



**Tourism. Giraffes at Murchison Falls National Park. Tourism is among the budget priorities.**

PHOTO BY STEPHEN WANDERA

## Govt sets priorities for 2018/19 budget

BY STEPHEN WANDERA

wourma@ug.nationmedia.com

**KAMPALA.** Government has listed its priority areas for the 2018/19 National Budget with agriculture, tourism and trade being key areas of funding.

The Presidential Advisory Committee on the Budget (Pacob) comprising ministers and key government officials and stakeholders from various ministries cited mechanisation of agriculture, water irrigation, disease control and support to fisheries, extension services as central areas.

The committee, which meets annually before

the budget is drafted, identified construction of 70 mini solar powered systems for irrigation countrywide, digging and stocking fish pounds in swamps, especially around lakes where fishermen were dislodged for

**"We are looking at empowering the farmers to produce food for family consumption and export. That is why we are emphasising high yield items like coffee, fish, tea and fruits that can be eaten and we earn foreign exchange. We can be able to attain middle income within a year if all goes well," VINCENT SSEMPIJJA, AGRICULTURE MINISTER**

immature fishing, as some of the priority areas in agriculture.

Mr Vincent Ssempijja, the Agriculture minister, told journalists after the Pacob meeting at Office of the Prime Minister on Tuesday that the establishment of six mini milk laboratories, research for vaccine for ticks and recapitalisation of Uganda Development Bank (Shs500b) to fund agro and mineral processing are other priority areas.

The recommendations will be tabled before President Museveni at the end of this month after which the final document will be forwarded to technocrats to make next year's draft budget.