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Alur Kingdom moves to revive cultural values

ZOMBO. Leaders in Alur Kingdom have intensified efforts to revive cultural values and traditions that are gradually disappearing under the influence of modern lifestyles and technology.

Cultural leaders say the rapid spread of urban lifestyles, social media, and Western influences has weakened many traditional practices that once shaped community life among the Alur people.

To address the challenge, the kingdom, together with cultural enthusiasts, has organised a series of cultural festivals aimed at promoting and preserving traditional values.

This year's festival, the 11th edition, will be held on May 31 at Bar Okoro in Zombo District and will feature traditional dances, cultural exhibitions, and performances meant to reconnect young people with their heritage.

The Prime Minister of the Alur Kingdom, Prince Lawrence Opar Angal, said the event is intended to expose young people to traditional practices that are increasingly disappearing.

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Learners perform cultural drama. Leaders in Alur Kingdom have intensified efforts to revive cultural values and traditions. PHOTO/PATRICK OKABA.

but through such events, they are reminded of their identity," Prince Opar said.

He added that many traditional musical instruments and practices are gradually disappearing, making cultural festivals important platforms for research,

preservation, and documentation.

During the festival, participants will showcase traditional dances such as Agwara and Ndara, along with exhibitions of arts and crafts and displays of traditional Alur cuisine.

Mr Derick Passy, the communication

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director for the festival, said the event will celebrate the beauty and diversity of the Alur cultural identity while also creating tangible benefits for communities.

"This time, as we return to Zombo District, the festival will not only celebrate culture but also create real impact in the community because our energy, music, and unity will contribute to improving lives," Mr Passy said.

He noted that proceeds from the festival will be used to support community projects, including addressing water shortages in the area.

The Executive Director of the Alur

Kingdom, Mr Vincent Ochaya, urged young people to embrace their cultural heritage while avoiding behaviours that put them at risk of diseases such as HIV/Aids.

"In every gathering in the Alur Kingdom, we need to promote the positive values of our culture because many youths have sidelined themselves from it and are adopting Western lifestyles due to globalisation," Mr Ochaya said.

Cultural leaders say traditions such as storytelling sessions, evening fireplace gatherings, and simple traditional marriages once played an important role in passing knowledge and values from elders to younger generations.

In the past, folk songs, dances, crafts and other cultural practices formed the backbone of community life.

Elders also presided over important rituals, including sacrificial ceremonies and elaborate death rites, which reinforced social order and respect for ancestors.

However, leaders warn that without deliberate efforts to preserve these traditions, many of them risk disappearing as modern influences continue to shape the lifestyles of younger generations.