

May 9, 2023

## CITIZENS' CONCERN AFRICA.

## <u>Immediate Press Release on Floods in Western Uganda; Urgent Action Required to Protect</u> Citizens.

As Citizens Concern Africa we are deeply concerned about the recent floods, which have caused major damage to infrastructure, homes, and property, as well as deaths and displacement of individuals. The floods are caused by a variety of circumstances, including high rainfall, inadequate drainage, encroachment on wetlands, rivers banks and deforestation of hilly areas.

We advise the Ugandan government to take immediate action to address these concerns and find long-term solutions to keep flooding from happening again. We urge the government to invest in better drainage infrastructures, wetlands protection, and effective warning systems to alert citizens of coming floods.

We also urge the mandated government authorities like Ministry of Disaster and Preparedness, to give immediate support to affected areas, such as food, shelter, and medical care as needed. We urge the government to collaborate closely with civil society organizations, local governments, cultural and religious leaders to see that the appropriate people in need are receiving assistance.

As Citizens' Concern Africa, we continue to stand in solidarity with the affected communities and call upon all stakeholders to lend a hand to in all ways possible.

Finally, we urge the Ugandan government to prioritize the safety and well-being of our citizens, and take decisive action to lessen Uganda's flooding problems by doing the following with an immediate effect before the earth decides to take her own course of action.

- 1. NEMA should cancel all the permits issued out allowing unsustainable developments within catchment areas.
- 2. District technical and political leaders take it upon yourselves to have each and every individual encroaching on wetlands, lakes, river banks removed.
- 3. As you are aware, H.E President of Uganda, we have relied and cautioned government bodies long enough to be let down several times, so we directly urge to you to use your executive powers to direct and order for the cancellation, halting of all these illegal actions and hold the authorities and individuals responsible accountable for their neglect. "Together we save mother nature"

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