

MOROTO LOCAL GOVERNMENT PILOTS MINERAL BENEFITS SHARING SCHEME

Karamojong is believed to be highly mineralized hence attracting hordes of interest from investors and speculators alike.

The sub-region, only recovering from long stretch of civil strife, is embracing urbanization and opening up for development, notably in the mining sub-sector.

The local leadership is waking up to the reality of the developments taking place and getting smarter in dealing with investors having gone through a couple of bad experiences dealing with mining companies.

The trend of mining companies like Jan Mangal, Dao Marble and a host of others venturing into the region, getting minerals and disappearing into thin air is however being checked as the leadership there begins to negotiate better deals to benefit the host communities and the local governments.

Uganda Development Corporation (UDC) has recently negotiated an equity stake in a limestone mining company venturing in Moroto.

Hon. David Pulkol, the executive director of the **Africa Leadership Institute**, revealed that as Moroto district local government, they valued the acreage of their land where the mineral is to be mined at Shs. 5.5 billion as capital contributions to the company.

Additionally, of the 45% stake that will go to UDC, they are entitled to 5% of it. “However, we are still negotiating for a bigger percentage on that 45%”, said Hon. David Pulkol the Citizens’ convention on mining, 2019.

Pulkol made reference to neighbouring Turkana county in Kenya that stands to benefit 20% from the oil production while the community

would be entitled to 5%. “However, when you look at Uganda’s case, Bunyoro Kingdom as a beneficiary host community will get just about 1%. As Moroto district local government we have said we have to benefit from these resources.” he said.

He explained that the local people of Karamoja must benefit from the mineral resources by taking into account complimentary growth.

“Foreign investors, influence peddlers and those with political power and authority are depriving mineral host communities of their livelihoods,” said Hon. Pulkol.

“In the aftermath of the second world war in 1945, Egyptians came to Nadunget and established irrigation systems to solve an acute water problem. The locals that owned this land were profiled and even compensated instead of just chasing them away,” he explained.

The principal private secretary to the chief administrative officer Moroto, noted that as Karamoja experiences an influx of investors they must prepare and sieve the serious ones from speculators that the sub-region has experienced over time.

Pulkol urged other local government authorities to learn from their model and ensure their people benefit from mineral resources by engaging mining companies more beneficially.

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