



YOUTH FOR GREEN COMMUNITIES
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 22, 2021

KAMPALA

YGC AND PARTNERS DEMAND BUREAU TO STOP CURTAILING THE WORK OF CSOS IN UGANDA

In reference to the statement released on August 20, 2021 by the Executive Director, National Bureau for NGOs, YOUTH FOR GREEN COMMUNITIES (YGC) has seen with concern the steps taken to halt, and indefinitely suspend the operations of fifty-four (54) civil society organizations (CSOs) operating in Uganda.

The Bureau points out that some of these CSOs are operating without registering with the NGO Bureau, while others are operating with expired non-governmental organization (NGO) permits, and others have failed to file their annual returns.

YGC is one of the targeted organizations whose activities have been halted on claims based on non-registration with the NGO Bureau.

In light of the above, we would like to state it clearly that;

1. YGC is an incorporated Company Limited by Guarantee by Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB) under the Companies Act 2012. URSB is a government body legally mandated to register and incorporate companies in Uganda. We have a certificate of incorporation issued by the Bureau on the 25th, November 2020
2. The above registration mandates YGG to operate as a not-for-profit Organization. Since our inception, YGC has complied with all the relevant laws and policies for which it was registered.

3. To this end, YGC intends to file its annual returns with URSB and comply with all other legal requirements that non-profit companies are legally mandated to do in the country.
4. YGC and its partners are also operating legally and comply with relevant laws in Uganda. The deliberate motive of targeting critical CSOs working on environment, human rights, and governance must stop.
5. Legal options to end the targeted defamation, public shaming, and other tactics aimed at stopping CSOs such as YGC and our partners from playing their work of promoting the sustainable management of the environment and natural resources to benefit the youth, women, poor, other vulnerable groups, and address climate change in Uganda are being assessed.
6. In the interim, YGC and its partners have resolved to file a court case against the Attorney General (Ugandan government) to stop the delegitimation, defamation, intimidation of CSOs and shrinking the operational space in Uganda.

Therefore, YGC **demands** the NGO bureau to stop curtailing the operations of NGOs and acting as an agent focusing on shrinking the operational space of non-state actors. We further notify the government that we work with it for the people not against it.

YGC equally calls on the public to work with CSOs to engage the government and use all the available legal options to end the intimidation of CSOs and the hostile civic space in which CSOs operate.

Lastly, YGC will continue to legally operate to engage the youth and local communities to influence better Environment and natural resource governance to benefit all Ugandans.

ENDS

Signatories

YOUTH FOR GREEN COMMUNITIES (YGC)

ENVIRONMENT GOVERNANCE INSTITUTE (EGI)

AFRICA INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY GOVERNANCE (AFIEGO)

GUILD PRESIDENTS' FORUM ON GOVERNANCE (GPF OG)

OIL REFINERY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (ORRA)

SOUTH WESTERN INSTITUTE FOR POLICY AND ADVOCACY (SOWIPA)

CENTER FOR ENERGY GOVERNANCE.

EASTAFRICAN CRUDE OIL PIPELINE HOST COMMUNITIES

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