

**PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA**

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY  
AND FISHERIES ON THE INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE GIVE-AWAY OF  
MARUZI RANCHING SCHEME AND THE ILLEGAL LEASING AND GRABBING  
OF LAND BELONGING TO THE RANCH**

**OFFICE OF THE CLERK TO PARLIAMENT**

**PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

**KAMPALA - UGANDA**

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**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND FISHERIES ON THE INVESTIGATIONS INTO THE GIVE-AWAY OF MARUZI RANCHING SCHEME AND THE ILLEGAL LEASING AND GRABBING OF LAND BELONGING TO THE RANCH.**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

During the Plenary Sitting of Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2019, Hon. Tonny Ayoo, MP Kwania County [NRM] raised the matter of the **give-away of Maruzi Ranching Scheme and the illegal leasing and grabbing of land belonging to the ranch.**

A debate ensued following the concern raised by Hon. Ayoo Tonny and the following were the key issues that were brought out:

- 1) On record in the Lira land zonal office, in the land information system the lease or registered volume 717 Folio 4 which was registered on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1969, is the only document that exists and proves the true ownership of the said land at Maruzi ranch.
- 2) There is a caveat on the title that was put by the Chairperson District Land Board, Apac District on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018, stopping any further activity by any person or any changing of the title by any person.
- 3) There is a certificate of title under freehold registered Volume 1560 Folio 20, that was registered on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016 in the name of Uganda Livestock Industries Ltd that converted the freehold title to leasehold title.
- 4) Registered title vide leasehold registered volume 4624 Folio 1, in the name of Hillside Agriculture Limited that was registered on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in the name of Hillside Agriculture Limited.

**The following matters were brought out:**

- 1) Sought to understand the circumstances under which the leasehold public land was converted to freehold and eventually subdivided.
- 2) Why the two titles; freehold and leasehold volume 1 has been registered only in the analogue and not in the land information system.
- 3) People were being evicted from this land and the UPDF are guarding the land and they move at night arresting people. There were rape cases cited as well.

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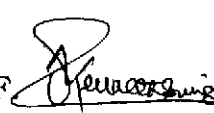
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- 4) The mode of compensation was also of great concern; people being compensated shs400,000, shs200,000 and shs100,000 without a proper schedule of payment and valuation. The payment are done by the District Internal Security Officer, Gombolala Internal Security and some UPDF officers.
- 5) Hillside Agriculture Ltd paid shs9million for stamp duty, premium and annual ground rent for the land measuring 54square miles.
- 6) Uganda Livestock Industry Ltd was divested and therefore is defunct, the mover of the petition sought to know the circumstances under which it is participating in converting leasehold land to freehold in their own name and also subdividing and allowing people to get into the land.
- 7) People who do not belong to the area of the ranch have been included in the demarcation and their land has been taken.
- 8) The volume of the land which is being opened is bigger than the original land of the scheme and therefore land of other people is being grabbed.

The Rt. Hon. Speaker therefore directed the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries to conduct a field visit to Maruzi Ranching Scheme to establish facts on the ground and report to the House.

## 2.0 METHODOLOGY:

In execution of the Directive, the Committee on Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries;-

- a. Held a meeting with H.E, the President of the Republic of Uganda.
- b. Held a meeting with the Minister for Lands, Officials from the Uganda Land Commission, Directors of Uganda Livestock Company Limited and the proprietors of Hillside Agriculture Company Limited.
- c. Held a meeting with technical officials at the Lira Ministry Zonal Land Office.
- d. Held a meeting with the District Chairperson and the District Council at the Apac Local Government office.
- e. Held a meeting with the ED NAGRIC with officials from MAIF 
- f. Visited Ibuje Sub County and held a meeting with the community and its local leaders.

- g. Visited Acamcabu Sub Parish and held a meeting with the community.
- h. Visited Akokoro Sub County and held a meeting with the community.
- i. Reviewed the documents laid on Table by Hon. Ayoo Tonny.

**3.0 BACKGROUND:**

Maruzi Ranch established in 1968 is located between Ibuje and Akokoro Sub Counties in Apac District, it covers 64 square miles (40,960 acres). This land was customarily owned by some clans in the area who offered this land for investment to Government. In 2005, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of Uganda and the district for the ranch to be utilized by NAGRIC for 10years after which it would be reviewed.

