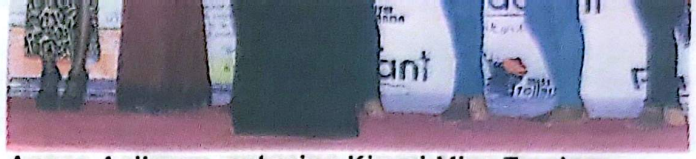


Contestants modelling evening gowns



Agnes Asiimwe, outgoing Kigezi Miss Tourism, paying tribute to fallen minister Maria Mutagamba

Melissa Amanya wins Miss Tourism Kigezi

By Steven Odeke

The search for Miss Tourism Uganda is on and so far, four regions have crowned their beauty queens.

Last Saturday, the pageant's scouts scoured Kigezi to find that one girl to represent the region in the grand finale on September 30.

The event, held at White Horse Inn in Kabale district, was the third time the region participated in Miss Tourism since its return five years back.

Melissa Amanya from Kanungu district took the day, beating six girls to the crown. She was followed by Kisoro's Fortunate Natukunda, 22 and Kabale's Janat Birungi, 22, in second and third positions respectively.

Twenty-year-old Amanya had presence on stage and was brilliant during the question-and-answer session. She was also helped by the fact that fellow contestants were not trained enough for the competition.

One contestant amused the audience when she failed to answer a question about the state minister for tourism, Hon. Godfrey Kiwanda, who graced the event and had been acknowledged several times. They lacked that midas touch on the runway and some looked clueless during the creative wear showcase.

Amanya beat them with her confidence and personality. Hopefully, she takes that panache to the grand finale, because the search so far shows fierce competition.

The three girls will now join the other queens from West Nile, Rwenzori and Busoga for the national boot camp.

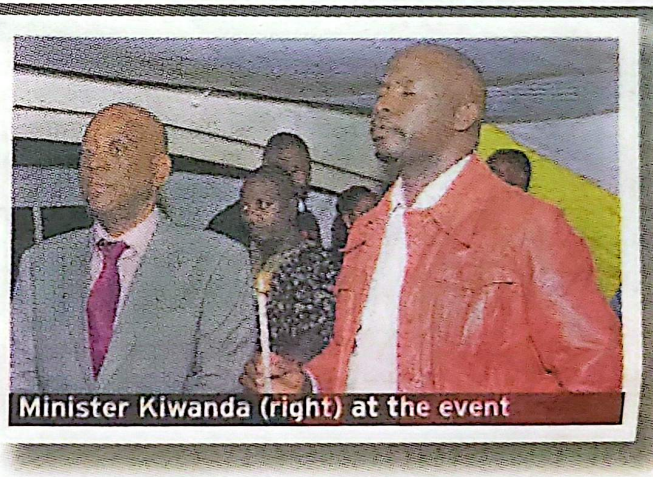
While the show started a tad late, everything was over by midnight.



A contestant modelling her creative outfit



Top three: Natukunda, Amanya and Birungi



Minister Kiwanda (right) at the event