

Education minister hails HELP body

By Vision Reporter

The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs Janet Museveni, has hailed the work being done by His Everlasting Love Prevails (HELP International), a non-profit organisation, to empower the communities of Masese in Jinja district.

HELP International a faith-based organisation based in Colorado Denver, US, established a branch in Masese/DANIDA II village in Walukuba, Jinja district in 2006 and has since been working with the communities in the district to make their lives better.

On Tuesday, Mrs Museveni, flanked by the permanent secretary in the Ministry of Education and Sports, Alex Kakooza, hosted the president of HELP International, Jean Kaye Wilson, at State House Nakasero.

The Help International president was in company of her husband and director of the Organisation, Don Wilson, plus other officials from Colorado and the HELP International Uganda office, including the country director, Ronny Sitanga.

The team, which met Mrs Museveni to introduce their organisation to the Government and also establish a working relationship with the education ministry, was led by the Jinja West MP, Moses Balyeku.

According to a release from her office, the First Lady



The First Lady (third-left) with the HELP International officials after their meeting at State House. PPU photo

thanked the team for coming to Uganda to help the needy and contribute to improving people's welfare.

"God is forever looking for people to send and when He gets them, you truly see amazing and inspiring stories," she said, adding that if everyone was willing to extend a hand of help to a person in

need, then the face of the earth would change.

The Uganda project

Balyeku reported that HELP International projects in Jinja have been very supportive through skilling the children and youth and addressing unemployment as well as preaching the gospel.

Jean Kaye Wilson said the organisation reaches out to all people, regardless of their religious beliefs.

She said they are engaged in various community development projects, the biggest of which is the HELP Primary School in Masese, with a total enrolment of 460 pupils from nursery to Primary Seven,

who access free education.

HELP International also sponsors 55 children in secondary and vocational institutes.

Jean Kaye Wilson also revealed that the organisation also works with women groups, who use beads to produce items which are sold in the US to improve their income. About

BETWEEN THE LINES

■ HELP International, a faith-based organisation based in Colorado Denver, US, established a branch in Masese/DANIDA II village in Walukuba, Jinja district in 2006

sh300m has been paid out to the women for their items, she reported.

Other projects include a tailoring school that trains mostly single mothers, motor vehicle mechanics and a driving school for the youth as well as an ICT centre that equips community members with computer skills.

The organisation also supports a nursery school feeding programme on Kisima Island in Lake Victoria in Jinja, clean water projects in Musima and Wanyange villages and albinos and the disabled in Jinja and the neighbouring areas.

The ICT training is for whoever is interested in Jinja district and HELP International wishes to partner with the Government to promote computer-aided learning to help children improve their learning.

Kakooza pledged more engagement with the organisation. He also pointed out the need for the co-ordination of all stakeholders introducing ICT packages in the education sector.