

Implications of Nacala Corridor Project to Communities

Malawian transport authorities signed a concession deal with a Brazilian mining company; Vale Emirates to rehabilitate the railway line linking a coal town Moatize in Mocambique through the Nacala corridor from 2010 to 2015. The company then subcontracted other companies, one of which is Mota Engil company. The project



A photo of Magina Wengison

activities include embankment and excavation on very big scale because of the topography hence it was anticipated that there will be very big environmental and social implications of this project. An ESIA was conducted and a management plan was developed to ensure that the negative impacts are mitigated. As much as this project has a number of positive impacts to communities of Malawi through job creation and others, the project as impacted negatively on other communities.

Magina Wengisoni of Gadama Village, STA Govati is one of the victims of the project. Magina is a young woman who is married and has 2 children, both of which are girls. Magina explained that she was promised 2 years ago that the company was going to compensate her with K850,000.00 because the rail way is in proximity to her only plot where she cultivates her maize. However she has not yet received her compensation up to date. She tried to inform the chief in her community but she was not assisted accordingly. When she follows up with the company responsible she was told that her money was already disbursed and she should follow up the matter within her community. She is not sure where her money is stuck. This being her only plot, she has nowhere else to rely on, and if she does not cultivate she does not even have money to buy food to feed her children. Her worry is that years are going and she is not allowed to cultivate in her plot of which she still does, but how else can she support her two children. Magina also mentioned that she is not the only victim, there are two more people she knows that are facing the same challenges. CEPA has identified this issue as an advocacy issue requiring policy response. Hence it has engaged a consultant to conduct an in depth analysis of the relocation program, identify more victims like Magina Wengison and take the duty bearers to task to ensure that these communities are compensated as they ought to.

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