

Destruction of traditional nations to blame for moral decay in Uganda

I read the comment titled: 'Moral decay: Diagnosis of cause in Uganda urgent' in the *Daily Monitor* of July 25.

I want to thank the writer for identifying moral decay as the main cause of Uganda's problems. However, I disagree that it is the debasement of Christianity and other faiths that are at the root of that moral decay.

The writer correctly puts it that 'moral training is different from spiritual training', but he leaves that hanging when he elects to question the relevance of spiritual teaching and its influence on society. It is my humble submission that moral decay in Uganda has nothing to do with Christianity or any other religion. Rather, it is a deliberate undermining of our traditional cultural base that is causing moral decay.

Readers will agree with me that before the arrival of Christianity in Uganda in the 19th Century, our ancestors lived a moral life. And indeed our brothers and sisters in places Christianity has not taken root to date, still live a moral life.

You will note that the traditional



nations gave birth to this country called Uganda with some prompting from the colonialists.

My view is that somehow, Uganda under the current leadership, has deliberately destroyed the relevance of traditional nations in our political, social and economic make-up. It is like killing your mother and somehow everybody looks away, and, strangely, we wonder why there is moral decay.

Without cultural reference for the people of Uganda, we are doomed. Uganda as an entity is devoid of a positive culture beyond brutal coer-

cive overload.

Where we once had Bunyoro, Buganda, Teso, Busoga, etc, we now have incomprehensible districts that are politically manipulated at will. The cultural leaders have no territory to speak of. Rather they are the so-called leaders of people without an identifiable home. Hence, to recognise the cultural leader appears to be a favour rather than an obligation. With that every Ugandan is at liberty to act as they wish as long as they do not get caught out by the law.

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