



**THE 3<sup>RD</sup> NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE AWARDS – 2018:**  
**AWARDEES**

**Intangible Cultural Heritage**

**First award: Ms Annet Nandujja of the Planets**

In the face of modernity many of our cultural skills are being eroded, diluted or merged with other cultures and it is becoming increasingly difficult to preserve traditional ways and the meaning attached to them.

Ms. Nandujja has endeavoured to preserve the original traditional skill of the Kiganda dances such as Bakisimba, Aamaggunju and Nankasa. She has groomed and transmitted her traditional knowledge, skills and values to the younger generation. She has been singing since the age of 8 and is now a proud composer of traditional music, a recognized singer and a Ssenga (traditional counsellor). She is a co-founder of “The Planets”, a traditional dance troupe that is renowned for promoting and preserving traditional folk, music and dances.

**Second Award: Mr. Taga Nuwagaba**

Creative arts and especially visual arts are an important aspect of our cultural expression.

Mr. Nuwagaba is a talented artist who has used his knowledge and skills to produce the first ever, comprehensive compilation of totems of Buganda, many of which are also recognized by other ethnic groups across the country. In addition, he has also illustrated totems from Bunyoro with the aim of engaging the youth in learning about their cultural identity and using culture to respect and conserve nature.

**Third award: Mr. Robert Rukahemura**

In the face of climate change and depletion of forest cover, the rate at which medicinal plants are becoming extinct is alarming.

Mr. Rukahemura in this category is recognized for his remarkable effort to preserve traditional medicine and associated values. He is a private forest owner and a traditional healer who has sensitized communities about the need to conserve indigenous trees for their traditional and medicinal value. He is also the founder of Kiryanga Private Forests Conservationists Association - a CBO with about 200 private forest owners - united to conserve and preserve degraded natural resources in Banyoro. In a bid to promote their cultural identity and protect their nature, some of the forest owners in Kiryanga and the greater Kibaale have labelled their forest ‘Empako’ forests.

**Fourth Award: Father Richard Kayaga Gonzaga of Jinja Catholic Diocese**

For a long time, culture and religion have caused controversy over individual identity, beliefs, social practices and expression, often making people distance themselves from their cultural heritage.

Fr. Kayaga is being recognized for promoting and preserving Lusoga language and culture. He has written extensively, contributing to the existence of educational and research materials in Lusoga and has spearheaded the establishment of a research centre through which several publications in Lusoga are accessible to researchers, schools and the general public. In addition, a museum displaying important tangible and intangible aspects of Kisoga culture has been established for further cultural education.

**Tangible Cultural Heritage**

**Fifth Award: The Mugula family represented by Mr. Kiberu. M. Fred Kayiba**

There are important heritage sites in our midst that signify our cultural identity and traditional beliefs. These sites are often under risk of destruction due to loss of cultural values but also due to the pressures of modernity.

The Mugula family was recognized for holding the fort and preserving, defending and maintaining the Entebbe za Mugula, which is a site of political and cultural significance in respect to governance the Buganda Kingdom and Uganda in general. Entebbe as it is known today got its name from Mugula, who was one of the administrators during the reign of Kabaka Mwanga II in the 19th century. Mugula is believed to have moulded the rocks into seats (Entebbe za Mugula) on which he would sit during judicial proceedings or village meetings.

**Sixth award: Villa Maria Parish, Masaka: represented by the Parish priest, Father Ssewakiryanga Michael**

Under the pressure of modernity many buildings of historical and cultural significance are being demolished, resulting in the loss of our history as communities and as a nation.

Villa Maria Church (formerly a Cathedral) was the home to first African Catholic priests in Uganda. This Church was built in 1892 by Archbishop Heinrich Streicher, one of the White Father Missionaries in Africa. It is one of the oldest brick buildings in the country still surviving and it appears set to last hundreds of years. The Management of the Church was awarded for the safeguarding and renovation of the without compromising its original architectural designs and integrity.