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The team was led by Lydia Kwesiga,

which included
Constantino Lobo and McAllister,
were constructed under Uganda

aparty infrastructure
development (USIMID) programme,
using sh18b the Government secured
from the World Bank to develop 14
municipalities that included Mbarara.
"The damages on these roads will
not end if people do not refrain from
parking and mounting their vehicles

on the sidewalks," Musoke said.
He explained that the sidewalks on
any road are not designed for vehicles.
In Mbarara town, people have
consistently used them for parking
their vehicles, including buses and
heavy trucks.
"The slabs on the sidewalks

Govt urges farmers to boost production

MBALE

By Faustine Odeke

The Government has challenged the private sector and all leading key players in agricultural production to strategically position the country to be a super power in food production by 2040.

The state minister for agriculture, Christopher Kibazanga, said they would no longer tolerate any organisation from distorting agriculture sector plans and budgets.

"Since agriculture is a business and privately-led, I urge all key players to attack poverty from household level and position the country to engage in smart production."

Kibazanga made the remarks during a cocktail party in Mbale town on Saturday, where he unveiled the rebranding of a Belgium organisation, VECO East Africa into Rekolto, which creates a strong, recognisable, international brand that matches its mission.

Bob Nuwagaba, the organisation's communications officer, said they are operating in 15 districts in Bugisu, Bukedi, Teso and Busoga sub-regions, where they have supported close to one million smallholder farmers to benefit from their efforts in commercial agriculture.



Kahamutima (left) shaking hands with Kibazanga after unveiling Rekolto, a Belgium organisation, which focuses on agriculture in Uganda. Photo by Faustine Odeke

Nuwagaba said Rekolto's main focus is helping farmers to access water for production, finance services, quality and food security, market and irrigation, so as to realise value chain addition.

He said they have also constructed two warehouses in Bulambuli and Manafwa districts to handle 500 metric tonnes of grain.

"You are one of our serious partners and you fit into our agricultural development plan II, agricultural strategic plan 2020 and agricultural strategic investment plan 2040. I'm glad that you are in line with the Government programme of

registering farmers for extension services and, collectively, we need to address poverty, which is affecting close to 738 million people, many of whom are in sub-Saharan Africa," Kibazanga said.

He appealed to farmers to take advantage of the rural electrification programme to develop cottage industries and add value to their products so as to remain relevant in the market.

Caroline Kahamutima, Rekolto's country manager, said they have so far developed regional strategic clusters in coffee, grain and rice production. She said they are

also supporting farmers, traders and processors to achieve their dreams.

Tine Deschacht, from the Belgium embassy, said her country is committed to helping farmers create economies of scale by generating quality food production, in addition to strengthening value chain addition.

Kabasa Gessa of Doho Irrigation Scheme appreciated the Rekolto for building their capacities, taking them for benchmarking in Belgium, West Africa and Kenya, among other countries, which has helped them improve their production capacity.

Funding health

APAC

By Arnest Tur

Health practitioners decried low funding for health ministry, they say has low service delivery in the country.

According to the Director of Health Services and the Office of Health Services, it was discovered that health centres are dilapidated, inadequate of drugs, and poor operation.

George Komugumbe and evaluation of the health sector of the Alebtong IV, patient the advertisement equipment Muge at Ad IV, A patient falling Dokc facility on open fun oth