



## PRESS STATEMENT

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

### **THE RAID ON MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS UNDERTAKING GEOCHEMICAL SURVEYS IN KARAMOJA SUBREGION**

The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development is deeply saddened by the death of Mr. Richard Kiggwe, a Geologist working with the Directorate of Geological Surveys and Mines in the Ministry that occurred on Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 in Moroto district. Mr. Kiggwe was part of the team that was ambushed by a group of cattle rustlers while undertaking geochemical surveys as part of the ongoing aerial surveys to establish the mineral potential in the Karamoja region. This activity has progressed well with the surveys nearing completion. This has been achieved with support from the local leadership and the people of Karamoja.

The team comprised of sixteen (16) geoscientists and forty (40) security officers, community liaison officers and casual labourers. The team was split into eight (8) groups, each group protected by five (5) security officers. Some of the team members were deployed to Nakapiripirit district while others to Moroto district. Unfortunately, the team in Moroto district fell into an ambush by the cattle rustlers. Tragically, five of the team members lost their lives including, Mr. Kiggwe Richard, a Geologist with the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, Mr.



Olweny Charles (field support staff), two security personnel and Miss Edna Kafaaku Musiime (Student from Makerere University).

Our heartfelt condolences and prayers go to the families of the deceased who lost their loved ones while on duty in Moroto district. The incident is a great blow to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development in particular; Karamoja community and Uganda at large, that has embarked on a national mineral exploration campaign.

The Ministry strongly condemns the barbaric act committed by the cattle rustlers and the Joint Security Forces are on the hunt for the perpetrators.

Okaasai Sidronius Opolot (MP)

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENERGY ALSO HOLDING PORTFOLIO OF  
MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT**