

Why Muslims slaughter animals on Idd

KAMPALA

By Farooq Kasule

Muslims in the country will join fellow believers across the globe in celebrating Eid adhuha next Wednesday.

The celebration will take place on May 27, which falls on the 10th day of Dhul-Hijjah, the 12th month of the Islamic lunar calendar.

Eid adhuha is the second and biggest of the two major Islamic holidays celebrated by Muslims worldwide.

At the centre of the festival is the ritual slaughtering of animals as a form of sacrifice. The practice originates from Prophet Ibrahim's pledge to God (Allah) that if he was granted a son in his old age, he would sacrifice him as an act of obedience and devotion to God.

According to Islamic teachings, when Prophet Ibrahim demonstrated his willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience to God's command, Allah instead sent

a sheep to be slaughtered in place of the son. This event forms the foundation of the animal sacrifice ritual observed by Muslims during Eid adhuha.

Explaining the significance of slaughtering animals during the festival, Sheikh Hassan Mayambala, the director of Sabar Dawa Group of Uganda, said the act is a fundamental form of worship in Islam. He noted that it not only commemorates Prophet Ibrahim's unwavering devotion to God, but also symbolises total submission to Allah, promotes charity and strengthens bonds within communities.

"The act of slaughtering the animal honours this ultimate test of faith, demonstrating that a believer places Allah's will above worldly attachments. I, therefore, encourage all Muslims to strive to slaughter on this day and also share the meat with their family members, the needy and neighbours regardless of their faith," Mayambala said.

Mayambala explained that



Muslims prepare to slaughter a bull during the celebration of Eid adhuha, marked by animal sacrifice in honour of Prophet Ibrahim's unwavering devotion to faith and his willingness to sacrifice his only son

the meat from the sacrificed animal is traditionally divided into three portions. One-third is retained for immediate family members, another portion is shared with relatives and friends, while the remaining third is donated to the poor and needy.

Sheikh Imran Ssali, the secretary for religious affairs at the Uganda Muslim Supreme

Council, said Muslims may also slaughter animals in groups provided they follow the required Islamic guidelines.

PRAY BEFORE SLAUGHTER

Ssali also cautioned Muslims against slaughtering animals before the Idd prayers are conducted.

"Please avoid slaughtering animals before Idd prayers

because that would be contrary to Islamic teachings," Ssali warned.

The sheikhs further urged Muslims to prepare healthy animals for sacrifice, noting that offering healthy animals attracts greater rewards from God.

Animals permitted for sacrifice in Islam include sheep, cows, goats and camels,

in remembrance of Prophet Ibrahim's devotion and obedience to God.

Dr Muhammad Musoke-Kiggundu, the director in charge of communications, research and international relations in the office of the Supreme Mufti at Kibuli, said obedience to God and respect for authority are among the major lessons drawn from the act of sacrifice.

"Prophet Ibrahim wanted to sacrifice his only son. Incidentally, when he informed his son about it, he never questioned him and simply accepted. This is an important lesson for all of us," Kiggundu noted.

Unlike Idd-al-Fitr, Muslims are not allowed to eat or drink before completing the Eid adhuha prayers.

More than 10,000 heads of cattle are expected to be slaughtered during this year's celebrations, with organisations such as the Muslim World League, Uganda Red Cross Society and Turkish Red Crescent expected to lead the exercise.

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