

Tour operators clean Kabale

KABALE

By Job Namanya

Stakeholders in the tourism sector in Kigezi region have launched a campaign to improve sanitation in a bid to boost tourism.

The "Keep Uganda Clean for Tourism" campaign will be championed by the Uganda Safari Guides Association (USAGA) across the country.

Herbert Byaruhanga, the USAGA chairperson, said most tourists who visit Uganda always complain about the poor sanitation in some areas.

"Our country is heavily littered and this is affecting tourism," Byaruhanga said.

During the launch of the campaign on Monday in Kabale municipality, where participants cleaned the streets, Byaruhanga said despite the incredible beauty of Uganda as a country, its sanitation standards leave a lot to be desired.

"We, therefore, call on all stakeholders in Uganda to embrace sanitation such that at least once in a month, we can do a massive clean-up," he added.

Janat Birungi, the Miss Tourism Kigezi beauty queen, also took part in the cleaning exercise.

"I have noticed that most towns in Uganda are not clean, especially Kigezi, yet we are the tourism hub of the country. We should ensure good hygiene and sanitation so that tourism can flourish," she said.

Julius Beteisa, the officer in charge of tourism at Kabale Police Station, hailed the move.

"Tourists love to be assured of safety as they move across the country and one of these assurances comes from the cleanliness of our areas. If a tourist finds it worthwhile to visit



Participants in the "Keep Uganda Clean for Tourism" cleaning Kabale municipality. Photo by Job Namanya

Tour operators complained that poor sanitation in most parts of Uganda is affecting their businesses

Uganda, they should also encounter a clean and rewarding experience," said Beteisa.

After launching the campaign, participants from the USAGA converged at Highland Hotel in Kabale to elect their new leaders for south western Uganda.

David Bakeine was elected as the chairperson, while Emmanuel Azirwe became vice-chairperson.

Garassiano Kato was elected the secretary/treasurer and Christine Munyantware, vice secretary. Abias Kangume will represent Rukiga; Gerald Nkusi, Kisoro; Brian Rukundo, Kabale and Jean Tukamushaba, Rubanda.

Others are Joseph Tukahwebwa representing Rukungiri and Friday Christopher for Kanungu.

On assuming office, Bakeine said

his main task will be to mobilise all the Safari guides and train them for the transformation of the tourism industry.

"The main challenge we have in the tourism sector today is having guides who do not have enough product knowledge. They sell something that is hard for them to talk about," he said.

Bakeine further appealed to tourism training institutions in Uganda to avail learners with practical knowledge on tourism to keep them relevant in the sector.

"Tour guiding is a practical venture. Therefore, one needs to be well-versed with the required knowledge and skills to move tourists across the country," he added.

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