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THE RESOURCE BULLETIN

POWERING UGANDA'S GROWTH THROUGH ENERGY AND MINERALS

From renewable energy initiatives and mineral discoveries to investment trends and sector reforms, this bulletin is your window into Uganda's dynamic extractives landscape.

| October 2025

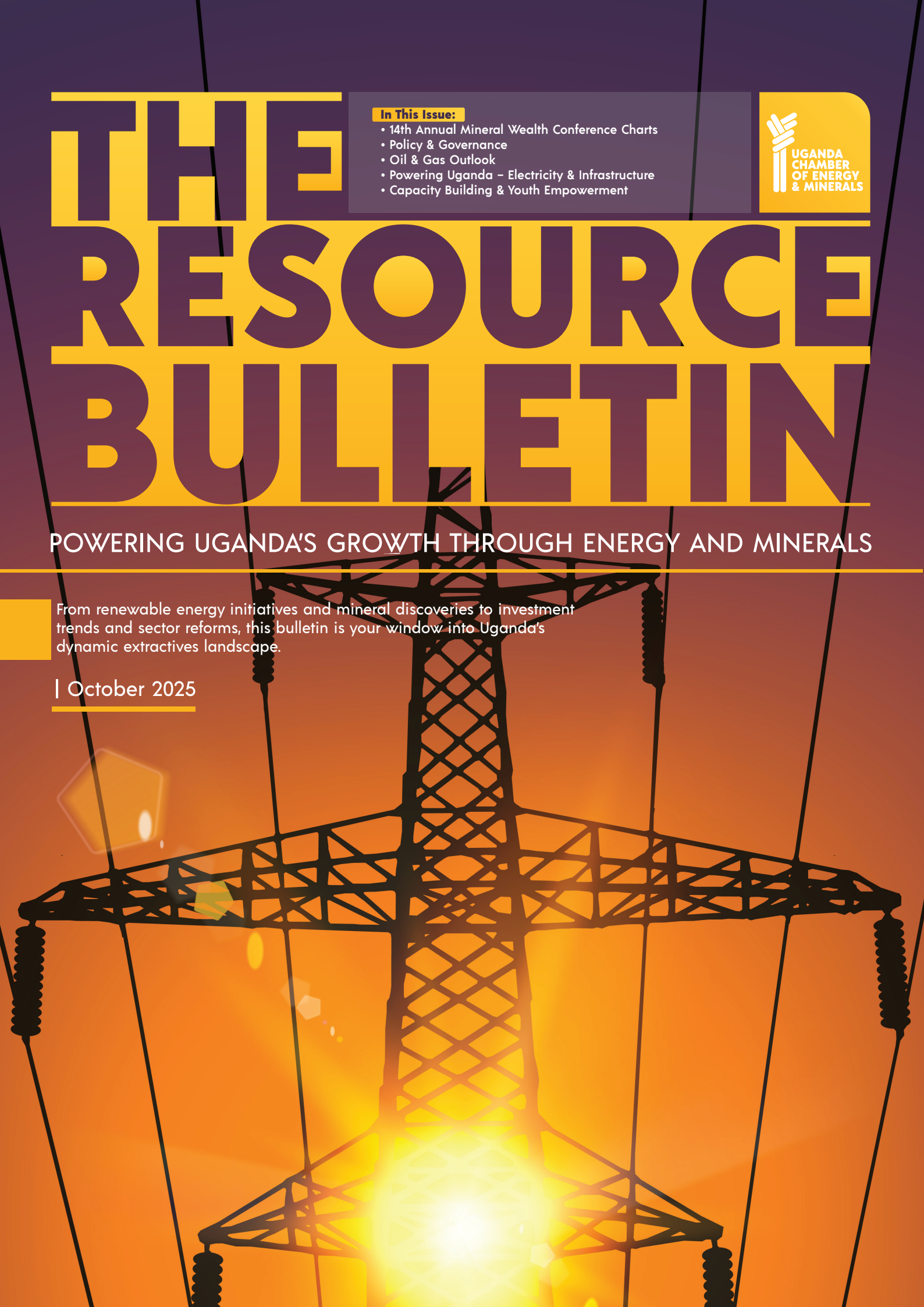


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EDITORIAL NOTE

A Decade of Progress, A Future of Promise

Marilyn Lapwoc - Communications Officer - UCEM

As Uganda continues to write its story of transformation in the oil, gas, energy, and mineral sectors, this edition of our newsletter offers both reflection and renewed vision. It comes at a pivotal time, when the country stands on the threshold of a new energy era, driven by innovation, sustainability, and shared growth.

Over the past decade, Uganda has made remarkable strides: from accelerating exploration and refining efforts under the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), to advancing responsible mineral development through the Uganda Chamber of Energy and Minerals (UCEM). These milestones are more than institutional achievements they represent the collective effort of a nation determined to harness its natural wealth for inclusive prosperity.

UNOC's tenth anniversary serves as a powerful reminder of what is possible through persistence and partnership. As we look ahead, the company's next ten-year vision focusing on refining, storage, regional collaboration, and energy security, symbolizes Uganda's broader ambition: to become a regional energy powerhouse, grounded in sustainability and resilience.



Our coverage also reflects how collaboration remains central to progress. From the 14th Annual Mineral Wealth Conference that emphasized innovation and green transitions, to UEDCL's achievements in expanding power access, to youth empowerment initiatives under the ACP-EU Program, Uganda's energy and minerals story is one of connection, capacity, and courage.

This issue celebrates not only the infrastructure being built, but the partnerships being strengthened and the knowledge being shared. The journey ahead will demand even greater unity across public and private sectors, academia, and communities. Together, we must ensure that growth is inclusive, innovation is continuous, and sustainability remains at the heart of everything we do. As the global energy landscape evolves, Uganda's focus is clear: to transform potential into progress, and resources into resilience.

The next decade will not just be about extraction or production, it will be about empowerment, innovation, and the shared vision of a brighter, energy-secure Uganda.

