

MUKONO

By Henry Nsubuga

The Bishop of Mukono diocese, James William Ssebaggala, has called for the attention of the Church and the Government on islands that harbour criminals.

He said offenders use islands as hiding spots from authorities after committing crimes on the mainland.

"What cleared my mind was a man I had entrusted to keep one of my houses that I had stocked with raw materials. He stole everything and took off," Ssebaggala said.

"Recently, I was tipped that the fugitive is hiding on one of the islands in Mukono. However, he has been moving from one island to another after learning that the people looking for him are closing in on him," the bishop added.

Ssebaggala made the remarks last week while launching a 2018 project that will focus on preaching the gospel in the islands of Buvuma and Kkoome in Mukono.

The function, which was held at Bishop West Primary School in Mukono Municipality, was part of the 33rd anniversary celebrations of the diocese.

During the launch of the project, Ssebaggala equipped the lay leaders of the islands with 50 bicycles worth sh12.5m and the two priests of the diocese with two motorcycles worth sh10m.

"Although we want to preach to the islanders, I noticed that the main challenge there is transport. I, therefore, decided to ease the work of my team with new bicycles and motorcycles," he said.

Ssebaggala also asked the general secretary of the Bible Society of Uganda, Peter Mukama, to back the diocese's

Mukono bishop donates new bicycles to ease church work



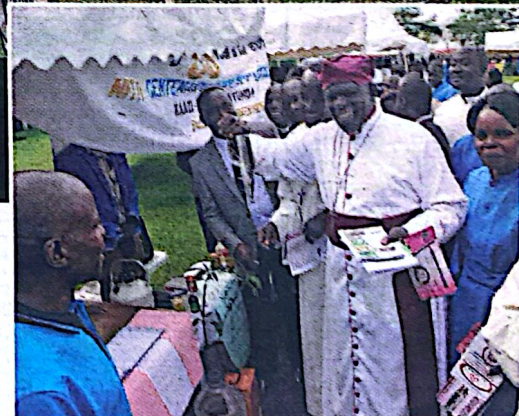
Bishop Ssebaggala (third left) and other clergy launching the bicycles for the lay leaders in Buvuma islands and Kkome. Photos by Henry Nsubuga

mission to the islands.

He said there is an island in Kkoome sub-county, where George Lawrence Pilkington, a missionary, lived while translating the Bible into Luganda.

"By the time we discovered that, everything had perished, including the church where Pilkington used to stay and pray from.

However, we are going to build another church as we look to making that place a



Ssebaggala holding a cat fish which he found at a stall

tourist attraction in Kkoome," Mukama said.

He added that the diocese

will buy a water engine and boat, as the ones available are worn out.

"We want to preach to the islanders, but the challenge there is transport." Bishop

Mukama, who was the main preacher at the function, tasked the priests with preparing for their retirement as early as possible.

He said failure to prepare for their retirement will give the impression that the Jesus they are serving does not work.

"It looks irrational for a priest to start fidgeting and looking for a plot of land to build their retirement house after being asked to hand over office," he said.

"It troubles me to find elderly priests, who would be warming up for their retirement, storming the diocesan secretary's office pleading to stay in office for at least one more year, as they complete building," Mukama added.

Meanwhile, Ssebaggala collected sh36m out of the sh600m needed for the building of the diocesan synod hall.