

The 2023 National Cultural Heritage Awards

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD

For so many years, this awardee has contributed to the development of the culture sector during her service under the Department of Museums and Monuments in Uganda. Her invaluable contribution to this sector cannot go unnoticed and we are celebrating her today.

The special recognition award goes to, Ms. Rose Mwanja

INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

First award

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

The first awardee in this category has for generations been at the heart of making drums and has created distinct drums in Central Uganda. They demonstrate a good example of preserving and promoting the skill of making drums and cultural entrepreneurship.

People from many countries go to Mpambire to purchase hand-made drums which have been sold in this location for more than 75 years, to churches, NGOs, tourists and Kings. They have also preserved a forest for indigenous trees.

The first award goes to the Francis Walakira Family!

Second Award

The reluctance by most Ugandans to use herbal medicine in favour of Western medicine was due to a colonial residual mentality. The awardee in this category has demonstrated the contribution of indigenous medicine to the health and well-being of Ugandans, by changing the narrative.

The second awardee is blending nature's medicine, nutrient-dense fruit seeds and culture to promote good health, well-being, learning and reflection. Each year millions of her fruit seeds (avocado, mangoes and jackfruit) find their way into market places in different parts of the World.

In her gardens of fruits and herbs in Wanyange, Jinja Eastern Uganda, she cultivates herbal medicine using a forest approach to farming. She has branded the value-added fruit seeds and medicinal plants as "Namazzi Organic Herbals".

She has the first ever Herbal Healing Massage clinic on the farm. The farm is a learning Centre, an Agro-Tourism Centre, but also a thriving social business.

The second award in this category goes to Ms. Judith Bakirya!

Third Award

With the advancement in technology and popular cultures, our oral traditions are increasingly dying because people spend much of their time on digital media and the would-be storytellers are too busy looking for money.

The third awardee has over the years kept folk stories alive by promoting oral literature and traditional music. She is an Associate Professor of Drama/Theatre, a playwright and a folklorist. She teaches Drama, Theatre Marketing and Folklore (Cultural Identity studies) at the Performing Arts and Film Department, Makerere University, Kampala, where she is former Head of Department (2002-2009).

She is a co-author of *Dustbin Nations* (2000) and *The Chief of Shumankuzi* (2002), two children's plays that decry war and corruption in post-independent Africa. Her other plays, *Lady, Will You Marry Me?* (2002); *The Rat Trap and Other Plays* (2007), which is an anthology of five plays; *Rhythms of Life* (2009), an audio/talking play; and *Semitego, The Famous Hunter* (2011) discuss socio-economic and political issues. She has also written scholarly articles on drama/theatre and culture.

Her book, *A History of Theatre Development in Uganda*, is the first-ever historical documentation of Uganda's theatre. She is a founder and former Chairperson (2000-2002) of Eastern Africa Theatre Institute (EATI), a regional theatre network operating in Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, and Ethiopia since 1999. She is the director, MEBO Theatre Documentaries Limited which aims at producing unique, high-value theatre and entertainment for young people and general audiences in Uganda and abroad through the performance of theatre classics, circus theatre, mime, theatre sports, Ugandan ethnic art and culture.

The third award in this category goes to Dr. Mercy Mirembe Ntangaare

TANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Fourth Award

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

The fourth awardee established the East African Revival Movement, an evangelical spiritual awakening movement that has become synonymous with the Anglican Church of Uganda, simply described as okulokoka, Luganda for getting saved, was birthed in Gahini, Rwanda around 1931 and spread to Kigezi in 1935 and Ankole in 1936. One of the few surviving first Barokore of 1936 is the 95-year-old Zabron Kabaza who edits the Kishumuruzo, Runyankore for 'The Key', a Runyankore daily guide to the study of the Bible.

The awardee is being recognised for starting the African Revival Museum in 2016 to document and preserve this rare heritage and provide historic evidence that is richly and deeply inculcated in

the hearts and minds of the believers and young persons who base on experiments and evidence to believe.

The fourth award goes Ankole Diocese

Fifth award

The fifth awardee in this category is being recognised for preserving rare medical archives in the Albert Cook Library.

The library houses a rare collection donated by Sir Albert Cook (also known as the ‘The Father of modern medicine in Uganda’), a Church Missionary Society doctor who arrived in Uganda in 1897 and founded Mengo Hospital. Sir Albert Cook subsequently donated his collection to the then Medical Library, which in 1965 was named after him, hence its official name, the Albert Cook Medical Library.

Over the decades, the awardee has opened the archives to Ugandan health workers as well as researchers, both at local and international levels. The rare collection serves as a source of information about the rich history of modern human medicine in Uganda.

The fifth award goes to the College of Health Sciences, Makerere University!

6th Award

The 6th awardee is a proprietor of a not-for-profit culture centre in Moroto, which is committed to preserving and showing the culture of the Ateker communities in Karamoja, Uganda, Turkana Kenya, Toposa & Joe of South Sudan, Nyangatom of South Ethiopia and other pastoralist groups in Africa.

The centre focuses on Research, Media & Advocacy, Cross-border Engagement, Cultural Exchange activities, Film and art exhibitions and the Promotion of community Museums and Heritage homes. It was also established to preserve, nurture, promote and celebrate culture through empowerment programmes for harmonious co-existence and sustainable livelihoods.

The 6th award goes to Hana Longole of the Ateker Cultural Centre in Moroto

The media award

Over the years, the media has negatively reported on different aspects of culture, depicting it as backward and evil. The awardee in this category has contributed to the change of this narrative by positively reporting on cultural heritage.

His work is driven by a deep appreciation for culture, nature and the environment, and he believes in the power of travel to inspire culture preservation and environmental stewardship. At the same time, he is also fascinated by the rich history and cultural heritage of the places he visits, and he strives to convey the stories and traditions of these communities in his scripting.

With a combination of curiosity, insight, and a dedication to accuracy and integrity, he takes pride in bringing the world to his viewers. He has produced and hosted over 250 episodes in his journalism career with a deep aspect of heritage, culture, conservation and rich tourism content.

The media award goes to Bismac Amumpaire

