

**4<sup>TH</sup> IIPT AFRICAN  
CONFERENCE ON PEACE  
THROUGH TOURISM.**

**THE ROLE OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS IN  
THE PROMOTION OF CULTURAL AND  
HERITAGE TOURISM IN UGANDA.**

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# INTRODUCTION

- Every race of the world has had a way of life, and a way of building. Different African societies have for long demonstrated their cultural identity through building. The nature of a house/shelter may demonstrate the ancestral origin, tribe, clan or cultural behavior.
- The concept of conservation of these buildings was originally the role played by heads of households in different societies. It is therefore not a new phenomenon. It is as old as human race.



# Introduction continued

- Uganda being a multi-ethnic country has had a number of historic buildings. Interestingly, the coming of foreigners such as; Arabs, Europeans, Asians, Indians, enriched Uganda with extra buildings of historical importance.
- Some of the historic buildings were lost in the event of modernization. However, some buildings survived this wave and are still existent.

# Classification of historic buildings in Uganda.

- Cultural buildings e.g. Kasubi tombs, Nyero rock paintings, Mparo tombs e.t.c.
- Political buildings-e.g. Fort Lugard, Twekobe Palace, Basiima House, Mailo Mbiri House
- Educational buildings- Old school of Art Makerere, Main building Makerere University, secondary schools in colonial time.
- Religious buildings-Namirembe cathedral, Bahai temple, Kibuli mosque.
- Architectural buildings-High court building, Barclays Bank, City hall, Uganda Book shop etc.
- Public buildings- Uganda museum, Bank of Uganda, Parliament building, post office etc.
- Private/individual owned buildings-Art Deco corner house, Four column porch etc.
- Others like old hospitals, National theatre etc.



# Status of historic buildings

- Some are being destroyed.
- Some have been altered.
- Others are crumbling.
- Some are being threatened on list of destruction.
- Others have been neglected and abandoned.
- With a few under conservation.



# Legal/policy perspective on conservation of historic buildings

- 1995 constitution of Uganda calls for protection and conservation of cultural heritage including historic buildings.
- Historic monument act 1968 calls for preservation and protection of historical monuments and objects of archeological, palaeontological, ethnographical, and traditional interest.



# Legal/policy perspective continued

- The 1968 act is outdated.
- Lack of enforcement because it's irreverent and lacks application.
- Lack of other supporting regulations and guidelines.
- The public does not know these laws.



# Importance of historic buildings and tourism development

- Political importance (political/national identity)
- Promotion of culture
- Architectural importance
- Academic uses
- Reflection of the city's growth
- Reflection of history of a society.
- Enriching the environment.





# Current conservation attempts on historic buildings.

- Research and mapping of these buildings
- Lobbying and advocacy
- Sensitization



# Challenges

- Limited resources
- Lack of clear policy and legislation
- Difficulty in reconciling economic development, tourism and culture.
- Ambiguity of ownership
- Weak institutions/corruption
- Lack of specialists in old architectural conservation
- Misconception arising from lack of information



# Way forward

- Policy reforms
- Sensitization
- Training

