



PAMOL GM post set to return to Manyu

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- Mangep Agbor, in pole position

Oben Ashu, Besong Ogork Ntui, Chief Asanga on standby

- Agbor Tabi pushing hard for kinsmen

Just when many thought all was quiet in PAMOL and that the current very positive performance by the interim management of the company may have cemented its chances of being confirmed, fresh reports indicate that there are frantic efforts to tilt the post of general manager back to a Manyu indigene.

The Ndian-based agro-industrial company has since the demise of its general manager, Wan-Obi Okpun in December 2012, been placed under the auspices of the deputy general manager, Chief Mekanya Charles Okon as interim. Before late Chief Wan-Obi was Chief Moses Obenefunde. Both hail from Manyu Division, the former from Akwaya subdivision while the latter is from Eyumojock subdivision.

It is the passage of these two sons of Manyu at the helm of PAMOL that has pushed many to think that the position of general manager of PAMOL is an exclusive preserve of Manyu division. This may be the reason why for all those gunning for the top job, names from Manyu division feature prominently.

Latest reports recouped from very authoritative sources have it that but for some last minute hitches, Mangep Agbor, would have been appointed. Mangep Agbor is Technical Adviser at the Douala Autonomous Port. Before being sent to this redundant position, he was Director of Finance.

The shortlist that was forwarded to the president's cabinet also included former South West governor, Oben Peter Ashu but The SUN was reliably informed that because of the ailing nature of Peter Oben Ashu, this was just a ploy to make Mangep the strong favourite.

The SUN also got it on authority that Minister Peter Agbor Tabi, deputy secretary general at the presidency is allegedly behind the very strong lobby working to get Manyu division recapture the PAMOL top job and is also being identified as the top notch behind the recent shortlist.

Besides Mangep Agbor and Oben Ashu, two other names both from Manyu division have been making the rounds. One of the is Besong Ntui Ogork, an agronomist and current Coordinator of the Rumpi project in the South West. Ntui Ogork, like Oben Ashu and Agbor Tabi are from the same subdivision. The fourth name is that of Chief Asanga Aloysius from Akwaya subdivision and a close relation to the late general manager.

Mekanya's balance sheet

It is not sure how all of this will pan out in the weeks ahead but what is certain is that since taking over, Chief Mekanya and his team are turning the fortunes of PAMOL Plantations Plc around recording very positive results in terms of production and revenue.

From a shortfall of FCFA 2.400 bn inherited from the late GM the company at the close of 2014 had only FCFA 800

million and is projecting a profit of FCFA 800 million in 2015 the first time in over decade.

PAMOL's crop production has been increasing steadily from 2013 because of the measures put in place and the increase in smallholders' crop. The increase in the price of smallholders' crop from FCFA 50,000 to FCFA 55,000 per ton since January 2014, and other accompanying measures like prompt payment on delivery and assistance in evacuating their crop, have pushed up the supply of smallholders' crop to PAMOL.

In fact, the company witnessed an unprecedented increase last year. Between January and October, it received and paid for, a total of 13,621 tons of FFB. This was way off projected target of 7,407 tons; registering an extraordinary 84% increase.

The increase in crop from smallholders has enabled the company to exceed its total FFB production target by 6.5%.

Experience

The interim general manager has been able to bring to bear on the management of the company his 20 years experience as deputy general manager and as one who grew up the ranks of the company, knows the company like the back of his palm. His experience and performance have all contributed to get the board and Ndian administration behind him and more especially an overwhelming majority of the workers.



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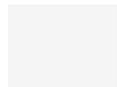
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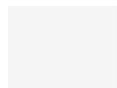
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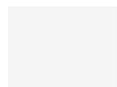
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