

Land agent sues CoU over Shs7.3b commission

BY ANTHONY WESAKA
awesaka@ug.nationmedia.com

KAMPALA. The Registered Trustees of Church of Uganda have told court that Archbishop Stanley Ntagali mistakenly contracted a consultancy firm to carry out investigations aimed at recovering Church land in Entebbe and Luzira.

The trustees' May 9 defence is in reaction to a commercial suit lodged against them by Land Coin Ltd on April 10 where the latter is demanding Shs7.3b as commission for successfully carrying out the investigations.

The trustees state that at the time the Archbishop contracted the firm, he thought there was need to investigate the ownership of the land.

"The Archbishop, who signed on the said letter in his capacity as Archbishop of Church of Uganda and not chairperson of the Board of Trustees, was not aware at the time he signed that the land was owned by the defendant [Board of Trustees] and a certificate of title of the said land was actually in possession of the defendant's lawyers," the Church's response reads in part.

However, the firm contends that it carried out its obligations under the contractual arrangement to the satisfaction of the Trustees and that as such, they are entitled to a 15 per cent commission (Shs7.3b).

Land Coin Ltd also states that in April, the Church contracted it to carry out an investigation to recover its 15 acres of land at Old Entebbe, Plot 90-102 on Sebugwawo Drive and one acre of land at Luzira, all worth Shs48.9b from government.

In one of the attachments to the court documents dated July 7, 2015, Archbishop Ntagali on behalf of the Trustees of Church of Uganda, wrote to the firm, authorising it to carry out the investigation.

The firm was also given powers of attorney to act on behalf of the Church to recover the land.

"This is, therefore, to appoint you as the Church of Uganda's agent and to authorise you to carry out the necessary investigations with a view to ascertaining the nature and extent of the Church's interests in the land in question. Your suggestion regarding a commission is acceptable to the Trustees," the document reads in part.