On 29<sup>th</sup> April, 1969 a lease title in respect to LRV 717 Folio 4 for 99 years from 1/01/1968 was issued to Uganda Livestock Industries Limited in respect to land located in Maruzi, Apac District for land measuring 42149.0acres.

Maruzi land covers eleven (11) villages and accommodates over 1,536 households with over 8,000 persons who have lived there since 1995. Part of this land has since been occupied by squatters who have resisted eviction. In September 2014, the High Court in Lira issued a temporary order restraining the Apac District Local Government, police and the Attorney General from evicting them.

In 2009, engineers from China visited the country and mapped some of the major ranches and irrigation sites. Their counterparts from South Africa, Egypt and Israel were also invited to take part in the UGX shs.47billion project that was expected on the contested land.

Under the program of breeding and multiplication of exotic animals supervised by the MAIF about 7,180 cattle, 1,942 goats and 203 pigs were expected to be stocked on 13 farms across the country including Maruzi.

Government Ranches are currently under the management of NAGRIC&DB, which came into being in 2003 and is mandated to carry out commercial activities. NAGRC is also required to offer and conduct specialized training to technicians dealing in breeding and to train staff and farmers in aspects of animal and fish breeding; collaborate in research on genetic improvement and characterization of breeds and production environments; develop guidelines and implement a field oriented breeding extension service for field workers and farmers.

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#### 4.0 FINDINGS

The Committee's findings in regard to Maruzi Ranch Land were as follows:-

##### 4.0.1 LIRA MINISTRY ZONAL OFFICE

**The Committee visited Lira Ministry Zonal office and held a meeting with the technical officials at the office. During the meeting, the Committee was informed as follows:**

1. Lira Land Ministry Zonal Office is one of the 21 Land Zonal Offices countrywide. It was opened on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 by His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda.
2. The zonal office handles, among others; land administration, survey and mapping, valuation, computerized land registration and Physical Planning.
3. The office issues out land titles using the computer model; Land Information System II (LIS 2).
4. In 1968, Uganda Livestock Industries Ltd was issued a leasehold title for Maruzi land in Maruzi County Apac District. The land measured 42149.0 acres of land. The lease was running from 1<sup>st</sup> January 1968 for 99 years. The Leaser was Uganda Land Commission which was the controlling authority.

The following were the lease conditions to Uganda Livestock Industries:

- *"To observe and perform all the covenants and conditions implied by law in the lease or otherwise herein contained or referred to and all rules regulations bye-laws or orders:*
- *Not to use the land for any other purpose other than cattle ranching and beef production.*
- *Pay yearly rent of 2174/50.*
- *Not to sub divide/lease or give any rights or license whatsoever over the said land or any part thereof".*

5. On 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016 a converted freehold certificate of Title FRV 1560 Folio 20 out of the leasehold LRV 717 Folio 4, measuring 42149.0 acres in Maruzi County, Apac District was issued to Uganda Livestock Industries Limited, P.O. Box 442 Kampala. The certificate is dated

20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 and it was signed by the Registrar of Titles. The conditions of this conversion of land was that the user was to be restricted to cattle ranching and beef production scheme.

6. The conversion of the title from leasehold to freehold followed advice from the Solicitor General, who advised that Uganda Land Commission had the powers to convert the land from leasehold to freehold. Quoting Article 239 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, which spells out the functions of the Uganda Land Commission, and Article 241 which spells out the functions of District Land Boards and Section 49(a) of the Land Act, the Solicitor General advised that ULC is the controlling authority for LRV 595 FOLIO 24, LRV 783 FOLIO 18 LRV 675 FOLIO 11 and LRV 717 FOLIO 4 and all other ranches." *The two provisions expressly save and confer upon it the power to hold and manage land vested in or acquired by Government.*" The Solicitor General further advised that "ULC is not required to make applications to the District Land Boards for conversion of the leases to freehold. The right authority is Uganda Land Commission". The legal opinion is dated 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013.
7. After conversion of the title to freehold, on 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018, the freehold title holder; Uganda Livestock Industries Ltd, issued leasehold title FRV 4624 Folio 1 for plot 63 Maruzi Block 2 to Hillside Agriculture Limited of P.O. Box 215 Jinja for 50 years w.e.f 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The leasehold title was signed by the Senior Registrar of Titles.
8. A lease agreement was signed between Uganda Livestock Industries Ltd of P.O. Box 4914, Kampala; a limited liability company being the Lessor and Hillside Agriculture Limited, a limited liability company whose office is at plot 7-15, Factory Street P.O. Box 215, Jinja.

