

A WORD FROM OUR CEO

"It was my pleasure to be part of launch of two TASHA Projects "The Communication and Vocational Institute/skilling for life projects" in month of august 2024 in Kagadi Town and Hoima western Uganda These projects are supported by the European Coalition for Corporate Justice (ECCJ) and Concern citizen /community members who believe in skilling vulnerable community members is a key to success respectively..

I take this opportunity to congratulate TASHA TEAM for such millstones, all those who have worked hard to materialize these projects, The communication projects will make us see things like podcasting, media trainings, community radio, Community trainings, Digital broadcasting or live streaming programs and skilling for life/vocational institute project will acquisition of skills for better future easily accessible for vulnerable community members."

Maxwell Atuhura-(Right)



IN OUR NEWSLETTER THIS MONTH

The August edition of our newsletter highlights exciting developments, including the launch of The Communication Project and Tasha Vocational Institute. These initiatives reflect Tasha Research Institute Africa's mission, marking a new chapter in our efforts to expose the impacts of the EACOP Project and improve communities, especially in the Albertine region.



This edition also takes the opportunity to introduce our new discussion series on X Spaces. The series extends conversations on our projects, the philosophy behind our human rights and environmental justice initiatives, the challenges we face, and potential solutions. The first bi-monthly session was organized by Tasha Research Institute Africa, with the second featuring a collaboration with Greenfaith Uganda. and ensure they receive the attention they deserve.

Kazi Njema Radio's John Kibeho at the Tasha Communication Project Launch (Left). More on the next page

New Students at the Tasha Vocational Institute Launch (Right). More on Page 3.



AMPLIFYING VOICES: TASHA RESEARCH INSTITUTE LAUNCHES COMMUNICATION PROJECT

In a significant milestone for Tasha Research Institute Africa, the launch of our Communication Project took place on August 19, 2024, bringing together journalists and other stakeholders with a shared commitment to amplifying the voices of communities affected oil projects, specifically the EACOP Project. The event kicked off at 9:00 AM following a hearty breakfast and a prayer led by Mucunguzi Michael (pictured front middle below). A self-introduction followed before Maxwell Atuhura, the project coordinator provided a brief overview of the project, emphasizing its logic and mission.



The Communication Project seeks to address a pressing gap: the lack of media coverage on the diverse impacts linked to oil exploration and extraction on local communities. Too often, mainstream media channels neglect issues such as unfair compensation, marginalization of affected communities and environmental degradation.

As a result, these concerns remain unknown and thus unsolved, leaving vulnerable communities devoid of platforms through which to express their grievances. Over the next twelve months, the Communication Project seeks to reverse this trend through strategic engagements with journalists and media houses, empowering them to investigate, examine, and report these hidden stories.

John Kibeho, a journalist affiliated to Kazi Njema Radio, underscored the central objective of the Communication Project, facilitating an insightful discussion on the reasons behind the inadequate coverage of oil related impacts and issues in mainstream media. The discourse highlighted key challenges, including government pressure, compromised journalistic ethics, and legal obstacles that often hinder comprehensive reporting on the oil sector. Additionally, the vested interests of media house owners in industries linked to the oil sector fuels the reluctance to publish stories that potentially conflict with their business operations.

Despite these challenges, the path forward remains clear. The project will emphasize the creation of a radio series dedicated to environmental, social, and economic issues, specifically emphasizing the oil sector. Journalists were encouraged to expand their knowledge of the oil sector and its impacts beyond the national level and contextualize them locally. Mucunguzi Michael, the Head of the Communication Project outlined the practicalities of the project emphasizing the use of platforms such as online broadcast channels such as podcasts and YouTube to reach wider audiences. The plan centers on the production of a monthly series of interviews and investigative reports and stories, grounded in thematic issues, with partner journalists playing a key role in examining and disseminating these reports.

The launch of the Communication Projects marks a new era in our mission to empower communities and ensure their voices are heard. Through the active involvement of dedicated journalists, we are confident that the hidden stories of those impacted by Uganda's oil sector will finally gain the attention they deserve. Collaborative efforts and strategic collaboration will allow us to move a few steps closer to justice, equity, and truth for all.



A section of the participants from Tasha and different media houses at the launch of the communication project

TASHA VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE FINALLY COMMENCES ITS OPERATIONS

July 27, 2024 was a remarkable day for Tasha Research Institute Africa, marking the official launch of the Tasha Vocational Training Institute in Hoima. This launch represents a significant milestone in the sense that it aligns with Tasha's ongoing mission to foster skill development and innovation, empowering communities through practical education.

This milestone event took place at the Institute's newly constructed premises and was attended by many participants, including three representatives from Tasha, four from the institute, and several new students (some pictured below and right). The ceremony began at 9: AM with an opening prayer led by Katusabe Gerald followed by self-introductions before Tasha Research institute Executive Director Maxwell Atuhura graced the stage.



In his address, Maxwell Atuhura shared insights regarding the courses the institute will be offering. The programs are designed to equip students with practical skills for economic self-reliance, with some offerings including eight-month courses in fashion and design, hairdressing, and driving, each at an affordable tuition fee of 200,000 Ugandan shillings. The pricing is accessible, reflecting Tasha's commitment to making education affordable for everyone in the community.

The event also featured the assembly of training equipment such as sewing machines by teachers and students- a collaborative effort highlighting the hands-on learning approach that defines the institute. The teachers responsible for leading students in their learning journey were also introduced.

One of the key highlights of this event was the official opening of the school by Mr. Atuhura. Attendees were given a tour of the facilities, where they explored the showcased training programs and equipment that will be central to the students' learning experience.

The launch of the Tasha Vocational Institute signifies the beginning of a new chapter in Hoima's development, providing a platform for people to acquire valuable skills and contribute positively to the betterment of their communities.

As Tasha continues to expand its impact, this institute represents a beacon of hope for many aspiring professionals within the region.



A NEW ERA FOR TASHA: STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS WITH JOURNALISTS AND EXPANDING COMMUNITY IMPACT

Tasha Research Institute Africa is entering a transformative phase, marked by strategic partnerships with journalists and media houses and the recent launch of the Tasha Vocational Training Institute in Hoima, Uganda. These developments signal a renewed commitment to empowering communities and amplifying voices that are often silenced.

The launch of the Communication Project solidifies our collaboration with dedicated journalists focused on exposing the hidden impacts of oil projects. Through these partnerships, Tasha is working closely with media professionals to highlight critical issues like unfair compensation, environmental harm, and the marginalization of local communities. By leveraging the power of media, we aim to bring these stories to broader audiences and ensure they receive the attention they deserve.

Simultaneously, the Tasha Vocational Training Institute represents our commitment to equipping communities with practical skills and education. Launched in July, the institute offers courses aimed at enhancing livelihoods and fostering sustainable development in the Albertine region. The event was marked by an introduction to the institute's offerings and the official opening by Executive Director Maxwell Atuhura.

Together, these initiatives mark a new era for Tasha—one driven by strong media partnerships and impactful community engagement. As we build on these found-