

...which will benefit in the first phase include; Mbale,

...role, Agago, Amuru, Pader, Dokolo, Ngora, Bulambuli, Katakwi, Nwoya and Kitgum.

increase funding and other rewards to those who will have met their targets successfully.

with community representatives, community dialogue meetings and the use of the barazas.

Govt stuck with 415 acres of land for industries

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KAMPALA. Government is still stuck with 415 acres of land meant for industrial development as investors are reluctant to invest upcountry, *Daily Monitor* has learnt.

The revelation was made yesterday by Mr Godfrey Ssemakula, the deputy director of the lands development division in the Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) yesterday.

Mr Ssemakula said the unoccupied land is in the industrial parks of Kasese, Soroti and Mbale.

"In Kasese, out of 219 acres, we have so far allocated 60 acres. In Soroti, we have not allocated 60 out of the 216 acres that government secured. In Mbale, we have 100 acres out of the 619 acres. We are still seeking investors to take over the available land in the already established

industrial parks in those districts," Mr Ssemakula said.

The government, according to Mr Ssemakula, has successfully secured investors to develop all the land in the industrial parks of Namanve (2200 acres), Bweyogerere (50 acres), Luzira (70 acres), Jinja (182 acres) and Mbarara (12 acres). He added that of the 639 acres already allocated in Kasese, Mbale and Soroti, the investors have taken up 3,570 acres of the 3,985 acres secured.

"As Uganda Investment Authority, we are saying there is land available for prospective investors to utilise. The 100 acres remaining in Mbale are available purposely for the establishment of SMEs (Small-scale Micro Enterprises)," Mr Ssemakula added.

He said eight companies have taken up land in Kasese with one already constructing and 10 are confirmed in Soroti where a Fruit Processing Plant

NEW PARKS

According to the UIA, government is looking for land to set up industrial parks in Luwero, Nakaseke, Nakasongola and Masaka in Central region. In eastern region, Soroti, Mbale, Iganga and Tororo are among those set for new parks. Arua, Lira and Gulu are among those identified for industrialisation in Northern Uganda whereas Kabale, Hoima, Bushenyi, Mbarara and Kasese are some of industrial hub targets in Western Uganda.

is set for commissioning.

State Minister for Investment Ms Evelyne Anite said most of the investors are still reluctant to take up the land in upcountry industrial parks

because of lack of "sufficient" infrastructure that would make it easy to set up such factories.

"Investors are not going upcountry because of misconceptions that investments can only do better business in Kampala. We have to change their perception through putting in place the required infrastructure such as roads, electricity, water and sewage systems. This will be worked on since industrialisation is one of the pillars of achieving Vision 2040," Ms Anite said.

The minister said there are many foreign and local investors that are looking forward to set up industries in Uganda but most of them need to find either warehouses already set up or sufficient infrastructure in place.

She also said government plans to set up 22 industrial parks across the country with a target of creating two million jobs.