In the agreement, it was stated that the Lessor is the proprietor of land comprised in FRV 1560 Folio 20, Block 2 Plots 2 and 17 situated at Maruzi County, Apac District measuring approximately 42149 acres of land and that the "Lessee; Hillside Agriculture Limited is desirous of leasing 34,560 acres (**54 square miles**) out of the Maruzi Ranch to grow palm oil trees and build a factory to extract the oil". This was agreed to by the Lessor; Uganda Livestock Industries Limited. The terms of the lease was for 50 years to commence on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of September 2018 as earlier stated.

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9. In the lease agreement, the Lessee was mandated to pay the Lessor:

- (i) A premium of UGX 872,700,000 which is to be paid to the lessor in one lump sum on the execution of the Agreement.
- (ii) Ground rent of UGX 43,636,000 per annum for the first two years to be paid together with the premium on or before the execution of the Agreement and thereafter every year on or before the anniversary of the execution of the Agreement.
- (iii) The ground rent shall be revised upwards by ten percent at the end of every five years.

**The terms of the lessee's covenants include:**

- (i) To pay the consideration reserved at the times and in manner aforesaid without any deduction or abatement whatsoever.
- (ii) To use the demised land for the purpose of growing palm oil trees by irrigation and the construction of a factory for oil extraction.
- (iii) To invest not less than USD \$55,000,000.00 in the establishment of the palm oil plantation and extraction factory.
- (iv) To implement a resettlement action plan for project affected persons in occupied areas of the demised land.
- (v) To ensure that the land is cleared and palm oil trees are planted and irrigation infrastructure installed within three years from the date of execution of the lease agreement.
- (vi) To set up an out growers palm oil growing scheme and for this purpose, the Lessee shall sublet 2,560 acres of the demised land to the local authorities to be held in trust for the out growers of palm oil.
- (vii) Not at any time to do or permit to be done either by commission or omission anything on or in connection with the demised land the doing or omission of which shall be a contravention of the Physical Planning Act, No. 8 of 2010 and any other law governing the occupation and use of land.
- (viii) Not to do or permit or suffer to be done on the demised land anything which shall be a nuisance to persons for the time being owning or occupying or using any neighboring land.

10. On the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Lira Ministry Zonal Office through the Office of Commissioner Land Registration Kampala received a substitute freehold certificate of title dated 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016 issued in respect of the land on Plots 2 and 17 Maruzi Block 2 at Lango Maruzi Ranch, the

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substitute title was signed by Golooba Haruna, Registrar of Titles. Instructions for issuing the substitute title were given by Kabira Aisha, for Commissioner Land Registration. She stated that "having satisfied herself that the original certificate of Title in respect of the land on Plots 2 and 17 Maruzi Block 2 at Lango Maruzi Ranch was lost after a thorough and diligent search in the Titles Registry and other related offices thereto, she ordered that a substitute certificate of title be prepared to replace the lost original certificate". The order for the substitute title to be issued was signed on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018. The land area in the substituted title is 42149.0 acres. The proprietors of the land/title was Uganda Livestock Industries Limited.

11. Lira Ministry Zonal Office expressed concern upon receipt of the substitute freehold title FRV 1560 FOLIO 20 for plot 2 and 17 Maruzi and the leasehold title LRV 4624 FOLIO 1 for plot 63 block 2 Maruzi County subdivided out of the freehold title.

**The concerns were as follows:**

- (i) The Lira Ministry Zonal Office did not have any record on how the lease was converted to freehold especially because the conversion is on a government ranch yet it is a practice that government ranches are not converted to freehold.
- (ii) They did not know the status of Uganda Livestock Industries Limited.
- (iii) The substitute certificate of title and the subdivided leasehold title were issued using analog, outside the Lands Information System (LIS) operational at Lira Zonal Office, therefore the LIS could not allow such entries.
- (iv) They could not link the title to the cadastral sheet since the subdivision was not done in accordance to the LIS II.
- (v) The subdivision did not factor in the Physical Planning requirements as per the National Physical Planning Act, 2010.
- (vi) The Top Management of Lira Zonal Office in a meeting held on the 18<sup>th</sup> September 2018 directed the Principal Land Management Officer to write to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development seeking for technical guidance on how to proceed with the matter.