FEATURE STORY

Africa's Energy Dilemma: Refineries vs Renewables – Who Wins the Race to Power a Continent?

Benson Gideon Mambosho - CEO of Native Media

In the race toward an electric future, Africa finds itself in the paradoxical position of standing atop untapped oil and gas wealth while importing second-hand hybrids. The world is shifting. Fast. From Berlin to Beijing, the engines of innovation are humming not with oil but with lithium.

Tesla, BYD, Rivian, and others are racing toward an electric tomorrow, while much of Africa is still wrestling with fuel subsidies, erratic power supply, and the heavy inheritance of internal combustion engines.

Amid this global pivot, Africa stands at a critical fork in the road. The continent's leaders must ask a daring question: Where should Africa place its energy bets?

The Temptation of the Refinery

Take the case of Nigeria's Dangote Refinery, a \$20 billion oil-processing monolith and the largest of its kind in Africa, with the capacity to refine 650,000 barrels of crude oil per day. It's seen as a bold step toward energy independence, aimed at slashing Nigeria's \$11 billion annual fuel import bill. But herein lies the paradox: as the world accelerates toward electric vehicles (EVs), is Africa at risk of pouring billions into what may become stranded infrastructure? By 2035, the European Union will ban the sale of new petrol and diesel cars.

Countries like Norway have already passed the 80% mark in new EV sales. If demand for refined fuels dips dramatically, African refineries may end up with local oversupply and no global buyers.

EV Dreams, Diesel Reality

Globally, the electric vehicle market grew by 35% in 2023, reaching over 14 million units sold. China leads the charge, producing more than 60% of global EVs, largely powered by companies like BYD. Yet in Africa, less than 0.05% of vehicles on the road are electric, according to the Africa E-Mobility Alliance. Most African cities lack the foundational infrastructure, charging stations, reliable electricity, or maintenance ecosystems to support widespread EV adoption. Meanwhile, over 40% of cars imported into Africa are used vehicles, many of which are over 15 years old and often banned in their countries of origin. Africa is, in effect, becoming a dumping ground for outdated transport tech.



The Gas Beneath Our Feet

Africa holds an estimated 17 trillion cubic meters of natural gas reserves, with Mozambique (100 trillion cubic feet), Nigeria (over 200 trillion cubic feet), and Algeria (159 trillion cubic feet) leading the pack. Natural gas is 30–50% cleaner than coal or oil when used for power generation. In theory, it's the perfect "transition fuel" cheap, relatively clean, and abundant. Yet, as of 2024, less than 10% of Africa's gas reserves have been developed. Much of what is extracted is shipped out as LNG to Europe and Asia.

The continent exports its cleaner energy while over 600 million Africans still live without electricity. Exporting the Past, Importing the Future

Africa's automotive paradox is painful:

- 9 out of 10 vehicles in sub-Saharan Africa are imported.
- Of these, 80% are used vehicles, often inefficient and high-emission.
- A few African countries have shown a strong desire to formulate EV policies, such as Rwanda, Botswana, Kenya, South Africa, and Egypt.

Meanwhile, African countries import hybrid and electric cars from the same nations transitioning to 100% EVs by 2035. We are absorbing the remnants of yesterday's technology while exporting the raw materials (like cobalt and lithium) needed for tomorrow's.

So, where should Africa go?

There is no silver bullet. But there is a clear path of bold, balanced investment:

1. Transitional Realism

Invest in modern, flexible refineries and gas infrastructure, but pair them with climate contingencies and exit plans. Ensure they serve Africa's domestic market first.

2. Green Leapfrogging

Don't wait to catch up leap ahead. Kenya now gets over 90% of its electricity from renewables, setting a continental benchmark. Ethiopia's Grand Renaissance Dam aims to supply 6,000 MW of clean energy. Other nations must emulate this ambition.

3. Local EV Innovation

Support African EV startups like Roam (Kenya) and Ampersand (Rwanda) building electric motorcycles tailored to local markets. Push for localized battery assembly and charging innovation. Africa might not need Teslas; it needs tuk-tuks that charge on solar.

4. Policy First

Public-private partnerships thrive where there's vision. Governments must set coherent EV strategies, enforce vehicle age limits, incentivize clean energy, and reform fuel subsidies.

Final Thought: The Price of Indecision

Africa is not powerless, but we are at risk of investing billions into assets that the world is rapidly moving away from. The global energy transition is not just a climate imperative; it's an economic one. Africa must choose whether to remain a consumer of the past or a co-creator of the future. The refinery might still be relevant. The gas fields are still promising. But in a world where electricity is the new oil, our greatest power will lie not underground but in how boldly we imagine what comes next.



14TH ANNUAL MINERAL WEALTH CONFERENCE CHARTS A PATH FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

By Editorial Team (UCEM)



The 14th Annual Mineral Wealth Conference (MWC2025), held on September 24–25, 2025, at the Serena Hotel in Kampala, convened more than 800 delegates under the theme "Sustainable Mineral Development through Collaboration, Innovation and Green Transitions." Organized by the Uganda Chamber of Energy and Minerals (UCEM) in partnership with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD), the event reaffirmed Uganda's determination to transform its mineral endowment into a catalyst for sustainable industrialization and inclusive growth. The conference served as a premier national platform for dialogue, bringing together policymakers, investors, academia, civil society, and development partners to explore how Uganda can harness its mineral potential responsibly. The discussions reflected a maturing sector focused on value addition, transparency, and equitable participation across the entire mining value chain. Among the most notable highlights was the inaugural CEO Breakfast Dialogue, which set the tone for candid exchanges between private sector leaders and policymakers. Executives emphasized the need for digitized geological data, predictable policies, and risk-reduction mechanisms to attract sustainable investments. The government's timely participation signaled its commitment to partnership and accountability.



