

**THE CHURCH OF UGANDA
DIOCESE OF NORTHWEST ANKOLE
BISHOP'S CHARGE**

AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE DIOCESE,
CONSECRATION AND INSTALLATION OF

THE RT REV. AMOS MAGEZI
1ST BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF NORTHWEST ANKOLE
AND HIS WIFE MAMA JEAN NYONYOZI MAGEZI
ON SUNDAY 1ST OCTOBER 2017
AT ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, IBANDA

**NORTHWEST ANKOLE DIOCESE
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, IBANDA**

BISHOP'S CHARGE
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1. RECORGNITION OF DIGNITARIES

- Our Chief Guest, Your Excellency General Yoweri Kaguta Museveni the President of the Republic of Uganda and Hon. Maama Janet Kataha Museveni, the First Lady and minister of Education and sports.
- Your Grace the most Rev. Stanely Ntagari, the Arch Bishop of the Church of Uganda and mama Beatrice Ntagali.
- Your Grace Paul K. Bakyenga, Archbishop of Mbarara Archdiocese.
- My brother Bishops both retired and in active service and your dear wives.
- The Rt. Rev. Dr. Fred Sheldon Mwesigwa and Mama Dr. Alice Mwesigwa the Bishop of Ankole Diocese, all clergy and the laity who have delivered another baby Diocese today
- Our Retreat Leader, the Rt. Rev. Nathan Gasatura Bishop of Butare in the Anglican Church of Rwanda
- The cabinet and ministers of state of the Government of Uganda.
- Your Excellences, the Ambassadors/High commissioners and members of the diplomatic corps.
- Dr. Chuck Roost, the president of Think 8:7 and your dear wife from the USA
- The Permanent Secretaries, Heads of departments and institutions from both central and local government.
- Hon. Members of the Judiciary present
- Hon Members of the Legislature present
- Members of the Armed Forces present
- All district leaders present.
- The Vice Chancellors of the Universities present
- The Representatives of Mission Agencies and Missionary Partners working with the Church of Uganda
- The Co-chairs and members of National Organizing Committee of Janani Luwum Memorial
- The Representatives of the Uganda Episcopal Conference, Kampala
- The Representatives of the Ecumenical Bodies and Inter Religious Councils
- The Ag Provincial Secretary of the Church of Uganda and all other Provincial officials including Provincial Chancellor, Provincial Head of Laity and Provincial Head of Clergy
- Members of the Provincial Assembly Standing Committee
- The Diocesan Chancellors
- The Management team member of the Provincial Secretariat and staff
- The District Governor of the Rotary District 9211, all Assistant Governors, Rotarian Presidents, fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors present
- The Heads of Para-Church organizations
- All Visiting Clergy and Laity from all other Dioceses
- Other Religious Leaders and Representatives from other religions and denominations.
- Our Friends from Namirembe Diocese and Cathedral and Kampala Diocese where we have lived and served for 3 years and 8 months
- The Representatives of Cultural Leaders from the Bunyoro and Buganda Kingdoms
- Management and Staff of UBC
- Invited guests from all over Uganda and beyond
- The Archdeacons, the Clergy, Lay leaders, Lay canons and pillars
- My Parents, Relatives, and all friends from greater Ankole and Kigezi sub region and beyond.

- The youth, Brigade, Choirs, and Children present
- All Christians present
- Ladies and Gentlemen

2. GREETING AND WELCOME

On behalf of the Christian Community of the brand new Diocese of Northwest Ankole, that of my wife Jean and family, I greet you all in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Halleluya! I warmly welcome you all in your various capacities and I appreciate your presence on this great day in the history of the province of the Church of Uganda, when we are celebrating the birth of the Diocese of Northwest Ankole.

I welcome and heartily appreciate our chief guest HE General Yoweri Kaguta Museven and Hon. Mama Janet Kataha Museven. I thank you so much for honoring this day with your presence.

I thank God and congratulate you our Father in faith, the Archbishop, the Bishops, Provincial Assembly delegates, Ankole Diocese and above all, the Christians of Northwest Ankole upon this great milestone in the history of the Church of Uganda, but especially of this Diocese. To God be the glory forever and ever. Amen. **This day will be remembered and celebrated every year as a birthday of this Diocese. I take the honor to invite you to the celebrations of 1st October 2018.**

3. NORTHWEST ANKOLE

3.1 Our New Diocese

As we take time to reflect and ponder upon this new Diocese, a number of images come to mind. We think of it as a new-born baby; as a young man going to start a home; or even as an airplane taking off.

