

CHURCH OF UGANDA LAUNCHES MARTYR'S FAITH WALK

By Mathias Mazinga

As part of activities leading to this year's Uganda Martyrs Day celebrations, the Church of the Province of Uganda has launched a Youth Walk of Faith, a spiritual pilgrimage expected to bring together young Christians from across the country in what church leaders have described as a historic journey of faith.

The walk, being organised for the first time, is scheduled for May 29, 2026 and is expected to attract participants from all the 39 dioceses of the Province of the Church of Uganda.

Launching the initiative on Tuesday at the Church of Uganda Provincial Headquarters in Namirembe, Rubaga Division, the Provincial Treasurer, Balaam Muheebwa, called upon church leaders across the country to mobilise as many young people as possible to participate.

MARTYRS SPIRITUAL LEGACY

Muheebwa said the initiative is aimed at helping young Christians reflect on the lives, sacrifice, courage, and spiritual legacy of the Uganda Martyrs, while appreciating the growth of Christianity in Uganda.

"The young people are the majority, which is why we thought it right to give them special consideration. This walk to Namugongo will inspire them to renew their commitment to the faith as they emulate the courage and deep faith of the Uganda Martyrs," Muheebwa said.

He noted that the event will



The Rev. Canon Simon Peter Ddembe Iya Yesu

also provide an opportunity for discipleship, youth engagement, and Christian witness. "I encourage all the dioceses to participate fully in this exercise, which is a moment for our young people to rise and walk for faith, unity, the future of Uganda, and the glory of God," he added.

GOVERNMENT COLLABORATION

Muheebwa also thanked the Government of Uganda, through the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, for partnering with the Church in organising this year's celebrations, describing the collaboration as a strong intersection of faith, heritage, and national identity.

Representing the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism, Doreen Katusiime, Senior Tourism Officer Bernadette Asimwe Bazirake encouraged young people to take part in the walk, saying the event presents an opportunity to strengthen faith-based tourism and position Uganda as

ALL DENOMINATIONS CALLED UPON

The Provincial Director of Mission and Outreach, the Rev. Canon Simon Peter Ddembe Iya Yesu, urged Christians from all denominations to join the pilgrimage.

"The faith walk to Namugongo is an opportunity for young people and the nation to pray for our city, declare our faith and make a statement about what the Uganda Martyrs stood for," he said.

"The blood they shed became the seed of the faith. What we are planning is not just a physical walk; it is a spiritual and supernatural exercise and it is not limited to the youth. It is for all believers."

Canon Ddembe Iya Yesu invited believers from different Christian denominations, including Roman Catholics, Pentecostals, Seventh-day Adventists and Orthodox Christians.

"When we pray and walk together, we make a statement that this ground, this city and this country belong to God. Even when we have different denominations, there is only one empty tomb. Together, let us make a statement of faith," he said.

a global religious tourism destination.

She pledged continued collaboration between government, the Church, and the private sector in promoting faith-based tourism.

FAITH WALK PLAN

According to the Rev. Richard Musinguzi, the Youth Co-ordinator of the Diocese of Kampala, participants will assemble at 6:00am at designated pick-up points, including Kampala City Square, St. Phillip's and Andrew's Cathedral, Mukono, and Spare Motors Stage in Nakawa.

They will then be transported to St. Peter's Church of Uganda, Kamuli in Nakawa Division, where the official flag-off will take place at 8:00am.

Along the pilgrimage route, participants will stop at St. Francis Basilica, Kyaliwajjala, for special prayers before proceeding to the Uganda Martyrs Anglican Site in Namugongo.

At Namugongo, pilgrims will participate in prayers, share lunch, and attend teachings focused on the faith and Christian witness of the Uganda Martyrs. The Provincial Youth and Students Coordinator, Rev. Emmanuel Koboi, said the walk would deepen the spiritual commitment of young Christians.

"By walking to Namugongo together, we shall be putting our faith into action. It will be an important moment for our young people to be anchored



SP Rachael Kawala

in Christ, inspired by the Martyrs, and become more committed to the faith," Koboi said.

Representing authorities in Kira Municipality, Joan Nankabirwa said preparations were progressing well.

"The roads are well maintained, the area is clean, and we are intensifying mobilisation of our young people to ensure full participation," she said.

POLICE ISSUE SECURITY GUIDELINES

The Kampala Metropolitan Police spokesperson, Rachael Kawala, assured pilgrims and the public that security agencies were prepared to ensure safety during the Faith Walk and the Uganda Martyrs Day celebrations.

She, however, urged pilgrims to remain vigilant throughout the season.

Kawala advised motorists to exercise caution to minimise accidents and traffic congestion, and urged pilgrims to move in organised groups for easier co-ordination and security management.