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- 100 Years on, the legacy lives on. Honoring the Legacy through Development; Kabalega Cultural Square Project. [Page 20](#)

EVENTS & ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS



LAUNCH OF 100 YEARS OF OMUKAMA CWA II KABALEGA'S LEGACY COMMEMORATION

Organised by Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom, the event was held on 06th April, 2023 in Buyanja, Kibaale District. [Page 4](#)



THE INAUGURAL KABALEGA INDEPENDENCE RUN (2023)

Organised by Kabalega Foundation in collaboration with Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom, the event was held on the 07th of October, 2023. [Page 6](#)



THE INAUGURAL KABALEGA MEMORIAL LECTURE (2023)

Organised by Kabalega Foundation in collaboration with Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom, the event was held on the 18th of December, 2023. [Page 9](#)



100 YEARS OF KABALEGA ROYAL DINNER & COMMEMORATION AWARDS GALLAS.

Uganda Edition

Organised by Kabalega Foundation, held Saturday 30th March, 2024 at Hoima Resort Hotel. [Page 13](#)

Diaspora Edition

Organised by BUKNAA on Saturday July 6th 2024 at the Hilton Washington DC-1750 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852, USA. [Page 17](#)

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



BUNYORO-KITARA
KINGDOM





FORWARD FROM THE PRIME MINISTER – BUNYORO KITARA KINGDOM



Rt. Hon. Andrew K. Byakutaga
Prime Minister, Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom

As we look back on the 100 Years of Omukama Cwa II Kabalega's legacy commemoration, it is with immense pride and gratitude that we reflect on the extraordinary legacy of this great leader. The events held throughout the commemoration year not only marked a significant milestone for the people of Bunyoro-Kitara but also allowed us to celebrate the enduring impact of Omukama Kabalega's leadership on both our Kingdom and the nation at large.

During his reign, Omukama Kabalega's resilience, strength, and unwavering commitment to protecting the Kingdom's integrity against external threats set him apart as one of the most revered leaders in our history. His legacy continues to inspire us today as we work to preserve the cultural, social, and economic

fabric he fought so tirelessly to protect. The centenary celebration was an opportunity for us to come together and honor the values Omukama Kabalega upheld—unity, cultural pride, and development. The various events, held reflected on his immense contributions and the indelible mark he left on our Kingdom.

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to all who contributed to the success of this commemorative journey.

Special thanks go to Kabalega Foundation for spearheading majority of the year-long commemoration activities, and for their great input towards its success.

As we move forward, let us continue to be inspired by Omukama Kabalega's vision, ensuring that his legacy of unity and progress lives on for generations to come.

MESSAGE FROM KABALEGA FOUNDATION



Dr. James Kisoro
*Founder & Executive Chairman
Kabalega Foundation*

This monumental milestone was not only a moment of remembrance but also an opportunity to honor the enduring legacy of one of the most influential leaders in our history – the very progenitor and inspiration behind the work we do at Kabalega Foundation. It is also an immense honor for me personally to lead this initiative, as a great-grandson.

Over the past year, in collaboration with Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom, had the privilege of spearheading a series of commemorative events and activities that brought together people from all walks of life to celebrate Omukama Kabalega's leadership, vision, and his unwavering commitment to his people. His legacy of resilience, courage, and determination to safeguard the Kingdom's sovereignty continues to resonate deeply within the hearts of the people of Bunyoro and Uganda at large.

This commemoration allowed us to reflect on the direction of our society, thanks to the foundation laid by Omukama Kabalega. It also reinforced the need for our collective responsibility to preserve and advance the social, cultural and economic transformation he fought so hard to achieve and protect during his reign.

I would like to take this opportunity to greatly thank all our partners, sponsors, and individuals who contributed to the success of this historic commemoration. Special recognition goes to the Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom, whose collaboration was vital in bringing this vision to life. Kabalega Foundation remains committed to carrying forward the values and ideals of Omukama Kabalega through initiatives that continue to promote cultural pride, unity, transformation, for the progress of society.