Like a newly born baby who needs health care such as immunization against killer diseases and proper feeding for the good health and growth, we don't want this baby to get stunted so all stakeholders of this new Diocese need to put in every effort to take care of the good health and growth of this Diocese.

Or Like a young man who is getting married and needs support and guidance from the parents, relatives and friends, this young Diocese will need your support and guidance, especially from the mother diocese, the Province and all well-wishers and partners.

Or Like an airplane which must use much fuel to gain momentum that enables it to take off from the ground and sustain it in the air, this new Diocese requires a lot of finance and human resources to take off and be sustained in the day-to-day running of it.

3.2 Our Theme

LAYING A STRONG FOUNDATION FOR HOLISTIC TRANSFORMATION (1 Cor. 3:11).

The wise man Solomon says, "By **wisdom** a house is built, and through **understanding** it is established; through **knowledge** its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures"

(Prov. 24:3,4). The DIOCESAN leaders and Christians will depend on **God's wisdom, understanding and knowledge** to lay a strong foundation in all areas of service and ministry in order to bring about holistic growth and transformation.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is Himself a foundation of the Church (1 Cor. 3:11). In Him (Jesus Christ) is hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col. 2:3). We will, therefore, follow His example as our Role Model of Humility and Servant-hood leadership in carrying out the **ministry of Preaching, Teaching and Healing (Matt. 9:35)**.

3.3 Our Motto

"... TO GLORIFY GOD IN BUILDING HIS KINGDOM

The Apostle Paul says, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31). This is our commitment as a DIOCESE.

3.4 Our Task

We are called upon to make the Church a **FAMILY** where people of all categories will be born, raised, nurtured and equipped with gifts of hospitality, love and care for one another to enhance the ministry within the Church.

We are called upon to make the Church an **ALTAR** where people of all categories will come to offer themselves as living sacrifices as they worship and serve the Lord and serve one another.

We are called upon make the Church a **HOSPITAL** where people of all categories will come and be physically, spiritually, mentally, emotionally and psychologically healed and rehabilitated in order to live a healthy life as God had intend it (John 10:10).

We are called upon to make the Church a **SCHOOL** where people of all categories will come to learn (disciples) in order to be rooted, grounded, inspired, motivated and empowered to transform the society around them and go out to teach others. The Diocese will become a Mission training ground.

4 THE DIRECTION FOR THE NEW DIOCESE

4.1 MISSION

While we understand that the Church is here on Mission, we are using the word mission here to mean **Evangelism** and **Discipleship** as outlined it the great commission (Matt. 28:19-20). The DIOCESE will deliberately and intentionally use all the available time, opportunities, means and methods to preach the good news of Jesus Christ to all people at all times in all places (in season and out of season) to win them for Christ and to nurture them to understand and obey the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

4.1.1 In Churches

The DIOCESE will hold a high position of the scriptures and will use the pulpit to preach the evangelistic messages to bring people to Christ, but will also use it to preach systematic, expository and topical messages that will help people to be grounded and rooted in their faith. We will use the authority of the word of God to combat several

challenges and issues which are rampant in the society today including false gospel, cults and occult practices, family and sexuality issues.

The worship services as provided for in the Book of Common Prayer for morning and evening will be enriched with sound music to worship God in spirit and in truth and to bring the scriptures live to God's flock. Healing and Deliverance services will be conducted for people who are in bondage and need special visitation and touch by the power of the Holy Spirit.

There will be a deliberate move to establish and equip worship places (sanctuaries) and worship services for children and teens. A deliberate move will be carried out to train the teachers who will run children and teens' programs.

4.1.2 In Communities

Intentional Mass evangelism and one-on-one strategies will be carried out in both rural and urban communities. All people of different categories including the unreached and/or neglected groups in all these places will be reached with the gospel. People with special needs such as the deaf and other PWDs will not be left out.

