



(R) congratulates Makerere for the Kiira-EV Car innovation



Investigator Prof Sandy Tickodri (M) and Chancellor Kagonyera



COVAB officials (L) gesture with President Museveni during one of his visits to Makerere (Photo by Hope Muhairwe)



Makerere Students excitedly share light moments with Speaker Kadaga and Health Minister Christine Ondo at the Kasangati MSPH facility

# WHY MAKERERE UNIVERSITY IS NUMBER 9 IN AFRICA

sector. Over the last 12 years, MSPH has ably worked with CDC to boost surveillance and prevention capacity against epidemics like cholera, Marburg and Ebola.

### BODABODA PROJECT:

With DFID funding (of over \$4m), MSPH has also been able to pilot and demonstrate that Bodabodas can be used to facilitate delivery of babies by pregnant mothers in remote rural areas of Uganda. The participating Bodabodas are registered and issued with credit notes which are used to claim payment after aiding pregnant mothers (out of emergency situations) in pilot districts of Iganga and Mayuge. Associate Prof Bazeyo says the project has been on for four years and they are now ready to roll out to more districts.

He says it has inspired good practices: for instance all the Bodabodas enrolled in its implementation must wear helmets, which is a safety mechanism. Many mothers have been saved under this "Credit Notes" or "voucher system" which is also implemented in other countries like China and Bangladesh which is reputed to have the highest number of Bodaboda users all

over the world.

### WHO/GATES FUNDS:

Satisfied with its high quality standards and good practices, World Health Organization (WHO) last year recommended MSPH to Bill and Melinda Gates to host the Center for Tobacco Control in Africa (CTCA). CTCA draws participation from a couple of other African countries and it seeks to support governments build capacity to reduce the use of tobacco and its products which tend to be harmful. Conditions/diseases like lung cancer, skin cancer, low birth weight, oral cancer and premature births have all been

associated with consumption of tobacco products. The four year CTCA project is worth \$3.5m and will extend support to four other African countries namely Kenya, South Africa, Mauritania and Angola. All these competed to host the CTCA but Makerere University of Uganda beat them all. Reducing tobacco consumption is one of the most affordable ("not extremely costly") preventive mechanisms for the above conditions associated with tobacco consumption. Ministry of Education & Sports is ordinarily MSPH's parent ministry but it works more with MOH because it's the immediate consumer of its products through absorption in the health sector.

MSPH has for instance been on the forefront of the researches and capacity building programs which have enabled Ministry of Health (MOH) to roll back epidemics like Ebola, Marburg and others. There is also another USAID project worth \$11.8m which the MSPH is implementing under the initiative called RESPOND. It's a regional project, under which MSPH is leading sister institutions from DRC, Rwanda, Tanzania, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda. Having originated the proposal that convinced USAID to avail the \$1.8m grant, Makerere is the one coordinating the program which ensures Schools of Veterinary Medicine and Schools of Public Health work together in the partner states to enhance training and capacity building. Under "One Health for Central & Eastern Africa (OHCEA)," the program identifies one Veterinary school and one School of Public Health in each partner states to participate and harness its implementation.

The MSPH hosts this (OHCEA) program at its facility in Kasangati and Associate Prof. Bazeyo is the Principal Investigator. RESPOND is headquartered in the US but has