

# Soroti University opening okayed

SOROTI

By Emmanuel Alomu

Soroti University will soon start admitting its pioneer students, a team from the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) has said.

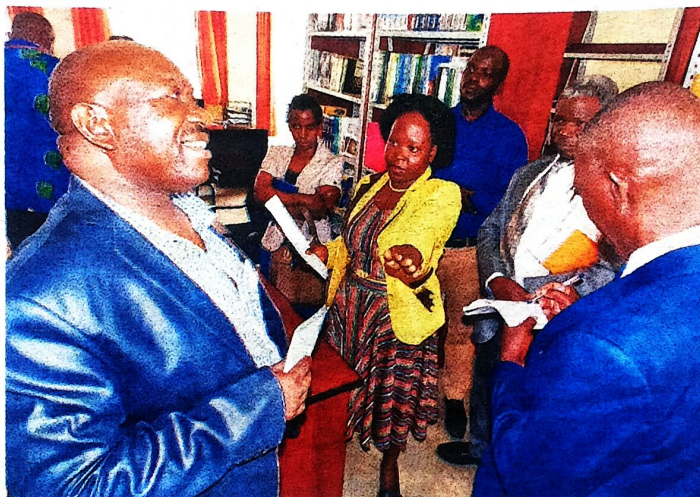
In August last year, Prof. John Opuda Asibo, the executive director of NCHE and the state minister for higher education, John Chrysostom Muyingo, toured the Teso sub-region public university, but halted its opening due to failure to meet minimum requirements.

Asibo insisted that the university did not have the pre-requisites for a medical school in line with the presidential pronouncement that the university be a purely science entity.

This was the second time the official opening of the university was being halted.

However, Makerere University professor of obstetrics and gynaecology, Daniel Kabonge Kaye, who led the team from NCHE on Tuesday, said everything is now set for the university to open.

"The infrastructure, such as space, laboratory equipment, lecture rooms, furniture, staff and learning materials are enough for the institution to start with in the next few



**Kabonge (left) inquiring more about the library of Soroti University on Tuesday.**  
Photo by Emmanuel Alomu

## *The university received a sh18.7b boost from the Government to complete its multi-billion shilling structures*

months," Kabonge said.

**Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council**

The Uganda Medical and Dental Practitioners Council

sent Kabonge and the team to find out whether some of the issues raised by NCHE last year had been addressed.

This professional body comprised of nurses and

midwives, council officials and the medical and dental practitioners council.

During their tour, the chief laboratory technician of the microbiology department, Eriasaph Nkangi Lwanga, showed the team 50 microscopes, 16 cadavers (three female and 13 male) and over 25 computers, among others.

Juma Nyene, the university public relations officer, said the previous NCHE report helped them get more funding from the Government to buy more equipment and hire

more staff.

Nyene said the university had fulfilled all the requirements to award degrees in medicine and surgery, as well as nursing.

"We shall advertise for the two programmes," Nyene said.

The resident district commissioner, William Wilberforce Tukei, recently commended the staff for sticking to the required standards and asked the people of Teso sub-region to encourage their children to do science courses.

**About the university**

Soroti University is Uganda's latest public university and was approved by Parliament and gazetted on July 16, 2015 under statutory instrument 2015 No. 34.

The university received a sh18.7b boost from the Government to complete its multi-billion shilling structures.

Complant Construction Company was contracted by the university and received sh10b to put up the structures. A balance of sh8b was used to furnish the buildings.

Soroti University has its main campus in Arapai sub-county, Soroti district, approximately 9.5km from Soroti town. The campus sits on 200 acres, near Teso College, Aloit.