

German company plans to set up vocational institute in Uganda

By Vision Reporter

The First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Mrs. Janet Museveni, has welcomed a proposal by the Lucas-Nülle Group, a German company known for its excellence in technology and training solutions, to establish a vocational training excellence centre in Uganda.

The vocational training centre would provide one-stop training solutions to educate Ugandans in line with the local industry demands and ensure employability of the workforce.

Mrs. Museveni said the proposal is good for Uganda, which is focusing on skills development.

"We welcome this proposal because the German's kind of expertise will reinforce our efforts in skilling our personnel for productive employment," she said.

The First Lady, flanked by senior officers from the education ministry, was meeting Reinhard Lechner a business development consultant for the Lucas-Nülle Group accompanied by Felix Holland of Studio FH Architects Ltd, who called on her at State House Nakasero last Wednesday.

She said many Ugandans have been trained theoretically and so need to be retooled with the necessary skills to be able to effectively compete in the global labour market. She also pointed out the new oil and gas industry in the country, which she said will require personnel trained with the requisite skills.

According to a release from her office, the First Lady said the Germans could also help train trainers for the existing institutes and when established, other vocational institutes could benchmark from this Lucas-Nülle Vocational Training Excellence Centre.

Lechner explained that the Lucas-Nülle Group, which has been in the field of technical education for 40 years, acknowledges the great

need for skills in Africa and hopes to use its experience to blend the technical trainings made in Germany with the local needs.

He said they wish to establish an institute which will offer computer-based training combined with experiments and which will synchronise theory and practical application. He added that the self-explanatory experiment set-ups combined with the positive learning experience that comes from doing experiments on one's own makes learning fast and more efficient.

First Lady and Minister for Education and Sports Janet Museveni presents a book *Explore Uganda* to Reinhard Lechner (centre) and Felix Holland, representatives of Lucas-Nülle at State House Nakasero last Wednesday.
PPU Photo



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Lechner said Lucas-Nülle provides training concepts and solutions for installation engineering, electrical power engineering, renewable

energies, power electronics, engineering, automation technology, mechatronics, communications technology and drives, refrigeration

and air-conditioning technology among others. All the solutions can be customised according to the local needs.

The Lucas-Nülle Group, according to Lechner, has worked on some projects with Makerere University, Uganda Industrial Research Institute (UIRI) and the International University of East Africa. It also has projects in some institutes in other African countries which include Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, DR Congo, Ethiopia, Egypt, Nigeria, Ghana, Angola and South Africa.