

UMSC launches students bursary scheme

KAMPALA**By Farooq Kasule**

The Uganda Muslim Supreme Council (UMSC) has launched a bursary scheme programme with an aim of reducing the worrying number of Muslim school dropouts in the country.

According to the 2016 Uganda National Examination Board (UNEBC), 2014 National Curriculum Development

Centre and 2017 USAID-LARA findings, Muslim founded schools have the highest number of school dropouts in the country.

Researchers in both organisations allude to social issues such as poverty as the major causes of the drop out, which also resulted in early marriages.

On behalf of the Mufti of Uganda, Sheikh Ramadhan Mubajje, Dr Hussein Boowa,

the director Islamic Call University implored Muslims to value education if they are to achieve progress.

"Initially, Muslims were known to be traders, which means we have money, but we do not value education," he said.

Boowa noted that UMSC has been promoting education ever since Mubajje attained leadership in 2000 and has offered thousands of bursaries

to students.

"We are ready to work with all people and organisations to promote quality education. I encourage all Muslims to put aside internal wrangles and work closely in promoting quality education," he said.

Sheikh Juma Bakhit, the UMSC secretary for education, said the bursary scheme is aimed at making it more efficient and responsive to national and global demands.