

National Quran schools curriculum launched

By Farooq Kasule

The Uganda Muslim Supreme Council (UMSC) has launched the first Quran schools curriculum for nursery and primary schools, bringing to an end the use of multiple syllabi.

Presiding over the function, the second deputy Mufti of Uganda, Sheikh Muhammad Ali Waiswa, said the curriculum will enable pupils to acquire the necessary holistic knowledge and skills for practising Islamic etiquette and serving humanity in all spheres.

"We are grateful to present this curriculum for nursery and primary schools and community-based learning centres. The teaching of the Islamic studies has been fragmented, focusing with the focus exclusively on spirituality, hence being accused of spearheading terrorism and militancy," Waiswa said.

In the curriculum, teachers are guided on what to teach at each level.

Waiswa, who represented the Mufti of Uganda, Sheikh Ramadhan Mubajje, said the curriculum is aimed at providing a sound Islamic and holistic education to children aged five to 16 years. He said this will enable them develop a sense of belonging to the community and urged all Madrasa schools to conform to it.

"This curriculum will enable our pupils to recite the Quran, write and understand Arabic terms and phrases clearly. It will also help them to have a full understanding of the Islamic beliefs, on top of nurturing



Waiswa (left) launching the curriculum as other officials look on at Old Kamapala on Wednesday.
Photo to by Ramadhan Abbey

WHAT OTHER PEOPLE SAY

Haji Asuman Kitimbo

The curriculum will guide teachers in setting exams of current standard as well as promoting the values of Islamic faith.

Hajati Zaituni Nsubuga, teacher

The curriculum will provide a structure for delivering quality education and identify learning competencies before students advance to the next level.

Shafik Kawooya,

director
Mbirizi Taqwa Islamic school
I was about to abandon teaching Islamic religion for fear of being arrested but the national curriculum has given me confidence.

their personality towards the best moral conduct, healthy attitudes and self-discipline," he said.

Waiswa commended the Uganda Muslim Youth Development Forum (UMYDF) and Finnish Aid for their financial and technical support to the development of the curriculum.

UMSC secretary for education, Sheikh Juma Bakhit, said the recent Police raids on a Madrasa schools was because of the ambiguity of their teachings, which was marred with unchecked multiple syllabi.

"The Government was not aware of the instruction materials given to the pupils,

BETWEEN THE LINES

■ The Quran schools curriculum is aimed at providing a sound Islamic and holistic education to children aged five to 16 years.

which posed security concerns but with the curriculum in place, this will be no more," Bakhit said.

He revealed that they have embarked on the development of the teaching materials, training of teachers and upgrading them before 2018, when the curriculum will be enforced.

Bakhit said any school that will not conform to the Koran school syllabus will not have its pupils' certificates stamped by the UMSC.

Bakhit, who is also a member of the education ministry central committee, said the curriculum is for all madrasa schools, regardless of which faction of the Muslim community they belong to.

The commissioner for private schools at the education ministry, Ismail Mulindwa, hailed UMSC's efforts towards improving Muslim education in the country.

He asked the UMSC to always monitor Muslim-founded school, saying the ministry is in the process of streamlining the schools.

UMSC secretary general Ramadhan Mugalu implored the Government to recognise UMSC as the founding body of Muslim-founded schools in the country.