

Royal Jozini project a year behind schedule

STORIES BY CASSANDRA SEAW

LAVUMISA - The Royal Jozini Big Six project is a year behind schedule, owed to water inadequacy and lack of electricity.

One of the directors of the project, Jim Brown said even though they were impressed with the progress made so far, the project could have successfully entered its second phase had key resources like water and energy been available.

Brown was speaking during the company's end of year party held at Lavumisa on Friday.

Cannot

He said they spent millions of Emalangeni pumping water from the mountains through generators.

Also, construction of the five star hotel might take another two years due to lack of electricity.

"The planning aspect of the hotel is complete but cannot proceed without electricity. We are working with the Swaziland Electricity Company (SEC) and SwaziBank to make adequate

... hotel construction delayed by insufficient power supply



Royal Jozini Big Six Director Jim Brown (far left) poses with some of Lavumisa community elders during the party.

power available at Lavumisa from Nsoko and this will take about two years and that is when we can start construction of the hotel," he explained.

Currently, Brown said for the lodges, they used generators to provide power at E160 000 for each lodge.

When explaining about the progress made so far, Brown said in spite of the global recession, they managed to convince investors to pump in money into

the project.

Some of their investors come from England and Hong Kong.

"This year was certainly good despite the deep recession that resulted in many projects being in trouble. We achieved most of our objectives, especially on infrastructure development. We have completed the administration block, accommodation for rangers and management housing, among other buildings," he explained.

Construction of the first five game lodges has started and will be ready for occupation next month.

Already, the company has managed to clinch a deal with guests from Australia to make use of the lodges.

Commitments

Next year, it is envisaged that at least 25 more lodges would be constructed, at an investment of E120 million.

Brown said they had commitments from investors to construct 200 lodges, which will be an investment between E600 - E800 million over a five year period.

The director said they were now working on the resort and making means to provide electricity in the area.

Part of the successes of the project is the second introduction of game and next year, Swaziland will, for the first time welcome a black rhino.

Brown added that they were also working with the Ministry of Agriculture and Co-operatives and other relevant stakeholders to open up the transfrontier park before the World Cup.