

Govt seeks sh500b for Namanve park

By Benon Ojiambo

When she was appointed state minister of finance for investment and privatisation, Evelyn Anite embarked on fact-finding tours, starting with the Kampala Industrial Business Park, Namanve in August last year.

During the tour, she was informed that of the 280 companies which had been licensed to set up industries in the country's flagship industrial park, only 20 were operational.

That number has grown to 21, according Uganda Investment Authority (UIA).

Underutilisation of the industrial park was blamed on lack of adequate infrastructure such as roads, electricity and water to facilitate investments.

Anite was also informed that sh500b was needed to fully develop infrastructure in the industrial park for effective utilisation.

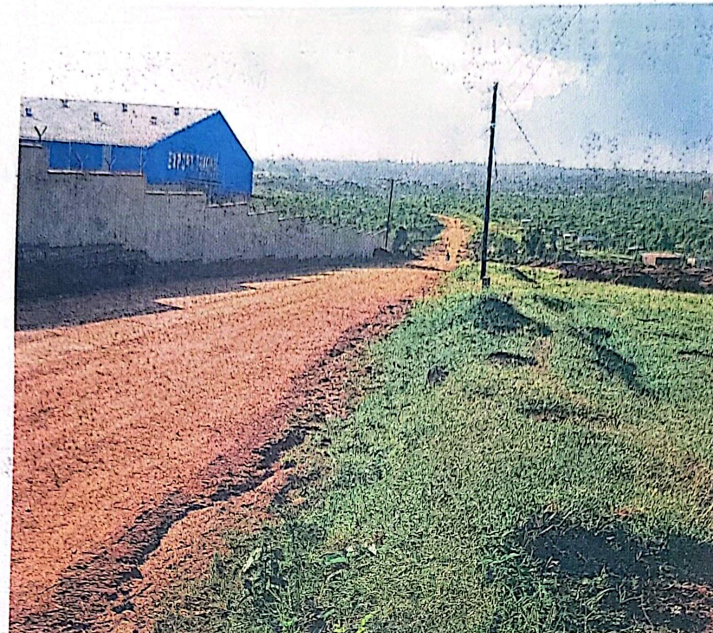
A week later, she told journalists at the UIA offices in Namanve that the Government had secured a loan of sh500b to fully develop the 2,200-acre industrial park and that works were to kick off before the end of the year (last year).

However, almost a year later, *New Vision* has learnt that infrastructural development works in the park are yet to start and that the funds are not yet secured.

While giving account of her first 100 days in office, Jolly Kaguhangire, the UIA executive director, said they recently hosted an Indian delegation and the Indian Exim Bank had expressed interests in providing a loan for Kampala (Namanve) Industrial Business Park development.

She said the Government is seeking a loan of \$150m (about sh540b) to develop the park.

According to Kaguhangire,



The Namanve Industrial Park still lacks much-needed facilities such as roads, water and electricity. Investors who have failed to utilise the land will forfeit it

"We are in advanced stages and the deal is expected to be concluded soon. Works are expected to commence before end of the year." Anite

negotiations between the Government and the bank are still at the initial stages.

She explained that the financial institutions will have to carry out a preliminary survey to ascertain the actual funds needed before the deal can be sealed.

In a telephone interview last week, Anite confirmed this,

saying Uganda was in talks with the financial institution over the same loan she referred to last year.

However, she said negotiations between the Government and the bank are in advanced stages pending President Yoweri Museveni's approval before the loan proposal can be tabled before

Parliament.

"We are in advanced stages and the deal is expected to be concluded soon. Works are expected to commence before the end of the year," Anite said without giving specific dates.

Carpenters get land

Kaguhangire has promised to allocate three acres of the industrial park land to a group of carpenters and craftsmen.

She made the revelation during a site visit to the Nsambya Carpentry and Crafts Development Association (NSACADA) in Kampala last week.

This followed her revelation that the agency had withdrawn 52.48 acres of land from 10 non-performing companies in

the park and reallocated it to other investors who were ready to set up business.

She also added that 30 other companies in the same industrial park have been given notice of intention to withdraw allocated land totaling 49.5 acres.

"The notice to the investors will expire within a period

of three months. Failure to take possession of their land will lead to an automatic withdrawal of the land," Kaguhangire said last week.

"Currently, there is no available land, but we are hoping to get it from those who will fail to develop their land within the given time frame," she said.

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