

# MamaToto health teams hailed

By Vision Reporter

The First Lady and Minister for Karamoja Affairs, Mrs. Janet Museveni, has commended the Healthy Child Uganda Project (HCUP) programmes implemented by Mbarara University of Science and Technology for operationalising village health teams and strengthening health facilities.

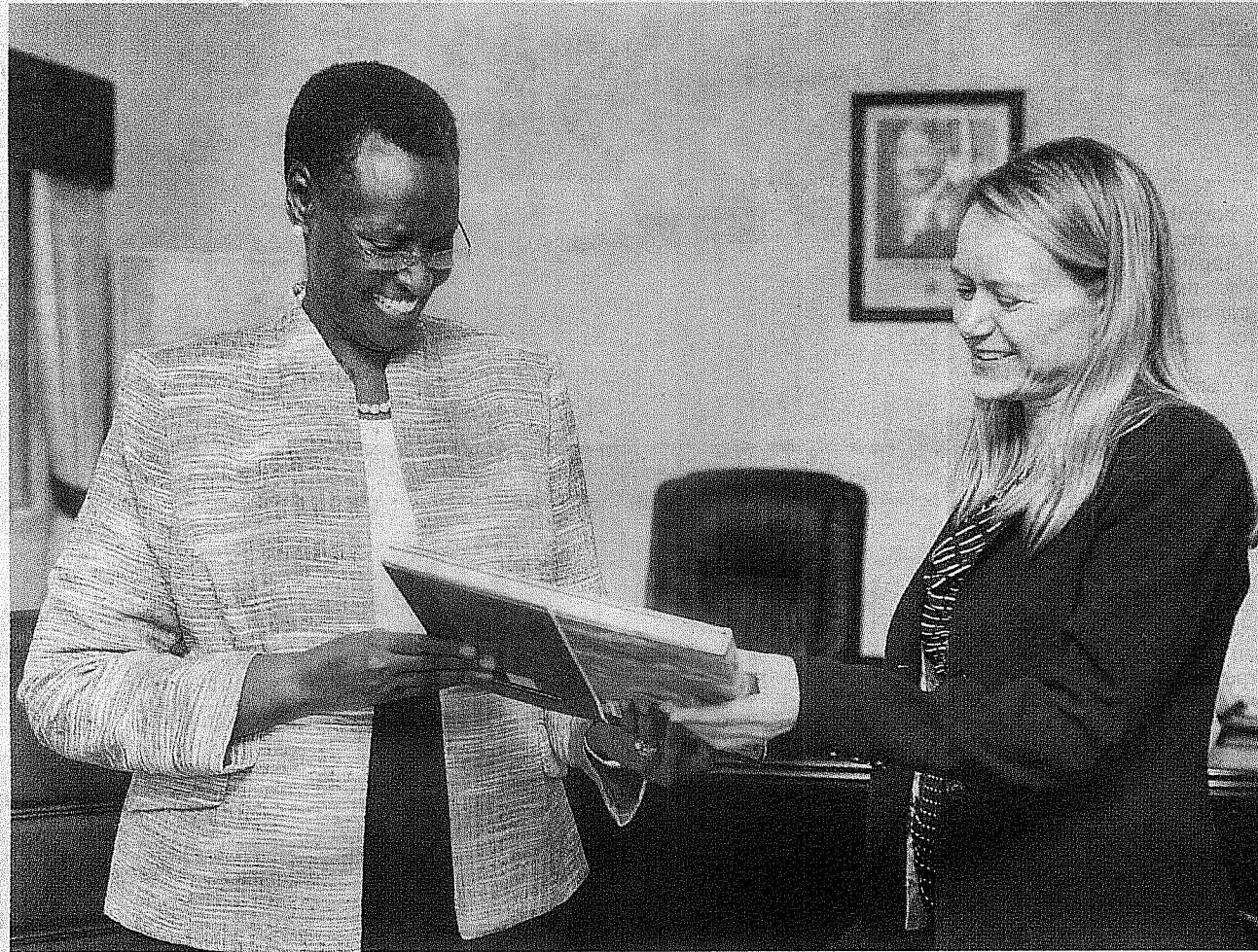
She said the programme, jointly run with the Canadian University of Calgary, has improved maternal and child health in areas where the project operates.

During a meeting with the implementors of the project, the First Lady welcomed the MamaToto approach used by HCUP to engage leaders, strengthen health facilities and promote healthy communities in the districts of Bushenyi and Rubirizi in the last two years of its operation.

The team, who called on the First Lady at State House Nakasero on Thursday included Dr. Jenny Brenner the director of HCUP from the University of Calgary in Canada; Teddy Kyomuhangi and Dr. Jerome Kabakyenga of Mbarara University.

Others were Dr. Edward Mwesigye and Dr. Richard Bakamuturaki, the district health officers of Bushenyi and Ntungamo respectively; Dr. Paul Kaggwa, the assistant commissioner in the Ministry of Health in charge of health promotion and education; as well as Lydia Bakunda, a village health team member from Ntungamo.

The team met Mrs. Museveni to introduce the Healthy Child Project's MamaToto



Mrs. Museveni shares a moment with Dr. Brenner at State House Nakasero last Thursday. Photo by PPU

programme and to solicit for her support to scale it up to cover the whole of Ntungamo.

During the meeting, the First Lady said the approach used by Health Child Project to empower the communities build fellowship to own government programmes and facilities is a new hope that will make people take charge of

their lives.

She lauded the approach to educate communities about nutrition, saying there are cases of malnutrition among children even when there is abundant food in rural areas, because mothers lack knowledge of proper feeding of children.

According to a press release

from her office, the First Lady also observed that many government programmes are crippled because people think they have no role to play.

"This approach engages both the leaders and communities to identify their problems and devise the most suitable solutions.

"When the communities and

Government play their roles, we shall be able to eradicate many problems," she said.

Mrs. Museveni appealed to the HCUP, now operating in six parishes, to scale up its operations in Ntungamo, to cover all the 97 parishes.

She also wished for the successful approach to be used around the country so that

## BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ The MamaToto approach is used by Healthy Child Uganda Project to engage leaders, strengthen health facilities and promote healthy communities in the districts of Bushenyi and Rubirizi

■ The programme is jointly run by Mbarara University of Science and Technology and the Canadian University of Calgary and has been operational for two years

■ The Healthy Child Project has also introduced vitamin A rich sweet potatoes and beans with high iron concentration.

the maternal and child health battle can be won.

Mrs. Museveni also commended Mbarara University for the field training of student doctors, which she said makes them (students) experience the dynamics in the communities and enriches their knowledge.

The Healthy Child Project has also introduced Vitamin A-rich sweet potatoes and beans with high iron concentration, which they are encouraging rural communities to plant and feed on to improve their nutrition status.

Dr. Brenner expressed Canada's passion for maternal and child health. She gave the First Lady a gift of a mother polar bear with two of its young ones, symbolising the MamaToto programme.