

"We are here to fulfil what for social services, also the chairperson position. extension as the key priorities border point.

# UCC hands over land for construction of technology hub

By Vivian Agaba

The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) yesterday officially handed over a piece of land to the Ministry of Information Communications and Technology (ICT) for the construction of an ICT hub.

The proposed ICT innovation hub will be constructed on a piece of land at the Uganda Institute of Information and Communications Technology (UICT) campus in Nakawa and is estimated to cost \$5m (sh18b).

According to a press release, the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) engineering brigade will construct the hub in order to minimise costs and save money that will directly go into supporting the qualifying innovators.

The UPDF engineering brigade has so far produced the building designs that will soon be presented to Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) for approval.

Speaking during the tour and handover of the land, the ICT minister, Frank Tumwebaze, said the breaking of the ground is expected to take place before the end of August and

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construction will last for six months.

Tumwebaze was accompanied by the top leadership of the information ministry, among them state minister for ICT and national guidance Aidah Nantaba, the permanent secretary, Vincent Waiswa Bagiire and the management of UCC, led by the executive director, Eng. Godfrey Mutabazi.

Tumwebaze noted that once completed, the first ever government ICT hub will offer free work space to about 200 to 300 innovators, who



Tumwebaze (2nd right), ministry officials and officers from the UPDF engineering brigade looking at the proposed ICT innovation hub designs after inspecting the land on which it will be constructed at Nakawa, Kampala on Sunday

are currently finding it difficult to pay rent in Kampala at commercial rates.

He said the hub will house a mentorship lab or auditorium, where different experts/tech firms will be coming to interact and mentor innovators and help them develop products to a conclusive end.

A strong server room and space for

exhibitions will be provided within the hub.

"When the building is completed, the ICT ministry will equip it with work stations and Internet. This hub is part of ICT innovation to support programme initiated by the ministry," Tumwebaze added.

"We hope that the number of

technology firms and institutions such as Microsoft, Facebook and Huawei will be invited and attracted to set up offices here to interact with young innovators since the future of tech firms depends solely on taking up young talents with ability to innovate new digital solutions," he added.