

Stanbic Bank C/S 65 2



LIBERTY
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**LIBERTY PROBONO INITIATIVE
(LPI)**

His worship, Ronald Kayizzi

October 20, 2025

The Chief Magistrate,

Buganda Road Chief Magistrate Court,
Plot 6,7 & 8 Buganda Road,
P.O Box 3687 Kampala.



Your Worship,

RE: REQUEST FOR INTERVENTION IN THE CONTINUED DETENTION AND DELAYED BAIL HEARING OF FEMALE ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVISTS AND OTHERS VIDE UGANDA VERSUS WAMBOGA IVAN & 11 OTHERS CRIMINAL CASE NO.0662/2025

Greetings from Liberty Pro Bono Initiative(LPI),

Liberty Pro Bono Initiative is a non-profit company limited by guarantee whose main objective is to promote the rights of marginalized groups, especially women through legal support, environmental advocacy, and climate justice in Uganda.

We write to you to express the growing concern over the continued detention and denial or unwarranted delay in granting bail to female environmental activists in the above captioned matter where they are charged with the offense of **Nuisance on Roads C/S 65 (e) of the Roads Act Cap 346.**

The said female Environmental Activists are Asio Dorothy (20 years), Nakyambadde Teopista (25 years) and Nalwadda Shammy (24 years) who were peacefully delivering petition to Stanbic Bank on **August 1, 2025** in protest against the East African Crude Oil Pipeline(EACOP) project due to its documented human and environmental violations. Despite the nonviolent nature of their action, they were arrested and have been denied the right to apply for bail highlighting the increasing criminalization of civic activism and suppression of dissent in Uganda.

The matter has so far come up for hearing for 5 different times, and yet on all occasions, the Trial Magistrate has insisted on not hearing the bail application even when the lawyers submitted that they had instructions to apply for bail. The

Trial Magistrate has rather insisted on hearing the Prosecution's case to completion, despite the uncertainty of the availability of the Prosecution witnesses.

Today, the 20th October, 2025, marks **81 days** of detention without the said Activists being allowed to exercise their right to apply for bail. This period of detention is beyond the 60 days for which the law allows for mandatory bail. It should also be noted that the maximum sentence for the offense of Nuisance on Roads is one year's imprisonment or a fine not exceeding 20 currency points, which qualifies it to be a minor offense. This prolonged detention without access to bail undermines the rights of Activists, has long term social and psychological consequences, and mocks the sanctity of the Court.

Your Worship, the delay and denial of bail is causing untold suffering to these women, for instance, Asio Dorothy who tragically lost her mother in August while in detention. She has not been able to bury, pay her last respects which has taken a metal toll on her. Other detained Activists include single mothers, university students who are falling behind in their studies, and family bread winners.

As an organization dedicated to providing legal aid services, particularly to women and youth defending environmental rights, we have been supporting numerous individuals arrested in connection with peaceful protests or public expressions against the negative impacts of oil developments in Uganda. Many of these arrests have been arbitrary and the detainees have reported experiencing intimidation, sexual harassment and assault during arrest and detention as well as incidents of false imprisonment and even abductions.

These cases are becoming more frequent and troubling despite express provisions of the law under **Article 23 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995** which guarantees the right to personal liberty including the right to apply for bail.

Your worship, it is on this basis that we respectfully seek your urgent intervention to:

1. Ensure the bail application for the female environmental defenders is prioritized and handled expeditiously.
2. Ensure that their constitutional right to liberty is upheld due and that they have equal protection under the law.

We remain committed to working constructively with the Judiciary to uphold justice and protect the rights of all citizens, especially vulnerable groups like women and youth.

We thank you for your attention and look forward to your support and guidance.

Yours faithfully,



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Doreen Namara, CEO

Liberty pro Bono Initiative (LPI)

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