

Lavumisa community gets E60 000

THE Lavumisa Community Trust has started to benefit from the Royal Jozini Big 6 development.

This transpired during a donation of E60 000 to the trust.

Jozini Leasehold Limited Chairman Wilmot Gina, who is also the director, said the community had never lost faith in the Royal Jozini Big 6.

He said the dividend was the first of millions that the Lavumisa community would receive throughout the duration of the 99-year lease. He explained that the Lavumisa Community Trust had 32 trustees representing the 16 chiefdoms and they would collectively decide how best to invest the revenue from Royal Jozini for community projects.

Economic prospects

Gina also said His Majesty King Mswati III had granted the Royal Jozini lease to uplift the economic prospects of Lavumisa, one of the poorest regions in Swaziland, by creating jobs and Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs).

He explained that Royal Jozini sourced its labour through the Lavumisa Community Trust to ensure that new jobs were shared and that Royal Jozini also paid a minimum wage of 30% higher than the gazette rate.

Gina reported that further development of Swaziland's biggest tourism project was being negatively affected by uncertainty created by unresolved work of

the Ministerial Review Committee that had been tasked with reviewing progress of various business enterprises in Swaziland including the Royal Jozini Big 6.

He said that the Review Committee had last met with the board of Jozini Leasehold Limited in August 2009 but had since then, failed to advise his board of their findings or even conduct a site-inspection as promised.

He commented that he found it hard to understand how the Review Committee could reach a conclusion without its members actually having seen the progress.

Gina then highlighted the failure of the government to relocate the King's herd of cattle from the Royal Jozini leasehold land in

terms of a mitigation agreement, entered into between the parties despite Royal Jozini having completed all of the E5 million worth of mitigation construction works on three government farms almost six months ago.

Mitigation agreement

He said that the continued presence of the cattle, in breach of the mitigation agreement, meant that a number of foreign investors were holding back until the game reserve, without cattle, had been established.

He explained that the ministry of agriculture and cooperatives had worked closely with Royal Jozini to meet its obligations in terms of the mitigation agreement but was being frustrated by the officer in charge of the the King's cattle who had suspended the

relocation process.

The mitigation agreement provided for King's cattle to remain on the northern portion of the Royal Jozini estate until the mitigation works had been completed.

At its own cost, Royal Jozini continued to assist the MOAC in providing water and security to the cattle while waiting for them to be relocated.

He said that, as His Majesty

had foretold during his speech at the Royal Jozini sod-cutting ceremony, the cattle inside Royal Jozini's electrified game fence were now safe from South African cattle rustlers but it was rumoured that cattle had gone missing years before the development of Royal Jozini.



Lavumisa MP Doward Sihlongonyane, Wilmot Gina (c) and other community members with the Royal Jozini Big 6 management. (Courtesy pic)