12. On October 15<sup>th</sup> 2018, the Lira Zonal Office received authority from the Commissioner Land Registration to index the manual certificate of

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title comprising freehold register volume 1560 folio 20, in owner's copy after different correspondences from the Ministers of Lands and Privatizations clarifying on the conversions.

Further concern was raised by Lira MZO that they were unable to link the title to any parcel on the system because of the following anomalies;

- (i) The surveyed area as per the deed plans does not tally with the area registered on the title by 3779.58 acres of land.
- (ii) The geometry of the parcel on the system is not the same as that on the hard copy deed plan attached to the title.
- (iii) It appeared that a new larger land area was surveyed as compared to that originally registered.

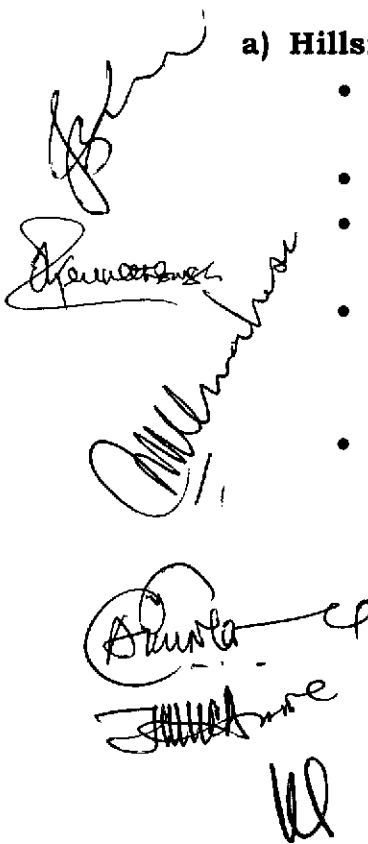
13. On another note, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Hillside Agriculture Limited and Apac District Local Government on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The MoU was a declaration of the commitment by both parties to partner to invest in Maruzi Ranch under public private partnership. The roles and responsibilities commenced on the date the MoU was signed and it was expected to continue or be extended to 99 years based on the satisfactory use.

In the MoU, it was also stated that the Memorandum of Understanding shall be effective when Maruzi Ranch land title is fully reverted (given) to Apac District Local Government and shall be subject to review.

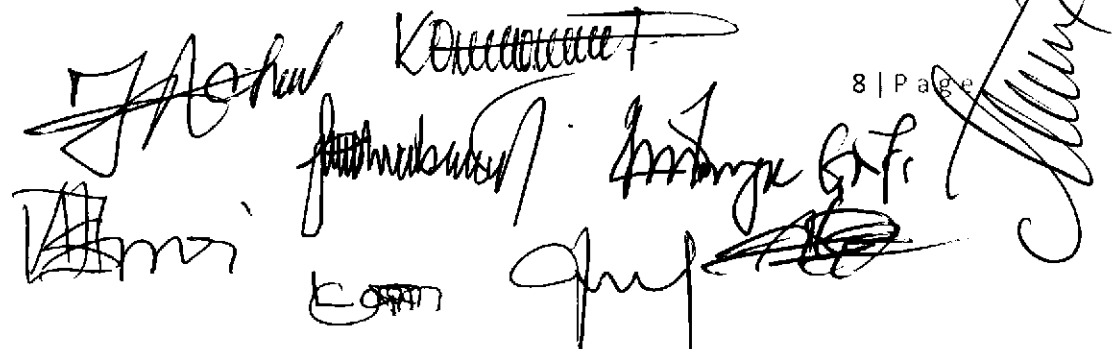
**The roles and responsibilities of the parties were as follows:**

**a) Hillside Agriculture:**

- To establish palm tree farming with the option of multi cropping on a 42.149acre block of land in Maruzi Ranch within 10 years.
- Not to use the land for any other purpose.
- Not to sub divide/lease or give any rights or license whatsoever over the said land or any part thereof.
- To pay premium to Apac District Local Government at the commencement of the lease and the value to be determined by the Chief Government Valuer.
- To pay annual ground rent to Apac District Local Government at the commencement of the lease and the value to be determined



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by the Chief Government Valuer revised after every 10 years within increment of 10percent.

- To pay Local Service Tax to Apac District Local Government arising from people who will be gainfully employed in the ranch.
- To provide and give preference to local people from Apac District as per the available work force from the district and its surroundings.
- To set up investment in the ranch that will also spur the growth to out growers to boost the growth of local economy.
- To pay all taxes due to Central Government.
- To embed the principle of corporate social responsibility.

