

Chinese starts recruitment of mine workers

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TORORO. Guangzhou Dongsong Energy Group, a Chinese firm, last week embarked on a massive recruitment drive ahead of commencing operations in October.

The two-day exercise started at the company's 600-hectare factory in Utro Village, Kayoro Parish, Osukuru Sub-county, Tororo District before extending to Iyolwa Technical Institute, Iyolwa and Tororo Technical Institute, Mella.

The company that targets a total of 1,000 recruits by the end of this year and 1,500 by the end of next year, received more than 900 applications for the 92 slots that were advertised for immediate posting such as mechanics, welders, electricians, plumbers, security officers, traffic marshals, supervisors and drivers. It was revealed that the company will receive applications until March 20.

Sofinah Achola, who graduated in 2014 with a degree in Public Administration, said: "Since I graduated in 2014, I have remained unemployed and so desperate for a job. I hope this is my chance."

Raymond Okong, 60, who retired from Tororo Cement Factory 12 years ago, said: "I have come to apply as a storekeeper and all I am looking for is school fees for my kids who haven't finished school. Once I finish educating them, I will return home and rest."

Steven Ekuya, a resident, said: "We used not to have piped water and electricity; but we now do."

Priority to locals

While speaking to journalists during the exercise, the Guangzhou Dongsong Energy Group Uganda's chief executive officer, Ms Jane Guo, said priority was given to the locals based on an agreement with the Ugandan government amidst the high levels of unemployment.

She said: "Priority has been given to the local people and if they can't meet the demand or in future when things become technical and we can't find people here, we shall venture across other regions for manpower. But for now, we are only recruiting here and made advertisements capturing the locals."

"Based on the mining prospects here, the soil is just across the road and we are going to mine the soil from there and process it from here. The soil includes Phosphate and Iron Ore which we shall bring here and process into phosphate fertiliser, steel and glass," she explained.

She added that the company has other sites in Masaka and Kabale from where they will mine silicon sand and limestone to produce glass and steel respectively.

"Our projection is that by October, precisely before Independence Day when we commence operations, we should have the dressing plant in place. By dressing, I mean the separation of each minerals and by June next year it will be glass, steel, cement and bricks," she revealed.

MINING LICENCE

Guangzhou Dongsong Energy Group has a 21-year mining licence which dates back to October 18, 2014 when President Museveni laid a foundation stone to pave way for the factory's