

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



**DIRECTOR GENERAL
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS
DELIVERY OFFICE, EAST AFRICA**

Ref.: AfDB/RDGE/LTR/2021/09/091

Date: 24 September, 2021

Ms. Andrea Pelliconi & Ms. Ana Zbona
Research Assistant & Programme Manager
Civic Freedoms & Human Rights Defenders Programme
Business & Human Rights Resource Centre
2-5 Scrutton Street
London EC2A 4RT
England

Dear Ms. Pelliconi and Ms. Zbona,

**SUBJECT: RESPONSE ON ALLEGATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ON THE PATEN
CLAN COMMUNITY IN UGANDA**

We acknowledge receipt of your email on 20 September 2021, to Dr. Adesina, the President of the African Development Bank, regarding allegations of reprisals against Paten Clan community members and human rights defenders in Uganda.

The African Development Bank has a decades-old track-record of being responsive to allegations of civil and human rights abuses in communities where projects are funded. This includes an Independent Recourse Mechanism (IRM) that reviews and handles complaints.

The allegations contained in your letter were previously brought to the attention of the Bank, following which a request was made to the Government of Uganda for the conduct of a detailed investigation. We expect to receive the findings of this investigation in short order.


In this regard, and prior to receipt of your letter, on 17 September 2021, the Director of the Independent Recourse Mechanism (IRM) department, wrote to the organizations that had co-signed the open letter alleging violence and reprisal against Paten Clan community members, to make them aware of the Bank's aforementioned complaints mechanism. The IRM Director informed these organizations that a formal complaint would be required for the Bank to conduct an independent investigation or intervene with other remedial action. This formal complaint to IRM is still being expected.

The African Development Bank through its IRM department, also informed the organizations referred to above of the IRM's mandate to provide fair, independent, and effective recourse for individuals and communities who believe that they have been negatively impacted in Bank-financed projects.

I therefore wish to reassure you that the Bank takes these allegations very seriously, and will work with all stakeholder parties to determine the facts, and ensure that redress, where necessary, is implemented without delay.

Please accept the assurances of our highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,


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