



PSST HOSTS INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL OF UGANDA

IRCU COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS PRAY FOR PS/ST, RENEWS COMMITMENT TO WORK WITH GOVERNMENT IN NATION BUILDING

14th October, 2021

The Inter-Religious Council of Uganda Presidents led by their Chairperson who is the Archbishop of the Church of Uganda, His Grace, Samuel Stephen Kaziimba have renewed their commitment to work with Government to build a secure, stable and peaceful nation.

This was during a meeting with the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Treasury Ramathan Ggoobi organized to pray for him as he takes on his new role at the Ministry of Finance.

Other IRCU Council Co-Presidents present were His Eminence Sheikh Shaban Ramathan, the Grand Mufti of Uganda and Apostle Dr. Joseph Serwadda, President Born Again Faith in Uganda. The Vicar General Kampala Archdiocese Msgr. Charles Kasibante represented the Catholic Church and they were accompanied by their Secretary General Joshua Kitakule and other Clergy.

Archbishop Kazimba said the way people have suffered to access healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic calls for the fast tracking of the National health Insurance scheme.

“The issue of poor service delivery in education, health and roads calls for our attention. Citizens are demanding for accountability. How can we as religious leaders work with government to improve service delivery? asked Kaziimba.

Mission

“To formulate sound economic policies, maximize revenue mobilization, ensure efficient allocation and accountability for public resources so as to achieve the most rapid and sustainable economic growth and development”

He also said the issue of national dialogue was overdue. “It is good to talk to each other than talking about each other because the end result is not good,”

The Mufti, Ramathan Mubajje said they are equally concerned about the wellbeing of Ugandans just like the political leaders. He also highlighted the issue of land which he said must be addressed as well as concerns for health and wealth for all.

“Whenever there is a problem, people keep quiet, when things worsen, they call religious leaders. We are here, can we be of any use?” asked the Mufti.

Dr. Serwadda said the people who pay taxes are the same people who also support the Church, adding that the social makeup of the people who cry for government support and the same who cry for the support of the Church.

“We have the advantage of structures and the audience that attentively listens to us. When places of worship were opened, we mobilized for vaccination and we were able to vaccinate about 7000 people during one weekend, unfortunately health workers could not cover all worship centres,” said Serwadda.

Msgr.Kasibante prayed for the economy to recover but decried the rampant corruption which he said was eating away the heart of our country.

The PS/ST Ramathan Ggoobi expressed gratitude for the gesture by the religious leaders to come and pray for him.

He said although the National health Insurance scheme bill had been passed by Parliament, it still had issues to address and government is now in the final stages of studying them to ensure that the cost of delivering healthcare to Ugandans is affordable adding that Cabinet will be considering it again to agree on the roll out plan.

Ggoobi applauded the role of faith based institutions in shaping a Country of integrity and her people serving with trust.

“Values are the bedrock of any achievement and some countries are successful because of values. Once you have integrity and you translate it into reliability and credibility, everything falls in place,” said Ggoobi.

He said service delivery was on top of his agenda, adding that accountability with results and not paper accountability will be sacred during his regime.

“I want to be PS/ST who presents the next budget after accounting for what was spent the previous year. People should be the ones to tell us that we have delivered clean water and there is medicine in our health centres”

Ggoobi said Government has been investing in infrastructure for some time, but now the focus has shifted to incomes of the people, adding that religious institutions have a big role to play in realizing the socioeconomic agenda.

“Help us, I will work with you closely because people trust. You have a big role to play in ensuring that children return to school when the schools reopen,” said Ggoobi.

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The meeting was also attended by Dr Patrick Birungi the Executive Director Uganda Development Corporation and Under Secretary and Accounting Officer, Ministry of Finance, Dr. Edward Sengonzi Damulira.

ENDS

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