

ISBAT, African Bible universities get charters

By Conan Businge

Two private universities have been granted charters. This brings the number of private chartered universities in Uganda to 11.

The National Council for Higher Education said last week the International Business, Science and Technology University (ISBAT) and the African Bible University have met all the conditions for the provision of quality higher education.

A charter is granted by the President, through the education minister, on the recommendation of the higher education watchdog.

This implies that the qualifications of these universities are now comparable to those of public universities. The two institutions can also offer masters and doctorate of philosophy (PhDs) programmes. Of the 50 universities in the country, only seven are public.

The executive director for



Okwakol, National Council of Higher Education chairperson Prof. Elly Katunguka, ISBAT University chairperson Fred Omach and Mathew at the handing over of the charter certificate

the National Council for Higher Education, Prof. Mary Okwakol, says seven other private universities have applied for charter.

"When the Council sits in February next year, it will be able to decide on how many more we can recommend to

the President for the award of the charters," she said.

She said 18 universities have existed for three years, and are eligible to apply for a charter.

"We had given them a deadline of October 31, to submit their roadmap to the acquisition of the charters.

They have all submitted," she says.

"However, of these, nine applied for charters and we have cleared two."

Meanwhile, ISBAT's vice-chancellor, Dr K M Mathew, in a ceremony to receive the charter, held at the university

in Kampala, said the charter would be a great boost to the country's higher education system.

"We have worked hard to reach this level and we are determined to keep offering the quality services," Mathew said.