

'Do not take peace for granted'

KAMPALA

By Rhyman Agaba

The first Deputy Mufti of Uganda, Sheikh Muhammad Ali Waiswa, has called on Muslims not to take the prevailing peace in Uganda for granted, saying Ugandans suffered enough during the turmoil caused by the past regimes.

"Do not take this peace for granted, people shed blood to ensure that this peace prevails. So, we have to be supportive of the Government to maintain the peace," he stated.

The Muslim cleric recalled the senseless killings in previous regimes, where Ugandans used to jump over bodies all the time.

Waiswa made the remarks during an Iftar dinner organised by the Equal Opportunities Commission (EOC) at their head offices on Kingdom Kampala building

in Kampala on Wednesday evening. Over 70 people from EOC and other government entities attended.

As guest of honour, Waiswa commended President Yoweri Museveni and the National Resistance Movement (NRM) government for creating a conducive environment, which fosters religious tolerance and harmony.

He noted that increased emulation of the Western lifestyle, which many consider 'modern', has bred selfishness among people. "Unlike in the past, people in urban communities today end up throwing away food which they would have shared with the needy. People have become too selfish of late."

He encouraged those who can afford a decent meal to also cater for the less fortunate members of their communities, especially during the ongoing month of Ramadhan. "When you help someone break the fast, you tap into blessings,"



PHOTO BY NANCY NANYONGA

From left: Waiswa, Nalule and Mukwaya during an Iftar dinner organised by the EOC. This was at their head offices on Kingdom Kampala building in Kampala on Wednesday evening

he emphasised. Iftar is the evening meal served at sunset to break the daily fast during the holy month of Ramadhan.

EOC chairperson Hajat Safia Nalule Juuko commended Museveni for his inclusive policies, which have enabled many persons with disabilities

to gain prominent leadership positions, citing herself.

Dr Shaft Nasser Mukwaya, the EOC secretary, gave a brief history of Uganda and how all the various ethnic groups and tribes migrated from other parts of the world to present-day Uganda.

Fr Deogratius Kiibi, a prominent Catholic priest and parish priest for St Joseph's Catholic Parish, Mpigi, also attended the dinner and prayed for Muslims to have a peaceful Ramadhan and lent for Christians.

During his sermon, he

decried the poor savings culture among some of the faithful, saying it is very important for Ugandans to save at least 10% of their earnings.

"Buy your own freedom, work for money, but also ensure that this money works for you later. You have to be intentional and plan purposely today for a brighter tomorrow," Kiibi said. He emphasised the importance of a family and decried wasteful spending, saying it is keeping many Ugandans in a continuous cycle of poverty.

"You find some people holding very expensive gadgets such as iPhones, yet they continue to reside in a rented house," he noted.

Fr Kiibi called for tolerance in offices and other workspaces and condemned the vice of sexual harassment meted out by male bosses against their female subordinates, saying it has contributed to the rise in cases of HIV/AIDS.