The Official Opening Ceremony and keynote address underscored the importance of responsible resource management. Speakers emphasized that Uganda must avoid the "resource curse" by ensuring minerals benefit citizens through jobs, infrastructure, and social development. The Uganda National Mining Company (UNMC) reaffirmed its role in driving state participation and equitable value sharing. Technical sessions tackled key issues including critical minerals, artisanal and small scale mining, community engagement, and green innovation. Delegates called for improved traceability systems, digitization of mineral data, and harmonization of regional policies to strengthen Uganda's competitiveness. Panels on financing and industrialization emphasized the need for mining-specific financial products and government-led de-risking frameworks to unlock capital for exploration and value addition.



The Women in Mining Breakfast celebrated female leadership and called for greater inclusion, mentorship, and gender-responsive investment. The Deals Room session provided a vibrant marketplace for partnerships, where investors connected directly with entrepreneurs and government agencies, turning dialogue into tangible opportunities.

Key resolutions from MWC2025 included fast-tracking the implementation of the Mining and Minerals Act (2022), establishing geological data centers, supporting artisanal miners' formalization, and advancing value addition in gold, iron, and rare earth minerals.

Closing the conference, the Permanent Secretary of MEMD emphasized collaboration, innovation, and sustainability as the foundations for Uganda's mineral-led transformation. MWC2025 concluded with a united call to action – to ensure Uganda's mineral wealth becomes a lasting source of prosperity for all.

POLICY & GOVERNANCE

Strengthening Uganda's Mining Sector for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

Louisa Ninsiima Kitabire – Policy Advocacy and Research UCEM

Uganda's mining sector is buzzing with possibility. New investments are taking shape, fresh exploration projects are being launched, and the National Mining Company is steadily coming to life. With government anchoring the sector's growth in the National Development Plan IV (NDP IV), everyone's talking about mining — and not just talking, but asking the golden question: how do we get in and win big? It's an exciting time. Beneath Uganda's hills and valleys lies not just mineral wealth but the promise of jobs, innovation, and community transformation. The challenge now is making sure this momentum translates into progress that's sustainable, inclusive, and beneficial to all Ugandans. That's where the Uganda Chamber of Mines and Minerals (UCEM) comes in — rallying government, investors, and communities to build a modern, responsible, and resilient mining industry.

Across the country, conversations around mining have moved beyond extraction to transformation. There's a growing recognition that true wealth comes not from exporting raw minerals but from adding value right here at home. UCEM's focus is to help bridge the gaps that have held the sector back — from limited financing and misaligned policies to weak community engagement.

One key step is improving coordination between public and private players. A proposed Joint Public-Private Mining Coordination Taskforce could help bring ministries, regulators, and industry stakeholders together under one roof to streamline communication, align policy, and unlock investment. After all, when everyone's working from the same playbook, progress becomes much faster and far more impactful.

Financing is another piece of the puzzle. UCEM is advocating for a National Mining Finance Framework that brings in blended financing models — a mix of public and private capital — to support both exploration and value addition. The idea is to make it easier for local entrepreneurs to access affordable funding and for large scale investors to come in with confidence. But growth means little if it doesn't benefit the communities where mining happens.

That's why UCEM continues to champion a strong Community Development Agreement (CDA) framework to ensure fair benefit-sharing, transparent communication, and genuine participation of local people. Coupled with strict Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards, this approach helps turn mining into a true driver of shared prosperity.

Looking ahead, innovation and sustainability are the name of the game. UCEM is championing the development of a Green Mining Certification system and pushing for digital transformation — from data-driven exploration to AI-supported environmental monitoring. The Chamber also supports nurturing the next generation of miners through partnerships with universities and its commitment to the National Women in Mining Strategy (2025-2030).

At the heart of all this is accountability. UCEM plans to launch an Annual Policy Implementation Tracker — a tool to keep the entire sector honest, transparent, and results-driven.

Uganda's mining story is clearly entering a new chapter — one of ambition, collaboration, and innovation. With the right partnerships and a shared commitment to sustainability, the sector could truly become the country's next big success story — fueling not just exports, but empowerment.



OIL & GAS OUTLOOK

OIL AND GAS INDUSTRIAL PARK - KABALEGA PARK TO CREATE 35,000 JOBS – EXPERTS

The Kabalega Industrial Park (KIP) has been tipped as the turnkey to actualizing Uganda's petrochemical industry, which will be triggered by oil production in the Albertine Graben area towards the end of 2026.

The park, to be managed by the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), a company wholly owned by government, is expected to attract investments in petroleum products, by-products, and other industries that will support the petrochemical factories.

The Government acquired 29.57 square km of land to be developed into this oil and gas industrial park, which was handed over to UNOC in 2018 to lead the development, operationalization, and management of the park in partnership with a strategic joint venture partner.

KIP comprises Uganda's Kabaale International Airport, which is under construction, the crude oil export hub – the starting point of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), Uganda's greenfield refinery, polymer and fertilizer industries, light and medium industries, Agro-processors, warehousing, and logistics. Other land uses in the park will include commercial and retail centers, a Health Centre IV, and residential spaces. UNOC stated that KIP will also help Uganda add up to sh11.9b per annum to the National Capital Formation.

"The park will comprise Uganda's second International Airport, a crude oil export hub, Uganda Refinery, and petrochemical and fertilizer industries, among others," UNOC said in a statement.

It further indicated that in the soon-to-be-completed joint venture, UNOC will provide project assets and leadership in stakeholder engagement, secure government pre-investment in some enabling infrastructure, provide technical expertise in upstream and refinery operations, and lead on national content.

According to UNOC, the joint venture partner will make direct investments in enabling infrastructure, provide pre-built warehouses and offices, carry out structured marketing and promotion activities, and offer facility management services. "The process of acquiring a joint venture partner who will partner with us to run the park is ongoing," the statement read, adding, "A proposal submitted by COEGA Development Corporation SA was evaluated and is now moving to negotiations." UNOC added that the land allocation policy has also been finalised to enable potential investors to apply for land in the park.

