

REGIONAL BUSINESS

Call for boost of youth and women fund

The gender minister, Janet Mukwaya, has directed community development officers implementing the youth livelihood programme and the Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Project to increase funding to youth and women projects to boost their economic livelihood. Mukwaya was touring youth and women projects supported by the Government in Kasese district last week.

Mayiga calls for shunning of witchcraft

The Katikkiro of Buganda, Charles Peter Mayiga, has urged the Kabaka's subjects to stop wasting time and money in witchcraft, but work hard, for it is the only way to attain wealth. Mayiga made the remarks on Saturday, while officiating the opening of a storeyed building at Kwagalakwe Primary School in Mukono Municipality.

Widows and veterans get heifers

MBARARA

By Bridget Kansime and Abdulkarim Ssendgo

Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) over the weekend distributed 48 heifers to widows, local councillors (LCs), veterans and councillors selected from different villages of Mbarara district.

Maj. Sam Karogo Murari, the co-ordinator of OWC in charge of Mbarara district, handed over the cattle to the beneficiaries. He said the heifers had cost the Government over sh100m.

The animals were distributed in all sub-counties in Mbarara, with the exception of Bubaare and Nyakayojo, that are under quarantine due to the outbreak of the foot-and-mouth disease.

"All the heifers were vaccinated against foot-and-mouth disease before being distributed to the beneficiaries to prevent the spread of the disease to other areas," Maj. Karogo said.

Capt. Tumusiime Bamuturaki, the Mbarara LC5 chairperson, asked the beneficiaries to take care of the animals and keep records so that in future they can tell how much they have benefited from the project.

Recently, the deputy chief co-ordinator of OWC, Lt. Gen. Charles Angina, urged farmers in Ankole sub-region to take keen interest in and embrace the presidential four-acre model of farming, if they are to effectively boost their household incomes and fight poverty using their small piece of land.

Angina emphasised that part of their land in the first block of the four acres must address food security, another covers horticulture, while block three and four addresses economic gains and growing pasture and grazing the cows, saying the Government's target is to see every homestead having biogas, which would help to the save environment.

He said he would soon ask the Prime Minister to



Bamuturaki handing over a heifer to a beneficiary. Photo by Bridget Kansime

BETWEEN THE LINES: Keep records

The Mbarara LC5 chairperson, Capt. Tumusiime Bamuturaki, asked the beneficiaries to take care of the animals and keep records so that in future they can tell how much they have benefited from the project

inform the President to change the mode of giving farmers friesian cows, and instead give them local ones, explaining that they (OWC) have discovered that friesian cows are becoming too expensive

for farmers to manage, since they do not have sufficient resources. The director of information and communications technology at OWC, Eng. John Wekesa Wambago, said they have come up with a new electronic information management system that OWC officers will be using to submit data and reports to the headquarters for efficient and effective service delivery.

He said they would also introduce the voucher system to enable farmers choose where to buy inputs. He added that OWC will only be mandated to monitor and audit the vouchers. Wambago said the move will help to address the challenge of farmers being given inputs that they have not requisitioned for.