Kaziimba worried over beach weddings

MITYANA

By Samuel Balagadde

PHOTO BY SAMUEL BALAGADDE



Kaziimba (third-right), Bukomeko (fourth-right), Akankwasa (right), Kiguli (second-right) with the two German friends (left) and others church members during the church dedication event, last week

The Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, Stephen Kaziimba, has expressed concern over the growing practice of holding Christian ceremonies, such as weddings and baptisms at beaches and entertainment venues, warning that it undermines the sanctity of the Church.

Speaking during the dedication of All Saints Kitokolo Church in Kyamusisi parish, Namutamba Archdeaconry, Mityana Diocese, last week, Kaziimba urged members of the clergy and Christians to safeguard Church traditions by ensuring that sacred ceremonies are conducted within designated places of worship.

"Matrimony and baptism are important religious milestones that should be conducted within the church to preserve their spiritual significance rather than taking them to entertainment places," Kaziimba said.

He warned that if the trend continues, churches risk losing their spiritual relevance and future attendance.

"If this habit persists, churches may in future remain empty. We must also focus on spiritually nurturing children from an early age to secure the future of the Church," he added.

Kaziimba emphasised that building impressive church structures alone is not enough without investing in spiritually grounded young people who will sustain the Church in generations to come.

"Building magnificent churches without laying a strong spiritual foundation among the younger generation puts the future of the Church at risk," he noted.

He urged the clergy to remain firm in upholding Church doctrine and resist practices that deviate from established traditions and values.

The Archbishop also advised church leaders to prepare for retirement while still active in service, noting that many retired clergy struggle with isolation once they leave office.

Kaziimba is expected to retire on August 15, 2027, upon attaining the mandatory retirement age of 65 years for bishops and senior clergy in the Church of Uganda.

He commissioned the construction of All Saints Kitokolo Church in 2020, while still serving as bishop of Mityana Diocese.

The project was implemented by Hope for the Needy Uganda (HONU), with support from Geimende Church in Burgaltendorf and Essen Church in Germany, among other partners.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

The bishop of Mityana Diocese, James Bukomeko, praised Zack Kalega, a founding member of HONU, for donating land that has enabled the establishment of key community facilities, including a church, schools, a vocational institute and a health centre.

Prof. Sarah Kiguli noted that the Kalega family donated three acres of land to support both spiritual growth and socio-economic transformation in the area.

She added that fundraising efforts by HONU and its partners enabled the construction of All Saints Kitokolo Church between 2020 and 2026.

"I am certain that what has been achieved here reflects the vision and commitment of the late Zack Kalega towards community transformation," Kiguli said.

She also appreciated financial support from churches and partners in Germany and their participation in the church dedication ceremony.

HONU's executive director Annette Akankwasa commended the local community for actively participating in development projects aimed at improving livelihoods.

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