UJCC

Growing and Serving Together

UGANDA JOINT CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

PASTORAL LETTER FROM
UGANDA JOINT CHRISTIAN COUNCIL
DURING THE UGANDA WATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL WEEK (UWEWK 2022) ORGANISED BY
MINISTRY OF WATER AND ENVIRONMENT
UGANDA GOVERNMENT

In proud partnership with

WWF

UGANDA W&E WEEK

WATER RESOURCES INSTITUTE UGANDA

Preamble

Fellow Ugandans, peace be with you all.

As we celebrate this year's Uganda water and Environment week from Sunday 20th March 2022 to Friday 25th March 2022 guided by the annual Theme and sub themes below :-

THEME:

Water and Environment for Peace and Sustainable social-economic Transformation of Uganda

Sub Themes:

1. Promoting Peace and Stability through Water and Environment Resources
2. Building Resilience to various risks and shocks
3. Financing Water, Environment and Climate Change
4. Partnerships and Inter sectoral collaboration in Water and Environment Management and Development

Uganda Joint Christian Council went into a collaborative partnership with the Ministry of water and environment to jointly cerebrate UWEWK 2022 but also promise to protect and conserve water and environment therefore as a church we are determined to go into a longtime partnership with this Ministry.

Uganda Joint Christian Council has a mandate on matters of water and environmental protection in reference to the Global context of the Universal sustainable Goals of 2015 in Paris. The sustainable Development Goals (SDGS) adopted by the United Nations in 2015 is a universal call to protect the planet and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Goal 13 was Climate change.

The religious leaders therefore voiced support in 2015 in Pari' s UN convention agreed that climate change and environmental responsibility is an integral part of contemporary religious and practice therefore as your spiritual leaders we call upon you fellow country men and women to continuously preserve, conserve and protect water and environment for the next generation.

In the book of Genesis 1:27-28 God gave man and woman the mandate the mandate to look after and rule the earth.

He reveals Himself, to the Samaritan woman, as the fountain of Living Water, the Messiah (John 4:10-13,25)

Brethren, we are obliged to alert you on the dangers of misuse and mismanagement of water and other environmental resources like forests, swamps, wells, lakes and rivers. Climate change has a direct impact on people's rights to water and sanitation, take an example of the persistent floods for example River Nyamwamba in Kasese which floods almost every year causing massive destruction , changes in precipitation and temperature extremes that result in water scarcity, hunger, conflict, insecurity and contamination of drinking water and exacerbation of spread of diseases

We are using the same lakes and rivers and underground water resources our ancestors used,

which has brought stress on underground water. Many of the boreholes show evidence of this by failing to perform before their third birthday and those which survive you will always find long queues as children and women take days and ages to get water which has culminated into sexual gender based violence (SGBV) and Gender Based Violence (GBV) respectively.

The forest cover as mentioned earlier has drastically reduced but this impacts directly on formation of rainfall. You can observe the unpredictable seasons all over the country, which has culminated into constant famine and environmental degradation with significant impact on health, education and the economy we all know what we have gone through with Covid 19. Education institutions and systems are all stressed because someone was irresponsible somewhere with the environment which necessitated us to be masked 24/7 because the environment was contaminated.

However as people of faith, we should not be discouraged, instead through God's grace we can make Uganda a secure country this is the reason why the church is raising awareness to this situation, inviting you from the very Christian spirit to appreciate what God has given us. Let it be every body's responsibility to protect any water source, keep it clean and safe. Let us protect the environment by adopting better

environment friendly practices like not building and encroaching on the few wetlands we have and stop filling them with soil, stop allotting plots in the wetlands like the swamps. Stop encroaching on the buffer zones along rivers and lakes.

The habit of giving away forests to investors should be stopped by the perpetuators there is no development more valuable to Ugandans than keeping safely our water and environmental resources which made us to be called the pearl of Africa. Destroying forests without replacing them has not only caused global warming but also reduced the quality and quantity of underground water by disrupting the ecosystem.

Who does the Environment Impact Assessment to lease out lakes, swamps and forests for other agriculture or industrial practices at the moment when the country is aiming at reserving, conserving and protecting the few ruminants?

Let us shun the use of polythene bags, practice Proper disposal of plastics and all un treated waste materials which affect our environment.

Finally, we thank government's effort of raising awareness on water and environmental safety management and other policies let the government find a way of lowering alternative energy resources so

as to reduce pressure on forests exerted by the poor citizens as they look for firewood and charcoal for fuel.

It is our prayer, that the Holy Spirit hovers our country, soften our hearts grant us wisdom to comprehend the impact of our negative actions of environment so that we may appreciate the need to appreciate better environment Management practices, Gen. 1:2-6.

May we change our ways to live a life of respect, for the Glory of our Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit Amen.

