

By Mathias Mazinga

Bishop Muhima is chancellor of Africa Music Institute

The Bishop Emeritus of North Kigezi Anglican Diocese, Dr Edward Muhima, may be retired but he is not tired. On leaving office in 2011, he remained active as a charismatic preacher, teacher, farmer and author.

Eight years into his retirement, Muhima has become the pioneer chancellor of Africa Institute of Music (AIM), which is said to be the first specialised private music institution of higher learning in Uganda.

Muhima was inaugurated at the institute's campus at Lubowa (on Entebbe Road), in Wakiso district, on Friday.

The function was presided over the former executive director of National Council of Higher Education, Prof. Opuda-Asibo, assisted by Canon Robert Sekidde and the Rev Dr Manuel Muranga, both members of the institute's board of trustees.

Other dignitaries included Mary Karoro Okurut, the Minister in Charge of General Duties, Ha Byung Kyoo, the ambassador of Korea and top local musicians.

As an act of his inauguration, Muhima was garbed in an academic gown and given a mace to symbolise his office and role as the institute's titular head.

"I will endeavour to deliver, by the grace of God. The Lord Jesus says you shall know them by the fruits the bear," Muhima said.

Prof. Opuda-Asibo, who delivered the commissioning talk, asked the management, members of the board of trustees and parents of AIM to take advantage of Muhima's wealth of knowledge and experience to grow.

"Dr Muhima has always been acknowledged as an intelligent

and hardworking prelate. He has influenced people and nations through preaching and writing. Do not restrict him to doing ceremonial functions such as opening buildings. Tap into his expertise. Make it easy for him to provide leadership, guidance and direction.

"He is here to provide leadership by strengthening

God's position in the equation of education through music. Use him to boost knowledge transmission, skills development and research," the professor said.

Muhima started performing his responsibilities right after his inauguration. His maiden activity was to inaugurate the institute's new campus.

Later in the afternoon, he presided over the institute's graduation function, during which he conferred diplomas and certificates to students who excelled in contemporary piano, music production, guitar and BM, jazz piano.

About AIM

African Institute of Music was

started by Korean Missionaries, Prof. Maria Park Kim and Rev Prof Calvin Kim, in 2004.

It began as a Christian fellowship for church musical ministers. It later evolved into a music education institution. It currently awards certificates and diplomas, but also has plans to start awarding degrees.

OTHERS' VIEWS

Isalah Katumwa, saxophonist
I congratulate the Africa Institute of Music on acquiring permanent premises. The education offered here is greatly needed if the music industry in Uganda is to grow.

Alex Mukulu, playwright
Music is a binding fibre of our local communities, nation, region and the international community. So, I am happy for the achievements of AIM. The education offered here will strengthen our relations locally and internationally.

Fred Kiggundu, director, Kampala Music School
We have had collaboration with AIM since its establishment. We shall continue to work together to develop the music industry.

Marshal Edgar, director, Afro-menco School of Music
The inauguration of Bishop Muhima as the chancellor of AIM has made me happy. I have confidence that he will take the institution to greater heights.

Rebecca Nakalema, music teacher
Today is a historical day for us teachers and students of AIM. We thank God for the gift of Dr Muhima. We shall work even harder to grow the institution.



Left to right: Prof. Maria Park Kim, the principal of the institute; Canon Robert Sekidde, Mary Karoro Okurut, Prof. Opuda-Asibo, Bishop Edward Muhima, Ambassador Ha Byung Kyoo and Prof. Bashasha cut a tape to commission the new campus of Africa Institute of Music at Lubowa on Friday. Photo by Mathias Mazinga