

According to data from PAU, it is estimated that between \$15b and \$20b will be invested in Uganda's oil and gas sector in the next five years, which will create thousands of jobs and business opportunities, writes **Moses Kigongo**

As Uganda's oil and gas sector progresses from the exploration part of the Upstream phase to the development stage with the focus of achieving first oil by 2025, more employment opportunities are up for grabs by Ugandans and their companies in the country.

The latest status of employment, as at the end of May, stood at 11,679 people, of which 11,054 (95%) were Ugandans, according to the enterprise development officer at Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU), Peter Bintu.

He explained that subcontracted companies directly employed 808, of whom 72% were Ugandans, while contractors employed 11,955 of which 96% were Ugandans.



Some of the oil roads.

Bintu revealed that the authority continued to monitor the available human capacity through the National Oil and Gas Talent Register (NOGTR).

He observed that during May, 117 workers applied for registration, of which 96 were male and 21 female.

"Cumulatively, the total number of registered workers since 2018 is 8,181 and of these, 6,402 are male, while

1,779 females," revealed Bintu.

He made the remarks while talking about the status of employment during a recent media tour of the Kingfisher project in Kikuube district.

According to data from PAU, it is estimated that between \$15b and \$20b will be invested in Uganda's oil and gas sector in the next five years, which will create thousands of jobs

and business opportunities.

He also talked about the status of registered companies, saying the total number of registered companies remained at 120 on the National Supplier Database (NSD).

Bintu explained that companies such as Keltron, Q-Sourcing and Mota-Engil also posted 32 jobs on the system. And showed the number of jobs each

company posted, including 22 (from Keltron), six (Q-Sourcing) and four (Mota-Engil) to prove his case.

This brings the total number of jobs posted on the system so far to 788, according to PAU officials.

On the issue of participation of Ugandan enterprises and use

Turn to page 16

# OIL PROJECTS EMPLOYING 93% UGANDANS

From page 15

of Ugandan goods and services, statistics from PAU indicated that the cumulative value of contracts reviewed since 2021 stood at \$7b. Out of the contracts, \$1.7b (25%) is earmarked for Ugandan companies.

PAU data indicates that as at the end of May, contracts to Ugandan companies through direct Tier 1 contracting were to a tune of \$1b and contracts given to Ugandan companies through sub-contracting from international companies are \$757.5m.

The above details lead to a cumulative total number of applications received on the NSD since its deployment in 2017 to 8,551 companies, of which 2,525 were Uganda entities and 520 foreign entities, as at the end of May.

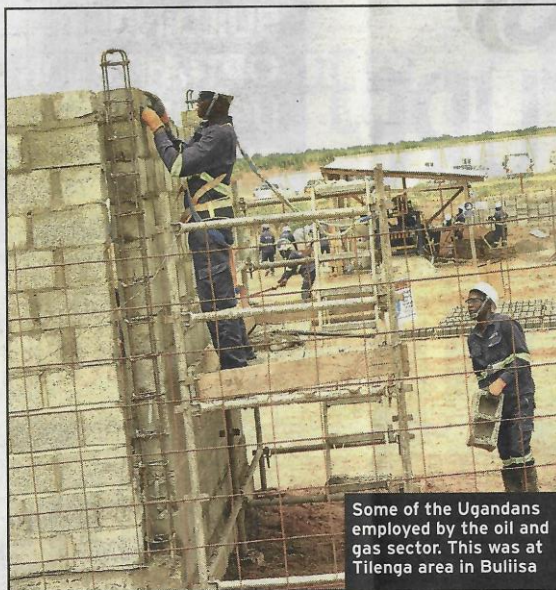
## IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES

Sarah Banage, the manager corporate affairs at Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), says there are so many developments taking place in the Albertine region lately. For example, she says, there is the Kabalega International Airport, whose civil work is almost 91.75% complete.

With rigs (drilling equipment) already erected, the Kingfisher and Tilenga projects have also achieved significant progress to enable the country to produce its first oil by 2025.

Amos Muliisa, the manager corporate affairs at SBC-Uganda, which was contracted to construct the Kabalega International Airport, said the airport will be ready to host any big cargo planes by September since all the key components, such as the runway, turn pads, apron and terminal building, among others, are almost complete.

He gave an example of the runway,



Some of the Ugandans employed by the oil and gas sector. This was at Tilenga area in Buliisa

**Subcontracted companies in the oil sector employed 808, of whom 72% were Ugandans.**

whose work is at 98%, but it is only remaining with marking and lighting of its lanes to handle any flight.

Kabalega International Airport will enable cargo planes to land on the airport to offload some of the heavy

equipment that will be used in the oil and gas sector. Plans for its expansion are underway. The airport will be the biggest after Entebbe International Airport.

Relatedly, there is also the

## BENEFICIARIES SPEAK OUT

Dismas Baiyema, the LC1 chairperson of Nsonga A village, which is one of the five villages located near the Kingfisher project area in Kikuube district and John Oketch from the Buliisa area, complimented the oil and gas sector for transforming their livelihood by coming up with big projects, such as the gravity flow water system and construction of modern houses.

On the issue of accessing safe and clean water, Baiyema said it has saved them from getting diseases, such as cholera, which was prevalent in their area and always costing them lives and money.

second anchor project of Kabalega International Park, which is a petroleum-based industrial park that will host a number of facilities, such as the oil refinery development with the intention of supporting industrialisation and employing thousands of Ugandans who will be working in the different petroleum-based factories and businesses in the area.

The airport and industrial park will also support the development of other sectors, such as tourism and agriculture, since tourists will be flying into the country to visit some of the tourism sites, such as Bugoma forest (with a big number of Chimpanzees) and the great rift valley escarpment (where lake Albert is found), among

others.

"And all these tourists will need to taste Uganda's local food hence boosting the agricultural sector in the region," Gloria Sebikari, the manager corporate affairs at PAU, said.

James Amale, the civil works-structural supervisor for Tilenga Industrial Park, says the Tilenga project is made up of different facilities which serve different functions.

For example the Central Processing Facility (CPF) is one of the key facilities being constructed to separate oil from the gas, water, sand, solvents, or additives during the production stage of the upstream project and the Construction Support Base (CSB) where workers of the CPF will be camping among others.

Amale noted that, currently, the CSB is accommodating less than 1,000 workers because it is still under construction, but it will accommodate over 4,000 people once complete.

The project will also have a drilling support base to work on the three rigs that have so far been procured by Total Energies-Uganda (that is managing the Tilenga project).

"So far, one rig has been assembled and is expected to be launched this month," Sebikari revealed.

Ambrose Ogwanga, the drilling engineer-at CNOOC Uganda, also talked about some of the drilling activities' developments in the Kingfisher project area. He indicated that one well has so far been drilled (from well pad 2) in the area.

However, Ogwang explained that actual production has not yet been done, though it is expected once they handover the well pads, preparations will be made for oil production to start by 2025.