RT. REV ANTHONY JOSEPH ZZIWA

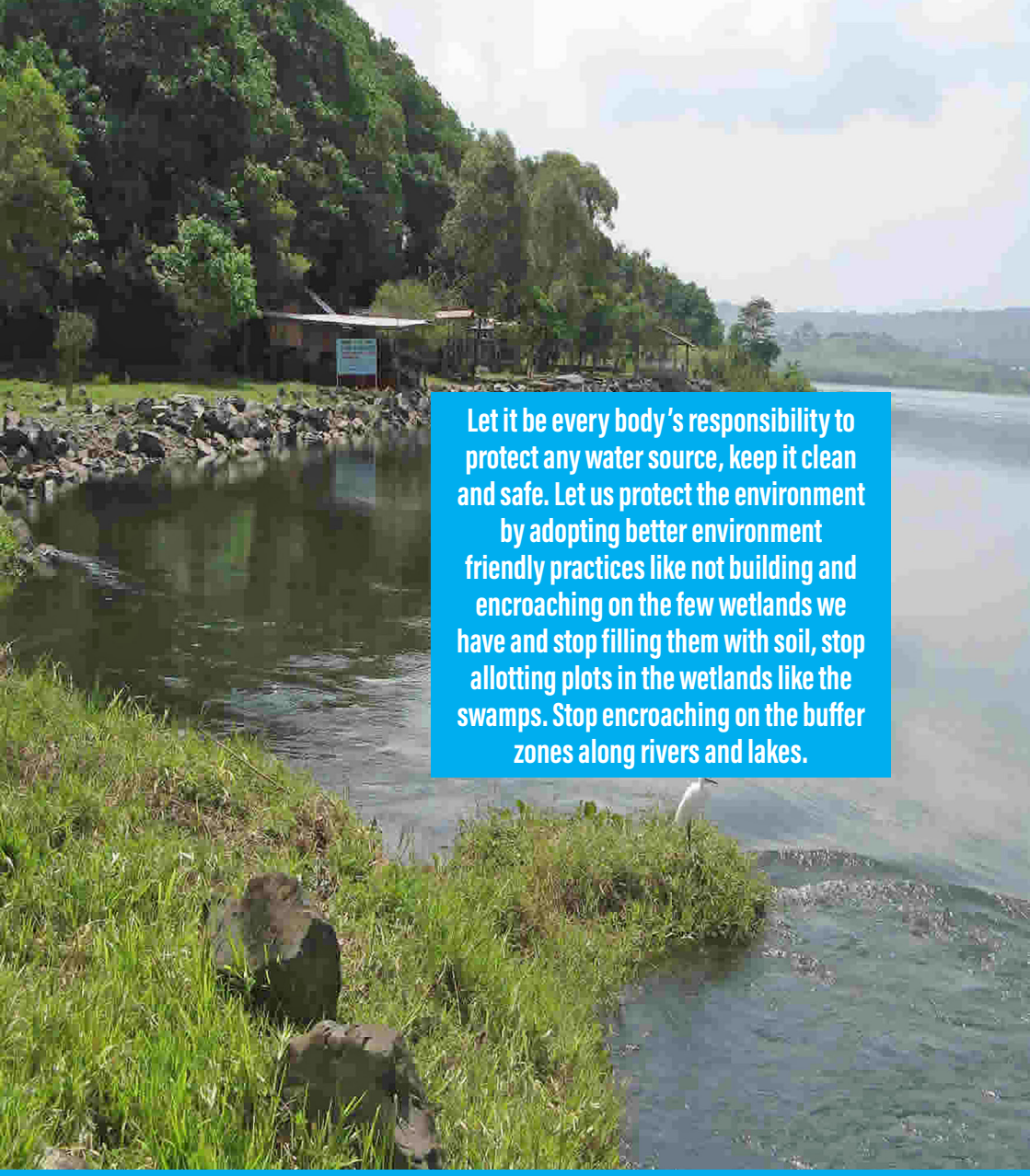
UJCC CHAIRPERSON AND BISHOP OF KIYINDA MITYANA DIOCESE

HIS GRACE THE MOST REV DR. STEVEN KAZIMBA MUGALU

CO-CHAIRPERSON AND ARCHBISHOP OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF UGANDA

HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN JERONYMOS MUZEEYI

CO- CHAIRPERSON AND ARCHBISHOP OF THE UGANDA ORTHODOX CHURCH



Let it be every body's responsibility to protect any water source, keep it clean and safe. Let us protect the environment by adopting better environment friendly practices like not building and encroaching on the few wetlands we have and stop filling them with soil, stop allotting plots in the wetlands like the swamps. Stop encroaching on the buffer zones along rivers and lakes.

UGANDA JOINT CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

Plot 1554, Block 15 Gogonya Bypass Kibuga, Nsambya East Zone.
P.O.Box 30154 Kampala, Uganda.
Tel: +256 414 580 088
Email: ujccsecretariat@gmail.com | ujcc@ujcc.co.ug
Web: www.ujcc.co.ug