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COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

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PHD PUBLIC DEFENCE

The Dean, School of Social Sciences cordially invites you to a PhD Public Defence of the following candidate:

Candidate: Ms. MUDONDO Constance

Thesis Title: *“Land Conflicts and Livelihoods of People Utilizing Namatala Wetland in Eastern Uganda”*

Date: Wednesday November 3, 2021

Time: starting at 9:00 am

Venue: School of Social Sciences Upper Lecture Theatre

Supervisors: Dr. Robert Kabumbuli, Associate Professor
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Makerere University

Dr. Dauda Waiswa
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Makerere University

Note: MOH Guidelines and SoPs will strictly be observed and a Zoom link will be shared later

PhD Abstract

by

Ms. Mudondo Constance

Land Conflicts and Livelihoods of People Utilizing Namatala Wetland in Eastern Uganda

Land conflicts often affect community livelihood, but this effect is seldom documented. Using the relative deprivation theory and theory of practice, this study examined how the land conflicts in Namatala Wetland between the Bagisu and Bagwere on one hand, and the Bagwere and Banyole on the other, shape the livelihoods of wetland users. Qualitative and quantitative research techniques were adopted to collect and analyse the data on the dimensions and drivers of the conflict, land use choices and mechanisms of managing the conflict. Evidence shows that conflict is shaped by increasing demand for moist farm land, resulting in cleavage formation based on class, ethnicity and location. Perceptions of inequality and quests for territorial control among groups help to escalate the conflict, which is characterised by violence, ethnic tensions and insecurity. Such conflict environment diminishes capital endowments by hindering optimal use of land and shrinking financial, human and social capital of wetland users. The wetland users cope by constructing unified fronts for securing livelihoods through informal networks that serve as collective labour, economic safety valves and buffers against attacks. Previous conflict management strategies had adopted a formal and public structural model but these were protectionist, coercive and divisive in nature. While the model can deescalate the violence, it also reinforces feelings of relative deprivation between groups, cultivates latent hostilities, produces uncertainty and fragility. This study therefore argues that alleviating the effects of land conflict on communities requires that conflict management mechanisms shift from a geo-spatial structural model to locally bred systems, improving communication and information sharing. It also requires putting in place well regulated wetland management plans that promote eco-friendly alternative livelihoods.