

SCRIPT OIL UGANDA

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LEAD

A blessing to all the people of Uganda.
That's what the government of this East African country is aiming for its recently discovered oil wells.
The country is sitting on a possible 2 billions oil barrels, and wants to become the number 6 oil producing country on the African continent.
The British oil company Tullow is in the final stages of opening up the production fase.
The Uganda government is even projecting to start end this year.
The oil revenues could easily double the gross domestic product of the landlocked nation.
and the government promises to become an example of how to share oil revenues with all the people in Uganda.

BETA LENGTH 2'20"

Kaiso Toni at the shore of Lake Albert is a remote fishing community.
With a population of 2,000,
Where fixing fishing nets was the most moving part of the afternoon.

SOUNDBITE PLANE FLYING OVER

But that was until Tullow Oil landed here to look for oil.
And people found themselves among noisy drilling rigs.

SOUNDBITE OIL DRILLING

QUOTE JIM MCGILVEREY, well engineer Tullow Oil
We fenced off the area.
We're making some noise. We're lit at night.
It's only for the duration of the drilling.
After that we leave and remove everything.

But in exchange Tullow Oil brought roads,
built a health post, and a school.
The people are obviously happy with the oil company.
Like 46-years old Tomua Tuamba, father of 3.

QUOTE TOMUA TUAMA, fisherman
We're happy. They builded a school. It gave me a bit of work too.

Tullow Oil although needed 3 years to do the oil findings.

QUOTE BRIAN GLOVER, director Tullow Oil Uganda
We drilled 27 wells, 26 which have found oil.
And I think that's an amazing track record in the short time Tullow has been on the ground.

The oil wells are called Christmas Trees, and some go 1,000 metres down.

QUOTE GODFREY ODHIAMBO, field operator Tullow Oil

It was tested last year by flaring.
Then it was suspended for future production.

According to Tullow, Uganda sits on 2 billion oil barrels.
The government want to sell in the region since the country is land locked.
The Ministry of Minerals promises that the revenues will benefit all Ugandans.
The country is not going to be another Nigeria.
Where the revenues only serves a few.

QUOTE PETER LOKERIS, minister of state for mineral development
We want to be cautious.
Our president is very serious about this matter.
He wants this not to be a curse. He wants it to be a blessing.

In Kaiso Tony the fishermen wait for things to come.
They expect their share for the oil in their backyard.
Like 35-years old David Kawa,
who takes care of a wife and 7 children.

QUOTE DAVID KAWA, fisherman
Let them take their revenue.
Only that I would like more than the casual jobs when there is drilling.

The oil well are all near Albert Albert.
Uganda wants to start the exploitation in 2010.