**4.0.2 MEETING WITH THE H.E, THE PRESIDENT AT STATE HOUSE IN ENTEBBE**

During the meeting which was attended by Members on the Committee on Agriculture, Ministers and technical officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, the Lango Parliamentary Group Members, the Apac District Leaders, officials from NAGRIC and NARO the following issues were raised:

**Submission by the Lango Parliamentary Group:**

- i) They expressed dissatisfaction and worry about land being allocated to Hill Side Agriculture Ltd, a move they perceived to be in contravention of the law.
- ii) They were skeptical about the viability of the project because the area in point is very dry and yet if irrigation is to take place, permission will have to be sought from the Nile Belt.
- iii) The change of the land use and land ownership is of great concern to the community.
- iv) Needed to know the environmental impact of the project. Fear was expressed about environmental degradation by this project. Concern was raised that there was no environmental impact assessment done to ensure that there are mitigative measures in case there are adverse effects.
- v) Expressed concern that the lease title for plot 63 Maruzi Block 2 to Hillside Agriculture Limited was issued by Uganda Livestock Industries yet Uganda Livestock Industries Ltd has no right over the land.
- vi) Constitutionally, the land should have reverted back to the District Land Board.

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- vii) Uganda Land Commission should be the one in charge of the land since it is the one mandated to issue out land titles.
- viii) There should be proper resettlement and compensation of the affected people. To do this, there is need to first establish who the true owners of the land are.
- ix) Reported that people moved to Maruzi during and immediately after the insurgencies in Northern Uganda, so these people should be considered by resettling them elsewhere or be compensated amicably.
- x) Noted that some gaps still exist in the land transaction and these gaps need to be addressed. 54square miles of land is being given to one investor yet the local people are not considered.
- xi) The mode of investment should be reviewed so that the local people are given a portion of the land to enable them produce and sell to the investor.
- xii) There was no cost benefit analysis carried out and also there was no feasibility study conducted, neither are there any investment plans of the project.
- xiii) The local people should be given more land as compared to what they were being offered.
- xiv) Concern was raised that NAGRIC was going to get relocated elsewhere. If the ranch is closed, then people will not be able to access good breeds to cross breed their cattle for better productivity.

**Submission by the Apac District Chairperson:**

- i) Maruzi ranch was given to displaced people who have already been compensated.
- ii) The people currently occupying the ranch are there illegally.
- iii) The ranch was given to the government and it is now government property therefore it is not right to give it back to the people.
- iv) He was however in support of the project.

**Submission by the District Vice Chairperson, Apac**

- i) Reported that the land was being misused by criminals. People were being killed within the ranch by those living in the ranch.
- ii) The investor agreed to give part of the land to out growers.
- iii) People are willing to be supported to use their land as out growers.
- iv) If land is left to the people, they will not be able to sustain the project because it is very capital intensive; they cannot afford it.

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- v) There should be an agreement between the people and the government to buy their produce; the people will grow palm oil on their land and sell their produce to the investor.
- vi) Raised concern that NAGRC cattle was being stolen and no one was following up this matter.

**Submission by Hon. Akora Maxwell Patrick, MP Maruzi County (UPC):**

- i) He alleged that there are some criminal activities taking place within the ranch.
- ii) The local people must benefit from the project in a sustainable way.
- iii) The community needs assurance of environmental protection.

**Submission by hon. Engola Betty Awor, the DWR – APAC**

She complained that the local people were not involved/consulted when the project was initiated.

**H.E. THE PRESIDENT:**

In his communication, H.E. the President communicated as follows:

- i) There is a big problem of land fragmentation in the country therefore if out-growers use their own land, it will not be economically viable because of land fragmentation.
- ii) When a need to expand palm oil growing in the country arose, Maruzi was selected because that land was available. He noted that such projects can only be carried out where government has land.
- iii) The 54square miles of land be given to the investor because the country needs a lot of tallow that will be used in soap production. He raised concern that the country was importing tallow for soap production yet this can be produced within the country.
- iv) He was against the proposal that the investor be given less land because the project requires a lot of land.
- v) He recommended that an environment impact assessment must be carried out.

