

By Mathias Mazinga

Thousands of Christians last Sunday gathered at All Saints Cathedral, Kampala, to celebrate 50 years of the Diocese of Kampala. The celebrations were presided over by the Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, the Most Rev. Dr. Stephen Samuel Kaziimba Mugalu, who is also the Bishop of the Diocese of Kampala. The function was graced by several dignitaries, who included politicians, friends, and partners of the diocese. So, how did the Diocese of Kampala come into existence?

INCEPTION OF THE DIOCESE

The Diocese of Kampala has a stunning uniqueness. It is both metropolitan and cosmopolitan. It is also the only Anglican diocese that has an assistant bishop. One interesting aspect of the Diocese of Kampala is its distinguished way of acquiring a bishop. It does not elect a bishop. Whoever is elected Archbishop of the Church of the Province of Uganda automatically

DIOCESE OF KAMPALA

PHOTOS BY MATHIAS MAZINGA



Mutebi (wearing cassock) with the Christians who were around during the inception of the diocese in 1972

becomes the bishop of Kampala Diocese.

The Diocese of Kampala was created in 1972 as a seat for then Archbishop

of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Boga-Zaire. It was originally part of the Namirembe Diocese. Bishop Leslie Brown was then both

the Bishop of Namirembe Diocese, as well as the Archbishop of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Boga-Zaire.

However, after the enthronement of the Most Rev. Erica Sabiiti as the first African Archbishop, making Rwenzori Diocese the home diocese of the archbishop and the Rt. Rev.

Dunstan Nsubuga as bishop of Namirembe Diocese, then that unified leadership of the Province and the diocese ceased to be. It became practically difficult for the archbishop to preside over the Provincial Office in Kampala from Fort Portal.

Attempts were made to deal with this challenge and

proposals were mooted. Consequently, it was decided that there shall be a Diocese of Kampala, which shall be the diocese of the archbishop (of the Province of the Church of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Boga-Zaire.) The Most Rev. Sabiiti subsequently became the pioneer bishop of the Diocese of Kampala. He was followed by the Most Rev. Janani Luwum (1974-1977), the Most Rev. Silvanus Wani (1977-1984), the Most Rev. Yona Okoth (1984-1995), the Most Rev. Livingstone Mpalanyi Nkoyoyo (1995-2003), the Most Rev. Henry Luke Orombi (2003-2012), the Most Rev. Stanley Ntagali (2012 -2020) and the reigning prelate, the Most Rev. Dr. Samuel Stephen Kaziimba Mugalu, 2020-to date.

The Diocese of Kampala has also had assistant bishops, who include the Rt. Rev. Lucas Gonahasa (1983-1998), the Rt. Rev. Eliphaz Maari (1995-2003), the Rt. Rev. Dr. Zac Niringiye (2005-2012) and the Rt. Rev. Dr. Hannington Mutebi (2014 to date).

During its 50 years of existence, the Diocese of Kampala has made significant achievements as Archbishop Kaziimba observed.

"At its inception, the Diocese of Kampala had few priests. Today, the number of priests has grown tremendously. Great churches, which reflect well the majesty of our God, have been built. I am talking about churches such as St Andrew's, Bukoto, St Luke's Church Ntinda, the Church of the Resurrection, Bugoloobi, and now, the magnificent new All Saints Cathedral, with a capacity of 5,000 congregants! We currently have three archdeacons; Central Archdeaconry, Eastern Archdeaconry and Southern Archdeaconry. We have 20 parishes and 37 churches. We have a strong women's ministry, which has played a crucial role in the nurturing of our female clergy.

"As I talk to you now, the Provost of All Saints Cathedral is a woman and that is, the Rev. Canon Rebecca Nyegenye.

"But, even more importantly, the diocese has remained true to its mission of preaching the Gospel. The saving

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CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

THE DIOCESE OF KAMPALA IS THE ONLY ANGLICAN DIOCESE THAT HAS AN ASSISTANT BISHOP.

message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been taken to many people, who, consequently, have come to the personal knowledge of Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour.

"We have promoted mission outreaches to the slums. We have put in place income-generating projects and charitable initiatives that have greatly



Kaziimba Mugalu (wearing a purple cassock) participating in the community cleaning exercise at Kalerwe, in Kawempe Division on July 16

improved the lives of many people and consequently transformed communities. We have assisted needy children, widows and vulnerable elderly persons," Kaziimba says.

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS Christians of the Diocese of Kampala are aware of the many blessings that God has lavished on their diocese during the past five decades. So, they organised

a series of activities, in celebration of the diocese's golden jubilee.

The activities included a tree-planting campaign (to conserve the environment) and the running of medical

camps at various churches (such as St Paul's Church, Kiwuliriza). The leaders of the Diocese of Kampala also engaged in cleanliness sensitisation activities in Kampala. They engaged

the community leaders, Kampala Capital City Authority, and security organs, including the Uganda Police Force and the Uganda Prisons Service, to participate in the exercise.