The renewed appeal comes in light of earlier promises. In May 2021, President Yoweri Museveni approved the creation of 25 industrial parks across Uganda's sub-regions, including Kabale and Rukungiri for the Kigezi region.



Kabalega International Airport which neighbors the KIP

UNOC@10 - UNOC'S VISION FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS

- particularly in terms of refining, storage, trading and regional partnerships.

The next decade is going to be interesting. Our crude oil will be available on the international market, potentially starting not long from now, and will intensify gradually. Should the ongoing exploration in Kasuruban (oil and gas block) be successful, there will arguably be more than enough to export, hence the intensification of the crude oil trading activities.

The construction of the refinery will be complete, ensuring that petroleum products are available on the market, thereby reducing reliance on imported products and the attendant challenges.

The 320-million-litre capacity Kampala Storage Terminal is also expected to be fully operational, easing the distribution and retail of products from the refinery and ensuring the security of supply of products.

There is going to be increased regional collaboration on energy. For example, Uganda, Kenya, and Rwanda are working on the Eldoret-Kampala-Kigali pipeline, which, if all goes well, is expected to be operational in a few years.

There's also a chance that South Sudan and the DRC will connect to the EACOP to transport their crude oil and consume refined products.



KINGFISHER CENTRAL PROCESSING FACILITY ENTERS ITS FINAL STAGES OF CONSTRUCTION AND COMMISSIONING

The Strategic Heartbeat and Command Center of Uganda's Oil Future

Source: Kingfisher Issue 2



In the heart of Uganda's Albertine Graben, where vision meets precision, the Kingfisher Development Project stands as a defining symbol of Uganda's emergence as an oil-producing nation. Operated by CNOOC Uganda Limited, the project is now entering the final stretch of construction and commissioning of the Central Processing Facility (CPF) — the strategic heartbeat and command center of Uganda's oil future.

With a production target of 40,000 barrels of oil per day, the Kingfisher Project is more than just a technical feat; it is a statement of ambition and national pride. As one engineer on-site puts it, "Every weld we make is purposeful; we're not just building a plant — we're proving that Uganda can host and run a world-class oil facility."

At the center of this transformation lies the CPF — a state-of-the-art facility designed to receive and process fluids from 31 wells. This is where raw output is transformed into high-quality crude oil, ready for evacuation to Kabalega Industrial Park.

Equipped with high-capacity separators, electric dehydrators, and advanced LPG recovery systems, the CPF ensures that every barrel meets international standards. Stabilized crude is stored in insulated tanks, while associated gas is captured and converted into LPG for domestic use.

Nothing goes to waste — every component is designed to maximize value and strengthen Uganda's energy security. Every aspect of the facility reflects precision, foresight, and care. From water treatment and chemical dosing systems to HVAC units and power generation modules, each component has been engineered for resilience and efficiency. A dedicated gas-turbine power plant ensures uninterrupted operations, while enclosed drainage systems and advanced corrosion protection measures safeguard the environment. The Kingfisher Project stands as proof that development and sustainability can go hand in hand.

The construction journey itself has been a masterclass in coordination. From civil works and mechanical installations to electrical systems and instrumentation, every phase has progressed with remarkable precision. Thousands of tons of steel, piping, and specialized equipment have made their way from Mombasa to the shores of Lake Albert, arriving as preconfigured modular units. This modular approach accelerated construction, reduced the project's environmental footprint, and showcased Uganda's growing capacity to deliver large-scale industrial projects responsibly.

Behind this success is a dedicated team — engineers, project managers, technicians, and support staff — all working together with a shared sense of purpose. Daily coordination meetings, safety briefings, and rigorous testing routines ensure that every step meets the highest standards of quality and safety. Every weld is inspected, every system tested, and every milestone celebrated.

As the Kingfisher Central Processing Facility nears completion, it stands not just as an oil plant, but as a symbol of Uganda's determination and capability. It represents collaboration, innovation, and resilience — the qualities that define Uganda's growing energy sector. When the first barrel of oil flows, it will carry with it the story of a nation's readiness to take its place on the global energy stage — not as a follower, but as a leader. With the CPF as its command center, the Kingfisher Development Project is set to ignite a new era of prosperity, fueling economic growth, creating opportunities, and powering

EACOP RECEIVED \$755M LOAN

Shareholders asked to chip in OIL AND GAS At least \$755 million was sourced from a syndicate of international banks for the construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) in March 2025, although the amount was below the total loan amount the shareholders of the project were looking for, it has emerged. This is the first time the figure of \$755 million is being reported since the company released a statement with thin details of the loan agreement in March.

The shareholders — TotalEnergies Limited, CNOOC, Uganda National Oil Company, and Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation, were earlier looking for at least \$1.2 billion in debt, although that figure kept shifting as debt markets dragged their feet. EACOP announced in its annual report for 2024, released recently, that the remainder of the money will be sourced from the project shareholders.

The report does not say exactly how much the shareholders will lend to the project. "The first tranche of USD 755M was fully disbursed in March 2025. Additional facilities were signed with companies in the shareholders' group to fund the remaining portion of the Construction Budget," the report noted.



\$755m loan secured for EACOP FROM PREVIOUS PAGE The loan was received from African Export Import Bank, Standard Bank of South Africa Limited, Stanbic Bank Uganda Limited, KCB Bank Uganda and The Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector. The debt will be repaid in quarterly instalments starting in December 2026 and ending in September 2032.

The issue surrounding the financing of the EACOP is important, especially in determining how soon Uganda will produce its first barrel of oil. The pipeline has reached 64 per cent overall completion rate, according to the Petroleum Authority of Uganda, with more progress witnessed more on the Tanzania side. The availability of capital is not only key in moving the project forward, it could also have some bearing on the overall project cost as the price of equipment, the value of the dollar, and the price of oil keep changing.