It is with deep gratitude and honor that I reflect on the successful conclusion of the 100-Year Commemoration of Omukama Cwa II Kabalega's Legacy.



OMUKAMA CWA II KABALEGA, THE KING THAT HISTORY TRIED TO FORGET, AND FAILED.



THE LEGACY WE CELEBRATE

1853 – 1923

Omukama Kabalega's Lifetime

16 YEARS

Age he ascended to the throne, ruled for 29 years.

9 YEARS

Resistance to colonial rule, inspiring other African leaders to fight for African independence

24 YEARS

Exiled to Seychelles Islands, and all the while engaging in diplomatic correspondence challenging his detention, leading to his release. He died on his way back to his Kingdom

2009

Declared a National Hero by the Government of Uganda, and honored with a three (3) gun salute.

Kabalega Whom History has Failed to Forget

In the vast and rich tapestry of African history, few figures stand as monumental as Omukama Cwa II Kabalega, the King of Bunyoro–Kitara. Though his reign spanned a pivotal period in Uganda's history, Kabalega's legacy was subjected to deliberate attempts at erasure by colonial forces. Yet, despite these efforts, Kabalega's indomitable spirit, his courage, and his strategic brilliance remain etched in the collective memory of his people. This article explores the life of the king who was a unifying developmental leader, the architect of Bunyoro's golden era, and a symbol of resilience against imperialism.

The Rise of a Monarch

Born in 1853, Kabalega ascended to the throne of Bunyoro–Kitara in 1870 after the death of his father, Omukama Kamurasi Mirundi Rukanama rwa Kanembe Kyebambe IV (ruled 1852 - 1869) at the age of only 16. Named Kabalega, due to the origins of his mother, Kanyange Nyamutahingurwa Abwooli, a member of the Bayonza clan of the Abahuma tribe, and the daughter of a king of Bulega, which is now in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. His rule marked a significant turning point for the Kingdom, which at the time was embroiled in internal strife and external threats from neighboring kingdoms and European colonial forces. Kabalega quickly proved himself to be a ruler of exceptional military and political acumen, using both diplomacy and warfare to strengthen Bunyoro's position.

A Kingdom in Transition

Under Kabalega, Bunyoro–Kitara experienced a renaissance. The kingdom was not just a military power but also a cultural and political hub. Kabalega expanded his territories through strategic alliances and military campaigns, with a strong focus on reasserting the kingdom's dominance over regions such as Tooro and Buganda.

His ability to consolidate power, manage diverse ethnic groups, and secure economic stability laid the foundation for a prosperous Bunyoro.

However, Kabalega's growing power soon caught the attention of the British colonial authorities, who were expanding their control over Uganda. The British saw Kabalega as an obstacle to their imperial ambitions in the region, and thus, made him their target.

The Struggle Against Colonialism

The narrative of Kabalega's reign is inextricably linked to the resistance he mounted against British colonial rule. The king's defiance against foreign domination is one of the most significant pre-colonial chapters in Uganda's history. In 1897, Kabalega was forced into exile by the British after a series of intense military confrontations, most notably the Battle of Mparo. Despite being captured and exiled to the Seychelles, Kabalega never relented in his resistance against colonialism, with his detention lasting 24 years before he was allowed to return home in 1923. His efforts to maintain the independence of Bunyoro–Kitara made him a symbol of defiance and resilience. However, the colonial forces sought to erase his legacy, downplaying his role in the resistance to portray the colonial project as a peaceful and inevitable transition.

A Legacy that Endures

While the colonial powers attempted to rewrite history, Kabalega's legacy could not be erased. His resilience and fight for independence became a rallying point for future generations of Ugandans. In Bunyoro, Uganda, and other parts of Africa, Kabalega is revered as a hero who fought for his people's freedom and dignity. Today, Kabalega is celebrated as one of Uganda's most significant historical figures and in 2009, was proclaimed a national hero by the government of Uganda. Statues, monuments, and cultural events in his honor remind the world of his courage and vision.

