

Kyambadde asks heads of missions to look for investors

JINJA

By Donald Kiirya

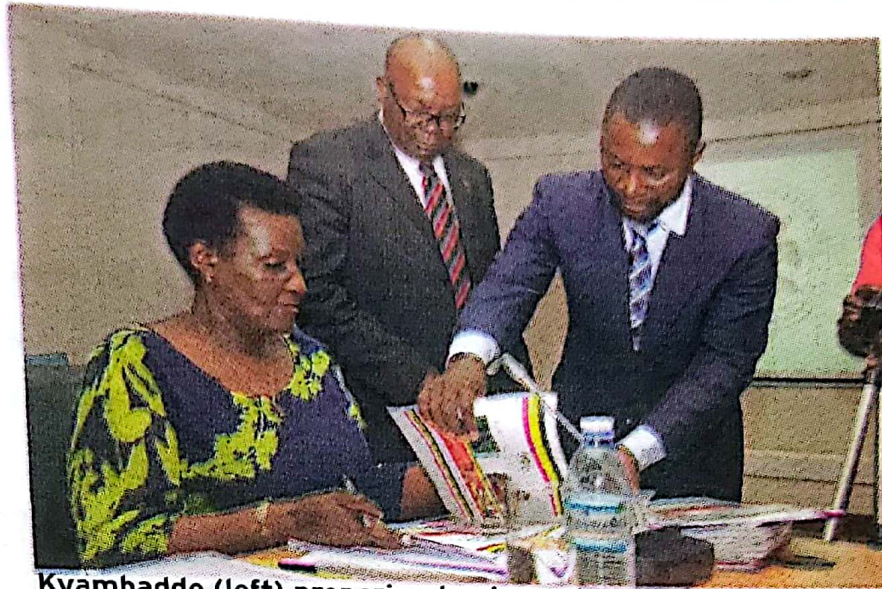
The Minister of Trade, Industry and Co-operatives, Amelia Kyambadde, has appealed to heads of Uganda's missions in foreign countries to look out for potential development partners or investors who will operationalise border export zones in the country.

Kyambadde made the appeal while presenting a statement about driving Uganda into a middle-income country by 2020, during the ambassadors' forum at the Civil Service College Uganda in Jinja on Friday.

Kyambadde said to strengthen Uganda's market position in the Great Lakes region, her ministry is pushing for more aggressive market access to the region through certain initiatives.

Initiatives and interventions

Kyambadde said the Government is going to construct 18 border export zones at Elegu, Katuna, Busia, Lwakhakha, Oraba and Madi Opei, among others. She said they have secured land from border districts — 247.1 acres in Amuru, 138.8 acres in Kabale,



Kyambadde (left) preparing to sign a document during the ambassadors' forum in Jinja. Photo by Donald Kiirya

52.3 hectares in Busia and 8.9370 hectares in Manafwa districts for the project.

Kyambadde said with support from COMESA and European Union, they have developed master plans for the border export zones that include Elegu, Katuna, Busia, Lwakhakha and Oraba in Amuru, Kabale, Busia, Manafwa and Koboko districts respectively.

She said the Government plans to establish trade hubs at strategic distribution points in Gulu and Busia.

Kyambadde said the Government has developed one-stop border posts which are fully operational which include Mirama Hills, Busia, Mutukula and Elegu, currently under construction.

"These will greatly enhance our market access and movement of goods to the regional markets," she said.

Kyambadde said she toured the border posts in Mutukula and Mirama Hills and observed their great potential, but were faced with a number of challenges such

Kyambadde appealed to missions to focus on promoting investment in agro-processing, not only for domestic consumption, but also for regional and international market.

APPEAL

as lack of weights and measures. She said traders and consumers buy products, but find that the quantity is incorrect.

The trade ministry, with support from Trade and Markets East Africa (TMEA) and the Government of Denmark, is implementing the electronic single window programme. Under this programme, all key stakeholders will be able to conduct their economic activities online and on time.

"Electronic single window has now extended its services to a number of stakeholders including Uganda Revenue Authority, National Drug Authority, Uganda National Bureau of Standards, Uganda Coffee Development Authority, trade and foreign affairs ministries," she said.