



Ssekandi (second-left), with Gyagenda (right) and representatives of other winning institutions after receiving their certificates of recognition at the Kampala Serena Hotel. Photo by Umaru Kashaka

IUIU scoops 2017 education award

By Umaru Kashaka

Islamic University in Uganda (IUIU) has scooped the 2017 education visionary award as the Best Private Religious University in Uganda for its outstanding contribution towards the country's aspiration of attaining middle-income status by 2020.

The university's vice-rector in charge of academics, Prof. Ismael Gyagenda, received the award from the Minister Without Portfolio, Haji Abdul Nadduli and former ethics minister Prof. Tarsis Kabwegyere at the ceremony held at the Kampala Serena Hotel recently.

Gyagenda said the university won the award as a result of the concerted efforts of their staff, students and other stakeholders.

IUIU's academic registrar, Dr Halima Wakabi, attributed the achievement to the values that the university stands for.

"The academic and moral excellence that IUIU stands for have guided us towards achieving this award and I believe there are many more awards to come," she told *New Vision*.

IUIU now joins Uganda's Visionaries awardees, including President Yoweri Museveni, the First Lady and education

According to the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme and Uganda's National Development Plan, middle-income status means achieving an annual per-capita gross national income of \$1,025 and \$12,615.

Uganda's target is to attain a lower middle-income status by 2020, with an annual per capita income of \$1,033. This is expected to ensure enough food, better primary healthcare, fewer cases of malnutrition and infant mortalities.

Visionaries awards recognise individuals and organisations whose efforts are geared towards making Uganda achieve middle-income status.

MIDDLE INCOME

minister, Janet Museveni and Bugema University in the education category. Compassion International and Mildmay

Uganda were also recognised at the ceremony for spearheading the fight against poor livelihoods in Uganda last year.

Vice-President Edward Ssekandi, who was the chief guest, thanked all the Visionary awardees for their contribution towards the transformation of Uganda's economy and the country's aspiration to achieve middle-income status.

About Visionaries awards

The winners of the Visionary awards are analysed and selected from various sectors, including health, tourism, water, clearing and forwarding, general business and education.

Visionaries of Uganda Consortium was launched in 2013 as an association of both government and non-governmental organisations, which accredit outstanding contributions of individuals and organisations towards the socio-economic transformation of Uganda and drive it towards a middle-income country.

The consortium partners with, among other organisations, Civil Aviation Authority, Pride Microfinance, Case Hospital, Kampala Serena Hotels and Uganda Energy Credit Capitalisation Company.