4.1.3 In Schools

The Church established schools as centers for shaping the morals of the citizens of the nation. We shall have a deliberate and intentional move to reach out to all our children in all Church founded, private and public schools to help them balance the head with the heart. We will use sports and other youth programs to make the Church user friendly to the young generation. Chaplaincies will be empowered to be effective in their ministries to schools.

4.1.4 In Ministry Groups

We will use several ministry groups to reach out to different people in their categories such as women, men, the elderly, children, youth groups such as brigade, choirs, conventions, young over comers, daughters of the King.

4.1.5 In all other institutions

We shall bring the message of hope to God's people, who are in places like prisons, slums, Hospitals and health centers.

4.1.6 Follow-ups and Nurture Strategies

We will strengthen the weekly existing fellowships and establish many more in places where they are not. Home cell ministry, Bible Study groups will be promoted to reach out to smaller groups of people. We will establish counseling centers to assist people with different social and family challenges. All the Church Mission activities will be aligned to the Provincial Master Strategic Plan, commonly known as VISION 2025.

4.2 STEWARDSHIP

The COU Provincial Assembly resolved to deliberately teach the whole province about stewardship. Our understanding of stewardship is that **there are always enough resources (both human and material) in every community for the gospel ministry.** God created and owns everything in heaven and on earth. Unfortunately, our sinful nature has made us rob God of His resources and this has hindered the advancement of the gospel of His kingdom. We will, therefore, use the following strategies to enable us thrive in stewardship:

4.2.1 We will cooperate with Think 8:7 to implement **the Church Excelling model** of stewardship to create awareness and sensitize every member of this Diocese to understand and practice the grace of giving.

4.2.2 We will promote **Kingdom Development Organ (KIDO) program** to enhance individual giving create a financial base for the Vision 2025.

4.2.3 We will develop an on-going program on giving and stewardship to regularly teach and encourage people in that area.

4.2.4 We will engage in investment in land and real estate for income generating projects at all levels to create good financial base and sustainability of the Diocese. We will also encourage and assist individuals and families to engage in productive ventures to promote income generation to fight poverty and unemployment. SACCOs will be formed through which people of different categories will be sensitized for socio-economic empowerment.

4.2.5 We will promote accountability and transparency in the use of the resources at all levels in the Diocese. This will include making, running and managing budgets, internal controls and value for money. In addition to weekly, monthly and quarterly financial and property reporting, all books of account including registers of assets will be audited internally and externally to assess the levels of stewardship. We will sensitize and provide training on Personal and Institutional financial and property management to enhance accountability.

4.2.6 We will promote Environmental Conservation and management. In so doing, we will partner with Rotary fraternity and Ministry of Water and Environment to foster good Environmental practices in the Diocese.

4.3 SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROGRAMS

We will develop **pertinent** and **relevant programs** which will enhance holistic growth and transformation of the DIOCESE. **BASELINE STUDIES** will be made to inform us the nature and extent of needs in the communities. The existing teams will be trained to use different available tools to collect data which will enable us to have an eye's view of the existing resources and needs so that we will be able to make smart decisions that will link the available resources to our strategies and programs. The data collected will be **analyzed** to enable us **prioritize** the programs and activities and **align** them with the Provincial Master Strategic Plan.

Areas of exploration will include the Infrastructure for socio-economic development, matters of Education, Health including immunization, Land and investment, Livelihoods such as agriculture and food security, hygiene, water and sanitation. Other areas will include Full time Human Resource and their capacity building, Church planting initiatives, Environmental Conservation among other.

4.4 TEAMS

We will carry out a **Human Resource Mapping** exercise step by step in order to **identify** the available resources with an aim to **create** a database for all the available human resource. This will inform the process of recruitment, deployment **and building capacity of winning teams** to serve in different areas for the growth and transformation of the Diocese.

The DIOCESE will organize different fora comprised of great men and women who are here on the ground in the Diocese and those in the Diaspora who are ready to serve God according to their areas of expertise including 1) Medical, 2) Agriculture, 3) Education, 4) Governance, 5) Legal, 6) Research, 7) Media, 8) Transport, 9) Social work, 10) Artisan, 11) Veterinary, 12) Recreation, 13) Construction, 14) Engineering, 15) Hospitality, 16) Finance, 17) Marketing, 18) Insurance, 19) Performing Arts, 20) Entrepreneurship, 21) Information Technology, 22) Security and the others etc

4.5 PARTNERS

Much as the Diocese is new, the ministry is not new. We are not alone in the business of reaching out to meet the needs of people. We will **initiate supportive collaboration** with **partners** in order to have an impact on the communities.

