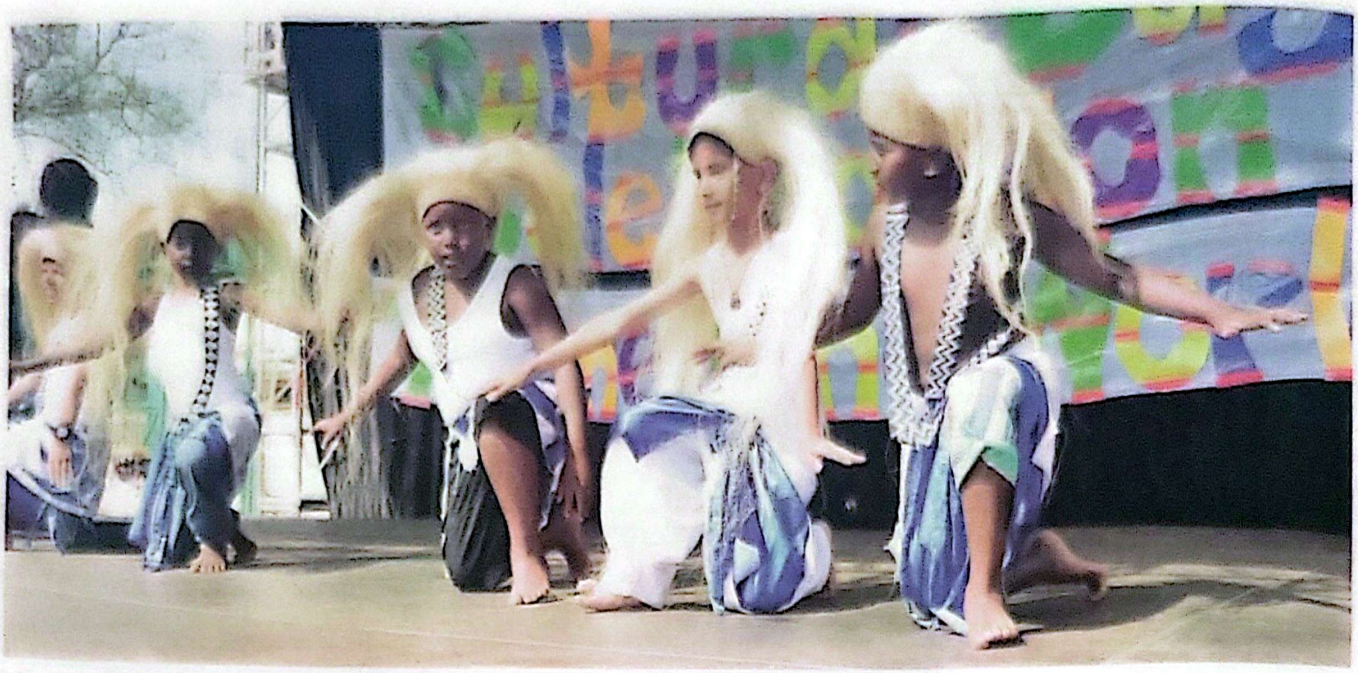
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In the Aga Khan schools, students and pupils from different cultural settings interact and learn from each other. COURTESY PHOTOS

Providing wholesome education to children

BY PHIONAH NASSANGA

Aga Khan schools started back in the early 1950s though the school properties were taken over by the government in 1972. The Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) resumed management of the schools in 1993. The schools include the Aga Khan nursery, primary and high school.

Stephen Mawanda, Head of Admissions at the Aga Khan Education Services, Uganda says Aga Khan Nursery re-opened in 1994, the primary in 1995 and the high school in 1998. Aga Khan offers well balanced education services and it gives a chance to students to live in a multi cultural setting.

"We pride ourselves in offering a holistic education curriculum that promotes innovativeness and self esteem among our students," says Mawanda.

The nursery school

The school aims at providing every child with a fulfilling nursery experience that enables him or her to develop natural creativity, imagination and curiosity while stimulating the joy of discovery.

According to the Aga Khan Schools website, the nursery school encourages extra-curricular activities that enrich a child's learning experience and skills. A wide variety of sports and extra-curricular activities are available such as afternoon clubs and activities including taekwondo, music, dance and drama, ballet, cookery, computer club, and busy bee, which includes various science experiments.

