

Police urged to use sharia in family cases

KAMPALA

By Meddie Musisi

The Police Family Protection Unit has been urged to use sharia (Islamic law) in handling marriage cases.

The appeal was made by the Supreme Mufti of Uganda, Sheikh Siriman Kasule Ndirangwa, while closing a workshop on child and family protection. The workshop was organised by the supreme mufti's office in conjunction with the Embassy of Iran recently.

The one-day workshop was attended by Police Family Protection Unit bosses from Kampala Metropolitan area and Muslim leaders from Kampala.

Ndirangwa said sharia law can help the Police in handling certain matters related to family and child protection.

"We know that you are doing a wonderful job as far as protecting our families is concerned, but my humble request is that, if you consult us on how sharia law is applied in family and child protection, you can do your work better," Ndirangwa said.

He said Islam is a religion of peace and does not encourage violence and unnecessary divorce, unless the worse comes to the worst.

Ndirangwa urged Police officers to work with sheikhs at village levels to advise them on cases in Muslim families.

"I am sure if you work with our Imams in your areas, you can get a better solution to some of these sensitive matters because the holy Quran has the best answer for them," Ndirangwa noted.

He said in handling domestic matters, it is important to give a chance to the couple to think twice before separating.

Ndirangwa also urged the officers to guide women who approach them over some family issues on how to play the card of women empowerment in their homes.



Kasule Ndirangwa (brown tunic) with Dr Ali Bakhtiari (wearing spectacles) and other delegates after closing the workshop recently. Photo by Meddie Musisi



Kasule Ndirangwa with Rehema Nakigudde, the head of the family protection at Kabalagala Police station

"My research shows that some women are using women empowerment to terrorise their husbands. I, therefore, call upon you to give them a proper guidance on how to use it," Ndirangwa said.

He hailed the officers for their efforts in stabilising families.

The Iranian Ambassador to Uganda, Dr Ali Bakhtiari, who sponsored the workshop, said some cultures promote family breakups and urged Muslims to avoid them.

"If the culture is damaged, you will have a damaged family and the whole nation

BETWEEN THE LINES:

■ Ndirangwa urged Police officers to work with sheikhs at village levels to advise them on cases in Muslim families.

■ He also urged Police officers to advise women on when and how to play the card of women empowerment as it can ruin families.

will be damaged," Bakhtiari said.

Bakhtiari also noted that a family is a blessing from Allah and, therefore, urged the officers to ensure that they fix broken families rather than separate them.

In her remarks, Kampala East Metropolitan Police Family Protection Unit boss Ketty Nandi said: "It has been a wonderful workshop. We have covered a lot of issues which will help us do our work effectively."