4.5.1 Government and its Agencies

We will strengthen and enhance the partnership between the DIOCESE and Government Agencies both Central and Local levels to meet the socio-economic needs of the community.

4.5.2 Other churches

We will collaborate with other Churches such as the Catholic, Pentecostal, Seventh Day Adventists, Baptists, Presbyterian, and Orthodox Churches to spread the gospel to transform the morals in the society.

4.5.3 Theological Education Institutions

We will collaborate with Theological Education Institutions such as Uganda Christian University, Mukono and their Constituent Colleges; African Bible University; Reformed Theological Seminary, USA; Uganda Bible Institute, Mbarara; Reformed Theological College, Bunamwaya; Uganda Martyrs College, Namugongo and many more sound theological institutions to secure scholarships and bursaries for theological education and ministerial formation, but also to train other people who would serve in other areas of leadership and management.

4.5.4 Para Church Organizations and Mission Agencies

We will join hands with Para-church organizations such as African Evangelistic Enterprise (AEE), Scripture Union, FOCUS, Bible Society, Navigators, Life Ministry and Alfa Uganda to preach the gospel and nurture people to be grounded in their faith. We will work with Global Link Africa (GLA), African Inland Mission (AIM) and Church Missionaries Society to train and send missionaries in other parts of this Country and outside the country.

4.5.5 Civil Society Organizations

We will join hands with civil society organizations such as TASO, Integrated Development Options (IDO), ICOBI and many more to be the voice for the voiceless as we address issues of health, education, peace and social justice, gender mainstreaming, capacity building, conflict resolution on land issues in the community.

4.5.6 Private sector

We shall strengthen our partnership with Equity Bank to get financial services to the churches and Christians as per resolution of the Provincial Assembly, but also work with other business companies such as YAMAHA to get sound equipment for Churches. The baseline study will inform us of the private sector with whom we should collaborate to serve the needs of the communities.

4.5.7 National and International Charitable Organizations

We will collaborate with DG Ken Mugisha, the DG Rotary District 9211 with Rotary Mission Green initiative to plant trees to preserve the environment. In addition to Mission Green initiative, we will collaborate with Rotary and Lion to do several projects to meet the livelihood needs of the Community.

4.5.8 Ecumenical Councils and other International Church Bodies

We will work through ecumenical bodies to run programs and meet the needs which are common to us regardless of religious affiliation. These will include World Council of Churches (WCC); Uganda Joint Christian Council (UJCC); Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU); ACTAlliance; Council for Anglican Provinces in Africa (CAPA), All Anglican Council of Churches (AACC), Development Associates International (DAI); Diakonia, Church of Sweden, DanChurch Aid.

4.6 POLICIES

We will formulate *flexible, appropriate* and *enabling* policies as a framework to enable the new Diocese move on to the right direction in doing things. We are aware and happy that there are already existing policies from the province of Church of Uganda, from the mother Diocese of Ankole, and from both Central and Local Government of Uganda. All these will be a starting point to lay the foundation from which we shall make our own. Our policies will be aligned to the Authority of Scriptures, Book of Common Prayer, those of the province and the Government, but also:

4.6.1 **FLEXIBLE** enough to change and make them relevant to our Diocese.

4.6.2 **APPROPRIATE** to fill the gaps by formulating the new ones.

4.6.3 Creating **ENABLING** environment for point of action and proper performance by the leaders and all congregations. We will be outward looking by adopting points from outside to enable us perform better.

We will have a wide range of policies to cover a wider range of areas such as, Provincial Constitution 1972 (As Amended 1994 and 2016), Provincial Canons Published in 1972, Diocesan Constitution, Human resources, Finance, Procurement and Disposal, Land, Peace & Social Justice, Strategic Plan, Education, Health, Gender, Prayer and Intercession, Mothers Union, Youth, Child Protection, Board Governance, Disaster Risk Management, Partnerships etc.

