Karamoja gears up for dry lands development project

By Vision Reporter

The First Lady and Minister for Karamoja Affairs, Mrs. Janet Museveni, has said she is excited about the Dry Lands Integrated Development Project that is soon taking off in Karamoja to help improve the livelihoods of the people and transform the communities.

According to a press release from her office, the minister said she is especially looking forward to this project that will facilitate the improvement of health, incomes and quality of life among the Karamojong families like the way the Millennium Villages Project has transformed the communities of Ruhirwa in Isingiro district.

Mrs. Museveni was meeting Professor Jeffrey Sachs, the director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and special advisor to UN secretary general, Ban Ki-moon, on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) was together with the director of the MDG Centre, Dr.

BETWEEN THE LINES:

The Dry Lands Integrated Development Project estimated to cost $25m (62b) will deliver integrated interventions to achieve the MDGs in the four sub-counties of Lotome (Napak), Lorengedwat (Nakapiripirit), Nadunget (Moroto) and Loro (Amudat).

It is being implemented by the Ministry of Karamoja Affairs in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) through the Millennium Promise Alliance, a leading international non-profit organisation solely committed to accelerating the achievement of the MDGs and the eradication of extreme poverty, hunger and preventable diseases.

The Dry Lands Integrated Development Project and founder of the Millennium Promise Alliance, is together with his wife visiting Uganda and other countries to update themselves on progress of the Millennium Villages project.

He said currently there are 22 Millennium Villages in Africa which have been successful in transforming the quality of life of the communities through the integrated development approach of addressing the challenges of extreme poverty in the overlapping areas of agriculture, education, health, infrastructure, gender equality and business development.

Sachs thanked Mrs. Museveni for her commitment towards transforming the communities in Karamoja and requested for close teamwork with the benefitting local governments and communities to ensure the success of the project in Karamoja.

The meeting was also attended by the director NUSAF II, Dr. Robert Limlim; the undersecretary of Pacification and Development in the OPM, Kety Lamara and officials from Ruhirwa Millennium Village.