



The First Lady (centre with hat) with the Ntungamo Transformation Initiative board members, the Makerere University AFRISA team and the Rukoni farmers who are undergoing training after the commissioning of the programme at Rukoni sub-county headquarters on Friday

# First Lady launches project for training Ntungamo farmers

By Vision Reporter

The First Lady and Minister for Karamoja Affairs, Janet Museveni, who is also MP Ruhaama county, has commissioned a programme where Makerere University lecturers go to the villages in Ntungamo district to train farmers to acquire knowledge, good practices and entrepreneurship skills so as to increase production and ensure successful enterprises.

The programme, named AFRISA SPEDA NTI, is being implemented by the Africa Institute for Strategic Animal Resource Services and Development (AFRISA), a not-for-profit agency of Makerere University's College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resource and Biosecurity (COVAB) in partnership with Ntungamo Transformation Initiative (NTI)

NTI is an umbrella association bringing together local governments, churches and development-oriented organisations in Ntungamo district to spearhead economic, moral and social transformation.

The programme, which commenced

## BETWEEN THE LINES:

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in Rukoni sub-county in Ruhaama county, uses the Skills, Production, Enterprise Development and Academic (SPEDA) training model designed to take the university from the campus to the communities, impart skills and transform the work which the families engage in into sustainable profitable business units for wealth creation in their families and social development.

So far, 174 participants from Rukoni sub-county in Ntungamo district are undergoing training in various enterprises, including integrated dairy farming, poultry keeping, apiary, piggery, aquaculture and zoo techniques. The programme will be

rolled out to all the sub-counties in Ntungamo district.

While launching the programme, Mrs. Museveni, who is the patron for NTI, thanked Makerere University for breaking through the boundaries and routine of the university and coming to the villages to train rural uneducated people to improve their enterprises.

She observed that the problem with higher institutions of learning in developing countries is that they are confined within their buildings and benefits only a few people.

She congratulated the AFRISA team for their dedication, resilience, humility and courage exhibited by training people in the villages.

"Now that we have lecturers dedicated to teaching people in their villages, we are in the first stage of our transformation as a county," she said.

Citing the biblical parable of talents, Mrs. Museveni encouraged the people of Rukoni to utilise the training to economically empower themselves and change their lifestyles.

She added that the Government will play its role in infrastructure

development by constructing silos, milk coolers and small factories for processing the products.

Bishop Nathan Ahimbisibwe, the chairman of NTI, welcomed the programme, saying empowering the young and old with skills will help eradicate unemployment and poverty.

Conveying a message from the Makerere University vice-chancellor, the principal of agricultural sciences, Prof. Benard Bashasha, thanked President Museveni, whose vision, he said, sparked off the AFRISA SPEDA programme. He also applauded the First Lady for lighting the candle in Ruhaama that will lead to community transformation through agriculture.

The principal of Makerere COVAB, Prof. David Kabasa, said after seven months of AFRISA's nurturing, the farmers will have acquired skills that will enable them see farming as a business.

Dr. Michael Kansiime, the AFRISA programme coordinator, said in future, participants will be monitored using the Global Positioning System to see progress of their enterprises.

# Issuing of national IDs starts tomorrow

By Alfred Wandera

The long-awaited issuance of national identification cards starts tomorrow, three months after the initial set date for the exercise



the issuance will be unveiled at the launch ceremony."

Nyakairima urged the public to support the exercise by participating in accordance with the guidelines that will be issued

"This brings the total number of citizens registered to 15,576,000 (representing 86.5%) of the targeted population (18,000,000), which leaves an estimated outstanding eligible population

efficient and cost-effective.

He explained that applicants will only pick their IDs from the parish centres where they were registered from and will be required to present a copy of the registration certificate