We anticipate the challenge of lack of compliance due to lack of discipline, commitment and know how. We will therefore do a rigorous training in creating awareness among all leaders both clergy and laity and the congregations at all levels. We will be deliberate in instilling discipline right from the beginning by challenging the leaders to setting example for others in matters of compliance.

5 APPRECIATION

5.1 My family and I praise and thank God for this high calling to the Episcopal office, especially, for the blessings of becoming a Founding Bishop of this Diocese. Pray for us: 1) that we will understand the magnitude of this calling; 2) that we will receive and accept it with humility; 3) that we will trust and rely on the guidance of the Holy Spirit for whatever we are going to do; 4) that we will become a fountain of blessings to the flock of this Diocese.

5.2 We thank God for the Archbishop and the House of Bishops for electing us into the office.

- 5.3 We thank God for all who came to see us, all who made phone calls, all who sent us messages, all who prayed for us, above all we appreciate the Ibanda group who filled the bus and came to see us in Kampala and all the gifts you brought for us. All these were a demonstrated of great love and care.
- 5.4 I personally thank God for all who contributed towards what I am today: These include :
- 5.4.1 My parents, especially my mother, Relatives, my in-laws, Friends of our family, my siblings.
 - 5.4.2 My teachers from P.1, my lectures in all theological colleges, my professors at African Bible College Malawi, Reformed Theological Seminary in USA and Uganda Christian University and Law Development Center, my mentors, couches and fellow students in all places I went to school.
 - 5.4.3 My Supervisors including the Archbishop and bishops of Ankole, my co-workers at the province and all other places wherever I have served
 - 5.4.4 My intercessors and prayer partners
- 5.5 We thank God for the people of Northwest Ankole Diocese for receiving us well. We appreciate the Archdeacons, the clergy, Lay Readers, Heads of Laity, Ordained and Lay Canons, Wardens, Head Teachers, teachers and all staff of this Diocese for working hard towards the success of this great day.
- 5.6 We appreciate all who traveled from outside this country to come and attend our function. We particularly appreciate Dr. Chuck Roost from USA and Dr. Palmer Robertson and Mrs. Joana representing African Bible Colleges of Liberia, Malawi, and Uganda.
- 5.7 My heartfelt appreciation goes to the area members of Parliament and all District leaders. I congratulate you upon this achievement in your district and pledge willingness to work with you for the development and transformation of the area.
- 5.8 We appreciate the Co-Chairs of the Consecration Organizing committee and your teams both hear in Ibanda and in Kampala for the work well done.
- 5.9 We appreciate all who contributed both money and in kind towards the success of this function. May God reward you accordingly.
- 5.10 Special thanks go to the Inspector General of Police, the Ministry of Works and Transport and Office of the President for assisting us with Tents. They deserve a round of applause.
- 5.11 We appreciate our Retreat leader the Rt. Rev. Nathan Gasatura and your dear wife for leading us in the retreat and for preaching the inaugural sermon of this Diocese.
- 5.12 We appreciate the coming of the DG Ken the Rotary District Governor of District 9211 and the Rotary Fraternity for coming in big numbers from Kampala and other parts of the world to grace the occasion.
- 5.13 We appreciate the team that has come from Other Dioceses, especially, our Mother Diocese of Ankole and Namirembe Diocese and Cathedral where we have been serving for coming in big numbers to attend our function.

5.14 My fellow servants at the Provincial Secretariat, I will never forget our great time together.

5.15 Last but not least, I appreciate my wife Jean and the children and my family members from the Nyonyozi Foundation. They have been very supportive during both my work and training for ministerial formation both in Malawi and USA. May God bless you all.

6 CONCLUSION

It is one thing to see a child being born and it is another to see that child grow into a mature, responsible and useful person. I appeal to all stakeholders of this new Diocese for the spirit of unity as you play both individual and corporate roles to work hard and see that this new Diocese grows into a mature, responsible and productive Diocese that glorifies God in all aspects.

My family and I pledge our commitment and full support to love and serve willingly and wholeheartedly for the growth, development and transformation of our Diocese.

NORTHWEST ANKOLE OYEEE!!! "... BE STRONG IN THE LORD..." (Eph. 6:10).

Rt. Rev. Amos Magezi
1st Bishop of the Diocese of Northwest Ankole