Quality Chemicals launches termite control pesticide

By Edward Kayiwa

The Government has committed to supporting real estate developers across the country in order to increase decent and affordable accommodation for all Ugandans by 2020.

According to the housing minister, Chris Baryomunsi, the Government will, starting next year, extend electricity, water and sewerage services to construction sites, thus reducing the cost of construction by at least 50%.

In addition, Baryomunsi said the Government has finalised plans to introduce a mortgage liquidity facility by the end of this financial year to support the development of the housing sector.

He said the project will be implemented with support from the World Bank through the ministries of finance and housing.

"Feasibility studies on the project have been completed and currently, we are at the capitalisation phase. We shall put the money in one of the banks, preferably Housing Finance Bank, where the private sector will access it for the development of the housing sector. Right now, they are accessing money from banks at a very high interest rate, which makes building unattractive to many people," Baryomunsi said.

He was speaking during the launch of a termite exterminating pesticide, Matador, at the Kampala Serena Hotel in Kampala last week.

The pesticide is manufactured by the BASF Chemical Company in Germany and distributed by Quality Chemicals in Uganda.



Lukas Viljoen (left), Hartmann, Baryomunsi (with microphone), Licolin Asembo and Gift Mbaya at the launch of the pesticide at Kampala Serena Hotel recently.
Photo by Godfrey Kimono

Baryomunsi said the rising housing shortage in the country is expected to hit eight million by 2020 if critical measures to address the challenge are not taken.

"We have a housing deficit of over 2.1 million units and the available houses are very expensive. Our population is estimated to reach 64 million by 2040 and if we do not act now, we shall lack accommodation for our people," Baryomunsi said.

He added that the Government has taken initiatives to support diversification of building materials through attractive tax regimes, creation of a free market and stable macro-economic conditions which support the growth of the private sector.

The BASF senior chemist, Dirk Hartman, said the termite-killing insecticide is fundamental to the construction industry as the insects are known for destroying building materials, such as doors, roofing timber and other installations.

"It is saddening to construct your house, only for it to be destroyed by termites. Termites and other related insects remain a challenge during and after house construction, especially where non-metallic materials are used," he said.

Hartman added that the chemical is environmentally friendly, non-carcinogen and controls all kinds of termites and other crawling insects.

He said about 10% of the estimated 4,000 species of termites are considered pests and can cause serious structural damages to buildings and crops or forests.

"They have also been known to damage paper, clothes, carpets and other cellulosic materials. They also damage particles taken from soft plastics, plaster and rubber, which are often used in construction," Hartman said.

BETWEEN THE LINES:

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By Samuel S

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