EACOP had been looking for credit since February 1, 2022 when the shareholders announced a final investment decision for the project. The EACOP project has come under attack from environmental activists who point to oil and gas investments as threats to the sustainability of the environment.

As a result of the criticism from the environmentalists, debt markets have shied away from these type of investments, and different reports show a drop in appetite among bankers to lend to oil and gas projects.

Where global financiers have left a void, the project shareholders have agreed to fill that vacuum. "Given the well-advanced stage of the project, with a planned start-up of operations after the end of the going concern period (July 2026), the anticipated cash needs for the next 12 months, the agreed financing, and the signed revenue agreements, the Directors have assessed the ability to fund the anticipated cash needs for the next 12 months and noted no concerns," the EACOP annual report for 2024 noted. Already, capital expenditures related to the pipeline construction project amounted to \$2.8 billion as at the end of 2024, solely financed by shareholders' equity, according to the report.

This amount increased from the \$1.6 billion as at the end of 2023. The project cost of the pipeline, which will be laid over a distance of 1,443km from Hoima in western Uganda to Tanga in eastern Tanzania, is estimated between \$4 billion and \$5 billion. The pipeline will ship 216,000 barrels of oil per day at peak.

POWERING UGANDA – ELECTRICITY & INFRASTRUCTURE

Lighting Up Uganda: UEDCL Marks Major Progress in Strengthening Power Distribution

Marilyn Lapwo - Communications Officer - UCEM

Uganda's journey toward reliable and accessible electricity for all is gaining new momentum. Since the Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited (UEDCL) took over the national electricity distribution network in July 2025 following the end of the UMEME concession, the country has seen steady improvements in reliability, access, and long-term infrastructure development. Energy demand in Uganda has been growing at about 10% each year—driven by industrial growth and the rising number of household connections.

While this growth reflects economic progress, it also comes with challenges. During the transition from UMEME to UEDCL, investments in the network had slowed due to limited recovery timelines, leading to occasional interruptions and reduced power quality in some areas. But with UEDCL now fully in charge, the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development has made strengthening the network a national priority.

In just a few months of managing the grid, UEDCL has achieved remarkable milestones. The Kakiri substation has been upgraded from 10MW to 20MW, Kabale expanded from 2.5MW to 5MW, and Masaka Central boosted from 5MW to 7MW.

Over 206 faulty transformers have been replaced, and more than 140,000 new customers have been connected to the grid across the country. Beyond these upgrades, UEDCL has already secured land for new substations in Magyigye and Kawempe, with plans underway to refurbish nine existing substations, install 518 new transformers, and extend 40 medium-voltage lines before the end of 2025.

A key part of this progress is rooted in the Buy Uganda Build Uganda (BUBU) policy. Most of the materials and equipment used in these projects—particularly transformers—are being sourced locally. This not only strengthens the energy sector but also boosts local manufacturing, creates jobs, and builds Uganda's technical capacity in power equipment production. The Ministry continues to work closely with local industries to ensure they can meet growing sector demands while maintaining world-class standards of quality and reliability.

Despite the gains, challenges such as vandalism and power theft persist. Areas like Kololo, Mukono, Kayunga, Masaka, Mpigi, and Mbarara have reported incidents of vandalized infrastructure, causing unnecessary outages and expensive repairs. In response, the Ministry, UEDCL, and security agencies are working together to combat these acts. Citizens are encouraged to help protect community infrastructure by reporting suspicious activity.

To further improve safety and fairness, UEDCL launched the "Weterezeeee" campaign, an amnesty initiative allowing Ugandans with illegal or unsafe power connections to regularize their supply without facing penalties. So far, more than 22,000 people have embraced the campaign, which has now been extended until 31st October 2025. Electricity theft not only causes financial losses but also puts lives and property at serious risk, and the Ministry urges all users to take advantage of this opportunity to connect safely.



Meanwhile, access to electricity continues to expand through the government's Free Electricity Connections Policy and the Electricity Access Scale-Up Project (EASP). Eligible households can receive no-pole or one-pole connections at no cost by contacting their nearest UEDCL office.

Looking ahead, the Government of Uganda remains fully committed to modernizing the power sector. A new five-year investment strategy for UEDCL focuses on developing a modern, resilient, and sustainable electricity network capable of meeting the country's fast-growing energy needs. Reliable electricity is more than a service, it's the backbone of industrialization, innovation, and an improved quality of life.

The Ministry calls on all Ugandans—leaders, communities, and individuals alike—to work together to protect power infrastructure, use electricity responsibly, and support ongoing national programs that strengthen our grid. With unity and continued effort, Uganda's future will shine brighter than ever.

CAPACITY BUILDING & YOUTH EMPOWERMENT

Bridging Knowledge and Practice: UCEM Members Explore Uganda's Mineral Frontier

Norbert Niwagaba - Capacity Building Officer - Uganda Chamber of Energy and Minerals (UCEM)



In the spirit of advancing knowledge exchange and practical learning, the Uganda Chamber of Energy and Minerals (UCEM) organized post-conference excursions following the 14th Annual Mineral Wealth Conference.

These learning visits were designed to provide members and stakeholders with firsthand exposure to the operational, environmental, and socio-economic dimensions of Uganda's mineral and energy sectors.

The initiative demonstrated UCEM's commitment to connecting policy dialogue with on-ground realities, fostering a deeper appreciation of the country's extractive potential.

Through interactive engagements with government representatives, industry players, and community structures, participants gained valuable insights into best practices in resource governance, local content development, and community benefit frameworks. The excursions provided a platform for shared learning, encouraging collaboration across sectors and reinforcing the importance of inclusive participation in Uganda's energy and mineral development agenda.

The activity further affirmed UCEM's role as a thought leader and convenor within the extractive industry. By facilitating such knowledge-driven experiences, the Chamber continues to strengthen the link between strategy and execution, promoting transparency, capacity building, and sustainable growth.

These efforts align with UCEM's broader mission of building a responsible and empowered extractive sector that contributes meaningfully to Uganda's socio-economic transformation.



