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PRESS RELEASE

UGANDA-TANZANIA OIL AND GAS NETWORKING FORUM: DRIVING TRANSFORMATION IN UGANDA AND TANZANIA'S ENERGY VISION

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania 22nd November 2024

The Uganda-Tanzania Oil and Gas Networking Forum, was held **on 22nd November 2024 in Dar es Salaam**, under the theme “**Driving Transformation in Uganda and Tanzania’s Energy Vision**”. The event, hosted by the High Commission of Uganda in Tanzania brought together key stakeholders from both countries, and the region to strengthen collaboration, share insights, and discuss opportunities in the oil and gas sector with emphasis on regional integration and economic cooperation.

H.E. Col. (Rtd.) Fred Mwesigye, Uganda’s High Commissioner to Tanzania, emphasized the transformative potential of the oil and gas sector for both nations. He noted that the Uganda-Tanzania partnership, underpinned by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline, represents a model for regional integration and mutual development.

“Today’s forum is a testament to the shared commitment of Uganda and Tanzania to unlock the potential of our oil and gas resources for the benefit of our people. Our partnership goes beyond infrastructure; it is about fostering private sector linkages, creating jobs, and ensuring sustainable development,” said H.E. Col. (Rtd.) Mwesigye. He encouraged stakeholders to focus on knowledge-sharing and leveraging the opportunities arising from this strategic sector.

Dr. James Mataragio, Tanzania’s Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Energy, delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the unwavering commitment of the leaders of Uganda and Tanzania to strengthening bilateral cooperation. He lauded the visionary leadership of H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda and H.E. Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan of Tanzania for fostering a partnership that has positioned the two nations as key players in the region’s energy sector.

“The East African Crude Oil Pipeline is more than a project; it is a symbol of regional cooperation and a driver for economic growth. Under the stewardship of our leaders, Uganda and Tanzania have created an enabling environment for investment in the oil and gas sector. This partnership opens unprecedented opportunities for local and international investors to

contribute to the development of our economies while creating jobs and building sustainable industries,” Dr. Mataragio stated. He also stressed the importance of sustainable practices and environmental stewardship in the sector.

A detailed presentation by the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) team provided participants with the latest updates on the project’s progress. Key milestones achieved include progress on completion of construction activities along the pipeline route and training initiatives to build local capacity and equip communities with skills relevant to the sector.

The EACOP team also outlined plans for the next phases, including enhanced environmental safeguards and expanded partnerships with regional stakeholders.

A lively panel discussion featuring experts from Uganda and Tanzania, explored strategies for building local capacity in the oil and gas industry. Panelists discussed challenges such as skills gaps, the need for robust local content policies, and access to finance for local businesses.

Key recommendations included:

- i. Establishing regional training institutions dedicated to oil and gas such as the EACOP Training Academy.
- ii. Strengthening and harmonization local content policies between the two countries to ensure more opportunities for domestic firms.
- iii. Encouraging cross-border collaborations and joint venture partnerships to maximize the opportunities and resources plus share best practices.

The Uganda-Tanzania Oil and Gas Networking Forum concluded with a call to action for all stakeholders to enhance regional cooperation and prioritize local capacity development. Participants left with a renewed commitment to leveraging the oil and gas sector as a catalyst for sustainable economic growth in East Africa.

The High Commission is dedicated to establishing platforms that enable meaningful interaction between the private sector and key stakeholders within the oil and gas value chain. These forums play a crucial role in promoting dialogue, cultivating partnerships, and unlocking investment opportunities in both Uganda and Tanzania.

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