

Chinese firm begins building fertiliser plants in Tororo

TORORO

By Donald Kiirya and Faustine Odeke

Guangzhou Dongsong Energy Group Company Limited, a Chinese firm, has started construction of the mineral separation and fertiliser plants in Tororo district.

This was revealed by the chief executive officer (CEO) of Guangzhou Dongsong Energy Group, Guo Yaqiong, during a recruitment exercise of workers at the company headquarters in Osukuru sub-county, Tororo.

The exercise that lasted two days saw overwhelming numbers of residents applying for various jobs.

It took place at three venues: the company offices, Iyolwa Technical Institute and at Meila Technical Institute in Tororo.

Yaqiong said 92 job slots were advertised and the company expects to employ about 1,000 workers by the end of October and 15,000 employees by 2019.

She said all the 15,000 are expected to work at the mineral separation, fertiliser, glass mill, steel mill, cement and brick baking factories they are to construct.

Yaqiong said they are now constructing a foundation for the mineral separation and fertiliser plants after making feasibility studies in Osukuru and Rubongi sub-counties, where they expect to mine phosphate.

She said the \$620m industrial complex is funded by the Industrial Commercial Bank of China (ICBC). The industrial park is being built on 26.47 square kilometres of land.

She said silk iron ore, hematite and magnetite for making steel products will be



The site where various factories are going to be constructed by Guangzhou Dongsong Energy Group Company Limited, being cleared in Tororo. Photos by Donald Kiirya



CEO Yaqiong

in the glass mill will be mined in Moroto.

The project was expected to commence at the end of 2016. A disagreement with the locals over compensation for land delayed the progress.

In 2013, the Government awarded a mining lease to Guangzhou Dongsong Energy Group to mine and process phosphates in Sukulu hill.

Solomon Oketcho, the Rubongi sub-county LC3 chairperson, said he was happy that the company compensated all landowners and that the issue of local content was being considered in the project.

Oketcho said the challenge of unemployment in the sub-

county would partially be solved.

"The issue of industrialisation will solve unemployment and as leaders, we shall continue wooing more investors to come and employ the youth, so that they work and improve their livelihood."

The LC3 chairperson of Osukuru sub-county, John Paul Okanya, said unemployment is about 85% to 90% in his sub-county and was happy that the company had given priority to residents while conducting the recruitment exercise.

Okanya said most residents were compensated, but others wasted the money by buying cars.

WHAT RESIDENTS SAY

Geoffrey Owor:

When I heard an advert on the radio, it prompted me to apply for a job of security officer to increase on my earnings and pay school fees for my children.



Olivia Akumu:

I studied up to Senior Four and I have applied for a job of office messenger so that I can get some money to improve my livelihood.



Caroline Kyaka:

After attaining a degree in social work at Kyambogo University last year, I have looked for jobs and failed to get one. I have applied for a post of secretary in the company.



Isaac Biire:

I have applied for a post of driver. I applaud the Government for bringing such investors who have established factories and provided jobs to Ugandans.



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