



REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development.

Launch of Airborne Geophysical Survey of Karamoja Region

18th March, 2021

The Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) has launched the use of aerial surveys in the Karamoja region.

Karamoja Region has potential for economic minerals such as gold, copper, iron ore, Rare Earth Elements, gemstones and Marble). Given Uganda's conducive investment environment, these Minerals will contribute to the country's economic growth and poverty alleviation by creating jobs and exports of the minerals over a long period of time. The sustainable management of mineral resources in Karamoja region will lead to the transformation of livelihoods of the people of Karamoja and Uganda in general.

The surveys will be characterized by low flying aircrafts at an altitude of 80 meters above the ground with capacity to map the mineral potential of Karamoja region.

The aircrafts' exercise will register seven key outputs: which are;

- i) New geodata will be acquired.
- ii) New mineral deposits will be discovered for mineral based industrialization.
- iii) New exploration and mining companies will be attracted to invest in Karamoja and Lamwo.

- iv) Increased revenues from royalties and mineral rent to Karamoja region and Lamwo district.
- v) Increased job creation as a result of exploration and mining activities.
- vi) New Infrastructure development will be resized in the region.
- vii) While the new data acquired will equally be useful in prospecting for environmental management, water, agro geology, oil and gas; urban development and infrastructure planning.

Accordingly, the Government is undertaking a number of reforms and implementing key strategies to fully unlock its mining potential which include;

- i. Review of Mining Laws; Policy was put in place in 2018, Mining Regulation 2019 and the mining Bill, 2020
- ii. Create conducive environment to promote private sector investment in the mining industry;
- iii. Pursue focused strategy on few critical minerals such as gold, marble, iron ore, copper gemstones, REEs and graphite.
- iv. Build capacity of the local leaders and communities in mineral resources management; to enable them negotiate community agreements effectively.
- v. Promote dialogue and participation of the local people to ensure harmony and fair benefits to all;
- vi. Promote value addition by attracting factories and processing plants in the region such as (Sunbelt; Tororo Cement, Hima Cement, DAO Marble.) which have already been established in Karamoja region
- vii. Streamlining Artisanal and Small Scale mining activities through biometric registration of miners.
- viii. The Government of Uganda is also working towards addressing issues related to competitiveness in power availability and tariffs; rail infrastructure, road network and weighbridges; skills development and security to support the mining industry and to ensure that mining revenue benefits the communities.

The airborne geophysical and geological mapping of Karamoja is planned to cover ten (10) districts that were not covered during the previous surveys. These includes: Nakapiripirit, Amudat, Moroto, Napak, Abim, Kotido and Kaabong. Karenga and Nabilatuk and Lamwo districts.