MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT URGING GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE/SITES IN UGANDA.

(Moved under Rules 55 and 56 of the Rules of Procedure)

WHEREAS Uganda is a signatory to several international instruments including the UN Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage 1972, the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) and the UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property 1970;

AND WHEREAS Objective XXIV of the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda enjoins the State to promote and preserve those cultural values and practices which enhance the dignity and well-being of Ugandans;

AWARE THAT Uganda enacted the Historical Monuments Act Cap. 46, for the preservation and protection of historical monuments and objects of archaeological, paleontological, ethnographical and traditional interest;

FURTHER AWARE THAT Uganda undisputedly possesses a rich cultural, historical and natural heritage; three of which are on the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization ("UNESCO") World Heritage List and several others are on tentative List as possible future nominations;

NOTING THAT cultural and historical heritage/sites are not only an economic asset and a source of tourist attraction but is also an important identity factor that contributes to social cohesion, history and aspirations of Ugandans;
CONCERNED THAT Ugandan’s cultural and historical heritage/sites are under great threat from land encroachment, illicit trafficking, social and economic upheaval, unregulated excavation, lack of documentation and neglect;

CONSCIOUS that it is indispensable to preserve all historical and cultural heritage/sites in Uganda for influencing employment, sustainable development, identity, regional attractiveness, creativity and innovation, tourism, quality of life, education and lifelong learning, and social cohesion;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved by this Parliament that Government -

1. protects and preserves cultural and historical heritage/sites in Uganda.
2. rehabilitates and revives all existing historical cultural sites and provides a funding mechanism for operational costs and maintenance.
3. provides training for professionals working in the field of conservation of cultural heritage.
4. increases the dissemination of information and the publication of Uganda’s cultural and historical heritage/sites.
5. adopts, promotes and enforces directives and good practices in the preservation of cultural, historical and natural heritage/sites.
6. bans the development of public or private projects/infrastructure that results in the destruction of valuable cultural, historical or artistic heritage/sites.
7. intensifies and encourages, from primary level upwards, the raising of pupils’ awareness of aspects relating to the protection and preservation of cultural, linguistic and natural heritage/sites.
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