

# Artisanal miners petition President over eviction order

**Directive.** The miners want the President to stop any directive to have them evicted.

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**KAMPALA.** Thousands of artisanal miners in Mubende are living in fear after they were told about a proposal to evict them from land totaling about five square kilometres. The miners have now petitioned President Museveni over an eviction order that could see them taken off the land where they carry out gold mining.

On June 21, a petition was submitted to President Museveni, asking him to reverse any directive that would see them evicted.

"The president should reverse this order issued because we believe he was misled to issue it," says Mr John Bosco Bukya, the spokesperson of the Mubende Artisanal Miners.

Estimates place 25,000 people directly involved in artisanal mining operations in Mubende.

The directive, according to the miners, was issued on June 13, during a meeting between President Museveni and a licence holder called Gemstone International.

"This is where a decision to protect the interest of the investor culminated into a presidential directive to evict and relocate artisanal miners in Kitumbi Sub-county," reads the petition.

However, *Daily Monitor* understands that it was a verbal directive issued and no official communication has been made yet.

**25,000**

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN ARTISANAL MINING

The miners were, however, informed by Mr Micheal Bukunya, the Member of Parliament Bukuya County, Mubende District, that their eviction was imminent. As a result, the miners decided to



A Karimojong man mines gold in Moroto. The current law does not recognise artisanal miners.

FILE PHOTO

## THE INVESTMENTS

Uganda has attracted significant investment from global markets in the mining sector with exception of limestone, marble and copper mines. Hima Cement and Tororo Cement are the largest players in the mining of limestone for cement production. There is small-scale mining on-going for minerals such as Tin, Wolfram, and Gold. Notably, small-scale mining for gold may require an investment of about \$300,000 (Shs1 billion), a cost considered to be high for some of the people engaged in illegal mining activities

petition the president to rescind the directive.

There has been a long-running dispute between artisanal miners and two companies (Gemstone International and AUC Mining). The artisanal miners are accused of taking over land licensed to AUC and Gemstone International to carry out mining activities.

The mining companies, on the other hand, allege that the artisanal miners are operating illegally on the land. A previous attempt in 2013 to evict the miners did not take place.

"We are not foreigners and at the moment, we are becoming treated as non-Ugandans. Over 60,000 people working in these mines are being threatened

with the eviction within one week. This is unfair to us Ugandans. They are talking about youth unemployment. We are not begging the government for money," said Mr Emmanuel Kibirige, the secretary general of the Ssingoo Artisanal Gold Miners Association.

On several occasions, the miners through several associations have applied for Location licences - meant for small-scale mining activities - on an AUC Exploration Licence but have not been granted any.

The operations of artisanal miners have divided government officials in the energy ministry.

The Mining Act 2003 does not recognise artisanal mining in the country. Their activities have been classified as illegal by some. The law is currently being reviewed but so far, only the policy has been drafted.

President Museveni in February also said the artisanal miners needed to organise themselves into a specific area and allow the licensed investor to carry out mining activities.

When contacted by *Daily Monitor* yesterday, State minister for privatisation and investment Evelyn Anite said there is no such directive to evict the miners, that they are just speculating.

# Mak students start selling innovations

BY STEPHEN OTAGE  
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**KAMPALA.** Researchers have started earning from their innovations and research projects that address problems in society.

Dr Dorothy Okello, the director Innovations at the ResilientAfrica Network, said it is high time researchers across the country begin taking lessons from communities they are designing solutions for because the closed-minded approach to research has failed to produce appropriate local technology to address challenges in manufacturing.

She was addressing students and journalists during a tour to assess the impact of technologies which students from the

Makerere University College of Design Art and Technology (CEDAT) have designed and sold to communities to address challenges of chronic conflict and climate change.

"It is good that you involve the community in research, listen to their experiences and design technology according to their specifications because what works elsewhere may not apply in another area," she said.