Story first published by Daily Monitor on: April 10, 2012



KABALEGA MEMORIAL DAY

April 06, 2023

REMEMBERING & HONORING A HERO'S FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE

On April 6, 2023, Buyanja Secondary School in Kibaale District became the focal point of national reflection as Ugandans gathered at the foot of Kikangaara Hill, the very ground where Omukama Cwa II Kabalega won his final succession battle before ascending the throne at just 16. This historic site set the tone for a deeply symbolic ceremony, marking the beginning of a year-long centennial commemoration of Kabalega's enduring legacy. The event organised by Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom

honored his defiant stand against colonialism and his role in shaping the destiny of not just Bunyoro, but the broader Uganda and Great Lakes region.

To the Right (front); Hon. Grace Mary Mugasa - Stare Minister for Public Service, Prof. Twaha Kigongo Kaawaase, 1st Deputy PM of Buganda, Hon. Tom Butime - Minister for Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities, who also represented the president, Rt. Hon. Andrew Byakutaga - Prime Minister of Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom, and Owek. Fred Kabagambe Kaiisa - Chariperson of the Royal Commission of Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom, along with other kingdom officials pause for a group photo at the memorial event.



LEGACY OF A WARRIOR KING

As the centenary of Omukama Kabalega's passing is observed, the 2023 memorial served as a reminder of his legacy as a visionary king and unyielding defender of sovereignty. In a message delivered by Hon. Tom Butime, Minister for Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities,

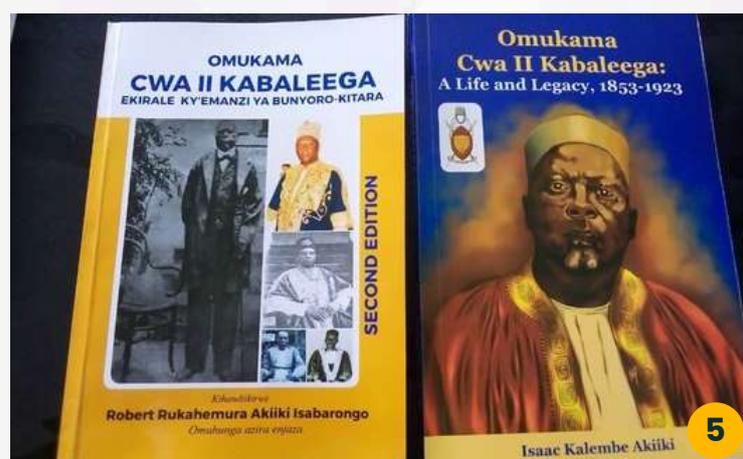
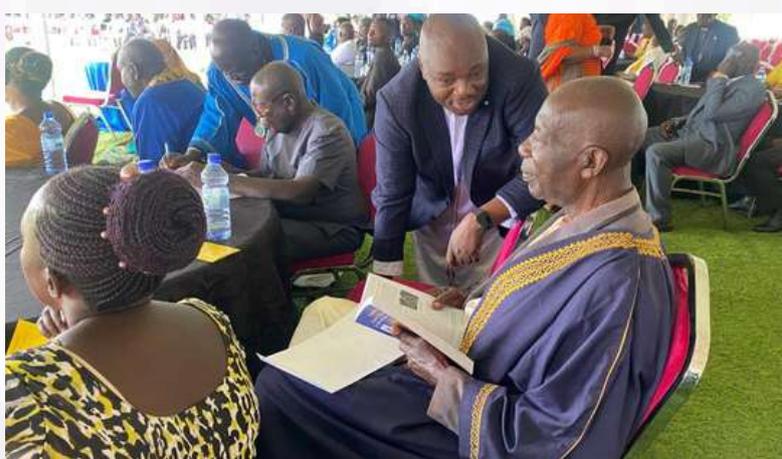
The President, H.E. Yoweri Museveni praised Kabalega as "an icon of unity, independence and development in the Great Lakes region." The president also emphasized the significance of recognizing early African leaders who mobilized their people toward collective growth through organized kingdoms and chiefdoms.

