



# MINERALS, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND GOVERNANCE IN UGANDA

# Focus verses

## DEUTERONOMY 8:9–10

*“A land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills... when you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.”*

## JOB 28:1–2

*“There is a mine for silver and a place where gold is refined. Iron is taken from the earth, and copper is smelted from ore.”*

# Introduction: Uganda's Hidden Wealth

- Uganda is a land rich in natural treasures — gold in Mubende and Karamoja, limestone in Tororo, copper and cobalt in Kasese, sand in Lwera, oil in the Albertine Graben, and gemstones in different regions.
- These resources have the potential to transform Uganda's economy. But they also pose a test: will they be managed with righteousness for the benefit of all, or misused for private gain?

# Minerals as a Gift and a Test

- Natural resources are divine gifts but they test governance. Gold mining in Mubende and Karamoja, for example, could uplift communities, yet many locals remain poor while illegal miners and smugglers profit.
- *Job 28:1–2 — “There is a mine for silver and a place where gold is refined. Iron is taken from the earth, and copper is smelted from ore.”*

# The Role of Minerals in Development

- Resources can drive industries and jobs. Tororo's limestone fuels Uganda's cement industry, a vital input for construction.
  - Oil in the Albertine region is projected to generate billions in revenue.
  - If governed well, these could build infrastructure, hospitals, and schools. But if revenues are misused, they will enrich only a few.
- *Proverbs 13:11 — "Dishonest money dwindles away, but whoever gathers money little by little makes it grow."*

# Governance Failures in Natural Resource Management

Uganda has faced painful examples of poor governance in natural resources:

- **Illegal Gold Trade**
- **Sand Mining in Lwera**
- **Kilembe Copper Mines**

- *Isaiah 5:8 — “Woe to you who add house to house and join field to field till no space is left.”*

# Natural Resources, Equity, and the Poor

- Too often, resource-rich communities remain poor. In Karamoja, despite gold deposits, many families live in hunger and insecurity.
- In the Albertine region, communities displaced by oil projects report inadequate compensation and limited benefits.
- *Proverbs 31:8–9 — “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves... defend the rights of the poor and needy.”*

# Resources, Conflict, and Stability

- Natural resources can fuel conflict.
- In Karamoja, cattle rustling and illegal gold mining overlap with insecurity.
- Oil in the Albertine region has raised tensions over land ownership, environmental risks, and revenue sharing.
- *James 3:16 — “For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.”*

# Stewardship and Sustainability

- Uganda's sand, forests, and minerals are being depleted faster than they are restored. Sand mining in Lwera has left deep environmental scars. Oil exploitation could threaten ecosystems along the Nile and Murchison Falls National Park. Governance must ensure environmental rehabilitation, strict regulation, and investment in renewable sectors.
- *Numbers 35:34 — “Do not defile the land where you live and where I dwell.”*

# Conclusion: Governance as Stewardship of Treasure

- Minerals and natural resources can be either a **blessing** or a **curse**.
- Uganda's wealth must be governed with justice, transparency, and long-term vision.
- Righteous governance will turn these treasures into national blessings; corruption will turn them into curses.
- *Proverbs 14:34 — "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin condemns any people."*

## Prayer item: Thanksgiving for Uganda's Resources

- *Psalm 24:1 — “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.”*
- Lord, thank You for blessing Uganda with minerals, fertile soils, forests, and rivers. We acknowledge these treasures as Your gifts to this nation.

## Prayer item: Thanksgiving for Uganda's Resources

### **Psalms 150:1-6 NLT**

- [1] Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heaven!
- [2] Praise him for his mighty works; praise his unequalled greatness!
- [3] Praise him with a blast of the ram's horn; praise him with the lyre and harp!
- [4] Praise him with the tambourine and dancing; praise him with strings and flutes!
- [5] Praise him with a clash of cymbals; praise him with loud clanging cymbals.
- [6] Let everything that breathes sing praises to the Lord! Praise the Lord!

## Prayer item: Repentance for Exploitation and Greed

- *Jeremiah 6:13 — “From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain.”*
- Forgive us for corruption in mining, smuggling of gold, destruction of wetlands, and exploitation of poor communities.
- Forgive leaders who have traded away national wealth and citizens who have neglected stewardship.

# Prayer item: Prayer for Righteous Leadership

- *Proverbs 29:2 — “When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice.”*
- Lord, raise leaders with integrity to manage Uganda’s oil, gold, sand, and minerals.
- Protect them from bribery and greed. Let contracts be transparent and revenues managed with accountability.

# Prayer item: Prayer for Communities in Resource Areas

- *Isaiah 32:18 — “My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.”*
- Lord, defend communities in Karamoja, Mubende, and the Albertine region. Ensure they benefit through jobs, infrastructure, and fair compensation. Protect them from displacement and exploitation.

## Prayer item: Prayer Against Conflict and Exploitation

- *James 3:16 — “Where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder.”*
- Lord, silence conflicts over land and minerals. Break networks of illegal mining and cross-border smuggling. Turn Uganda’s resources into instruments of peace, not violence.

## Prayer item: Prayer for Stewardship and Sustainability

- *Ecclesiastes 7:14 — “When times are good, be happy; but when times are bad, consider: God has made the one as well as the other.”*
- Lord, guide Uganda to use today’s wealth wisely. Inspire reforestation, rehabilitation of mined areas, and investment in sustainable industries for future generations.

## Prayer item: Prayer for National Transformation

- *Isaiah 60:17 — “Instead of bronze I will bring you gold... I will make peace your governor and well-being your ruler.”*
- Lord, let Uganda’s natural resources be governed by peace and righteousness. May minerals build schools, hospitals, and industries. May this nation be exalted through righteous stewardship.

# Declaration

- We declare that Uganda's minerals, oil, forests, rivers, and all natural treasures belong to the Lord Almighty.
- We declare an end to greed, corruption, and mismanagement, and we decree righteousness, integrity, and wisdom over every steward of the land.
- We declare that no community shall be displaced unjustly and no Ugandan shall lose dignity because of resource exploitation.
- We declare restoration over Uganda's ecosystems, our forests, waters, soils, and wildlife, and we call forth healing of the land.

- We declare that Uganda's resources shall serve the common good: uplifting the poor, strengthening families, promoting equity, and building a nation of peace and prosperity.
- We declare that Uganda shall not be known for plunder or exploitation but for stewardship, justice, and abundance shared among all.
- We declare that Uganda shall shine as a testimony among the nations of God's wisdom, provision, and unfailing love.

ALL IN JESUS' NAME, AMEN