

PRESS STATEMENT
Issued by the Coalition of Concerned Nzema People (CCNP)
Date: Monday, June 23, 2025



Unfulfilled Promise on Land Committee Undermines Due Process

1. The Coalition of Concerned Nzema People (CCNP) wishes to express deep concern over the government's continued delay in constituting the Land Committee that was promised to address critical community concerns as well as disputes surrounding lands affected by the proposed Petroleum Hub project in Jomoro.
2. Following a meeting between the Office of the President and the CCNP, on March 18, 2025, it was agreed that an independent Land Committee would be formed within three to four weeks. The purpose of this committee was to clarify the status of the affected lands—whether family lands, stool lands, or public lands—and to ensure a transparent and just process for any acquisitions or negotiations.
3. Three months have now passed. The committee has not been constituted.
4. On 15th April 2025, CCNP issued a formal reminder to the Minister for Lands. A response was received on 16th April requesting our nominee, which we submitted without delay. Since then, aside from the acknowledgment of our legal representative, no action has been taken to establish the full committee.
5. Meanwhile, the Petroleum Hub Development Corporation (PHDC) has proceeded with activities that appear to pre-empt the very process the committee was meant to oversee. PHDC officials, in concert with certain traditional authorities and state actors, have undertaken engagements and public visits aimed at promoting land access without resolving the underlying ownership disputes and community concerns. These actions risk entrenching misinformation, marginalising rightful landowners, and undermining public trust.
6. The delay in constituting the Land Committee, coupled with the PHDC's ongoing efforts to create a façade of consensus, reflects a troubling disregard for due process and the legitimate rights of Nzema families.
7. We therefore call on the Chief of Staff and the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources to honour their commitment without further delay. The Land Committee must be constituted immediately to ensure that justice, fairness, and transparency are not sacrificed in pursuit of expediency.
8. In the interim, we further demand an immediate suspension of all activities by the Petroleum Hub Development Corporation (PHDC) in the Jomoro area, including public engagements, land-related negotiations, and site visits. Allowing PHDC to proceed without the oversight and legitimacy of the promised Land Committee risks deepening community mistrust and compounding the very injustices the committee was meant to prevent. Any continued action in the absence of this committee would not only be premature but also a grave betrayal of the principles of due process and good faith.

— **End** —

Issued by: Coalition of Concerned Nzema People (CCNP)

Contact information : +233 (0)24 405 4086; +233 (0)54 921 4976

EMAIL: CONCERNEDNZEMA@GMAIL.COM