

BY DAMALI MUKHAYE
dmukhaye@ug.nationmedia.com

KAMPALA. The government has come up with a new policy to regulate the teaching profession.

Speaking yesterday during the Aga Khan University education conference in Kampala, the State minister for Higher Education, Mr John Chrysestom Muyingo, said the new strategy dubbed "Teachers' policy" is in its final stages of discussion before it's implemented by the end of this year.

"We have come up with a teacher policy that is going to guide the teaching profession like how the teacher is prepared to become a teacher, how a teacher will be looked after, how they will behave and how they will be handling and managing the teaching profession and all that is contained in this policy which is at its final stage," Mr Muyingo said.

Mr Muyingo noted that unlike the current Teachers' Code of Conduct and Public Service Standing Orders that stipulate the dos and don'ts of teachers, this new policy is intended to make the teaching profession respectable.

"Through this policy, the government is going to make the teaching profession attractive and respectable," he added.

The policy is expected to become operational at the end of this year. Prof Bentil Kweku, the Vice Provost of the Aga Khan Uni-

versity Institute for Educational Development in East Africa based in Nairobi, called for reforms in the curricula of regional countries to suit the needs of students in the 21st Century.

"It is no longer relevant to teach 18th Century material to children in the 21st Century. Therefore, due to technological advancements, countries such as Uganda should embrace change and move with the new times through training teachers on how to use the new technol-

THE CONFERENCE

Aim. The conference attended by more than 300 participants is being organised by the Aga Khan University in Kampala. It aims to address the challenges and opportunities that will improve teaching in the region.

ogy to access information and teach the students," Prof Kweku said.

He also called for an increase in the salary of teachers if countries want to make the profession more attractive.

"Across the whole world, teachers are not paid well compared to other professions so that is why teachers are not respected," he added.

The three-day conference has been organised under the theme, "Re-thinking teacher education."

New policy to regulate teaching in offing



New. Resident Representative of the Aga Khan Development Network, Mr Amin Mawji OBE (left), with the State minister for Higher Education, Mr John Chrysestom Muyingo (right), during the opening of the annual three-day education conference in Kampala yesterday. PHOTO BY STEPHEN WANDERA