

MINING SECTOR

The extractives industry is undoubtedly a driver of economic development across the globe. As part of the women's month celebrations, *New Vision's* **Martin Kitubi** brings you profiles of women from government, private sector and the civil society, who have made a contribution to the mining sector.

Proscovia Nabanjja is the Chief Executive Officer at the Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC), which will hold Uganda's commercial interests in the oil sector. She has been part of the instrumental technical teams who have negotiated agreements for both the East African Crude Oil Pipeline and Uganda's oil refinery. She has over 19 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, according to UNOC. Previously, she worked as the Principal Geologist in the Petroleum Exploration & Production Department and headed donor-funded programmes such as Oil for Development and USAID.



Proscovia Nabanjja, CEO UNOC

Edith Tushabe Atuhurira, UNOC commercial manager



Edith Atuhurira is the commercial manager at the Uganda National Oil Company, responsible for leading the financial and economic modelling that underpins the commercial negotiations between government and the oil companies, projects' commercial structuring, and negotiations of commercial agreements in Uganda's upstream, pipeline, refinery and downstream projects and businesses. Atuhurira has been part of the Government Negotiation Team since 2018 and has been instrumental in all the commercial agreements negotiated since then.

Peninah Aheebwa is the director Technical Support Services, which oversees the participation of Ugandans in the petroleum sector. Aheebwa boasts vast experiences in many fields, including economics and policy and planning for the oil and gas sector, among others. Aheebwa holds a master of science degree in energy studies specialised in oil and gas economics from the University of Dundee, UK. She also holds a master of arts in economic policy and planning from Makerere University. Aheebwa, who was recruited from the energy and minerals ministry, has been involved in the minerals sector since 2002. She served at the ministry from 2002 and rose through the ranks to the principal petroleum officer.



Peninah Aheebwa, director technical services PAU

Samantha Kassami, EACOP legal director and company secretary



As EACOP's legal director and company secretary, Samantha Kassami is responsible for the implementation of the agreed legal framework for the EACOP in Uganda and Tanzania (Host Government Agreements, Shareholders Agreement, and Tariff & Transportation Agreement). She previously worked with TotalEnergies in 2016 on the pipeline project. Her first works were on negotiating the Inter-Governmental Agreement between Uganda and Tanzania.

THE WOMEN HEADING MINING SECTOR

Betty Jackie Namubiru is the national content manager at the Petroleum Authority of Uganda (PAU), the agency that regulates the oil and gas sector. She is the first person to hold the position at PAU. As the national content manager, she is responsible for ensuring that Uganda has the required talent to work in the oil and gas sector, and that companies employ available human resources. In addition, Namubiru is in charge of ensuring that companies implement the national content provisions on contracting and subcontracting. Previously, Namubiru served as a national content co-ordinator in the Petroleum Exploration and Production Department, now the Directorate of Petroleum, under the energy and mineral development ministry. She has also served as a national technical expert at the Belgian Development Co-operation.



Betty Jackie Namubiru, PAU national content manager

Sandra Kaitare, URA



Sandra Kaitare, is the assistant commissioner Petroleum and Mining Division at URA, in charge of ensuring that the country collects due revenue from mining and the oil and gas operations. The Petroleum and Mining Division has a mandate to administer the collection of revenue from oil and gas activities in line with the relevant laws. She has participated in several oil and gas arbitration cases as a subject matter expert and also advised on policy changes to enable better administration of oil and gas taxation. Kaitare has also been involved in the several negotiations, such as the Intergovernmental Agreement, the Host Government Agreement and the EACOP Bill that are relevant for the development of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline.

Gloria Mugambe, EITI head

Gloria Mugambe is the head of the Uganda National Extractives Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) Secretariat. EITI is an international organisation that promotes the open and accountable management of oil, gas and mineral resources. At the EITI, she is in charge of supporting the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG), which is the national oversight committee for EITI implementation in Uganda, in ensuring that the commitments and responsibilities that Uganda has as an EITI member are met.



Agnes Alaba Kuterma, director, Geological Surveys and Mines



Agnes Alaba serves in two capacities as the commissioner in charge of mines, and as the acting director of Geological Survey and Mines (DGS). Discoveries/exploration under her leadership: New gold targets in Buhweju, Mubende, Namayingo, Karamoja and Zombo. Over 500 million tonnes of rare earth elements in the districts in Busoga, 318 million tonnes of iron ore resources estimated in south-western Uganda and huge resources of graphite mapped in Kitgum district. Bentonite deposits at Kaiso-Tonya in Hoima district, Burama and Ntungwa in Rukungiri district. Thirty million tonnes of gold ore in a greenstone belt in the Busia district. Airborne geophysical surveys over the Karamoja and Lamwo region, and geothermal investigation across the country. Under her leadership, the country attained new regulatory framework for the mining sector, such as the 2018 Mining and Minerals Policy and 2022 Mining and Minerals Act. Government has also established modern geo-data management systems, including Geological and Mineral Information System and Mining Cadastre System.

As the shareholder relations co-ordinator, Vanessa Ihunde is responsible for maintaining a positive relationship between EACOP management and the shareholders. This involves keeping the shareholders informed about the company's performance, updating them on the progress of the project and ensuring that their interests are represented in corporate governance and decision-making. Ihunde previously worked as a senior economist in the Tax Policy Department at the finance ministry.



Vanessa Ihunde, EACOP-shareholder relations co-ordinator

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