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For more information, contact: Noor Nakibuuka, CEHURD, +256782496681

Court to pronounce itself on the interim application against China Communication

Construction Company (C.C.C.C.), NEMA and Mukono District Local Government

Today July 4, 2014, the High court of Uganda will give its ruling in the miscellaneous application filed by the Center for Health Human Rights and Development (CEHURD) against C.C.C., NEMA and Mukono District Local Government for violation of rights to health and right to clean and healthy environment

CEHURD filed a suit following its intervention in the communities of Bamutakudde and Kiryamuli after its findings revealed that the Chinese company carrying out stone quarrying in the communities is destroying the environment and is blocking the only natural stream the communities use to fetch water.

"We have written several letters to the Chinese company even the L.C 111 of Mukono but we have not been helped. They blast stones without warning us and some people have developed pressure, others heart problems and some houses have got cracks in them" Mugoya James, Chairman

"I settled Kiryamuli village in 1977 when I got married. I found the well in existence; we are surprised that the company wants to destroy it and the district council is doing nothing about it despite numerous warnings from the community. Where will we get water for washing, drinking, cooking etc? We do not have piped water, how will we and our children survive?" Kyazike Maria, one of the residents.

When we appeared in court on July 1st, Her Worship Mary Khainza notified the parties that she would give her ruling on Friday 4th July 2014.

This followed CEHURD's call upon the High court to give an interim injunction restraining the defendants from doing any act that would damage the environment, block the nat0.ural stream, and violate the right to health and clean and healthy environment until the disposal of the main suit (Civil suit No. 172 of 2014)

"We are hopeful that justice will be delivered to save the communities from going without water since the well being destructed serves two communities that lack piped water. The company also emits stone dust from the pile of stones at the production site that settle on the well, roofs and is inhaled by people, this violates the right to health and right to clean and healthy environment. The discretion however, is with the court." Nakibuuka Noor, Program Manager, Strategic Litigation CEHURD.