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- vi) He assured the Members that there is no need of getting permission to use the Nile Basin waters. No one can stop usage of the Nile water for such minimum irrigation.
- vii) Made an assurance that the Palm Oil Project will improve people's livelihood. He related this project to the Kalangala Project which had changed the people's livelihood and therefore the Maruzi Project would boost wealth and prosperity of the people of Lango.
- viii) The Uganda Livestock Industries Ltd is a government entity so it is okay for them to lease to another government entity.
- ix) In regard to change of land use, he was in support of it as long as it is authorized.
- x) On compensation, he noted that the IDPs started to use the ranch land so, if they are compensated it may cause problems with the original owners of the land. He maintained that the IDPs should be treated like all other IDPs.
- xi) The matter of illegal occupants of the land be handled properly because it is a very sensitive matter. He advised that people should be resettled amicably.
- xii) The matter of opening of the boundaries where people's land is being encroached upon must be followed up. Caution must be taken when addressing the conflict between the legitimate and the illegal occupants of the land.
- xiii) He was in support of the idea of the land reverting back to the Uganda Land Commission.
- xiv) Concern should be on the capacity of foreign investors being able to undertake the projects successfully.
- xv) He made an assurance that government will support the out growers. There will be an arrangement/agreement for government to extend irrigation services to the out growers.

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- xvi) The remaining land must be shared between NARO and NAGRC and therefore the palm oil project, NARO and NAGRC should co-exist at Maruzi Ranch.

**4.0.3 APAC DISTRICT HEAD QUARTERS**

During the meeting at Apac District Head Quarters, the Committee was informed/learnt the following:

- i) Land neighboring the ranch was being encroached upon by the investor.
- ii) There are two categories of people within the ranch; the illegal and the legitimate ones, therefore there is need to clearly identify and differentiate them.
- iii) There was concern that some illegal occupants; immigrants were also demanding compensation. They noted that it was unfair to compensate immigrants yet the land was given to Government by the communities of Ibuje and Akokoro Sub-County. They therefore suggested that if anyone is to be compensated it should be the communities whose ancestors offered the land to government.
- iv) The original people of Apac do not want to get compensated for the land, they instead request to contribute to the project as out growers.
- v) Some people were of the view that the land should be given back to the people who offered their land to government.
- vi) Proposed that if government is not able to utilize the land it should be given to the local people to utilize it.

**4.0.4 COMMITTEE MEETING WITH THE PEOPLE AT IBUJE IN APAC DISTRICT**

A meeting was held with community members together with Area Members of Parliament and the people were encouraged to talk freely on the issue at hand. The following issues emerged:

- i) The land is being utilized by some people who are neighboring the ranch. These people grow crops in the ranch while residing outside of

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the ranch. They too demand compensation because their gardens are affected.

- ii) They are in support of the project/investment as long as they are allowed to participate as out growers.
- iii) The community members were not happy that government intended to compensate migrants/illegal occupants instead of them who are the descendants of those who gave the land to government.
- iv) The local people expressed that they were not consulted by the district leadership when the investment was first being discussed. The MoU was signed without the local people being aware about the project.
- v) Reported that the ranch has been idle since 1985. They expressed the need for government to make sure that the ranch is utilized because it had become a source of insecurity as several residents have been found murdered by thugs inside the bushy ranch.
- vi) The community supports any development projects carried out on the land as long as it did not exclude them. For instance, a number of them support the oil palm project because they hope to get jobs from that project in order to improve their household income and livelihood.
- vii) Those who had their gardens within the ranch requested to be given time to allow them harvest their crops. They decried the fact that their crops were being destroyed by the investor while clearing land for the investment.
- viii) People who have been using some of the land on the ranch for farming and other activities expressed willingness to vacate the land as long as the project will be beneficial to them.

- ix) There was a complaint that they have not benefited from the NAGRC program. They have not been able to cross breed their cattle with the NAGRC breed. They however pleaded that NAGRC should not be closed because if well managed it will accelerate development in the area.

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- x) They demanded that the 10square miles that Hillside was willing to give to the locals be given to the local residents of Ijuje and Akokoro.
- xi) The Catholic Church has schools within the ranch; the palm project area therefore they too demand to be compensated, if the schools are to be closed.
- xii) There was a complaint by the local leaders; LCs against some Members of Parliament (Hon. Ayo Tony and Hon. Akora Maxwell) who they accuse of getting involved in the ranch transactions without the knowledge of the local leaders.
- xiii) Requested that squatters who had occupied the land for 15years and above should be considered for compensation.
- xiv) The Lango Cultural Foundation is in support of the project and they are also in support of compensation.

