

**INTER-AGENCY UNITY: UGANDA PRISONS SERVICE, UPDF, AND UGANDA POLICE FORCE MARK PATRON SAINT DAY TOGETHER.**



The Uganda Prisons Service, alongside the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) and Uganda Police Force, united with the faithful at the Uganda Catholic Martyrs Shrine in Namugongo to commemorate the third day of the Patron Saint Day.

This annual celebration, held from May 25 to June 2 annually, honors the courage and faith of the Uganda Martyrs, who stood as pillars of strength amid persecution between 1885 and 1887.

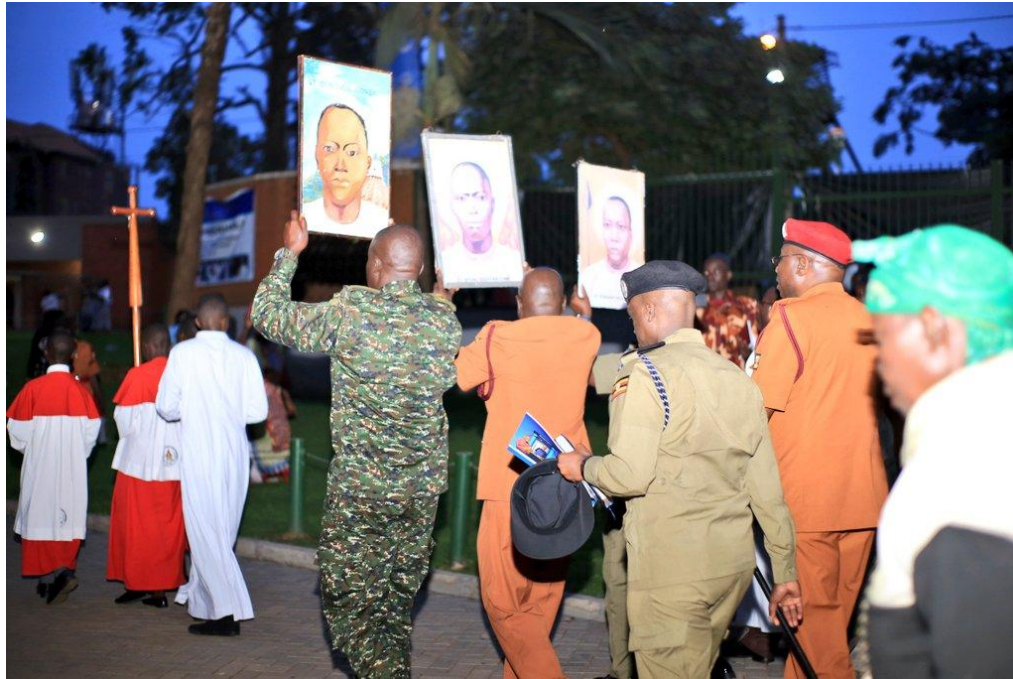
Under the theme "Oh, Lord, Let me see again; I, Your Pilgrim of Hope," derived from Mark 10:51, the day's events spotlighted three revered martyrs: St. Ponsiano Ngondwe, St. Gonzaga Gonza, and St. Bruno Sserunkuuma. These saints, among the 45 young men executed under King Mwanga II of Buganda for refusing to renounce their Christian faith, were celebrated for their extraordinary lives and sacrifices.

The day began at 5:00 PM with a spirited procession from Naalya, a few kilometers from the shrine, led by Mr. Samuel Akena, Deputy Commissioner General of Prisons, and the Uganda Prisons Band. Prison Officers marched with precision, pride, and uniformity, drawing crowds along the route as businesses paused to witness this display of discipline and devotion.

Upon arriving at the Namugongo Shrine, a Mass commenced, filled with songs of worship and praise led by the Church Choir and the Prisons Band.

The Chief Pilgrim, the Inspector General of Police, was represented by AIGP Hadija Namutebi, Director of Welfare, Production, and Sports. She led a team of senior and junior police officers, joining their

counterparts from the Uganda Prisons Service in filling the shrine, showcasing unity and inter-agency collaboration in the house of the Lord.



Father Paul Ssekayala, Parish Priest of Kamuli Kireka Parish, Kampala Diocese, delivered a powerful sermon emphasizing obedience, faith, and compassion. He urged the congregation to emulate the martyrs' resilience, saying, "The martyrs tasted the world we are in today and showed us how to strengthen our spirits." He also cautioned against immorality, including fornication, lust, excessive drinking of Alcohol and illegal marriages.

Following the sermon, the congregation presented offertories and tithes, with DCGP Samuel Akena and AIGP Hadija Namutebi leading the Prisons and Police officers in ushering donations. The band's melodies kept the atmosphere vibrant, reflecting a shared spirit of gratitude and unity.

A special prayer session, led by clergy and believers, dedicated security personnel to God, sought protection for the nation, and prayed against suffering and impure practices. The Mass culminated in Holy Communion, as Christians partook in the body and blood of Jesus Christ.