

Minister angry over fruit factory shoddy works

BY JOSEPH EIGU ONYANGO

editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

SOROTI. Despite government using a grant of Shs40b for the construction of a multi-million Teso Fruit Factory, Finance minister Matia Kasaija has described the works on site as showing no value for money.

Speaking during a tour of the factory last week in the company of Soroti District leaders, Mr Kasaija criticized the ongoing construction works and accused the officials of Uganda Development Cooperation (UDC) of failing to supervise the Korean contractor.

During the tour, the minister pointed out that the factory floor has many cracks and is not suitable for juice production. The factory also has a sagging ceiling, poor walkways and tattered tarmac.

"We shall need the contractor to rectify these defects so that value for money is realised before the factory is commissioned," Mr Kasaija said.

"At this level of finishing, I can tell you there is no value for money, unless you compel the contractor to rectify the problem", he added.

Ms Yudaya Kadondi, a senior economist working with UDC, who is in charge of supervising the construction, admitted that what the minister cited were in line with their recommendation to the contractor.

"As UDC, we supervised the construction through our clerks of works at the site and we had already brought some of the defects to attention of the contractor and they are aware and ready to rectify them," Ms Kadondi confirmed to *Daily Monitor* in a separate interview.

Eng William Obitre, the site engineer who represented the contractor, Hwanshin Uganda Ltd, said they will correct everything before the handover takes places, adding that they still have much time on the site according to the signed contract.