A DAY OF PRIDE, POWER, AND PATRIOTISM

The celebration drew together dignitaries, other cultural leaders, and citizens from across the country and beyond, including representatives from sister kingdoms.

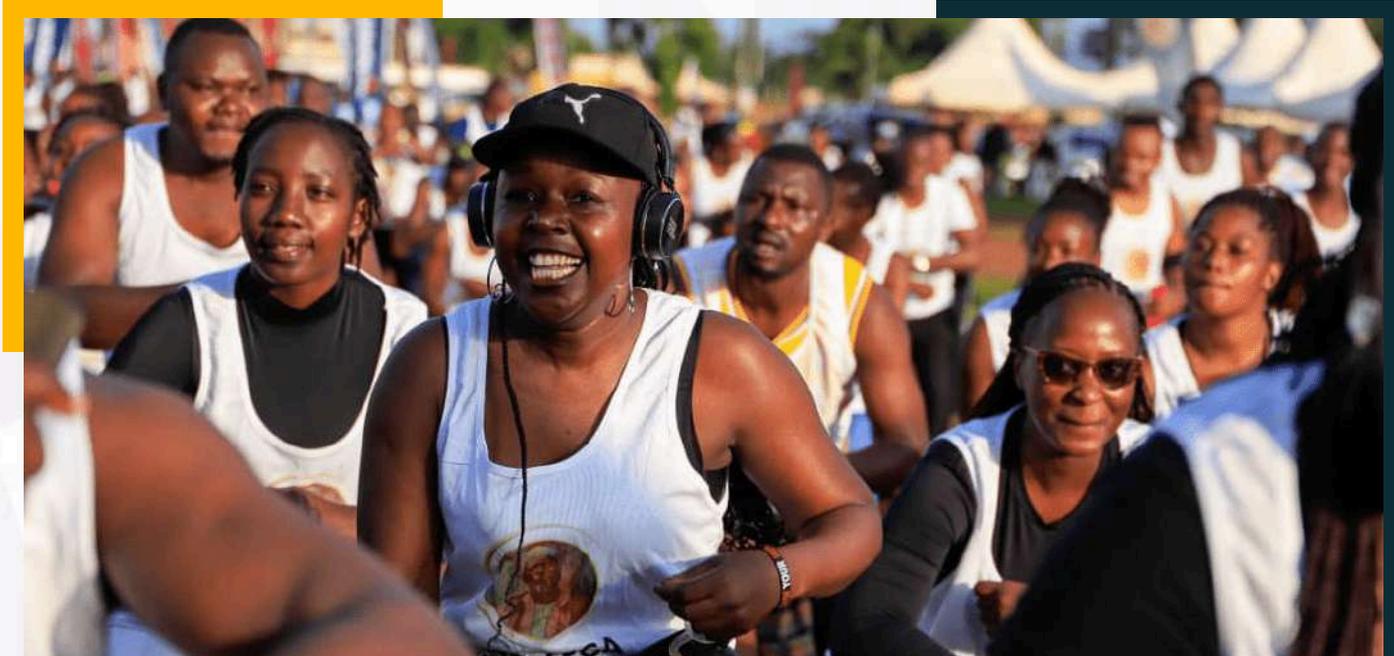
In a message from Kabaka Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II, delivered by Buganda's 1st Deputy Prime Minister, Prof. Twaha Kigongo Kaawaase, The Kabaka lauded Kabalega's courage, and noted that "the bond created by Mwanga and Kabalega should inspire the people of Bunyoro and Buganda to work together."

The event that drew people from all walks of life was a colorful and emotional occasion, filled with cultural performances, and patriotic unity - reaffirming Kabalega's lasting role in Uganda's historical and cultural identity, setting the stage for the other activities held through the year by the kingdom and its partners.





