

PRESS RELEASE – 6th July 2018

ACCREDITATION OF UGANDA MARTYRS UNIVERSITY FORT PORTAL CAMPUS (UMUFPC) BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (NCHE).

After a rigorous scrutiny which has lasted over one year the National Council for Higher Education at its 47th sitting of 28th May 2018 considered and approved the accreditation of Uganda Martyrs University Fort Portal Campus which is located on Virika and Kinyamasika hills.

Uganda Martyrs University which this year celebrates 25 years was established by the Catholic Bishops of Uganda with an aim of offering quality education guided by ethical values. This is the reason why every student of UMU is required to take a class in ethics.

The news about the accreditation of the Fort Portal Campus comes at a time when all the Catholic Bishops of Uganda have just returned from our Ad Limina visit in Rome where the Ugandan Bishops more than ever before were exhorted to work together in establishing regional or national institutions of higher education. Uganda Martyrs University is one such institution that we the Bishops of Uganda are proud of.

The Fort Portal Campus was born out of two seed institutions; St. Joseph Technical Institute, and Bishop Magambo Counsellor Training Institute. Both institutions are skills based. The University has already appointed Fr. Paschal Kabura as the first director of the Campus. The Governing Council of the University has approved the establishment of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Sciences (EAS) which will be based at the Fort Portal Campus. A dean of this faculty has already been appointed. The National Council for Higher Education is closely guiding this faculty to model a dual system of education in the country.

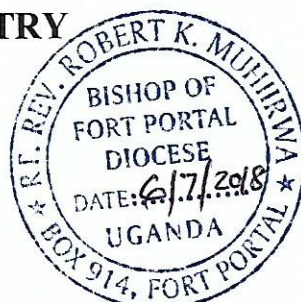
The distinguishing character of the Fort Portal Campus is aligned to the government policy of skilling Uganda. H.E president Yoweri Museveni has


picked interest in promoting the growth of this campus. He has directed Ministry of Education to allocate some fund for the construction of a Library and electronic labs that will be housed in the Bishop McCauley Learning Centre at Kinyamasika. On behalf of Archbishop John Baptist Odama the Chancellor of Uganda Martyrs University and Chairman of the Uganda Episcopal Conference, I congratulate the Vice Chancellor Professor John Maviri, the management of main campus, the management of the Fort Portal Campus, and the Advisory Board I appointed to oversee the initial stage of this project upon this great milestone. This Campus becomes the 7th of the UMU campuses in the country. The other six are:

- 1) Main Campus – in Nkozi
- 2) Rubaga Campus – in Kampala
- 3) Ngetha Campus - in Lira
- 4) Kabale Campus – in Kabale
- 5) Masaka Campus - in Masaka
- 6) Mbale Campus – in Mbale

As I bring you this good news, I call upon the people of this region and indeed all Ugandans to support this campus and to provide the youth with relevant skills that will ensure employability, national stability, and realistic transformation of our society. We the Catholic Bishops of Uganda, our resolve is very clear. Following in the footsteps of our Master Jesus Christ, and building on the foundation of the missionaries, we are determined to work towards the salvation of all by preaching the word of God, and eliminating such hazards as sickness, ignorance, and unemployment in order to build a nation governed under the virtue of justice which is a precursor for genuine peace. *Virtute et sapientia doc mundum* (In Virtue and Wisdom, Lead the World). May God bless you all.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY




+ **Robert K Muhiirwa**
Bishop of Fort Portal