

# Inter-Religious Council of Uganda



## Religions for Peace

### PRESS STATEMENT

#### **UGANDA THE PEARL OF AFRICA, OUR MOTHERLAND**

Fellow Ugandans,

Greetings from the Inter-Religious Council of Uganda (IRCU)!

We recognize that nation-building is a collective responsibility.

Every citizen and every constituency in society should play their role in building a stable and thriving nation.

History and our own experience as a country, are proof to the fact that certain constituencies in the nation might feel left out in critical decision-making processes that shape the face and fabric of this nation. Therefore, in keeping with their rights as citizens, the affected constituencies can express their dissatisfaction using lawful means and seek ways of re-engaging with nation building processes and frameworks.

The fabric of nations, are like the human body. They need periodical review and checkup. This is more so when the body feels strains and pains. It is obvious that globally, nations are struggling to attend to the various pains and aches being felt in their fabric.

Sometimes there is an attempt to wish these pains away or to trivialize them because other constituencies might not be feeling them. A healthy way is to engage these dissatisfactions with a deep feeling and commitment so as to ensure that every constituency feels revived to contribute to the nation.

As religious leaders in this country, we have been feeling these pains and strains in the fabric of our nation for some time. In our pastoral

letters, we have sought to guide the nation on a number of issues such as good governance, prevention of gender-based violence, promoting social accountability through the fight against corruption, etc.

We are encouraged by the fresh efforts of Government to intensify the fight against corruption especially His Excellency the President's recent commitments in the State of the Nation address which reflected what is being done to promote social and economic transformation, stability and prosperity in Uganda. As citizens we need to play our role in supporting these efforts and by adopting values of transparency and integrity.

In 2016, we presented to the nation the need for a National Dialogue. We consulted with the citizens in all the regions of our country, themes and the framework for its implementation were developed and agreed upon. Our conviction in this regard hasn't changed. Our aim in proposing the Dialogue was to enable Ugandans in their diversity to engage with issues that were considered a bottleneck to the stability, unity and prosperity of the nation. This is one sure way of holding the nation together and to get it on the path of a more promising future. We still stand by this conviction.

We were delighted when the young people wrote to us and sought an audience over their grievances. IRCU believes in creating spaces for dialogue and building consensus. And this is a role we have done before and continue to play. We urge all those with issues of concern particularly the youth to adopt peaceful and constructive dialogue as a means of conflict resolution.

We also feel the need for a more holistic approach to addressing the aches and pains that are being felt by the different constituencies, including, the children, women, the elderly, people with disabilities, farmers, business people, doctors, teachers, among others. This should be done within the spirit of our national motto: *"For God and My Country"* that is, being guided by the values of Justice and shared wellbeing, and devoid of political party, ethnic, religious interests and elements of foreign interests prioritizing the common good.



We call upon Government to listen to the issues being raised by the young people as well as other constituencies, and create space and avenues for meaningful engagement.

Praying for God's wisdom and guidance.

For God and our country!

*Stephen Samuel Kaziimba Mugalu*

The Most Rev., Dr. Stephen Samuel Kaziimba Mugalu

**Archbishop, Province of the Church of Uganda**

**Chairperson, Council of Presidents**

**FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF UGANDA**

**Issued this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2024**