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Museum land title goes missing

“But sources say that museven is in for the kill of the Ugandan museum”

Posted by Musa

Civil society organizations seeking to block the demolition of Uganda Museum woke up to a rude shock when it emerged that the land title of the state-owned heritage site is missing from the land registry.



THREATENED: Plans are under way to have the museum brought down. (PHOTO BY KABONA ESIARA)

Sources close to the matter have told The Razor that the land may have already been given away to a new developer and the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry was hoodwinking the public by claiming that it is following procurement procedures in the transaction.

The chairman Uganda Land Commission, Mayanja Nkangi, refused to comment on the missing title, saying he did not want to antagonise Maj Gen Kahinda Otafiire, the minister of Tourism, Trade and Industry. He referred The Razor to the permanent secretary who was not available for comment.

The suspended minister for Lands, Daniel Omara Atubo, also declined to comment saying he was no longer authorized to speak on behalf of government. Ten directors of civil society organizations have finalized paper work petitioning court to stop the ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry from demolishing the museum to give way for the proposed Tourism House.

Ugandans to the rescue



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The 60-storey skyscraper, the first of its kind in Kampala, is planned to be built in a period of 10 years. According to the ministry, the developers would manage the site for 30 years to recoup their investment before the handing it over to the government.

“We have been creating awareness about the relevance and importance of this site to the people but the zeal and speed with which the government is ready to demolish it has made us change our strategy. Let us first secure an injunction, make sure the site is safe from demolition, then we shall proceed with awareness,” said the source that is party to the petition.

last week, civil society groups approached the tourism ministry in an attempt to dissuade them from redeveloping the site but were rebuffed. They were dismissed as “backward cultural conservationists,” The ministry says that the museum is not making money thus the need to redevelop it.

But those opposed to the move are wondering where the historical items in museum will be kept during the 10 years the new building will be under construction. They also want to know whether the new structures will have unique architecture that defines the current building.