



Fisher Investments

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The Namibian
Wed 11 Mar 2015

SMSes

* DEAR Namibians, a tobacco plantation is not a development at all! We are hungry already but now the Chinese want to destroy our lungs with nicotine; rather grow veggies instead of tobacco.

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What are the biggest issues that Hage Geingob's administration would have to deal with?

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NEWS - NATIONAL | 2015-03-11



Tobacco project is mine - Amukwiyu

By Tuyeimo Haidula



Armas Amukwiyu

THE tobacco and maize project mooted for the Zambezi region is the brainchild of Swapo's Oshikoto regional coordinator Armas Amukwiyu.

Amukwiyu confirmed this to The Namibian yesterday saying he spent good number of years in China looking for potential investors for the project.

A Chinese company, Namibia Oriental Tobacco cc has applied for 10 000 hectares in the Zambezi Region for growing tobacco and maize. Last week, the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement carried an advertisement calling for objections to the Chinese company's application for land at Liselo.

The Namibian understands that the Chinese company has already been given the land.

Amukwiyu said he has been at the helm of the project that was supposed to have started last year.

He said the proposal, as it stands, is not yet a final one since they are still negotiating. He could also not say how many shares he will own in the project.

"It is still in its infant stage. There are still some outstanding things which have to be done procedurally," he said. "We are going to discuss and finalise the structure of shareholding."

He also said they are looking at a 50-year renewable lease agreement.

Amukwiyu said they held a public meeting at Katima Mulilo to inform the community of the project, which he said will be located a distance away from households.

The governor of Zambezi region, Lawrence Sampofu, on Monday said they would give the company 3 000 hectares to start with and when satisfied with production, the company would get the rest.

"We support the project because it is going to create an envisaged 3 000 jobs for the people in the villages," Sampofu said, adding that the land will not only be used to grow tobacco, but other crops as well.

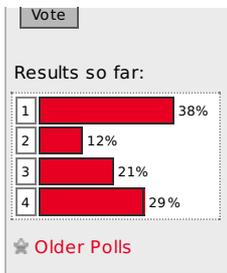
"Tobacco is seasonal. After harvesting tobacco, they will put in other crops such as potatoes. This tobacco is not for Namibian consumption. It will be produced here, processed and then exported to China," Sampofu said.



Leer Flirten

De 6 Grootste Fouten die je maakt tijdens het flirten.





VACANCIES

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An environmental commissioner at the Ministry of Environment and Tourism, Teofilus Nghitila yesterday said they received two assessment reports on the project.

"They submitted two reports. The first one was not sufficient in terms of fiscal information and they submitted a second one at the end of last year, which is being considered," Nghitila said.

Nghitila added that the project still needs to get forest and water clearance from the Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry before it can commence.

Yesterday suspended Swapo youth leader Job Amupanda, together with George Kambala and Dimbulukeni Nauyoma, submitted an objection to Gift Sinyepe, a development planner at the Ministry of Lands and Resettlement in Katima.

Amupanda, Kambala and Nauyoma, who started the Affirmative Repositioning movement which seeks to help address the land issue in the country, objected to the land being used for tobacco production.

In their objection, the trio said: "In 2005 the Namibian National Assembly unanimously ratified the World Health Organisation Framework Convention for tobacco control whose objectives include protecting present and future generations from the devastating health, social, environmental and economic consequences of tobacco consumption."

They further said Namibia has a serious food problem and that the current 12 green scheme projects all use over 8 000 hectares of land.

"It is our submission that to allocate more land for tobacco than for food is a deviation from the policy direction taken by the Namibian government through its ministry of agriculture, which leans towards eradicating the country's capacity to provide established food security and adequate levels of nutrition." The three also objected the allocation of land to foreigners.

The health minister Richard Kamwi has also spoken out against the allocation of land for tobacco production.

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★ There's nowhere a product produced in Namibia will not be consumed by the locals. We have a lot of smokers therefore that product will be used and it will increase the no of smokers in the region through back door dealings. Grape in the south is for sale mostly abroad but always hawkers sell in the street. so that Tobacco will be sold in the street and Zambezi resident will harvest the remains. I know they will put up a Banner : "Harvest remains at own Risk!!!" - sd yebo | 2015-03-11 13:44:00

★ Comrade President-elect when you will appoint Regional Governors, at Zambezi region the right person is Cde. Hon Kamwi. He has the nation at heart and will not sell the land to Chinese for tobacco plantation. Sampofu and Amukwiyu are lost focus. - Simeon Kondjeni Amupala | 2015-03-11 12:32:00

★ Wow! Idiocy is at play in our country. Turning Namibia' supposedly bread basket into a tobacco basket, I fear for my lungs and the next generation's. - kamwi kachele | 2015-03-11 12:04:00

★ Who is fooling who here? What benefits will we have out of tobacco plantation as Namibians? - Imms Nadhipite Iteta | 2015-03-11 11:38:00

★ Mr. Sampofu, try to represent to the government in the region well. See the need of your region. Do not let Zambezi region lose its status of being the bread basket of Namibia. Or do you also have shares in the project Sir? Propose to the Chinese investors to change their to Maize, potatoes, carrots and so forth. Or are you saying that because tobacco is a seasonal crop it should also be grown in Namibia's irrigation scheme projects? The Nation will blame you Sir.... because you are the chief there and you allow wrong things to happen there. We in other regions would like to come to Zambezi and buy maize and other crops products, but not tobacco Sir. Start thinking now and make a U-turn on SUPPORTING that deadly project. - Matheus shiningeni | 2015-03-11 10:32:00

★ Think of the future generations Mr. Amukwiyu. Do not only think about the shares in monetary terms. People will start blaming you when the bad results of your brain child projects emerge in the longer term by the time you are old and supposed to be enjoying your retirement in peace. Think straight comrade. Let us rescue Namibia from destructive projects. It is still not too late to negotiate with the Chinese investors to change to the project proposal and direction from tobacco to vegetables and maize production. There, the entire nation will salute your brain child project. You will then enjoy your shares peacefully, without blames in the future. We eat Maize, cabbage, etc..... Not tobacco. - Matheus shiningeni | 2015-03-11 10:23:00

★ @ Dearest Popepy John - The mere fact Amukwiyu is involved does not mean the

project is good. That mentality drives one into the group of Zombies. - horst kaminsky
iipumbu | 2015-03-11 09:06:00

★ I don't see the need to grow tobacco in Zambezi whether its seasonal project or not I just feel it will bring health problems to our new generations in future..... I stand firm with Hon Minister Kamwi, I say no to tobacco. - given mutuli | 2015-03-11 08:49:00

★ Do we even know what we doing in this country? Amukwiyu is soo confident is that an accomplishment? Does tobacco plantations bring success in Namibia? And why should Chinese should have maize plantations in our country? What does that makes us now? Lazy idiot zombies! Shame. - maapuli taatunupo | 2015-03-11 08:22:00

★ If it's true that the land will not be sold to foreigners (Chinese) as originally reported and that Amukwiyu is part of the project, then I think it is a good project that should benefit Namibians in terms of employment-creation, benefit Namibia in terms of taxes to our government (from export of tobacco to China), and benefit our people and our economy in terms of other crops that will seasonally be produced to be sold in our market. I'm just against selling our 'master means of production' (land) to foreigners. - Popepy John | 2015-03-11 08:24:00

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