THE ACP-EU PROGRAM EQUIPS YOUTH WITH MINING AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILLS

The United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) and the Uganda Chamber of Energy and Minerals (UCEM), successfully organized a series of Regional Business and Employability Skills Trainings for young entrepreneurs, students, and professionals in Uganda's mining sector. The training was aimed at equipping young Ugandans with business acumen, financial literacy, and sustainable mining practices.

The initiative is part of the ACP-EU Development Minerals Programme which is co-funded by UNDP and the European Union. A total of 180 youth participated, with a commendable 43% female representation, reflecting a strong commitment to gender inclusion in a traditionally male-dominated industry. Training activities were hosted in Kabale, Gulu, and Busitema University in August 2025.



Regional Training Highlights

- **Kabale University (Western Uganda):** Youth engaged in sessions with emphasis on formalization of mining formalizing businesses, access to financial services, and an improved understanding of mining regulations. A symbolic tree-planting ceremony underscored the importance of environmental stewardship in mining operations.
- **Gulu University (Northern Uganda):** Participants explored entrepreneurship, innovation, and value addition in Development Minerals such as stone aggregates and dimension stones, which the district is a host of. The program included Gulu University campus tours showcasing student-led innovations in mineral processing and sustainable practices. Local leaders and university officials praised the initiative for bridging the gap between academia and the mining industry.
- **Busitema University (Eastern Uganda):** The focus was on technical training, compliance, and exposure to modern mining technologies. Participants interacted with mining sector experts gaining insights into licensing, safety standards, and the potential of Development Minerals to drive local economies.

Key outcomes

- **Enterprise Development:** Participants were encouraged to register their businesses and explore opportunities in minerals value chains ranging from quarrying and processing to marketing and innovation.
- **Academic-Industry Collaboration:** The host universities pledged ongoing support for student-led mining enterprises and committed to integrating practical mining modules into their curricula. UCEM plans to document and showcase youth-led projects in its upcoming "30 Mining Days of Media Campaign."
- **Financial Inclusion:** Many youths opened savings accounts during the training, marking a step toward financial independence and business formalization. Post Bank played a pivotal role in guiding participants through account setup and financial planning.



Development minerals are essential raw materials used in construction, manufacturing, and agriculture, including materials like clay, sand, stone, and limestone. They are typically mined, processed, and used domestically within a country. Uganda is rich in development minerals, which are crucial for infrastructure development and economic activity. They play a vital role in local economies, providing raw materials for various industries and supporting livelihoods, particularly in artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM).

Uganda's economic strategy, dubbed "ATMS", focuses on rapid growth through Agro-industrialization, Tourism development, Mineral based industrialization, and Science, Technology, and Innovation. This strategy aims to expand Uganda's economy tenfold, from \$50 billion to \$500 billion by 2040. One of the key actions to achieve this outcome is accumulating human, physical, and natural capital and the private sector is expected to play a crucial role in driving the growth agenda.

Looking Ahead The Uganda Chamber of Energy and Mines (UCEM) and its youth wing, the Junior Chamber of Energy and Mines, are exploring ways to scale the program nationally, with plans to establish regional hubs for mentorship, incubation, and technical support. The initiative is seen as a model for inclusive, sustainable development where youth are not just beneficiaries but active architects of Uganda's mining future

As Uganda positions itself to harness its mineral wealth responsibly, this youth-centered approach could redefine the sector's trajectory infusing it with innovation, accountability, and a new generation of empowered leaders. The mining sector is expected to contribute about 10,000 new jobs per year during the five-year span of the current fourth National Development Plan (FY2025/26 – FY2029/31). The youth training initiative therefore supports Uganda's long-term goal of transforming into a middle-income country by promoting industrialization and value addition in the minerals sector. It also directly contributes to the fourth National Development Plan (NDP) focus on job creation, youth empowerment, and sustainable exploitation of natural resources.

USE OF AI FOR MINERAL RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION

Dr Amil Tripathi and Ankit Tripathi

Examples from Uganda

AI Resource Exploration Private Limited, Hyderabad, India

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Abstract: Artificial intelligence is transforming mineral exploration, offering a significant leap forward in our ability to identify and define concealed mineral deposits. This presentation abstract outlines the application of CAGE-IN, a proprietary AI-driven technology, to mineral resource identification in Uganda. CAGE-IN analyzes vast, disparate geological and geophysical datasets to reveal subtle patterns and signatures of mineralization that traditional methods often miss.

Introduction

Our case study focuses on the West Nile region, an area that is northern extension of the East African Nickel Belt with known nickel prospects but where exploration has been hindered by complex geology and surface cover. By applying CAGE-IN technology, we have effectively "constrained" geophysical data, filtering out noise and highlighting key geological features. This has led to the identification of new, high-priority nickel laterite and nickel sulphide targets. The technology not only accelerates the exploration timeline but also significantly reduces costs and risks, demonstrating a new, data-driven approach to unlocking Uganda's mineral wealth for sustainable development.



Geophysical surveys, and a geologist's intuition. However, as near-surface deposits become scarcer, the industry faces the challenge of identifying deeply buried and subtle ore bodies. In Uganda, a nation poised to become a significant player in the global mineral market, this challenge is particularly acute in underexplored regions.

The advent of artificial intelligence (ai) and deep learning (ml) offers a powerful solution, revolutionizing how we find and define mineral resources. Our recent work in the west Nile region of Uganda provides a compelling case study for this transformative approach.

The cage-in technology: unlocking hidden potential. Our methodology centers on cage-in, a proprietary ai-driven technology specifically designed to enhance geophysical and geological data interpretation. The core principle of cage-in is to "constrain" data using known geological boundaries, effectively filtering out extraneous noise and highlighting subtle, but crucial, signatures of mineralization. Think of it as peeling back layers of a complex geological map to reveal the key features that indicate the presence of an ore body.

