

New St Francis Chapel Makerere unveiled

KAMPALA

By Mathias Mazinga

Former premier Prof. Apolo Nsibambi has asked the leadership of the Anglican Church to start viable income-generating projects that will enable the Church to be self-reliant. He also called for proper strategic planning and investments to improve the welfare of the Church's retired clergy.

Nsibambi's remarks were contained in his congratulatory message for the rededication of St Francis Chapel, Makerere University (MAK) in Kampala on Sunday.

Nsibambi was scheduled to be the guest of honour at the function, but he failed to show up due to ill health. His message was delivered by Prof. Edward Kirumira.

Nsibambi thanked the alumni and congregants for expanding the church. He asked the university community to use the newly renovated chapel to deepen their spiritual and moral development.

Nsibambi asked the St Francis community to be exemplary in all they do, so that other Churches can learn from them.

"This new chapel is our pride as a Church. Let its beauty be an expression of our spiritual beauty. Let it continue to be a place of interaction, networking and positive relationships."

In his sermon, the Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, Stanley Ntagali, asked Christians to renew their commitment to Jesus, who is the source of salvation and holiness.

"This beautiful chapel will be irrelevant if it is devoid of the saving grace of God. Let



Christians worship God during the rededication of the newly expanded St Francis Chapel, Makerere on Sunday. Photo by Mathias Mazinga

us live out our Christianity. We must be ready to confront the rampant evils of hatred, violence, idolatry, secularism and materialism," Ntagali said.

The chaplain of St Francis Chapel, Canon Amos Turyahabwe Tindyebwa, thanked his predecessors for initiating the idea to expand the chapel. He also thanked all those who gave financial, material and moral support towards the implementation of the project.

The function was graced by the deputy vice-chancellor of Makerere (finance), Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, who represented the vice-chancellor, Prof. Ddumba Ssentamu.

Prelates like Bishop Hannington Mutebi, Bishop Emeritus David Sebuinja, Canon Michael Mukhwana and Canon Fred Komunda, also graced the function. Former chaplains such as Canon Lusitania Kasamba, Canon Ben Mugarura, Canon Geoffrey Byarugaba and Canon Johnson

THE IRONY

Even after its expansion, the chapel has proved to be small for its congregants. About 2,000 people prayed from a giant tent outside the chapel. The people who prayed from outside were more than those that were inside, as observed by Bishop Hannington Mutebi.

Ebong also attended.

History of the chapel

According to Canon Turyahabwe, St Francis Chapel is thought to have been established in 1943 to cater for the spiritual needs of the Anglican students and staff at Makerere. In 1965, the chapel was expanded due to the increasing number of students.

During the late 1990s, the chapel again became too small to accommodate the increasing

number of students and a resolution was made to expand it. The community of St Francis started to raise money and construction work began on May 2, 2016.

Seating capacity

Before renovation, St Francis Chapel had a seating capacity of 450 Christians. The newly renovated chapel seats 1,350 Christians per service. Interestingly, the chapel was expanded without altering its original architectural beauty and aesthetics.

Budget

According to Prof. Mason Tweheyo, the chapel treasurer, the newly renovated/rededicated chapel is worth about sh3.9b, of which around sh2.7b has been paid, leaving a balance of sh1.3b. Tweheyo requested the alumni, congregants and friends of St Francis Chapel to make further donations to service the balance.

Claimant govt

NAMAYINGO

By Moses Bika

A total of 34 people lost their property as a result of the construction of Namayingo power line. The affected people are demanding compensation from the Government.

The deceased people's families are demanding compensation for the power line that was built on their land in May 2013.

The affected people presented their case before the distribution of Namayingo di yesterday.

The affected people's representative, Shikuku, said he demanded compensation from the Government three years in.

Shikuku said the affected people were the sub-county of Banda and E. He said he had been notified of the amount of money paid by the Government (REA).

He expressed his criteria to establish the beneficiaries to be paid.

"Most of the affected people have less money and some have lost their property such as crops."

The affected people petitioned Museveni to have their case reviewed.

The chair distribution of Okoth Ovi is underway from REA on how the money will be paid to the affected people.

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