



CREATING JOBS

Working on a farm

Some of the casual labourers at Delight Fruits farm. A number of investors are setting up different firms in Nwoya District, hence creating jobs for the residents.

PHOTO BY DENIS OMONY

Investors flood Nwoya, create job opportunities

Investors. Seven years down the road, Nwoya District has attracted more than 30 investors; both local and foreign each employing close to 500 workers as permanent and casual labourers.

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NWOYA. Immediately it gained self-autonomy in 2010 after being carved out from Amuru District, the leadership of Nwoya District started embracing investors.

Seven years down the road, Nwoya District has attracted more than 30 investors; both local and foreign each employing close to 500 workers as permanent and casual labourers.

The investors have majorly ven-

tured into growing crops such as maize, rice, simsim, cassava, groundnuts, and beans. They are also involved in the growing of fruits such as citrus and mangoes.

Nwoya District chairperson Patrick Okello Oryema, in an interview with *Daily Monitor* said when an investor has interest in a particular enterprise, they always offer guidelines.

"We let the investor negotiate with the landowner in the presence of the community development officer to guide the two parties to make sure that there is a win-win situation," Mr Oryema said.

"The district has more than 30 investors and we have no problem with them," Mr Oryema said.

"Several youth have been employed by the investors and if they use the money they get carefully, their lives will change," Mr Oryema added.

Voice

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PATRICK OKELLO ORYEMA, NWOYA DISTRICT CHAIRPERSON

Some of the notable investors in Nwoya District include Amatheon, who deals in rice and maize growing, Riggieel, who deals in cotton growing, Bukoma Agro-processing that deals in spirit that is used in hospitals, Church Hill farm, and Olaa Lolim both dealing in maize growing.

Others include Delight that deals in fruit production and according to Mr Oryema, the firm has planted 800 acres of mangoes in Lungulu Sub-county.

In order to bring together all the district investors as well as attracting more, the district has established an investors forum.

Mr Michael Abok, one of the out-growers attached to Delight and also coordinator of outgrowers in

briefly

District chairman upset

GULU: The poor reading culture among locals in Acholi Sub-region is greatly contributing to the limited usage of libraries in the region, Gulu District chairperson Martin Ojara Mpenduzi has said. Mr Mpenduzi made the remarks while opening a training session for more than 20 librarians across northern Uganda in Gulu Town on Monday. Dr Sarah Kadu, the president of Uganda Library and Information Association ULIA, acknowledged that the society still doesn't appreciate the value of libraries. [Julius Ocung]

Defilement suspect freed

AMURU: The High Court has set free a defilement suspect who has been on remand for three years. Prosecution alleges that the suspect on April 15, 2014, defiled a 10-year-old girl from Ormea Trading Centre in Amuru Sub-county, Amuru District. While freeing the suspect, Justice Okwanga explained that on two different occasions, no satisfactory explanations had been offered by the prosecution to why they had failed to bring witnesses to court. [James Owich]

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Anaka Sub-county, said he is optimistic that one time he is going to benefit from the firm since he is currently growing mangoes and citrus.

"I have not started reaping from this project but I see a bright future when I start supplying my fruits in two years' time," he said.

He added that being a coordinator for outgrowers, has also offered him an employment.

He, however, calls on government to support the outgrowers with irrigation scheme due to unpredictable weather.

Mr Yakobo Bong, a farmer in Okii village, Kochgoma Sub-county, said apart from seedlings that are given as outgrowers, they have also been trained in better farming methods.

"In the past, we looked at planting in line as wastage of time but we have realised that it helps a lot especially during weeding and harvesting periods," he said.

Mr Denis Atube, LC3 chairperson of Lungulu Sub-county, said they have benefited through access roads and health centres in areas where the investors have concentrated.

He, however, cited exploitation in terms of working for long hours and little pay from some investors.

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KEY ISSUES

Social services. Nwoya District senior community development officer, Geoffrey Akena said through social corporate responsibilities, companies have constructed health facilities, roads and schools thus contributing to the development of the district.

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COMPANIES

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brief