Government of Uganda to make timely interventions to address various skills challenges envisaged in the project.

10. This particular intervention will increase the levels of employment of Ugandans in the sector by ensuring Uganda has ready, qualified and competent HGV drivers as we enter the construction phase.

CONCLUSION

11. The oil and gas sector in Uganda is now at the long-awaited take off phase where a beehive of activity is expected with over US\$20 billion of investment expected in this economy. This presents unprecedented opportunities for Ugandans to participate in the Sector. We therefore have a responsibility to ensure that Ugandans tap into these opportunities and benefit from a significant share of this investment.

12. As a Ministry, we are determined to ensure optimum national participation in oil and gas activities and continuous support to the development and maintenance of national skills and expertise.

13. Allow me on behalf of the Government of Uganda and the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development once again to extend our appreciation to GIZ E4D/SOGA – Employment and Skills for Eastern Africa and the development partners; The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the UK's Department for

international Development (DFID) and NORAD for the unwavering support to the sector and implementation of this very important project.

14. I thank you all for coming. Let us continue to work together to develop the oil and gas sector and build our country.

For God and My Country

Eng. Simon D'Ujanga (MP)

Minister of State for Energy

Thursday 6th July, 2017.