

Govt, Ndiga clan move to finalise construction of museum

MPIGI

By Simon Ssekiddo

The Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, in collaboration with Buganda kingdom's Ndiga (sheep) clan and the Mpigi district local government, has intensified efforts to construct a mausoleum and museum at the Ndiga clan ancestral shrine in Mbaale village, Mpigi.

The project is part of a broader initiative to promote cultural and historical tourism, with a special focus on the history of the Ndiga clan and Kibuuka Omumbaale, who is believed to be the clan's founding ancestor and one of the legendary warriors and heroes of Buganda.

On Tuesday, clan elders and key stakeholders, led by the clan head, Eriya Lwasi Buzaabo, toured the proposed museum site. They also visited other significant cultural heritage sites, including the tombs of Omumbaale at the clan's ancestral home in Mbaale.

The delegation further visited Kulumba Hill, where

Omumbaale is believed to have launched battles against his enemies. They also inspected a sacred tree said to be the point where he descended to earth, and a holy well on the hill where he reportedly used to swim.

According to Buzaabo, the museum will preserve important cultural artefacts that reflect the clan's origin, history and traditions, with a central focus on Omumbaale and his legendary feats.

"We came up with this idea with the intention of preserving the clan's heritage for future generations and also boosting sustainable cultural tourism, as well as creating more awareness about one of Buganda's heroic warriors who fought for the expansion of the kingdom in the past," Buzaabo said.

He added that the clan plans to develop the site into a modern tourism facility with recreational areas, restaurants and accommodation facilities where visitors can stay for extended periods. This, he noted, would not only generate income for the clan, but also contribute to government revenue.

Ronald

Kazibwe

Bazzalamugagga, commercial officer of Mpigi the district, expressed full support for the initiative, noting that it will enhance local tourism and boost economic activity in the district.

He further revealed that the district, through the commercial department, plans to develop at least 17 key cultural and historical sites into a unified tourism circuit to attract more visitors.

Benon Ntambi from Buganda Tourism Board praised the clan for taking a proactive step in developing their ancestral heritage site. He encouraged other clans in Buganda to follow the same example and invest in preserving their cultural heritage.

Paddy Ssentongo, an official from the tourism ministry, reiterated the importance of promoting regional, clan-based and historical tourism, noting that it helps stimulate local development and increases the length of tourist stays in different destinations.

He pledged the ministry's continued support to ensure the successful implementation of the project.