FEWER LIVESTOCK TO BE SLAUGHTERED DUE SOARING PRICES

IDD: MUSLIMS URGED TO DISPLAY SPIRIT OF SHARING

By Farooq Kasule

Muslims across the country have been urged to embrace the spirit of sharing and compassion as they celebrate the Idd Adhuha festival today.

At the heart of the festival is the ritual slaughter of animals as an act of sacrifice and devotion to Allah.

The practice traces its origin to Prophet Ibrahim's pledge to Allah that if he was blessed with a son in his old age, he would sacrifice him in obedience to God's command. According to Islamic teachings, when Prophet Ibrahim demonstrated his willingness to sacrifice his son, Ismail, Allah, instead provided a sheep to be slaughtered in his place.

This event forms the foundation of the animal sacrifice ritual observed by Muslims during the annual Idd Adhuha celebrations.

Muhammad Musoke Kiggundu, the director of communication, research and international relations in the office of the Supreme Mufti at Kibuli, urged Muslims to use the occasion to support the needy and promote unity in society.

"As you slaughter, share the meat with the needy, neighbours and friends of all religious denominations so that you may earn enormous rewards from Allah," Kiggundu said.

However, this year's celebrations are expected to witness fewer animals being slaughtered compared to previous years due to soaring livestock prices and reduced donor support linked to prolonged global conflicts, particularly the Iran-US/Israel tensions.

Major organisations involved in distributing sacrificial animals during Idd Adhuha, including the Muslim World League office in Uganda, the Uganda Red Cross Society and the Turkish Red Crescent, said they had procured fewer cattle this year because of the rising cost of livestock.

A cow that cost about sh1.5m last year now costs sh2m and above, according to the organisations.

Sheikh Hassan Mayambala, the director of Sabar Dawa Group of Uganda, described the slaughtering of animals during Idd Adhuha as a fundamental act of worship in Islam.

He explained that the practice not only commemorates Prophet Ibrahim's unwavering devotion to Allah, but also symbolises total submission to God, promotes charity and strengthens community ties.

"The act of slaughtering an animal honours this ultimate test of faith and demonstrates that a believer places Allah's will above worldly attachments. I encourage all Mu... to strive to slaughter on this day ... share the meat with family mem... the needy and neighbours regard... of their faith," Mayambala said.

Mayambala noted that the ... is traditionally divided into th... portions – one-third for the immed... family, another for relatives ... friends, and the remaining portion ... the poor and needy.

He, however, emphasised that ... true essence of sacrifice lies not in ... blood or meat, but in the believer's piety, obedience and consciousness of Allah.

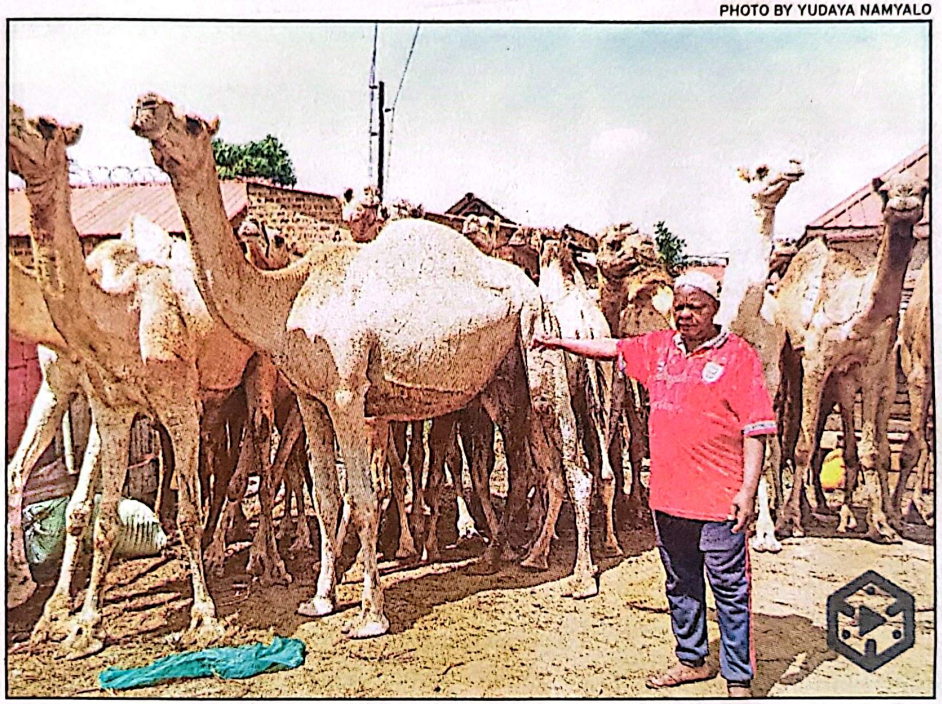
"Animal sacrifice only has mean... in the context of thanking Allah ... His provision and blessings," ... added.

Sheikh Imran Ssali, the secreta... for religious affairs at the Ugan... Muslim Supreme Council, cautio... Muslims against slaughtering ani... before the Idd prayers.

"The slaughtering should be don... after Idd prayers; otherwise it remai... an ordinary slaughter and not ... act of worship in line with Islam... teachings," Ssali warned.

Sheikhs leaders also advis... Muslims to ensure that only healt... animals are slaughtered in accordan... with Islamic teachings. Accepta... animals for sacrifice in Islam inclu... sheep, cows, goats and camels.

PHOTO BY YUDAYA NAMYALO



Shaban Ssajjabi showing some of the camels awaiting to be slaughtered at Wankulukuku in Rubaga division as Muslims celebrate Idd. Muslims all over the world honours the willingness of Ibrahim to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience to God's command. (Scan the picture using the Vision Digital Experience to watch video)

PRAYERS

At Gadaffi National Mosque in C... Kampala, Idd prayers will be observ... at exactly 9:00am.

Hafidhu Sheikh Muhamm... Haruna Bukenya will deliver the ma... sermon.

At Kibuli mosque, prayers will st... at 9:30am. Sheikh Ishaq Muten... will deliver the main sermon at Kibu... mosque.

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