



Radhiyyah Namakula leading the runners during the marathon aimed at raising funds to buy pads for Butambala girls. This was at Old Kampala SS last week. Photo by Ramadhan Abbey

Muslims run for Butambala girls' pads

KAMPALA

By Ramadhan Abbey and Farooq Kasule

Menstruation is discussed in soft tones. Unfortunately, some young girls in the country are forced to drop out of school because they cannot deal with the situation.

However, Butambala girls have got a way out it after a group of Muslims organised a marathon to raise funds for sanitary pads.

The marathon, which attracted over 3,000 participants, was organised under the theme, "Run for girl" to enable girls stay in school.

The marathon was organised at Old Kampala Secondary School playground on Saturday.

Among those who participated in the marathon was Nuru Biliwo, 65. She said: "During our days, we suffered locally, but today there is a lot of improvement such as sanitary pads. Let us all contribute towards the cause."

In an interview, with *New Vision*, Uganda Muslim Supreme Council (UMSC) youth, Radhiyyah Namakula, said they identified Butambala district after members of Daawa Unit of Young Muslim Women Association visited the area and discovered many girls were using banana leaves, clothes and papers when they are in their periods.

"Many girls in rural schools face a number of challenges relating to menstruation. In most cases, they are forced to miss school for several days every month while others drop

out of school due to lack of sanitary pads. That is why we organised this marathon to bail them out," Namakula said.

She added that the project intends to collect over sh90m to support 25,000 girls in both private and government schools. Participants paid sh10,000 to participate in the marathon.

Each girl is expected to get 12 packets of sanitary pads to take them throughout the year.

BETWEEN THE LINES:

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According Build Africa research, 30% of girls in Uganda drop out of school due to lack of sanitary pads.

The chairperson Daawa Unit of Young Muslim Women Association, Hajat Hafswa Mutebi, said: "As parents, we should not leave the burden to government because these are our children. We should not wait for the problem to let happen and rush into finding a solution."

Rubaga division woman councillor Sharifah Nakitende, leaders to always pioneer programmes intended to change the situation. Amir Daula Sheikh Suleman Kakeeto said saving the young generation and people in need is the responsibility of everyone.

"Leaving in harmony means helping each other and it is the only way God can give us blessings," he said.

UMSC laun

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 2014 Uganda National Examination Board (UNEBC) 2014 National Curriculum Development

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