Lecturers from CEDAT and students had to change the design of a rapid fruit and vegetable solar drier that was manufactured using basic principles of physics and solar energy to produce the drier.

Among innovations that are cashing in money for innovators from the University, is a solar water irrigation system

which, according to Mario Wanji, the innovator, has become popular among farmers who use pumps to water their animals, crops and for domestic use in water stressed areas of Luwero and Nakasongola.

"Each pump costs Shs600,000. I have sold over 40 units since 2014 and I have another order for 24 which are yet to get complete and I deliver them to the clients," he said.

Timothy Kayondo, another student who invented a water purification system that uses sand and ultraviolet rays to clean water, said so far, he has installed three commercial machines in Migadde Matugga and Entebbe. Each one goes for Shs7m while he has smaller units which cost Shs800,000.

## EAST AFRICA SECURITIES ALSI

	USE	NSE	DSE	RSE
ALSI	1,680	155.56	3,632	126.92
	-0.10%	+0.62%	=0.00	=0.00%

## UGANDA SECURITIES EXCHANGE

Daily share report, June 28

	Security	Shares traded	Share Price		Mkt Cap'n Bn.(Shs)
			Current	Previously	
1	BATU	-	30,000	30,000	1,472.40
2	Bank of Baroda	25	108	108	270.00
3	Cent	-	1,445	1,463	961.68
4	Dfca Group	-	759	759	377.38
5	EA Breweries	-	9,103	9,142	7,199.01
6	Equity Bank	-	1,306	1,298	4,838.49
7	Jubilee Ins	-	14,849	14,856	889.43
8	KQ	-	186	192	279.72
9	KCB	-	1,306	1,307	3,899.43
10	NIC	213,512	12	12	16.99
11	NMG	-	3,703	3,705	698.32
12	New Vision	-	539	539	41.23
13	Stanbic Bank	205,900	26	26	1,330.91
14	Uganda Clays	-	12	12	10.80
15	Uchumi	-	72	74	19.29
16	Umeme	15,208	406	406	659.46

## BOU EXCHANGE RATES

June 28		USD	PS	EURO	KSH
BOU FOREX	Buy	3,584	4,566	4,015	34.5
	Sell	3,594	4,578	4,027	34.6

## FOREX BUREAU RATES

			USD	PS	EURO	KSH
1	BM Forex	Buy	3,575	4,500	3,950	34.0
	0414-259359	Sell	3,595	4,650	4,080	35.5
2	Alpha Capital	Buy	3,578	4,500	3,960	34.0
	0755662773	Sell	3,598	4,620	4,070	35.5
3	Bicco Forex	Buy	3,578	4,520	3,990	34.2
	0772401955	Sell	3,602	4,660	4,080	35.4
4	City Forex	Buy	3,580	4,510	4,000	34.2
	0773-501568	Sell	3,600	4,650	4,070	34.9
5	Crown	Buy	3,578	4,521	3,980	34.0
	0414-252500	Sell	3,598	4,600	4,060	35.5
6	Klysh Forex	Buy	3,585	4,590	3,985	34.8
	0414-345224	Sell	3,605	4,690	4,085	35.5
7	Lloyds Forex	Buy	3,580	4,550	3,990	34.5
	0414-348561	Sell	3,600	4,600	4,040	35.5
8	Metropolitan	Buy	3,578	4,540	3,990	34.0
	0414-232620	Sell	3,600	4,640	4,080	35.4
9	Prime Forex	Buy	3,570	4,480	3,930	34.0
	0414-234378	Sell	3,610	4,700	4,070	35.5
10	Money Point	Buy	3,590	4,590	4,015	34.5
	0414255552	Sell	3,610	4,650	4,065	35.0
11	Matrix Forex	Buy	3,575	4,500	3,850	33.5
	0414230324	Sell	3,595	4,720	4,000	36.0
12	Shumuk Forex	Buy	3,578	4,515	3,965	34.3
	0414-342834	Sell	3,598	4,625	4,060	35.2

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