



AMATHEON AGRI

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## AMATHEON AGRI

# *Germany pumps K257bn into food security, job-creation*

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MWENDABAI

AMATHEON Agri-Holding of Germany plans to inject up to K257 billion in food security and job creation in Zambia.

Amatheon announced this when Vice-President Guy Scott inspected one of their projects in Mumbwa.

Dr Scott commended Amatheon, the first German company to invest in large-scale irrigated farming in Zambia, for the consideration.

The company plans to irrigate up to 10,000 hectares for food production.

Dr Scott said Amatheon's investment will boost food security in the country and

complement Government efforts to create over one million jobs in the near future.

He said this in a statement yesterday after touring and flagging off Amatheon's 20,000-hectare farm in Mumbwa on Tuesday.

He said Amatheon's holdings investment in Mumbwa will improve lives, adding: "It is always nice to see development taking place, turning dry dust into well-watered soil."

"The interest of the Government in a project like this lies in direct employment and food security.... we are interested in what more can be leveraged for everyone for job creation, with every job created improving the lives of 10 more

people," he said.

The Vice-President, who was accompanied by Labour Minister Fackson Shamenda, attended the tour and field day along with Amatheon's senior management, including chief executive Carl Bruhn and Amatheon Agri Zambia chief executive Andrew Fleming.

Others were Mumbwa member of Parliament Brian Chituwo, German Ambassador Bernd Finke, Senior Chief Shakumbila and Chief Kaindu.

Mr Bruhn said Amatheon plans to invest up to US\$50million (K257 billion) in the development of farming and food business in Zambia.

"The company plans to grow traditional crops such as

soya, wheat, maize and barley. Future operations might also include cattle and timber. The company's long-term objective is the vertical integration of arable land into Zambia's value chain, which will also add to the country's growing economy," he said.

He said Zambia was chosen due to its strong agricultural potential, growing population as well as the robust economy and stable Government.

Mr Bruhn said agricultural growth is essential for reducing hunger and poverty, especially in Africa, where agriculture is the dominant employer and a significant driver for gross domestic product (GDP) growth.