

By Derrick Muduku

With past concerns of limited water supply and inadequate toilet facilities at the Namugongo Anglican Martyrs' Shrine, Uganda Christian University (UCU) has focused on revamping the water and sanitation situation at the religious site in preparation for the forthcoming Martyrs' Day celebrations.

UCU is leading this year's Martyrs' Day celebrations in the Anglican site after being chosen by the Church of Uganda House of Bishops.

While inspecting the progress of various renovation works in Namugongo yesterday, Prof. Aaron Mushengyezi, the UCU vice-chancellor, noted that construction of a solar-powered well and setting up of a 50,000-litre water tank are in progress with an aim of avoiding the spread of diseases when pilgrims eventually come to the site.

"We thought that the shrine needs water improvement, because it has been mostly relying on national water. We wanted to boost it with another source so that supply is stable," he said.

Other ongoing works included the construction of a new toilet and renovation of the existing ones, paving walkways and roads, installation of a

# UCU prioritises water and sanitation in Namugongo

PHOTO BY MIRIAM NAMUTEBI



**Prof. Mushengyezi (right), alongside university staff, is led on a guided tour of ongoing construction projects at the Namugongo Anglican Shrine yesterday. The university is undertaking several projects in preparation for the 2026 Uganda Martyrs Day celebrations. (Scan picture using the Vision Digital Experience to watch video)**

new digital billboard along the main road, as well as repairing the site wall.

In addition, UCU has refurbished the Martyrs' Museum and installed solar lights around the site.

## COMPLETION TARGET

Mushengyezi pointed out that various committees have been set up to address various issues with an aim of finalising all works by the middle of this month.

"Committees in finance, publicity, among other facets, are in place to work along with the main organising committee so that we meet the deadline we have set out to achieve.

We believe by mid-May, we shall have finished and handed over the projects."

## MORE FUNDING NEEDED

With the Government of Uganda availing sh2b and UCU mobilising sh1b, Mushengyezi said another sh1b is needed to fully cater for the preparation arrangements for Martyrs Day.

"It can be in kind, for example, you can give sanitation items for the pilgrims, water, food, transportation, you know, there are many things that we listed which you can contribute towards. Alternatively, you can give us the money, and we will use it for the identified priorities," he stated.

With June 3, soon approaching, he assured Ugandans of top-class facilities and organisation with the UCU Campus in Mukono being the benchmark.

"We are doing whatever we can so that when the pilgrims are here, they have an amazing experience while here," he said.