

Saleh camps in Amuru over sh21b sugar factory

By David Lumu

The Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) chief, Gen. Caleb Akandwanaho aka Salim Saleh, has spent three days in Amuru reaching out to local leaders ahead of the expected construction of the over sh21b proposed sugar factory in the district.

Saleh's visit comes at a time of unending controversy over land for the sugar factory that has stalled works, with several elders and local leaders protesting the acquisition of community land by the investor.

However, according to officials from OWC, a big headway has been made following Saleh's visit at the weekend.

Saleh, who spent the weekend in Amuru consulting elders and community leaders, was invited by local political leaders headed by the Democratic Party president, Norbert Mao.

According to a statement from OWC, in one of the meetings, Saleh thanked President Yoweri Museveni for believing in the sugar project despite resistance from certain quarters. "I am very grateful that he (Museveni) made that decision because what is going to come out of

this project is going to be very transformational," he said, describing the taking off of the project as his "life-time achievement".

Speaking on behalf of political leaders from Acholi sub-region, Mao described the project as a 'miracle'.

"It is a miracle that so much money has been released for this project," he said, urging government to use the project as a benchmark strategy for its industrialisation projects across the country.

Saleh said he was glad that political leaders had put aside their differences in favour of rallying the communities to embrace the sugar factory project.

The factory is owned by Herse Amina Moghe, an investor of Somali origin, who has ventured into several businesses in Uganda.

Works are already underway. However, following land challenges, the project had stalled, forcing Saleh to intervene.

Saleh said he was encouraged by the determination of Amina and the spirit of community elders who have donated land for the project. The project sits on 25,000 acres. It is located in Atiak sub-county, Amuru district, 60km from Gulu district.