

Minister tips universities on research, innovations

MBARARA

By **Abdulkarim Ssendendo**

The Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation, Dr Elioda Tumwesigye, has called on institutions of higher learning to focus on purposeful education, especially that based on research and innovations.

Tumwesigye made the comments while officiating at the opening of Bishop Stuart University Exhibition and the launch of agricultural projects at Bishop Stuart University. The event was part of the annual University Week activities.

Skilling students

Tumwesigye said the purpose of a university is to teach, do research, innovations and produce students with employable skills in order to solve societal challenges.

He said his ministry is willing to support institutions committed to investing in research and innovations through innovation fund and



Tumwesigye, Mwesigwa and Kamatenesi during the tour of the exhibition. Photo by Abdulkarim Ssendendo

BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ Tumwesigye said the purpose of a university is to teach, carry out research, innovations and produce students with employable skills to solve societal challenges.

skills that are not only relevant to the job market but are also key in the positive

aspects of life irrespective of the courses they are doing.

She said all students are encouraged to take agri-business studies.

Community work

Kamatenesi said the University Week was organised to give back to the community by providing primary healthcare.

The university participated in cleaning Mbarara municipality, Kasese, Rukungiri and

They donated about 120 water tanks to Mothers' Union and other groups in Rwampara to improve health and sanitation in their homesteads.

The university's chancellor, the Rt Rev. Sheldon Mwesigwa, said the exhibitions were key not only in marketing the institution but also demonstrating practical skills.

Quality education

The Prime Minister of Uganda, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda, encouraged universities to provide quality education and avoid discrimination according to religion or ethnicity.

He said their foundation should be based on developing students' capacity to think independently, professionally and objectively.

Rugunda was represented by Prof. Ephraim Kamuntu, the Minister of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities.

He asked universities to focus on producing leaders who have vision to help the society prosper. He said graduates