INAUGURAL KABALEGA INDEPENDENCE RUN (2023)



Hoima, Uganda – October 7, 2023

The inaugural Kabalega Independence Run was successfully held on October 7, 2023, at Hoima Booma Grounds, attracting thousands of participants from Bunyoro and other parts of Uganda. The run, organized by Kabalega Foundation in partnership with Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom was held under the theme:

“Run to Celebrate a Hero’s Legacy. Run to Educate a Leader of Tomorrow,” as part of the year-long centenary commemoration of Omukama Cwa II Kabalega’s legacy, 100 years after the passing of the revered Bunyoro monarch and anti-colonial icon.

Held on the weekend eve of Uganda’s Independence Day, the event honored Kabalega’s defiance against British colonial rule and championed the importance of investing in future generations.

Runners of all ages participated in different race categories, with branded kits that paid tribute to Kabalega’s life and legacy.

A total of 1800 runners took part in the Inaugural Run

A major highlight of the event was the launch of the Kabalega Education & Innovation Fund, with part of the proceeds from the run directed towards supporting its establishment and its preliminary activities. Organizers emphasized that this initiative would help carry forward Kabalega’s vision of an empowered populace for development.

Beyond the run, the day was filled with vibrant community activities.

Uganda Blood Transfusion Services (UBTS) conducted a successful blood donation drive, allowing participants to contribute to saving lives. A lively bull roasting activity added a festive, cultural flavor to the celebrations, while exhibitions showcased the rich heritage, crafts, and innovations of the Bunyoro sub-region.

The event was graced by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister of Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom as Chief Guest, Members of Parliament, and local government officials, praising the impact and purpose behind the event. Organizers confirmed that Kabalega Independence Run would henceforth be an annual tradition, blending fitness, heritage, philanthropy, and community spirit in honor of one of Uganda’s greatest historical figures, while tackling community needs through the proceeds. The day closed with music, dance, and shared reflection on a legacy that continues to shape the present and inspire the future.

EVENT THEME

Run to celebrate a hero’s legacy. Run to Educate a Leader of Tomorrow.

TARGET

Establishment of Kabalega Education & Innovation Fund.



KEI FUND

KNOWLEDGE. INNOVATION. IMPACT.

Read more about the establishment at: www.keifund.kabalegafoundation.org

Kabalega Independence Run is to be held as an annual event, as part of Kabalega Foundation’s annual events calendar, towards supporting community development causes.







THE INAUGURAL KABALEGA MEMORIAL LECTURE

Kampala, Uganda – Dec 18, 2023

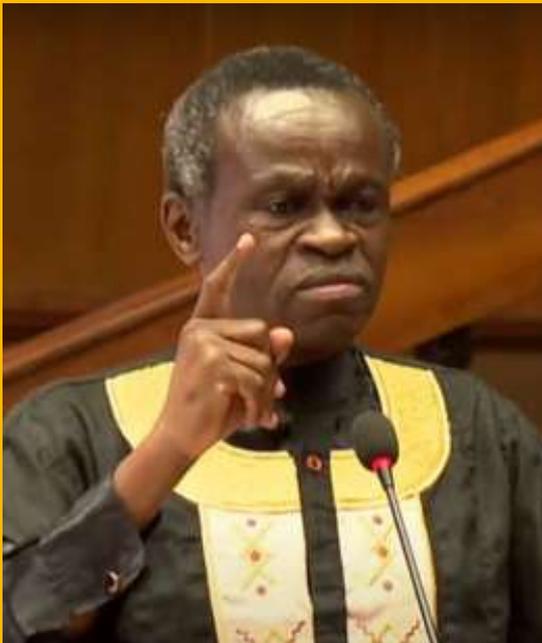
The elegant Victoria Conference Centre at Kampala Serena Conference Centre was filled with reflection, inspiration, and Pan-African pride as it hosted the Inaugural Kabalega Memorial Lecture—a landmark event held in honor of Omukama Cwa II Kabalega, one of Africa’s most iconic monarchs and resistance figures. Under the theme, *“The Role of Culture in Promotion of Development – The Case of Africa,”* the lecture brought together scholars, cultural leaders, policymakers, and dignitaries from across the far and wide to explore the intersections of cultural heritage and development.