This approach leverages Bayesian inference, a probabilistic model that continuously updates its understanding of a prospect as new data is incorporated. This creates a dynamic "mind map" that guides exploration with a high degree of confidence.

Case study: discovering nickel in the west Nile

East African nickel belt hosts major nickel deposits like Kabanga. The west Nile region, encompassing the Arua, Zombo, Yumbe, and Koboko districts, is a complex geological terrain with a strong affinity to the East African nickel belt. This area has potential for Nickel laterite and sulphide deposits. Traditional exploration has been hindered by deep weathering and thick soil cover, which obscure the underlying geology. Our project deployed the deep learning module of cage-in technology that integrated Multi-source geoscientific data, including magnetics, radiometrics, structural geology, geospatial data, and geochemistry. Cage-in was used to process these datasets, allowing us to identify subtle geophysical anomalies that were previously overlooked. By training algorithms to recognize the specific signatures associated with nickel deposits in similar geological settings, we were able to generate highly precise targets for follow-up.

This process not only identified new, high-priority prospects but also redefined the geological understanding of the area. The results were a significant leap forward in exploration efficiency. Efficiency, economy, and sustainability: the application of ai in this project has had a profound impact on all aspects of the exploration cycle. The ai-driven approach accelerated the target generation and testing cycle by approximately 40%, a remarkable reduction in the time it takes to move from initial data acquisition to drill-ready targets.

This increased efficiency also led to a comparable reduction in associated costs, making the exploration more economically viable. Perhaps most importantly, the precision of ai targeting has promoted a more sustainable approach to resource development. By pinpointing the most prospective areas with greater accuracy, we were able to significantly reduce the overall environmental footprint. This minimized land disturbance and optimized the placement of drill holes, avoiding unnecessary impacts on the local ecosystem and communities. This case study in Uganda's west Nile region provides a powerful blueprint for leveraging ai to de-risk exploration, enhance discovery rates, and promote sustainable resource development in greenfield terrains globally. The future of mineral exploration is here, and it is intelligent.

Community & Social Investment

FROM KARAMOJA WITH LESSONS: HOW RUCODET IS REDEFINING COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Jill Whitehouse Munyeg - Team Leader Membership UCEM

When Rwenzori Rare Metals (RRM), the Uganda Chamber of Energy and Minerals (UCEM), and the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD) visited the Rupa Community Development Trust (RUCODET) in Karamoja from 30th September to 3rd October 2025, they discovered a model of transformation worth emulating.

Organized by the Africa Centre for Energy and Mineral Policy (ACEMP), with the support of Enabel, the Belgian Development Agency, the study tour focused on how Community Development Agreements (CDAs) can promote inclusive growth and equitable benefit-sharing in Uganda's mining communities.

At RUCODET, education takes center stage. The Trust has built an empowered, informed community capable of negotiating with investors, managing royalties, and planning for long-term prosperity. The results are visible — families investing in livestock, building rental houses, paying school fees, and improving livelihoods.

While challenges such as limited literacy, royalty disputes, and restricted access to mineral zones persist, RUCODET's success proves that community-led development is not just possible — it's powerful. Inspired by this model, participants from Busoga proposed similar strategies for their region: forming land associations, translating CDA materials into local languages, and using community radio to drive awareness. For UCEM, the visit underscored the importance of transparency, education, and collaboration. The Chamber plans to champion a National CDA Framework Toolkit and expand peer learning across regions.

RUCODET stands as a living example of how inclusive governance, education, and partnership can turn mineral wealth into lasting community impact.



TOTAL ENERGIES SPOTLIGHTS TILENGA PROJECT'S COMMUNITY IMPACT

Source: PML Media

TotalEnergies EP Uganda, in partnership with the Petroleum Authority of Uganda, hosted the inaugural Tilenga Social Performance Forum to highlight the project's social and economic con recently at the Sheraton Kampala Hotel, the event showcased progress in employment, local content, and community development. TotalEnergies reported that more than 9,000 Ugandans have been employed by the project, including 3,700 from host communities. The company stated it had procured \$31.3 million in goods and services from local suppliers and empowered over 10,000 farmers through agricultural programs. Additionally, the company has provided scholarships and skills training for more than 2,000 of TotalEnergies EP Uganda, said the project is guided by a global framework that prioritizes environmental conservation, social inclusion and economic empowerment. "Economic empowerment is central to our vision for responsible oil and gas development," Groupeix said.

"Through targeted investments in vocational training, modern housing, healthcare, and livelihoods, we are enabling communities to build sustainable futures." busheshe said. Hon. Sidronius Okaasai Opolot, state minister for energy, represented Energy and Mineral Development Minister Hon. Ruth Nankabirwa at the event. He emphasized the government's stance on managing oil and gas resources for national transformation. Dr. Joseph Kobusheshe, director of environment, health and safety at the Petroleum Authority of Uganda, praised the forum, noting that the sector is committed to responsible development. "More than 10,000 households are gaining access to agricultural pro Ugandans and improved community infrastructure like schools and health centers. Philippe Groupeix, general manager grams and livelihood restoration, modern resettlement homes have been constructed, and over 99% of project-affected individuals have already received compensation," Ko "The discovery of oil and gas is an opportunity for national transformation," Okaasai Opolot said. "We are resolute in our mission to manage this resource responsibly, transparently, and sustainably." The forum concluded with an awards ceremony that recognized contractors for excellence in community development, including local investment, workforce training and stakeholder engagement. A report and photo exhibition highlighting the project's socio-economic benefits were also unveiled.



OIL AND GAS SECTOR UNITES FOR A GREAT CAUSE AT THE INAUGURAL OIL & GAS SPORTS GALA

A Day of Teamwork, Fun, and Purpose

The Oil and Gas sector came alive on the 10th of October, as companies and professionals gathered at Nakivubo Stadium for the Inaugural Oil & Gas Sector-Wide Sports Gala.