In addition, there is an annual sports day. Swimming and physical education is integrated in the school curriculum. While swimming is optional (with additional fees), weekly physical education lessons are mandatory for all students.

The primary school

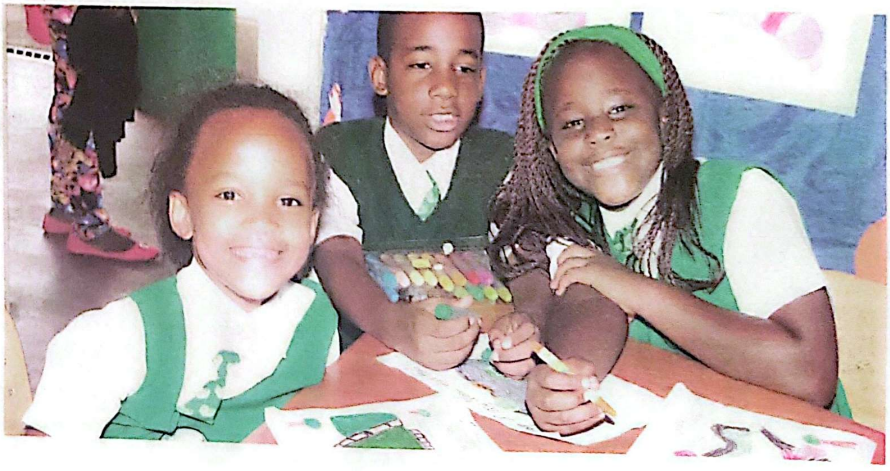
The primary school offers a wholesome education of the national syllabus from Primary One to Primary Seven. A learning support centre has been established to help students who require additional specialised help in learning the English language or mathematical skills.

The primary section also has students in the Elementary school who have studied the British National Curriculum from Year One to Year Six, leading to the British SAT - 2 assessment tests. At this level, students are assessed with tests taken in Literacy, Numeracy, Science and Global Studies. In addition, the school also teaches French, ICT, visual arts, music and physical education.

The students (from over 30 nationalities) study the Ugandan Primary Schools Curriculum. The school has small class sizes to ensure provision of individual support and encour-

1993

THE YEAR AKDN RECLAIMED OWNERSHIP OF THE SCHOOLS PREVIOUSLY MANAGED BY GOVT IN 1972



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agement to the students in order to reach their full potential.

In addition to curriculum subjects, the school offers a wide variety of co-curricular activities that include indoor and outdoor games such as lawn tennis, badminton, basketball, soccer, swimming and athletics.

Aga Khan Primary School also has an open door policy where parents make appointments to meet the class teachers and school administration to discuss and address issues as they may arise from time to time.

Routinely, teachers keep parents up-to-date with their child's academic performance and social welfare through the school diary. Furthermore, the school's Community Service Club supports neighbouring communities by donating scholastic materials and clothes to St Noah Primary School and Sophia Muslim Community Nursery School. Both schools are in a rural part of Wakiso District.

The high school

This was the first multi-cultural school in Uganda bringing together students from various cultural and faith backgrounds and it continues to play a unique role in the country. The school prepares students to become top performers nationally and internationally. This is done by adopting international standards of teaching and learning as well as educational leadership philosophies. The school also offers both National and International curriculum.

At the international level of education, students will be accredited with an International General Certificate of Secondary Education (IGCSE) and the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma. Students who opt for the International Curriculum join the high school in Year Seven where they follow the KS3 British curriculum until Year Nine and students start IGCSE in Year 10 and Year 11.At the national level, students from Senior One to Senior Four will sit for the Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) and from senior five to Senior Six, Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE).

Facilities in the school

The school has two fully stocked libraries managed by three full-time librarians. The library has sections including Humanities, Science, Languages, and Fiction. Teachers emphasise research, encouraging students to use the extensive journal, newspaper, periodical, video and CD ROM collections, as well as Internet. The schools' careers counsellor works closely with students on their subject choices, university applications and career decisions.

Computer studies are a key part of the curriculum. Within the 35-computer networked laboratory, staff teaches hands-on computer skills to all students. The school is also equipped with four interactive white boards and cyber school software bringing together education and technology for innovative learning.



A wide variety of sports and extra-curricular activities are available such as afternoon clubs, swimming and taekwondo, music, dance and drama, ballet, cookery as well as computer club. COURTESY PHOTOS