**4.0.5 Meeting at Akokoro Sub County:**

A meeting was held with community at Akokoro Sub County and the following issues emerged:

- i) They were unanimously in support of the project.
- ii) They supported the proposal that the people who were occupying the ranch must vacate.
- iii) They had no knowledge of contents of the MoU that was signed between Hillside Agriculture Ltd and Apac District Local Government.
- iv) Compensation must only go to those who surrendered their land to the ranch and not those who are occupying it.

**4.0.6 Meeting at Acamcabu Sub Parish**

During the meeting at Acamcabu Sub Parish, the community presented a copy of the petition that they had earlier on presented to the Rt. Hon. Speaker. In the petition these were their prayers:

- a. UPDF detaches to be shifted away from civilians to barracks.
- b. The land belonging to Acamcabu community should not be given to any investor without their notice.

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- c. They should be given equal treatment like people in other areas/parts of the country by giving them the following services; education, health center, water source, roads and other fundamental facilities.
- d. They took photos for national ID in the name of Acamcabu cell but later the IDs were brought with the name of a village unknown to them; Idep Kitgum Island. They therefore want this to be corrected to Acamcabu Cell.
- e. The residents of Acamcabu usually start cultivation early so they need assurance that their garden work will not be interfered with.
- f. The school going children need to begin their learning, they therefore request parliament to give them clear guidance because the current happenings have interrupted with most of their activities including in income generating activities where they get fees and food.
- g. Stated that if all these cannot be done by government, then they should be given a package to resettle sustainably and peacefully elsewhere.
- h. Demanded that they get compensated for their properties that has already been destroyed or looted as the investor embarked on his work.

**They also highlighted the following issues to the Committee:**

- i) They categorically stated that the community of Acamcabu is not claiming Maruzi Ranch since Acamcabu was not in the ranch. Their land was grabbed forcefully and taken to be part of the ranch.
- ii) There is heavy deployment of the army and police who always beat people causing disharmony in the community.
- iii) They demand that the people who have got injured in this bizzare way be given medical attention.
- iv) They were given notice that eviction would commence on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019.
- v) The community was not consulted before the investment commenced with this program. They were taken by surprise.
- vi) The investor was not honoring the court order that asked them to halt the eviction.
- vii) There were rampant unjustified arrest of the people who are taken to unknown places.
- viii) The land was already being fenced off by a team of people led by Hon. Akora Maxwell.
- ix) They have not received any form of compensation as is being alleged.
- x) They denied being foreigners as it is being alleged by those evicting them.

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- xi) People were getting murdered elsewhere and bodies dumped on the ranch so as to implicate them for such deaths in which they have no hand.
- xii) The district leaders were aloof and not helping the community to live in harmony.
- xiii) They are not allowed to access their gardens and water sources especially the boreholes and this, they said was done by the army.
- xiv) The grader was already clearing the land and not sparing graves, which is culturally a taboo in the Lango Community like in other African communities.
- xv) They are not against the investment, but they request that this is done amicably and if their land is required then they should be settled and they relocate and settle somewhere else.

**4.0.7 Meeting with the Minister for lands, Housing and Urban Development:**

The Committee held a meeting with the Hon. Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development. The meeting was also attended by the Directors for Uganda Livestock Industries Limited and the proprietors of Hillside Agriculture Industries Ltd.

**The Hon. Minister informed the Committee as follows:**

- i) The role of the Ministry is to manage government land on behalf of government.
- ii) The Ministry works together with MAAIF to look for available land for capital investment.
- iii) If it is established that an investor has failed, the land is withdrawn. Therefore if Hillside fails the land will be withdrawn from them.
- iv) There will be verification to ascertain the people that qualify to be resettled.

**Uganda Livestock Industries Limited:**

The Directors for Uganda Livestock Industries Limited informed the Committee as follows:

- i) The shareholders for Uganda Livestock Industries Limited are the Minister of Finance/Minister in charge of Privatization.

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- Large signature on the left side of the page.
- Signature above "Uganda Livestock Industries Limited:"
- Signature above "The Directors for Uganda Livestock Industries Limited informed the Committee as follows:"
- Signature above item i) of the list.
- Signature above "17 | Page".
- Multiple signatures and scribbles at the bottom of the page.