

VP Ssekandi booed in church

By Betty Amamukirori and Wilfred Sanya

December 25, 2017 is one day that will remain etched in the mind of the Vice-President, Edward Ssekandi.

Ssekandi had a tough time delivering his message to the Christians who had thronged Rubaga Cathedral for the Christmas Mass.

The quiet, peaceful Christians seated in the pews turned rowdy and started jeering and heckling, when Ssekandi took to the podium to give his speech. He had been invited to speak to the congregation.

Amidst the heckles, Ssekandi told the congregation how the 1995 Constitution was formulated, revealing that he was part of the team that drafted it.

He stated that much as he took part in the making of the Constitution, they (the formulators) knew at the back of their mind that it would be changed and so they put in it provisions to enable the amendments to be carried out.

He said although the Constitution has been amended, if Ugandans are not satisfied with it, they can still change it through a referendum.

"Touching the Constitution is not a mistake; you can add or remove. I urge you to keep peace, even with those you do not agree with," he said, attracting boos that compelled him to cut short his speech.

The Minister of State for Higher Education, Dr John Chrysostom Muyingo and the Minister of State for Youth and Children Affairs, Florence Kiyingi, looked startled at the way the Christians treated Ssekandi.

However, Kato Lubwama, the Rubaga South Member of Parliament, was seen laughing at the whole scene.

Later, during the time of taking photographs, the clergy tried to brighten Ssekandi's mood. Unlike other days when he was expected to go to the archbishop's reception, he was seen walking straight to his car, while the archbishop, Cyprian Kizito Lwanga, walked alone to his residence.

In his Christmas message, Lwanga,



Ssekandi, Archbishop Lwanga, Muyingo and Kiyingi after prayers at Rubaga Cathedral on Christmas Day. During his sermon, Lwanga urged Ugandans to be truthful in their dealings. Photo by Wilfred Sanya

BETWEEN THE LINES:

Ssekandi said the formulators of the 1995 Constitution, including himself, had it at the back of their minds that it would be changed and so they put in it provisions to enable amendments.

the Catholic Archbishop of Kampala Diocese, urged Ugandans to be truthful in their daily dealings.

Giving an example of the recently concluded debate on amending Article 102(b) of the Constitution regarding presidential age limits, he noted that lies have infiltrated the country, making it hard for one to tell truth from the lies.

He said many legislators were told by their electorates not to 'touch' (amend) the article, but they went to Parliament and did the reverse.

"Lies have infiltrated our society. It has become too much. Let's try to be truthful and restore the respect and

trust in the Lord," he said.

Lwanga asked Ugandans, especially those involved in policy making, to always think of the country's motto before making any decisions.

"Our motto says "For God and My Country", but what I see is that we have deviated from it. Let God touch the hearts of those committing evil so that they can change," he said.

He also asked Christians to take advantage of the birth of Jesus Christ to right their wrongs.

The Katikkiro of Buganda, Charles Peter Mayiga, said leaders need to work with the people and respect their views. He cautioned leaders against ignoring the voices of the people, saying they are creating hostile communities.

Giving an analogy of a king who ignored the voices of his subjects and, in turn, reaped hostility from them, Mayiga said for peace to reign, politicians should listen to the views of society and implement them.

Young people urged to marry
In his sermon, Rev. Fr Kiibi Kateregga,

urged men and women to get married as soon as possible, instead of waiting to clock 40 years.

He stated that at 40 years, people should be thinking of securing the future of their families, not about marriage.

"I know that 20 to 30 are years of making mistakes, but whenever you fall, make sure to rise up. Girls, get married early enough, as age is not your best ally," he said.

Kateregga urged men to love their wives and children their parents.

He warned men against marrying several women from different churches.

"Stop fooling churches. Today you legalise your marriage in this church and tomorrow you rush to another far away church to do the same with another woman," he said.

He also asked parents to bring up their children in an upright manner and closely monitor their movements to prevent them from turning into criminals.

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