

Quantity Surveying and Valuation Surveying students undertake a study Tour to the Oil Refinery Project and Kabalega International Airport in Hoima

On August 30, 2024, a group of Quantity Surveying and Valuation Surveying students from the Department of Construction Economics and Management, accompanied by Field Tour Coordinator Mr. Ronald Kaweesi, embarked on a study tour to the Oil Project in Hoima District. The tour was aimed at enabling the students gain a deeper understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Quantity and Valuation Surveyors in the energy and mineral development sector. The team sought to explore how these professionals contribute to cost planning, procurement, and cost control in complex industrial settings, such as the Oil Project and Kabalega International Airport.

Areas visited included the Kingfisher Development Area and the Kabalega International Airport, which provided valuable insights into the practical applications of their field of study.

During the tour, the students set out to

- Gain a comprehensive understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Quantity and Valuation Surveyors in the energy and mineral development sector;
- To observe and learn from the ongoing construction works at the Kabalega International Airport and the Oil refinery project, highlighting best practices and industry standards;
- To familiarize themselves with the layout and operations of the oil refinery project and the airport, including their technical and logistical aspects;
- Acquire knowledge of the safety protocols and environmental measures implemented in these complex industrial settings.
- Network with experienced professionals in the field, gaining valuable insights into career opportunities and industry expectations.

Tour of the Kingfisher Development Area

At the Kingfisher Development Area, the students were exposed to the pivotal oil and gas project in Uganda, located in Buhuka, Kyangwaali, in Kikuube District, located southeast of Lake Albert. As one of the country's key energy initiatives, the Kingfisher Development Area plays a significant role in Uganda's emerging oil and gas sector.

The Petroleum Value Chain explained

The Uganda National Oil Company (UNOC) team provided the students with a comprehensive overview of the petroleum value chain, which is the sequence of processes involved in oil production. It was explained that the value chain is categorized into three distinct segments: upstream, midstream, and downstream. The upstream segment encompasses the exploration and extraction of crude oil from the ground, where projects like Kingfisher and Tilenga Development fall. The midstream segment involves the transportation and storage of petroleum, which includes the Kabalega Industrial Park and airport. Finally, the downstream segment focuses on refining crude oil into usable products such as gasoline, diesel, and jet fuel. Notably, Mr. Robert Mukodo and his team dispelled concerns about exporting crude oil for refining elsewhere, assuring us that the oil will be refined locally, contrary to prevailing conspiracy theories.

Project Facilities at Kingfisher Development Area

Students learnt that the project involves the development of a Central Processing Facility (CPF) with a capacity to process 40,000 Barrels of Oil Per Day. The processed crude oil will be transported to the Delivery Point at Kabaale through a 10” inner diameter Feeder pipeline, approximately 48 km long.

The facilities include:

- Central Processing Facility: construction ongoing, including grading, mixing, and compaction of murrum, construction of a flood trench, and CPF tank foundations.
- Well Pads: three out of four well pads have been constructed, with drilling ongoing at Well Pad 2 and planned for Well Pads 1 and 3.
- Safety Check Station: construction ongoing as a precautionary measure against fatal accidents.
- Kingfisher Feeder Line: construction ongoing, with stringing of the feeder line currently in progress.
- Temporary camp: completed in May 2023 to host personnel constructing the feeder line.

Land Acquisition

The Uganda Government, through the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development and the Petroleum Authority of Uganda, successfully acquired approximately 1,020 acres of land for the project. This process involved identifying and relocating 727 Project Affected Persons (PAPs), ensuring that all necessary land for project activities was obtained. The Authority remains vigilant in monitoring the Livelihood Resettlement Programmes and other social aspects related to land acquisition, guaranteeing that the rights and interests of affected communities are adequately addressed.

Visit to Kabalega International airport

The students had the opportunity of visiting Kabalega International Airport is currently under construction. As part of Uganda's petroleum industry infrastructure development, the airport falls under the midstream section of the Petroleum Value Chain. Once completed, it will become Uganda's second international airport, complementing Entebbe International Airport. The airport spans 29 square kilometers, featuring a 3,500-meter runway. Construction began in January 2018, with an expected completion date of August 2025. The project is being undertaken by SBC Uganda Limited, a joint venture between Colas Limited and Solel Boneh International Holdings (SBI), at a cost of approximately \$309 million.

As Reported by Mr. Edward Ssentenza, CGC