Archbishop Kazimba advises political losers to stay calm

BY ROBERT MUHEREZA

KIGEZI. The Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, His Grace Stephen Kazimba Mugalu, has urged politicians who lost their seats in the recently concluded national and local council elections to remain calm and prepare for the next phase of elections.

Archbishop Kazimba made the remark on Sunday while preaching at the climax of the four-day annual Brethren's Conference organised by the Diocese of Kigezi at Rugarama Hill in Kabale Town. He encouraged Christians to seek peace with God through His Son, Jesus Christ, saying this would help heal the political wounds that may have resulted from election losses.

"Those who won and those who lost remain children of God. The losers should not lose hope. Settle down and plan for victory in the next phase of the elections, as five years is not too much. Do not fight the winners. Be peacemakers, and God will heal any political wounds you may have sustained after losing the elections," Archbishop Kazimba said.

He further advised politicians who lost parliamentary and local council elections to return to their roots, work hard, and settle down, noting that life must go on.

He also urged Ugandans to always pray to God to make them instruments of peace, to pardon them in times of injury, give them faith in moments of doubt, light in times of darkness, happiness in sadness, and hope in despair.

The archbishop also called on Christians to love their country, emphasising that many people lived and served the nation before passing on to eternal life.

> **Frustration.** Always ensure that Uganda remains peaceful because it is our beloved country. Participate in conflict resolution at the family level, in workplaces, and in the Church, since it is the duty of peacemakers to resolve conflicts," – Archbishop Stephen Kazimba Mugalu.

He appealed to religious leaders to promote reconciliation among Christians and to focus on building bridges of peace, adding that it is everyone's duty to building the nation.

The Bishop of the Diocese of Kigezi, Rt Rev Gaddie Akanjuna, thanked Christians for turning up in large numbers to attend the conference.

"It is my prayer that all who attended this conference are spiritually renewed and return home with fresh minds to develop their homes and communities," Bishop Akanjuna said.

The Kigezi Diocesan Secretary, Rev Canon Milton Nkurunungi, said the annual Brethren's Conference is an initiative of the diocesan administration aimed at promoting spiritual renewal among Christians at the start of a new year.

Politicians present at the conference included elected Members of Parliament Bruce Kabasa (Rubanda West), Eliab Naturinda (Ndorwa West), and Dr Sylvia Alinaitwe (Rukiga District Woman MP). Also present were local government leaders, including Kabale District LC5 chairman-elect, Mr Denis Ndyomugyenyi Nzeirwe, and Kabale Municipality Mayor Sentaro Byamugisha.

Retired bishops of the Diocese of Kigezi who attended included Dr William Rukirande, George Katwesigye, and George Bamuhunda. The retired Bishop of North Kivu Diocese in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Enock Kayeye, also attended.

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