The event, organized by the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC) in partnership with the Uganda Chamber of Energy and Minerals (UCEM), was not just about sports it was about unity, collaboration, and giving back.

The gala brought together teams from across the oil, gas, and energy industries for friendly competitions in various sports. But the true highlight of the day was its purpose. All proceeds from the event will go toward a joint Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) project, chosen collectively by the sector, aimed at making a lasting impact in local communities. "The energy sector is coming together for a good cause," said UNOC. "This gala is more than just a day of sports it's a celebration of collaboration and what our collective spirit can achieve."

The atmosphere at Nakivubo Stadium was electric. Teams competed with enthusiasm and camaraderie, cheering each other on and celebrating the power of working together both on and off the field. As the day ended, participants reflected on more than just victories and scores. The gala had become a symbol of what's possible when the energy sector stands united for a common purpose. Looking Ahead - UNOC extended heartfelt appreciation to all partners and participants who helped make the first-ever Oil & Gas Sector-Wide Sports Gala a resounding success. This event marks the beginning of a meaningful tradition one that combines teamwork, wellness, and social impact. Together, the oil and gas sector is not only fueling Uganda's development but also lighting up lives across communities.



LOOKING AHEAD

CAREER FAIR CONFERENCE

YOUTH ENERGY AND MINING CAREER FAIR 2025
13th-14th November 2025

Venue: Makerere University, Kampala

Theme: "Empowering Youth for a Sustainable Energy Future"

Discover Opportunities in Uganda's Energy, Oil & Gas, and Mining Sectors Skilling | Employment | Networking | Innovation

Organized by: Junior Uganda Chamber of Energy and Minerals (UCEM)

In partnership with: Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC) and SPE International.

JUNIOR UGANDA CHAMBER OF ENERGY & MINERALS

YOUTH ENERGY & MINING CAREER FAIR 2025

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Makerere University, Kampala

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

UNOC **SPE** Solutions. People. Energy.™

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE & SUSTAINABILITY

Corporate governance & sustainability

4th-5th November 2025

Venue: Online

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm.

The Corporate Governance and Sustainability Masterclass seeks to equip leaders and decision-makers with the knowledge and tools to enhance governance performance, integrate sustainability principles, and promote responsible stewardship of resources.

Organized by: Uganda Chamber of Energy and Minerals (UCEM)

UGANDA CHAMBER OF ENERGY & MINERALS

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE & SUSTAINABILITY MASTERCLASS

"From Compliance to Impact: The Blueprint for Lasting Institutional Resilience"

Join the Uganda Chamber of Energy and Minerals (UCEM) for an exclusive one-day masterclass designed for board members, executives, and governance professionals in the energy and extractives sectors.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- Principles Of Good Corporate Governance
- Ethical Leadership & Accountability
- Risk Management & ESG Integration
- Sustainability Reporting & Compliance

NOVEMBER 4th-5th, 2025

ONLINE

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

www.ucemug info@ucem.ug

3rd Floor, Amber House, Speke Road, Kampala P.O. Box 71797 Kampala, Uganda

Contact Us +256(0) 752-527-540 +256(0) 784 228-224

ESG WITH FUTURE ENERGIES

ESG WITH FUTURE ENERGIES

20th-21st November, 2025

Venue: Sheraton Hotel Kampala

RSVP: +256 787 517165 +256 781 193213

Integrating ESG into corporate Strategy: Pathways for Sustainable Growth.

Organized by: Future Energy Partners

In partnership with: Uganda Chamber of Energy and Minerals (UCEM)

The graphic features a green background with a globe. At the top left is the 'FUTURE ENERGY Partners' logo, and at the top right is the 'UGANDA CHAMBER OF ENERGY & MINERALS' logo. The central text reads 'ESG EXECUTIVE PROGRAM' in large yellow and white letters. Below this, a dark blue banner contains the text 'Integrating ESG into Corporate Strategy: Pathways for Sustainable Growth'. Three circular portraits of speakers are shown: Greg Coleman (CEO Future Energy Partners), Gerald Gwamba (ESG Expert), and Mikki Hall (Mirabell Group). At the bottom left, a price tag icon indicates '\$500 Per Person'. The bottom right contains contact information for Sheraton Hotel Kampala, dates (20th - 21st November, 2025), phone numbers (+256 787 517165 and +256 781 193213), and email addresses (denis.ssemenda@future-energy-partners.com and rwanikarobert@gmail.com).

NATIONAL CONTENT CONFERENCE

6th Annual National Content Conference

3rd-4th December 2025

Venue: Mestil Hotel Kampala

Organized by: Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU)

In partnership with: MEMD, TotalEnergies, CNOOC, UNOC, EACOP, UCEM and IEC

The graphic features a blue and purple background with a cityscape. At the top left is the 'PETROLEUM AUTHORITY OF UGANDA' logo, and at the top right are the '10th ANNIVERSARY' logo and the 'UGANDA CHAMBER OF ENERGY & MINERALS' logo. The central text reads '6th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONTENT CONFERENCE' in large white and blue letters. Below this, 'SAVE THE DATE' is written in large yellow letters, followed by 'KAMPALA | HYBRID EVENT' and '3RD - 4TH DECEMBER 2025'. At the bottom, logos for TotalEnergies, CNOOC, UNOC, EAST AFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE, UCEM, and IEC are displayed. The bottom right contains contact information for the Petroleum Authority of Uganda, including phone numbers (+256 313 231 600 / 0784228224), website (www.pau.go.ug), email (ncc@pau.go.ug | ceo@ucmp.go.ug), and social media handles (@PAU_Uganda).



MISSION

To foster growth and transformation in Uganda's mining and energy industries, delivering value to members, investors, and the nation.

VISION

To be the leading catalyst for advocacy, promotion, and sustainable development in Uganda's natural resources sector.

CORE VALUES

Guided by Integrity, Responsiveness, Innovation, Sustainability, and Inclusiveness, UCEM operates and local priorities.



 **Contact Us**
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