1,000 weddings at city church illegal

Unlicensed. The Anglican church blessed the unions between 2006 and 2016 when the religious institution had not been officially gazetted to administer the holy marriages. ...P.4

Don’t go to Uganda, Rwanda tells citizens

A view of the no-man’s land at Katuna/Gatuna border post yesterday. There was slow business at the border despite the agreement signed between President Museveni and his Rwandan counterpart Paul Kagame in Angola on Wednesday to resolve the tension between the two countries. Rwanda’s State minister for East African Affairs Olivier Nduhungirehe advised Rwandans not to travel to Uganda. Story on P.7. PHOTO BY ROBERT MUHEREZA

Hospital suspends major surgeries over water crisis

KAGADI. Patients with major surgeries are being referred to hospitals, which are more than 100 kilometres away. P.3

Kadaga to have final say on Gen Tumwine

SO HAVE THE COUPLES BEEN COHABITING?

1,000 weddings at city church declared illegal

Why Nakimera is taking the beat to church

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Near 1,000 couples whose marriages were blessed at an Anglican church in Kampala are in panic after information surfaced yesterday that their matrimony were not duly registered as required by law.

Clergymen familiar with the teething problem admitted that weddings were conducted at the Church of the Resurrection Bugolobi between 2006 and 2016 when the religious institution had not been officially gazetted to administer the holy marriages.

As a result, none of the purported nuptials has been registered with the Office of the Registrar General at Uganda Registration Services Bureau (URSB), meaning they have no legal effect.

“Before a church can conduct a wedding, it should have a licence issued by the Minister of Justice. Any wedding conducted when it’s not registered will be rejected,” Ms Provia Nangobi, the URSB spokesperson, said.

Under Section 5 of Uganda’s Marriage Act 1904, “the minister (of Justice) may license any place of worship to be a place for the celebration of marriages, and may at any time cancel such licence, and in either case he or she shall give notice thereof in the Gazette.”

“A marriage shall be null and void” if conducted in a place other than the office of a registrar of marriages or a licensed place of worship, according to Section 34 (2) of the Act, except if authorised by a Justice minister’s licence.

These provisions, and the church’s admission that it erred in law for a decade, yesterday stirred commotion among couples who took their marriage vows there and tossed their marriage certificates, demanding that they be licensed, or marry again at another gazetted place.

One lawyer, who asked not to be named due to sensitivity of the matter, proposed that some of the affected couples could conduct fresh wedding at the Church of the Resurrection Bugolobi, now that it is licensed, or marry again at another gazetted place.

The catch-22 is that relations between some of the couples have soured since their matrimony, raising the possibility that a spouse would be reluctant to go back on the pulpit to re-wed. There is also a risk, one lawyer said, that the church is now exposed to potential litigation by the aggrieved couples.

Worship places and other licensed places charge Shs35,000 as fees to register their marriages with the URSB.轰 licensed, or marry again at another gazetted place.

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