

Flower farms get free zone licences

BY GODFREY LUGAAJU

Ugandan government has stepped up its efforts to attract private investors to its flower sector by offering Free Zone licenses to flower exporting farms such as Rosebud Limited and Premier Roses.

State Minister for Trade and Investment Evelyn Anite confirmed the new development at function held at Namulanda

in Wakiso district saying she had directed the Uganda Free Zones Authority to offer the incentives.

A Free zone is a designated area which companies are taxed either lightly or not at all, so as to encourage economic activity.

Owned by tycoon Dr. Sudhir Ruparelia, the flower firms produce flowers which include Sweetheart Roses, Valentino, Viva, Chelsea, Red Calypso, Meera, Akito and Blushing Akito.

Speaking at the event, Rajiv Ruparelia, the CEO of Rosebud Limited, promised to increase production and create more employment opportunities for Ugandans.

The Free Zones law was set up with the aim of promoting exports, increasing employment and increasing commodity processing from trading raw materials to finished goods.

