

Teso launches Shs52 billion cultural palace

BY SUZAN NANJALA

SOROTI. The cultural leader of the Iteso, Mr Paul Sande Emolot, has called on members of the community to support the construction of a Shs52 billion cultural palace, Ere Iteso.

Mr Emolot, who serves as the Emorimor of the Iteso Cultural Union (ICU), made the appeal during the groundbreaking ceremony in Soroti, urging Iteso people in Uganda and the diaspora to contribute towards the project.

"There is no Itesot who does not have a chicken in his home that they can sell and support this project," Mr Emolot said, emphasising that small individual contributions could collectively help realise the dream of a permanent cultural home.

He noted that the Iteso community has long lacked a central place to gather, celebrate and promote their cultural heritage—a gap the planned palace aims to fill.

"The palace is a long-awaited symbol of identity for the Iteso people," he said.

During the event, Mr Emolot congratulated President Museveni on his re-election and appealed to him to retain Vice President Jessica Alupo, saying she represents the interests of the Teso and Ateker communities.

Justification.
There is no Itesot who does not have a chicken in his home that they can sell and support this project," Paul Sande Emolot, cultural leader of the Iteso.

In a message delivered by Vice President Alupo, President Museveni commended the Iteso cultural leadership for fostering unity within the community. He said the proposed palace would serve as a vibrant cultural centre to preserve and promote Iteso traditions, values and heritage.

The President also noted that the facility could spur social and economic development in the region by attracting tourism and hosting community activities that generate revenue.

Government pledge

Ms Alupo, representing the President at the ceremony, pledged government support and requested project account details to deposit Shs500 million as part of the government's contribution.

The prime minister of the ICU, Mr Andrew Ocole, said the palace will be a seven-storey structure symbolising the seven clans of the Iteso cultural structure.

"We expect that it is their responsibility to build their own home, so every clan is anticipated to construct its section. Contributions will be mobilised through the clan systems," Ocole said.

The seven clans include Inomu, Irarak, Ikatekok, Igoria, Ikarebwok, Ikomolo and Iworopop.

Mr Ocole said the ICU leadership remains optimistic that with continued government and community support, the Ere Iteso project will be successfully completed and serve as a lasting symbol of unity for the Iteso people.