The keynote address was delivered by Professor P.L.O. Lumumba, the renowned Kenyan legal scholar and Pan-Africanist.

Known for his eloquence and unwavering advocacy for African unity and sovereignty, Prof. Lumumba delivered a stirring speech that underscored culture as the bedrock of sustainable development.

“Africa will not rise by imitating others, but by rediscovering and reclaiming herself,” he declared.

In his address, Prof. Lumumba also emphasized that Africa’s rich cultural heritage—its languages, values, traditions, and histories—must be viewed not as relics of the past, but as living foundations for building a prosperous and self-sustaining future. He called on African leaders and institutions to recognize culture not as an ornament, but as a central pillar in planning, Policymaking, and societal leadership.



Prof. P.L.O Lumumba

The Keynote Speaker delivering his address

Professor P.L.O. Lumumba, is a renown Kenyan legal scholar and Pan-Africanist. Known for his eloquence and unwavering advocacy for African unity and sovereignty

He called on African leaders and institutions to recognize culture not as an ornament, but as a central pillar in planning, policymaking, and education.

By investing in and celebrating indigenous knowledge systems, the professor argued, African nations could foster deeper social cohesion, promote innovation rooted in local realities, and achieve more inclusive forms of growth.

More than a tribute to a historical figure, the Kabalega Memorial Lecture proved to be a thought-provoking dialogue on how the continent can move forward by looking inward – celebrating what makes it unique while confidently engaging with the modern world.

As the event drew to a close, speakers and attendees echoed a call for continued study and celebration of African leaders like Kabalega, whose legacy of resilience, leadership, and cultural pride remains deeply relevant today, 100 Years on.

A six-member panel discussion further explored the role of culture in Africa’s development.

The Executive Chairman of Kabalega Foundation thanked all participants and reaffirmed the Foundation’s commitment to organizing subsequent editions of the lecture in memory of Kabalega, as a forum and space to interrogate Africa’s past in search for a more united and culturally grounded future.

Rt. Hon. Andrew Byakutaga, Prime Minister of Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom, emphasized the lecture’s significance in honoring Kabalega’s legacy. He thanked the organizers, keynote speaker, panelists, and attendees for making the event a success.



Rt. Hon. Andrew Byakutaga delivering his speech.



THE INAUGURAL KABALEGA MEMORIAL LECTURE

Lecture Panel Discussant Profiles



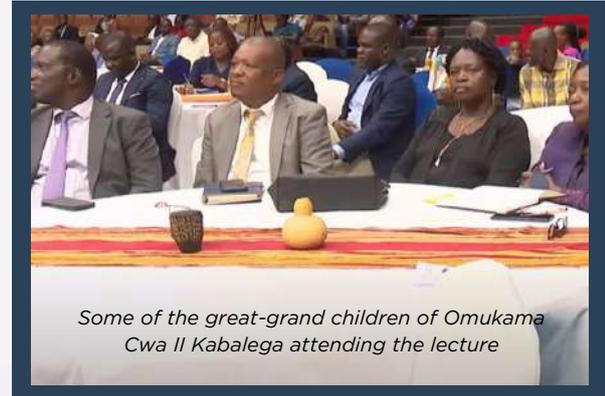
Prof. Julius Kiiza
Professor, Political Economy of Development, Makerere University, Uganda



Ms. Agnes Kabajuni
Africa Managing Director, Minority Rights Group.



Dr. Paul Kyalimpa
Deputy Director General, Uganda Investment Authority



Some of the great-grand children of Omukama Cwa II Kabalega attending the lecture



Hajjat. H. Nalubega.
Principal Culture Officer, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development



Barbra Babweteera.
Executive Director, Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda (CCFU)



Owek. Isaac Kalembe
Speaker Emeritus, BKK Parliament. Author - Omukama Kabalega - Life & Times (1853 - 1923)



KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM THE LECTURE ON THE ROLE OF CULTURE

A Foundation for Identity and Unity

Culture fosters a shared sense of identity and belonging, promoting national and regional unity essential for peaceful and cohesive development.

