

Investors eye Kampala waste

By Eddie Ssejjoba

A Canadian investor, Jim Wright, has expressed interest in setting up a \$500m (about sh1.08 trillion) waste management plant in Uganda as one of the strategies to rid Kampala city and its suburbs of garbage.

Wright is the owner of Wright Tech Systems, which makes biological dryer machines that convert and dry organic waste material into clean green renewable fuel and energy. According to available information, the plant can transform organic waste including meats, fish, dairy, fruits, foods, sewage bio solids, agricultural waste, manures, pulp sludge, paper and wood into biomass fuel.

It has capacity to process 4,000 tonnes of garbage per day but Kampala city generates only 1,500 tonnes daily, which is less than

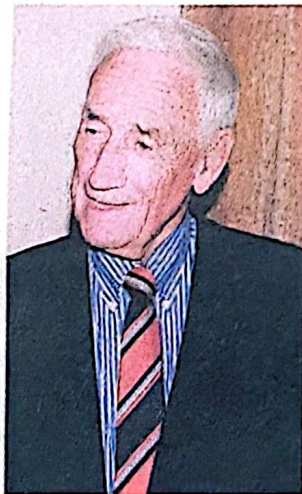
the machine's capacity.

In his proposal which focuses on turning organic waste into energy and which he and his team discussed with the Prime Minister, Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, last week, Wright wants to bring on board other towns in the Metropolitan areas including Wakiso, Entebbe and Mukono.

Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) collects about 400-500 tonnes of garbage per day and leaves about 60% uncollected.

Wright, with his 'Green Energy and Recycling Facility' has offered to provide technology which separates solid waste from non-hazardous discarded material generated in residential, commercial, institutional and light industrial settings.

The systems include sorting, separation, bio-filtration and conveying equipment. It is designed to take mixed



Jim Wright

solid waste and separate out the organic waste from the recyclables like metals, plastics, textiles and glass. The organic wastes are then converted into biomass fuel while the recyclables are recovered and resold back into the market.

Wright said the project would

BETWEEN THE LINES

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provide over 1,000 jobs and reduce on the urban pollution, in addition to turning garbage into a valuable commodity.

"We are here to get assurance of government commitment otherwise, we are ready to start," Wright said after meeting the Prime Minister.

Fuji Kaliisa, the company representative in Uganda, said they would work with the existing garbage and waste collection companies that have contracts with the city and other towns.

He said once the plant starts working, it will generate power to the tune of 50 megawatts per hour and will operate 24 hours a day.

He said 46% of garbage burnt in the process will be used as manure and be supplied to farmers. The company also plans to sell the power generated at a cost of 5 dollar cents, which is cheaper than the current cost of power per unit.

Another group, J&W Trading Co. Ltd from Japan, which is also interested in processing waste in the city, met Kanya last week.

The company proposed a sustainable waste management solution 'using a recyclable resource that is safe and sterile' and turns waste into fertiliser. Their system processes six to 12 tonnes of waste in 40 minutes.

Kanya explained that President Yoweri Museveni recently set up an inter-ministerial committee headed

by the Prime Minister to fast-track KCCA projects.

She said the committee identified four key issues which include management of garbage and waste, lighting of the streets in the city, setting up a modern bus system and installation of CCTV cameras to improve security.

"We are, therefore, looking for investors who will use their own funds to set up projects and propose a finance model of paying themselves back because KCCA has no money," Kanya explained.

She said the Canadian company first expressed interest in 2013, adding that the committee would now vet all proposals for waste management and pick out the best.

Kanya explained that President Museveni had also applied for a \$100m (about sh359b) loan to work on the city roads.

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