

business

Govt unveils Shs53b women entrepreneurship programme

Impact. Project meant to help women improve their income levels.

BY LILIAN NAMEGEMBE

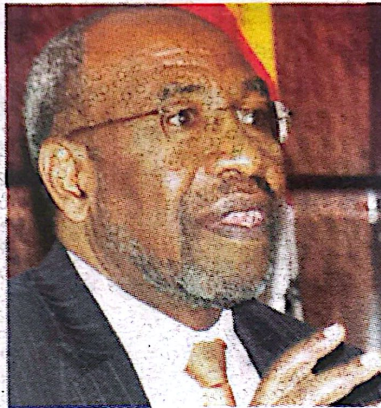
lnamagembe@ug.nationmedia.com

KAMPALA. Government has unveiled Shs53b women entrepreneurship programme (UWEP) aimed at increasing women's competitive edge in the business sector.

Unveiling the programme last week in Kampala, Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda said the project will support women in the micro, small and medium enterprise subsector through provision of interest-free credit, technical advice for appropriate technologies, value addition and market information.

The funds, to be rollout in the next financial year 2016/1017, will also be accessed through the women groups ranging from 10 to 15 memberships, with the major focus on unemployed women and vulnerable groups such as single young mothers, widows, disabled, women living with HIV/Aids and slum dwellers.

"Although women comprise 53 per cent of Uganda's labour force, 42 per cent are taken on as unpaid family workers. In addition, the male to fe-



Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda. FILE PHOTO

male wage gap stands at about 39 per cent. This gap in productivity is of meaningful concern both to GDP growth and to the distribution of income between men and women," Dr Rugunda said.

According to the Premier, the initiative has been formulated based on a number of key statistical indicators, but most importantly women comprising the majority (86.2%) of actors in the informal sector.

The programme is a fulfillment of President Museveni's pledge, during last year's National Women's Day celebrations in Ka-

bale district, to establish a special fund to cater for women's business projects in order to improve their betterment and emancipation.

"UWEP is yet another landmark initiative in implementation of the NRM manifesto, which is a social contract the NRM holds with the electorate," Rugunda said, adding that in the manifesto, uplifting vulnerable groups including women is key, hence the importance of UWEP.

State minister for Labour and Industrial Relations Kamanda Batarigaya revealed that target beneficiaries shall be identified and selected through a selection process spearheaded by the District and Sub County Technical Planning Committees.

"The primary target beneficiaries of the Programme are women within the age bracket of 18-65 years. The assumption is that those beyond 65 years will be catered for under the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment Programme," he said.

"Although women comprise 53 per cent of Uganda's labour force, 42 per cent are taken on as unpaid family workers."

RUHAKANA RUGUNDA, PRIME MINISTER

EAST AFRICA SE

ALSI

BOU forex exchan

February 12

BOU FOREX Buy
Sel

UGANDA SEC

Daily share report, Febru.

	Security	
1	BATU	
2	Bank of Baroda	
3	Cent	
4	Dfcu Group	
5	EA Breweries	
6	Equity Bank	
7	Jubilee Ins	
8	KQ	
9	KCB	
10	NIC	
11	NMG	
12	New Vision	
13	Stanbic Bank	
14	Uganda Clays	
15	Uchumi	
16	Umerne	

