

# 10 Years of Uganda Chamber of Mines and Petroleum

*By Catherine Niwamanya Wabomba, CEO UCMP*

The Uganda Chamber of Mines and Petroleum (UCMP) recently made a decade since its official launch in March 2010. Having been established as a not-for-profit, member-based voluntary organisation, the Chamber represents the interests of private sector players in the mining and petroleum sectors in Uganda. The Chamber achieves this through collaboration with the Government to meaningfully develop and optimise the country's extractive sector to the benefit of its members and Ugandans.

In its ten (10) years of existence, UCMP has worked with different partners and stakeholders to advocate for creation of a competitive environment, empowering companies through information dissemination, creating networking

platforms for its members, business to business linkages, training and capacity building initiatives among others.

In a period of low activity in both the mining and petroleum sub sectors, UCMP has managed to grow its membership from under twenty (20) at its inception to over one hundred thirty (130) members by December 2020. This has been a clear testimony of both faith and resilience in the expected growth in this sector.

Membership of the Chamber is drawn from a wide section of stakeholders. These include petroleum and mining companies, materials supplier companies, service providers along the entire minerals and petroleum value chains, professional bodies and individuals.



**HE. Jacob Zuma graced the launch of the Uganda Chamber of Mines and Petroleum in March 2010.**

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## **UCMP also boasts of the initiatives executed and participated in over the time, including:**

1. The recent three-month media campaign, dubbed the 90 Days Oil and Mining, which ran from 26th August to 26th November, 2020. The campaign focused on the journey, challenges, opportunities and readiness for development of both the oil and mining subsectors, mainly to demystify the sectors for any intending beneficiary. The campaign received excellent accolades despite the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown;
2. Nine (9) Mining conferences and exhibitions;
3. Six (6) successful Annual Oil and Gas conferences and exhibitions;
4. Twenty-three (23) issues of the freely distributed UCMP magazine, which has reached more than 25,000 readers and industry enthusiasts over the years;
5. Recognition under the Minerals and Mining policy 2018 as a leading private sector body for advocacy, capacity building and investment promotion;
6. Chairing the Mineral Value Addition and Petroleum thematic areas under the Presidential Investors Round Table (PIRT);
7. Advocating for focus to be put on mining. Mining has now been categorised in the third National Development Plan (NDP III) along with petroleum as some of the key industries to propel the country to middle income status;
8. Participation in advocating for tax exemption on exploration equipment for mining and the deferment of VAT especially for the oil sector;
9. Rallying members to participate in sponsored trainings including Compliance, Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) and Bid Management;
10. Co-hosting one of the Northern Corridor Integration Projects (NCIP) summits graced by East Africa's Heads of State;
11. Contributions to the petroleum and mining laws as well as national content law;
12. Implementation (in partnership with some of its members) of a world bank-funded certification programme for at least 120 technicians in the trades of Electrical, Pipefitting, Welding and scaffolding with ECITB level 2 certification under the Skills Development Facility managed by Private Sector Foundation Uganda;

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**His Excellency Yoweri Museveni with Mr. Elly Karuhanga, Chairman, Uganda Chamber of Mines and Petroleum, during the launch of the Chamber in March 2010.**

13. With support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), under the Spotlight Initiative, the Chamber recently developed a gender responsive policy to address the issues of Gender Based Violence in the Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining and Quarrying operations;
14. Local and International relations with organisations including the African Union Commission, the World Bank, Women in Mining Africa, UNDP, French Embassy, British High Commission, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Petroleum Authority of Uganda, Uganda National Oil Company, Directorate of Geological Survey and Mines, Private Sector Foundation Uganda,

Multinational Organisations, Government MDAs and other private sector players to promote the extractives sector.

## **These achievements and contributions have not been without challenges:**

1. Delayed developments in the sectors and the associated uncertainty have interrupted preparations by UCMP's members to partake of the business opportunities in both the mining and oil and gas sub-sector. Proper planning and target setting for the Chamber and its membership becomes difficult under the circumstances;
2. These sectors are capital intensive, highly specialised sectors and require high standards. UCMP members, therefore, require considerable

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capacity building to meaningfully participate. This also plays into the issue of affordable financing for UCMP members that directly affects the competitiveness of the members especially in contract execution and delivery;

3. In the past, Information dissemination was not as streamlined to enable adequate preparation on the part of UCMP members. However, this was quite understandable and unavoidable as the Government and the international oil companies were locked up in negotiations for the commercialisation of Uganda's oil resources, with each party ensuring their best interests are catered for. Thankfully, we are now at the stage where most of these agreements and principles have been agreed upon;

4. On the brighter side, the challenges presented opportunities for more skilling, certifications, joint ventures, and all other initiatives that make Ugandans better placed to take advantage of the opportunities to come. The Chamber constantly urges its members to use the time to adequately prepare through training of staff, registering on the National

Supplier Database (NSD), and forming local and international partnerships.

*As we look to the future, it is true that the oil development phase will come with enormous opportunities. We are also mindful that all the other sectors of the economy must continue to thrive for Uganda to experience a balanced economic transformation.*

**It is our belief, therefore, that the industry will need a united voice as we head into the development phase. This is partly why UCMP just concluded formulating a member-focused strategy aimed at the following:**

1. Effective advocacy to influence policy and advocate for a beneficial business environment for Chamber members;
2. Stakeholder engagements to promote networking, create synergies, and partnerships that benefit members;
3. Research and Development to be the go-to resource centre for information on the extractives industry; and,
4. Business information services to build member capacity and enhance their competitiveness in the industry.

***We call upon all stakeholders to join or partner with UCMP so that we can collectively promote national participation and retain a significant value of the expected investment.***

**Ullab ius. Musamet labo. Um repelias**