

10th December 2018

**RESPONSE TO THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON
PRESIDENTIAL AFFAIRS ON STATUS OF THE
RESETTLEMENT OF LANDSLIDE VICTIMS IN THE ELGON
SUBREGION PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT ON 5TH
DECEMBER 2018**

Rt. Hon Speaker,

Hon. Members,

1. Following the 2010 Nametsi landslide disaster, Cabinet directed three resettlement strategies, (i) use of Kiryandongo Refugee Settlement, (ii) resettlement within Bugisu Sub-region, (iii) urbanization in safe locations within villages at risk.
2. Under Kiryandongo phase, 603 households (5,500 people) were transferred from Nametsi to Kiryandongo. Under phase II, 2868 acres of land was procured in Bulambuli district for resettlement.
3. Rt. Hon. Speaker, the Committee on Presidential Affairs presented a report on the status of the second phase Resettlement programme to Parliament on 5th December 2018.
4. Rt. Hon. Speaker, in 2013, Office of the Prime Minister went out to procure three plots of land in



Bunambutye Sub-county Bulambuli District. The three plots of land are available.

5. Rt. Hon. Speaker, I want this House to note that NO financial loss was occasioned to the Government and the people of Uganda. The resettlement process has started targeting 900 households and the first 101 houses will be ready to be handed over to the carefully selected beneficiaries beginning mid February 2019.
6. The Committee acknowledged that the procurement procedures and processes were dully followed (**pages 8 & 9**). The transaction documents presented including the three land titles were acknowledged to be correct and authentic.
7. Rt. Hon. Speaker, the competent authority in determination of value for any property is the Chief Government Valuer. In the procurement process, the Chief Government Valuer was fully engaged in determining the rates paid for each acre (**See Appendix 1**).
8. Rt. Hon. Speaker, OPM therefore did not procure air, neither did it exaggerate the price.
9. Rt. Hon Speaker, as for the question due diligence, the three plots of land were procured after extensive

due diligence and administrative reviews involving PPDA, Solicitor General, MLHUD, URSB, CIID, DPP, District Leaders and the Community (**Appendices 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12 & 13**).

10. The Hon. Minister for Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees was also petitioned and he halted the procurement process. He held a meeting with the complainants, district leaders of Bulambuli and the vendor, and the meeting resolved that the land was free of encumbrances (**Appendix 2**).
11. Rt. Hon. Speaker, it should be noted that no procurement of land to the magnitude of 2876 acres can be completed without complaints. This is the case with many development projects in the country today.
12. I would like to assure Hon. Members that all the complaints raised during the OPM procurements of the three plots of land were all amicably resolved. The cases of land claimants now before us arose more than eight months after conclusion of the procurement process. Any other complaints that will come up in future shall be handled administratively and politically without stopping development activities.



13. Rt. Hon Speaker, just for emphasis, the Bulambuli Resettlement scheme is being developed in three plots of land.
- a. Plot 94 is 270 acres and it will host 250 two-bedroomed permanent houses standing on one acre of land each.
 - b. Plot 157 curved out of plot 93 is 918 acres and it will host 650 houses standing on one acre of land each
 - c. Plot 198 curved out of plot 10 is 1,688 acres and it is reserved for mechanized agricultural production. OPM working with MAAIF & MWE, will support mechanized agriculture production.
14. Rt. Hon. Speaker, Hon. Members, to avoid high overhead construction cost, Government decided to engage UPDF Engineering Brigade, the Uganda Police Construction Unit and the Uganda Prison Services. They are now on site and work is progressing well.
15. It also important to note that the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE) assigned the responsibility of providing safe water has drilled and completed a power-driven production well (high-yielding-



borehole) now in operation providing water to the site and the settlement. In addition, a standby water-tanker-truck from MWE is on site to supplement the production well should need arise.

16. Rt. Hon. Speaker as earlier indicated Storage Containers and building Materials including cement, sand, aggregate stones, etc. are on site.
17. As we await connection to the main power grid being handle by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, a power generator has been connected to drive the block making machines and the water-production well.
18. Surveyors from the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development are re-opening of boundaries of the first 270 units on plot 94.
19. A workshop to update Area members of Parliament, LCV Chairpersons, CAOs and other Districts Leaders on progress so far made and on the procedure for verification, selection and registration took place on Friday 7th December in Mbale.
20. In consultation with Local Governments those initially to benefit from the first 900 houses will include; Bududa, given the magnitude of the



problem will take first 500 houses, Bulambuli -100, Sironko-100, Manafwa-100 and Namisidwa-100.

CONCLUSIONS

21. Basing on the above, Hon. Members, you clearly see there was no financial loss caused to Government and the people of Uganda by OPM.
22. The land was procured in accordance with PPDA Act 2003 and extensive due diligence and administrative reviews were done involving PPDA, Solicitor General, MLHUD, URSB, CIID, DPP, District and Community leaders.
23. The Political Leaders acted diligently and Technical Officers acted professionally in executing their work to the conclusion of the assignment and there is value for money.
24. The Political Leaders provided adequate political supervision and oversight throughout the entire procurement process that included halting the process at a certain point of time in order to allow all complaints to be resolved.
25. The Criminal Intelligence Investigation Department (CIID) carried out an investigation on the alleged fraud involving the sale of the three plots of land, the



DPP also got involved and after studying the process followed and finding them correct, cleared it to proceed and conclude.

26. Land was subsequently purchased and the three titles secured in names of Uganda Land Commission are now safely in the hands of Government.
27. I therefore urge colleagues to consider the plight of the people of Elgon sub-region, because in two Months' time, the first season rains will be on and further delays of the resettlement programme will expose the survivors to harm.
28. Rt. Hon. Speaker, in case Parliament decides to cancel the entire land acquisition process as recommended by the Committee, there is a likelihood of Government incurring huge financial losses and more deaths as a result of the anticipated landslides.
29. In all these operations, the least common denominator is protection and preservation of human life.
30. I would like to inform Rt. Hon. Speaker and Hon. Members that working with MoLHUD, we would want to make Bunambutye a model settlement that could be adopted in other parts of the country.



31. Our prayer to colleagues Members of Parliament is to support the process and stand ready to invite you for the commissioning of the first set of houses in February 2019.

I thank you for your kind attention



Musa Ecweru

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR RELIEF, DISASTER
PREPAREDNESS AND REFUGEES**



Fig. 1 Grading of base camp

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. J. J.', is written across the bottom right of the page.



Fig 2. A Contingent of Uganda Police Construction Unit Officers arrive and settle on site.



Fig 3. Generator for power supply to the block making machines connected.

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Fig 4. Some of the Members of the Area Community including the alleged complainants joined the blocks making work.



Fig 5. Materials Storage Containers at Resettlement Site



Fig 6. Truck delivering materials on site.



Fig 7. Blocking making on-going



Fig 8. Blocks laid-out to set



Fig 9. Drilling of powered water-production wells and boreholes on-going



Fig 10. Water tank and delivery truck on site

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Fig.11 Surveyors opening the first 270 plots of one acre each for construction of homes



Fig12. Some of the housing designs for the 900 houses to be built in Bunabutye Landslides survivors resettlement scheme