

PLANS UNDERWAY TO BUILD A CENTRE IN KITGUM DISTRICT

PRESIDENT MUSEVENI VOWS TO END CATTLE RUSTLING IN NORTHERN UGANDA

By Michael Odega

President Yoweri Museveni has vowed to institute measures to end cattle rustling in northern Uganda, particularly the eastern Acholi sub-region.

He made the remarks yesterday during the 49th commemoration of Janani Luwum Day at Mucwuni in Kitgum district. This year's celebration was held under the theme: *Anchored in Christ for Stability, Peace and Unity*.

Luwum, the former archbishop of the Church of Uganda, was killed in 1977 after speaking out against human rights abuses under the regime of former president Idi Amin. He was executed alongside cabinet ministers Erinayo Oryema and Charles Oboto Ofumbi, after being accused of plotting a coup.

"I am surprised to hear that there is still cattle rustling in east Acholi region. I will take interest in the matter and we shall get solutions to end it," Museveni said, emphasising that there is no justification for the continued raids.

His remarks followed concerns raised by residents of the eastern Acholi sub-region, who reported persistent attacks by Karimojong warriors on their communities.

The raids, they said, have fuelled insecurity, disrupted livelihoods, and deepened poverty across east Acholi. East Acholi sub-region covers Kitgum, Pader, Agago and Lamwo districts in northern Uganda.

Kitgum district chairperson Christopher Arwai Obol decried what he described as renewed atrocities against residents, saying cattle raids have intensified in the eastern part of the district, creating instability and poverty.

He said the most affected sub-counties include Orom, Kiteny, Orom East, and Namokora, as well as Namokora town council. Obol called on the Government to strengthen security operations and take

action against the criminal elements behind the raids in Karamoja.

AMIN'S MISTAKES

Museveni said Amin made many mistakes including imposing himself on the people as a leader and killing innocent people.

Museveni said at the time he was serving as a research assistant in ex-president Obote's office, "Amin used to come and we would talk outside the office after his meetings with Milton Obote. We had our differences with Obote, but we were trying to manage them."

Museveni said their focus then was on East African integration and the liberation of Africa, since many countries — including Mozambique, Angola, Zimbabwe and South Africa — were still under colonial rule.

As the youth, Museveni said, they were convincing Obote, former Tanzania president Julius Nyerere, and former Zambia president Kenneth Kaunda to pursue the same agenda.

Museveni said as they were advocating for that direction, events took a dramatic turn on January 25, 1971.

"That morning, we were advised not to go to work because there was a problem. I was staying in Kireka and we remained at home, and at around 3:00pm it was announced that Amin was the president of Uganda."

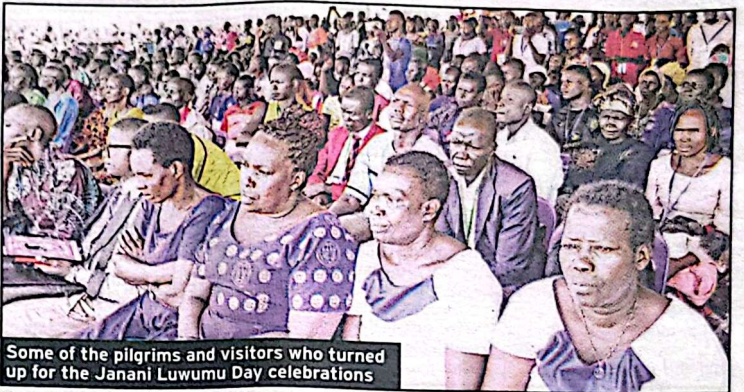
Following the announcement that Amin had taken power, Museveni said, he immediately mobilised fellow student leaders. They convened at the Bugolobi home of veteran politician Yona Kanyomozi, where they resolved not to recognise Amin's regime.

Museveni said he was advised to begin organising resistance against Amin. Museveni said on January 26, 1971, he went to the bank to withdraw money, and the following day he left for Tanzania with four others.

Museveni cautioned leaders against imposing themselves



L-R: Babalanda, Owiny-Dollo and Abodo during the 49th commemoration of the Janani Luwum Day in Mucwuni sub-county, Kitgum district, yesterday



Some of the pilgrims and visitors who turned up for the Janani Luwumu Day celebrations

on the people, saying both biblical teaching and political strategy favour persuasion over imposing yourself on others.

"Influence and persuade people by doing good things that they can see and appreciate. Leaders who manipulate and intimidate are following Amin's path," Museveni said.

He added that in many elections, people in northern Uganda were not voting for the National Resistance Movement (NRM), saying the party at one time obtained 12% of the votes but in 2011, the votes increased. He said despite that, NRM continued working for northern Uganda.

Museveni said the NRM

has extended electricity from Lira district to Kitgum despite people not voting for NRM.

He said the NRM has also constructed schools, health centres, roads and water facilities, a reason why the party eliminated gene worms coming from swamps.

"After many years, the northern people discovered that Museveni and the NRM party are good. I thank northern Uganda for supporting NRM in the last election which was done through persuasion and not imposition," Museveni said.

He also said Amin's second mistake was to use killings. "We have fought many wars but we despise assassination of



Orombi (left), flanked by Kaziimba, addressing pilgrims during the 49th commemoration of Janani Luwum Day yesterday

POVERTY

Museveni thanked the people of northern Uganda for their strong support in the recent presidential elections, saying his priority is to eliminate household poverty by expanding participation in the money economy.

He said before Uganda gained independence in 1962, only 9% of the population was engaged in the money economy.

The President, however, said by 2013, about 32% of Ugandans were still outside the money economy. He attributed the progress to government efforts, including the army's distribution of seedlings and other livelihood support initiatives, which helped increase participation to 61%.

Museveni said through programmes such as the Parish Development Model, the proportion of Ugandans engaged in the money economy has now risen to 70%.

"We shall ensure that the 30% remaining Ugandans join the money economy so that we get rid of poverty in the country," he said.

BUILDING LUWUM'S SITE

Museveni said plans are underway to build a centre in Kitgum to commemorate Luwum's contribution and also develop the area.

"Once the master plan is done, the ethics minister will tell us the cost and we start the construction. We