



THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER (MINISTER FOR KARAMOJA AFFAIRS)

Tuesday, 2 April 2019

RESPONSE BY THE MINISTER FOR KARAMOJA AFFAIRS TO A QUESTION RAISED BY HON. STELLA ATYANG ON "LOOMING THREATS OF LAND GRABING BY UNSCRUPULOUS PEOPLE IN MOROTO DISTRICT"

Rt. Hon. Speaker and Colleagues
Parliament of the Republic of Uganda
Parliamentary Avenue
KAMPALA

Allow me to respond as follows to the matter that was brought to this house by Hon. Stella Atyang, Woman Representative Moroto District at the 23rd Sitting of the 3rd meeting of the 3rd Session of the 10th Parliament of Uganda held on Wednesday 6th March, 2019 regarding Looming threats of land grabbing by unscrupulous people in Moroto District.

Right Hon. Speaker, although the Hon. Member was not specific in her statement, but from the several meetings I have held with her, I can inform members of this house that the people being referred to are not unscrupulous people as alleged. The team went through all the required procedures.

Right Hon. Speaker to give a background on the land in question this land measuring approximately 221 acres in Kosiye village, Kadunget Sub-county Moroto District was secured by the Government of Uganda in 1979 as a demonstration garden for Cotton and was under the Ministry of Agriculture. However, the demonstration program never succeeded, due to the un-sustainable nature of most areas in the Karamoja region. Therefore, the land remained idle until 1995, when the new National Constitution was enacted, that reverted this Government land to the Moroto District Land Board. Thereafter, The District Council of Moroto applied for this land and acquired a land title **No. LAN/MTO/009/16** in 2017.

The Moroto District Council, Under Council Resolution- **Minute 06/DLC/11/18**, dated 19th November, 2018 resolved to offer the Cement Factory as its equity share capital to

enable the District Local Government and the community therein, to become shareholders (co-owners) of the said cement manufacturing factory.

Right Hon. Speaker: during the time when this land was not being utilised, people within the vicinity were using it for cultivation and the community members were not staying or residing there. However, as a way of corporate –social responsibility, Moroto Ateker Cement factory, the owners of the Cement Factory together with the landlord i.e. Moroto District Local Government decided to give them a token of appreciation of 1,000,000/- (One Million) shillings per acre. This token was given to all the people who were using the land and the evidence is on my hand. Hon. Hon. Speaker!

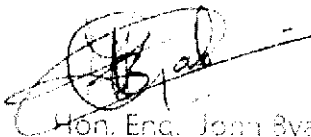
In support of the Hon. Speaker's vision for Karimoja region, as Government, the Office of the Prime Minister-the Ministry of Karimoja Affairs further gave 20 Iron Sheets per household to these families to help them establish better living structures.

Right Hon. Speaker: therefore, taking this background, and the procedures followed in acquiring this land that I have mentioned, the issue of land grabbing by unscrupulous people does not arise.

Right Hon. Speaker, and Colleagues: I have had several meetings with the leadership of Moroto district including the Hon. Speaker, and we all agreed that this is a project worth investing in for the benefit of our people. The minutes are available for reference.

Moroto Ateker Cement factory therefore is not grabbing any one's land and they are not unscrupulous because they are known and they followed the right channels to acquire the said land, and as the necessary investment documents are available for reference.

I beg to respond.



Hon. Eng. John Byabagambi

MINISTER FOR KARIMOJA AFFAIRS