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PRESS STATEMENT ON THE PREPARATIONS OF THE 48TH JANANI LUWUM DAY CELEBRATIONS

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Fellow Ugandans, members of the media, and the entire body of Christ, I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

I bring you warm greetings from the Provincial Secretariat and the Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, The Most Rev. Dr. Stephen Samuel Kaziimba Mugalu. He would have loved to be here to deliver this update personally, but he is currently in Cairo, Egypt, attending the Global South Fellowship of Anglicans (GSFA) Bishops Formation Retreat.

This retreat is of strategic importance to Church of Uganda as it equips our new Bishops with essential ministry skills, enabling them to be faithful guardians of the flock and zealous leaders in mission.

Preparations for Archbishop Janani Luwum Day

As we prepare for the 48th commemoration of Archbishop Janani Luwum Day on 16th February 2025 in Wii-Gweng in Mucwin, Kitgum District, I am pleased to provide an update on the ongoing arrangements on behalf of Church of Uganda.

The Main Celebrant for this year's celebrations will be Archbishop of Church of Uganda, The Most Rev. Dr. Stephen Samuel Kaziimba Mugalu. He will be assisted by the Rt. Rev. Wilson Kitara, Bishop of Kitgum Diocese, along with several other Bishops and Clergy from across the Province and beyond.

The Preacher of the day will be the Rt. Rev. Assoc. Prof. Sheldon Mwesigwa, Bishop of Ankole Diocese and the Dean of the Province of Church of Uganda.

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The theme for this year's Janani Luwum Day commemoration is **'Imitating God's goodness by doing good.'** Galatians 6:9. This is also the theme for Church of Uganda for the year 2025.

I am also pleased to inform you that the 540-member Choir is ready, with representations from various Dioceses across Northern Uganda, and they will lead us in worship during the celebrations.

The Order of Service is ready and in print.

Update on the Pilgrims

As part of this year's commemoration, we acknowledge with gratitude the commitment of pilgrims from different parts of Uganda who are making the journey to Mucwin in Kitgum.

A team of about 60 pilgrims from Kitgum Diocese set off on Sunday, 9th February 2025, traveling from Kitgum to St. Philip's Cathedral in Gulu, where they were flagged off by the Rt. Rev. Godfrey Loum, Bishop of the Diocese of Northern Uganda. They began their spiritual journey on foot on Monday, 10th February, following a structured pilgrimage route as outlined below:

- Monday, 10th February: Walked from St. Philip's Cathedral Gulu to Cwero (38km) and spend the night there.
- Tuesday, 11th February: They will walk from Cwero to Atanga.
- Wednesday, 12th February: Walk from Atanga to Acholibur.
- Thursday, 13th February: Walk from Acholibur to Kitgum Town Parish.
- Friday, 14th February: Walk from Kitgum Town Parish to Wii Gweng in Mucwin, the final destination.

Additionally, we recognize the extraordinary effort of Mzei Musolini, a pilgrim from Namirembe, who has taken a special route, retracing the path where the remains of Archbishop Janani Luwum were moved.

On Sunday, this Pilgrim arrived at Madi Opei Church of Uganda, which is 28 miles north of Kitgum and 14 miles north of Mucwini. This is a significant place in the martyr's journey, as the body of Archbishop Luwum was mistakenly taken there before being returned to Mucwini for burial.

I commend the dedication of Musolini and all other pilgrims because their foot pilgrimage is a powerful testimony of faith, sacrifice, and deep reverence for the legacy of Archbishop Janani Luwum.

Appreciation

On behalf of Church of Uganda, I extend our heartfelt appreciation to His Excellency Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of Uganda, the Government of Uganda, and particularly the Directorate of Ethics and Integrity under the Office of the President, for their continued support in ensuring the success of these celebrations. Your partnership in upholding the values of faith, integrity, and justice is invaluable.

I also take this opportunity to appreciate the media fraternity for your unwavering partnership in ensuring that these celebrations receive the necessary publicity. We look forward to extensive coverage on the day of the event. For those planning to provide live coverage, kindly liaise with our Communications Officer – Mr. Sadiiki Adams to ensure that you are recognized.

We invite all Ugandans, Christians, and well-wishers to join us in Mucwini on 16th February 2025 as we commemorate the life of Archbishop Janani Luwum.

May his legacy continue to inspire us to stand firm in the Lord, even in the face of challenges.

May God bless you all.

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