



December 14,2022

For immediate release

Kampala and Greater Masaka

It has come to our attention that some Chinese who previously caused public uproar over wetland degradation in Lwera, have now extended to Nakiyanga wetland in Bukakkata sub county Masaka along the shores of Lake Victoria.

The investors, who are already engaging in sand mining, are currently opening another part of the wetland for agricultural activities despite having no clearance from authorities to carry out any activity in the area that is close to Lake Victoria shores.

Wetlands are important resources for regulating climatic conditions, erosion prevention, moderation of extreme flows, sediment traps, soil formation, and maintenance of water tables in surrounding lands, and acting as centers of biodiversity and wildlife habitat. They are also sources of wood, timber and other construction materials, food, medicines, water supply, fisheries, dry-season grazing for livestock, nutrient and toxin, tourism, recreational and spiritual functions, and promote aesthetic beauty of the area.

However, these activities have caused panic among a population of 1000 Bukakkata sub county residents who use the marshland as their sole source of water while over 180 bird species have been rendered homeless.

Wetland degradation has devastated the potential of storing water and filtering pollutants. This has caused natural calamities such as floods, pollution of many water bodies including Lake Victoria hence declining fish stocks.

Therefore, based on your mandate as a semi-autonomous institution, established in May 1995 to monitor, regulate and supervise environmental management in the country, Citizens' Concern Africa demands that your office immediately stops these developments in wetlands until satisfactory Environmental social impact assessments are done.

Secondly, as Citizens' Concern Africa (CICOA) a non-government organization ambitious to promoting the sustainable management of natural resources in Uganda, we demand that NEMA should urgently update the public on degraded part of wetland by these developers and compel them to restore the wetland in addition to regulating sand mining in compliance with the law of environment.

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