

Western culture eroding Tooro values, says Bishop Kisembo

BY FRANCIS TUSIIME
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

ISSUES

Cultural Erosion. Prof Rugumayo said the emergence and adoption of the western culture has erased the traditional Tooro norms and customs within communities in the region.

Appeal. Prof Rugumayo has asked Kingdom officials and other leaders to sensitise the community about values of the Tooro culture. He said this will help preserve the culture.

KABAROLE. Rwenzori Diocese Bishop Reuben Kisembo has said Tooro culture has been eroded by the adoption of Western culture.

Speaking during the Tooro peoples' conference organised by Tooro elders at the weekend at St Paul's National Seminary, Bishop Kisembo called for the need to restore cultural values in homes and communities in the region in order to create awareness of the existing and treasured customs and norms of the traditional Tooro setting.

"Unless our kingdom leaders strive to restore values in families and homes by carrying out massive sensitisation, our culture as Batooro is quickly fading away," he said.

Bishop Kisembo also asked government to completely ban betting in the country, adding that the activity has diverted the attention of the young generation who have become less constructive in society.

"Young people have stopped working and are only focusing on sports betting and gambling. The government has given licenses to such companies, if we are to restore our glory such games be

banned," he observed.

Prof Edward Rugumayo, the head of the elders forum that organised the conference, said the government has done much towards the development of the communities through the introduction of Universal Primary Education, Universal Secondary Education, building health centres, good roads, among others and that Tooro Kingdom has benefited from such programmes.

"Sixty per cent of the pupils who sit exams in government primary and secondary schools in Tooro fail because of poor services," he said.

He, however, argued that despite the construction of improved health centres in the region, drugs shortage still remains a challenge thus putting lives of people at risk.

"Despite the establishment of vocational schools in Kabarole District, only 5 per cent of the Tooro population have enrolled for vocational studies, the rest come from other communities," he said.

Speaking at the same event, Mr Andrew Mwenda, a journalist, said the kingdom should identify people who can guide economic growth at all levels.