

Minister asks locals to prepare for oil production

KAKUMIRO

By Andrew Musinguzi

Economic monitoring state minister Dr Kasirivu Atwooki has challenged people in oil-rich Bunyoro sub-region to start strategising on how they will benefit from the oil and gas industry, especially through agriculture production.

Atwooki, who is also the MP for Bugangaizi West in Kakumiro district, made the remarks on Thursday while touring the King Fisher oil field, which is under China National Offshore Oil Company (CNOOC) in Hoima district.

Speaking to over 500 residents from Kakumiro, Kibaale and Mubende districts, Atwooki said: "As the Government works on

infrastructure and plans for oil production by 2020, local people should also start investing in agriculture and other productive activities which will help them tap opportunities in the sector."

Over 500 people, including children were guided by experts from energy ministry and CNOOC on a tour of the King Fisher oil pads 1&2. The residents were taken through the basic knowledge of oil formation, discovery, drilling and final processing.

The residents commended Atwooki for the initiative.

Responding to questions about delayed oil production, Atwooki said oil activities require a lot of funds, human resources and technology which were not in the country. He said the Government wants to start production by 2021.