



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT

UGANDA HOSTS THE 7th ANNUAL MEETING FOR THE NEW PRODUCERS GROUP

KAMPALA 15th November 2019; The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD), the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU) and the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC) hosted the 7th annual New Producers Group (NPG) meeting from 11th to 15th November 2019, under the theme; Building Capacity and Institutions.

NPG is a collaborative network of over thirty (30) countries that are relatively new to the oil and gas sector. The Group aims to achieve lasting and inclusive development outcomes in emerging oil and gas producer countries. It also helps governments manage finite resources and also think beyond oil and gas.

Hon. Peter Lokeris, the State Minister of Minerals highlighted the importance Uganda attaches to capacity building of enterprises and human resources in the oil and gas sector. Negotiation of good Production Sharing Agreements (PSA) for the country and the Government's technical input into the discovery of commercial oil in Uganda are some of the milestones achieved as a result of Uganda's strategic capacity building initiatives.

“Capacity building and institutional development efforts are a key requirement for countries to be able to properly manage the oil and gas resources in their jurisdictions,” Lokeris said.

He called upon the members of the Group to support each other to build capacity.

“Uganda has been very careful and deliberate to build its institutions to enable it to responsibly oversee this complex, technical industry,” Valerie Marcel, the NPG Head from Chatham House said. The NPG that started in 2012, currently has over 31 members countries.

The meeting was jointly organized by Chatham House, the Natural Resource Governance Institute and the Commonwealth Secretariat. Chatham House is an independent not-for-profit world-leading policy institute working on international affairs. The Natural Resource Governance Institute is an independent policy institute and Non- Government Organization (NGO) operating in a dozen resource-rich countries. The Commonwealth Secretariat provides independent technical assistance to commonwealth countries in areas of policy, fiscal regime design, legal frameworks, legislative drafting and capacity building.

Twenty -one (21) countries were represented by senior civil servants from the Ministries of Petroleum, Finance, Environment, regulatory authorities, as well as executives from national oil companies and international oil companies at the NPG 2019 meeting in Uganda.



Participants from 21 countries that attended the 7th New Producers Annual Meeting in Kampala from 11 to 15 November 2019

Countries that participated include Uganda, Mozambique, Tanzania and Kenya which are at the post discovery stages of the oil and gas industry. Key discussions focused on how to prepare institutions, policies and regulations for the production stage. Countries in the

exploration stage at the meeting were Afghanistan, Bahamas, Belize, Jamaica, Liberia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Suriname and Uruguay. Key focus discussions targeting these countries focused on terms and rules to put in place before licensing.

Ernest N.T Rubondo, the Executive Director of PAU highlighted key lessons in setting up a regulatory institution for the oil and gas sector.

“Strategic partnerships with other regulators in the region and beyond provide viable lessons. A robust staff capacity building strategy to enable the institution to manage the demands of regulating the already established companies are critical success factors,” he said.



Ernest N.T Rubondo at the 7th Annual New Producers Group meeting recently where he shared lessons on starting a new regulatory Institution for the oil and gas sector

The meeting involved two (2) days of specialized and interactive training sessions in the following areas; communication in natural resources with Oil for Development (Norway) for Ugandan Government Agencies and civil society organization. A training on potential risks and opportunities that climate change and energy transition for oil and gas producing

countries was also held. Other training sessions were on Revenue Management, Contracts Negotiations, Oil Production (metering, Valuation and Marketing) and National Oil Company Strategies.

A one-day government seminar focused on Uganda to address how the Ugandan government agencies can harmonize public policies that affect or will be affected by the sector was held. Discussions on how data and information can be shared to make better policy and implementation of the policies were also held.

Some of the cross-cutting issues affecting new producer countries include the transition from fossil fuels to renewable sources of energy, climate change, shifting timelines to first oil, the cost of capital, regulatory and fiscal aspects of the sector.

A tourism day for the delegates to various sites in Entebbe, Jinja and Kampala was held on 15th November, 2019 to enable them appreciate Uganda's beauty and history, build long term relationships between the governments in the group.

Previous NPG meetings were held in Ghana (2018), Suriname (2017), Kenya (2016), Tanzania (2015) and the UK (2012, 2014) and were hosted by governments of emerging producer countries. Further discussions are held beyond the meeting in working groups to further harness knowledge from the member states.

Contact: Gloria Sebikari, corporateaffairs@pau.go.ug