Other jubilee celebration activities included a mission outreach to Katanga (Wandegeya), the Archbishop's jubilee transformation walk (at St. Stephen's Church of Uganda, Kisugu), the jubilee gospel March, the children's jubilee party at All Saints Cathedral Kampala, the youth leaders' summit and a three-day business exhibition (at All Saints Cathedral, Kampala).

All the aforementioned activities were precursors to the grand jubilee celebration that took place at the new All Saints Cathedral, Kampala on Sunday. All the celebrations ran under the theme: *Ebenezer: His Mission - Our Priority (1 Sam 7:12)*. The theme was a call to all Christians to be even more committed to the spreading of the Gospel, through their words and actions, in the next 50 years.



HAPPY GOLDEN JUBILEE DIOCESE OF KAMPALA

Equity Bank congratulates the Diocese of Kampala upon celebrating 50 years of existence.

We commit to continued partnership with the Diocese as a partner in transforming lives and giving dignity to all people.



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MEMORABLE GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

By Mathias Mazinga

The successive precursor celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the Diocese of Kampala climaxed with a grand function that took place at the new All Saints Cathedral, Kampala, last Sunday.

The day-long function was splendid, joyful and celebratory. It effectively mirrored the beauty of the diocese's cosmopolitan character. The function also projected the sweet achievements of the diocese. Interestingly, though, the massively attended event also exposed certain significant challenges that faced the diocese as it entered the second half of its century.

HOW THE JUBILEE CELEBRATION UNFOLDED

By 9:00am, Nakasero Hill, the seat of the Diocese of Kampala, was already buzzing with Christians, all heading to the new All Saints Cathedral, the venue



PHOTO BY MATHIAS MAZINGA

Kaziimba Mugalu cutting a tape to officially open the new All Saints Cathedral, Kampala

of the function.

At 9:30am, the clergy, a good number of them women, assembled at the central entrance of the new Cathedral, all clad in their green stoles. At exactly 10:00am, Archbishop Samuel Stephen Kaziimba Mugalu (the reigning Bishop of the Diocese of Kampala), cut the ribbon to officially open the new 5,000-seater

All Saints Cathedral.

As the massive congregation ululated and celebrated the opening of the cathedral (one of the diocese's achievements), the choir intoned Samuel S Wesley's beautiful hymn, *The Church's One Foundation*, which flagged off an incredibly long clerical procession that comprised about 20

EXPANSION CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

The celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Diocese of Kampala also had surprises, the biggest of which was the launching of the campaign to buy a piece of land behind the new Cathedral to provide room for expansion. The campaign, spearheaded by Minister Bahati, was boosted by President Yoweri Museveni, who donated sh100m towards the project, which requires sh9.8b.

As expected, the function climaxed with a sumptuous luncheon, which all the people that graced the function were able to partake of.

Behind every successful event is a great planner. So, credit should be given to organist Peter Kizza, the chairperson of the committee that organised the function. He was the architect of the success of the function. The diocese's international and local partners, including the government of Uganda, Kampala Capital City Authority, Bank of Uganda, Equity Bank, Joint Medical Store, Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau, Watoto Church, Baptist Church and Deliverance Church also deserve credit.

bishops and dozens of priests. The thanksgiving service, presided over by Kaziimba, assisted by Canon Rebecca Nyegenye, then commenced.

HIGHLIGHTS

The celebration was laden with spectacular scenes, the earliest one being

the opening of the new cathedral. The massive congregation of jubilant Christians, who filled up the gigantic cathedral, was also an interesting marvel. It was a living testimony of the fruitful ministry of the diocese and also the cosmopolitan character of the diocese.

It was beautiful to see ordinary Christians and political dignitaries such as former Premier Ruhakana Rugunda, Minister David Bahati and Retired Chief Justice Benjamin Odoki celebrating together the achievements of their diocese in a free and joyful environment.

Other memorable manifestations of the function included the open repentance and return of Can. Samuel Luboga, who had rebelled and deserted the Church of Uganda for many years. The choir of the clergy also marvelled the congregation as it performed William J. Kirkpatrick's gospel hymn, *When We All Get To Heaven*.

Phionah Komujuni, a secondary school student with visual disabilities, who read a scripture using a braille Bible also marvelled the congregation.

The presence of the retired Archbishop, His Grace Stanley Ntagali, caused enormous excitement too.

DIocese OF KAMPALA
Golden Jubilee Celebrations

Congratulatory Message

The Council, Management, Staff and Students of Uganda Christian University (UCU) congratulate His Grace, The Most Rev. Dr. Stephen Samuel Kaziimba Mugalu, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Hanington Mutebi and the Diocese of Kampala upon marking a golden jubilee.

May our Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless you and be gracious to you as you seek to advance the kingdom of God here on earth, through preaching the good news of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Happy Anniversary!

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