

Christians reflect on Luwum's legacy

BY RAJAB MUKOMBOZI

MBARARA. Hundreds of Christians yesterday flocked the East Africa Revival Museum at the Ankole Diocese headquarters in Ruharo, Mbarara City, to revisit the life and legacy of the late Archbishop Janani Luwum.

The visit coincided with the nationwide commemoration of the 49th Janani Luwum Anniversary. While the main celebrations were held at Wi-



Some of the Christians led by Bishop of Ankole Diocese Sheldon Mwesigwa at the museum in Mbarara City yesterday. PHOTO/RAJAB MUKOMBOZI

Gweng in Kitgum District, the Mbarara event offered a local opportunity to reflect on the martyrdom and contributions of the late church leader.

Archbishop Luwum, appointed the third Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Boga-Zaire (now DR Congo) in 1974, was killed on February 16, 1977. By the time of his death, he had become a strong critic of President Idi Amin's regime,

speaking out against gross human rights abuses.

To honour his legacy, the Ankole Diocese has dedicated a special section of its East Africa Revival Museum to Luwum. The exhibit chronicles his life, spiritual journey, work, and ultimate martyrdom through artefacts, relics, pictorials, and detailed write-ups, providing visitors with an vast experience of his dedication to faith, justice, and

human rights.

The day's activities included sermons, entertainment by students from various schools in the diocese, and testimonials from those who had witnessed his work first-hand. Bishop of Ankole Diocese Sheldon Mwesigwa said the museum serves as a reminder of the core values of Christianity.

"Preaching the Gospel is not only in the church and other faith-based con-

gregations but also through documentation, research, artefacts, write-ups, exhibitions, and pictorials. Janani Luwum is a martyr; he died for the true values of Christianity, truth and justice. Revisiting his history can change the lives of people towards God," Bishop Mwesigwa said.

The preacher of the day and Ankole Diocesan Secretary, Rev Can Edson Abaasa, urged believers to resist the untoward trends of modern society, where dishonesty and selfishness are often glorified.

"If you become honest and expose high levels of integrity, the chances are that you will become unpopular, singled out, and at times get hated because the majority of the people in the world glorify vices like corruption, selfishness and deceit," Rev Abaasa said. He urged believers not to conform to worldly patterns but to embrace Godly values of love, compassion, justice, tolerance, and harmonious living.

Ms Mary Baryamujura, the chairperson of the museum, explained that dedicating a section to Janani Luwum underscores values of unity, truth, justice and selfless service, inspiring visitors to live by these principles.