Culture, a Driver of Social Cohesion

Traditional values, customs, and languages can bridge societal divisions, reducing conflict and fostering cooperation.

Cultural Arts in Community Healing

Highlighting how artistic expression helps communities recover from trauma and build stronger social bonds.

Economic Empowerment Through Cultural Industries

Cultural heritage (e.g., crafts, music, fashion, festivals) can create jobs, support local economies, and attract tourism.

Indigenous Knowledge Systems

Africa's traditional knowledge—especially in areas like agriculture, health, and environmental management—offers practical, sustainable solutions rooted in local contexts.

Cultural Education and Youth Empowerment

Embedding culture in education helps cultivate pride, creativity, and critical thinking among the youth—future leaders of the continent.

Promoting Inclusive Governance

Integrating traditional leadership structures with modern governance can enhance community participation and legitimacy in decision-making.

Cultural Preservation in a Globalized World

Safeguarding languages, rituals, and heritage sites helps maintain Africa's identity in the face of rapid modernization and globalization.

Catalyst for development

When culture is seen as dynamic, not static, it becomes a source of innovation—merging traditional knowledge with modern technologies.

Guiding Ethical Development

Cultural values can shape ethical norms, promoting accountability, environmental stewardship, and social responsibility.







100 YEARS OF KABALEGA ROYAL DINNER & COMMEMORATION AWARDS GALA



The Remembrance Dinner &

Hoima, March 30, 2024

Kabalega Foundation, concluded its year-long celebration of the 100 Years of Omukama Cwa II Kabalega's Legacy with a spectacular Royal Dinner and Awards Gala on March 30th, 2024, at Hoima Resort Hotel - Bunyoro Convention Hall,

The Foundation, working in collaboration with Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom led a year-long series of activities from April 6, 2023, to April 5, 2024 in honor of Omukama Kabalega's extraordinary legacy as a leader and freedom fighter. Over 200 distinguished guests, including Cultural Leaders, Politicians,



Commemoration Awards

Business Executives, and Corporate Representatives, gathered to reflect on Kabalega's enduring influence and to celebrate those carrying forward his vision.

A major highlight of the evening was the presentation of the 100 Years of Kabalega Royal Awards, recognizing 41 corporate entities and 26 individuals who were chosen through a public nomination call for their outstanding contributions to the social, cultural, and economic development of the region.

The evening featured a sumptuous dinner, cultural entertainment performances, and speeches from the Chief Guest; the Hon. Prime Minister of Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom, the Foundation's Representative, and corporate sponsors.

The night concluded with the screening of the "Tuko Pamoja" Documentary - Bunyoro-Kitara Segment by Nyati Motion Pictures, which highlighted the Kingdom's rich history, heritage, culture, and achievements.

In his day's remarks, the Executive Chairman of Kabalega Foundation Dr. James Kisoro reaffirmed the Foundation's commitment to preserving the legacy of Omukama Kabalega and continuing his work to inspire future generations in Bunyoro-Kitara and beyond.

The Chief Guest in his address highlighted that the gala was a fitting conclusion to a year of celebration, urging everyone to continue building on the timeless values of unity, leadership, and cultural pride that Omukama Kabalega so boldly embodied.





100 YEARS OF KABALEGA ROYAL DINNER & COMMEMORATION AWARDS GALA

List of Awardees

1. Owek. Joseph Mujoobe Kazairwe – Community Mobilisation and Advocacy
2. Owek. Hajji Buruhani Kyakuhairu – Preservation & Promotion of Culture
3. Prof. Oswald Ndoleriire – Runyakitara Research, Documentation
4. Owek. George Muhuruzi – Preservation & Promotion of Culture
5. Late Owek. John Kituli-ibara – Promotion of Culture
6. Owek. Kalembe Isaac Akiiki – Historical Research & Documentation
7. Prof. Mwalimu Musheshe – Community Transformation & Development
8. Mr. Tusiime Wilfred Romeo Akiiki – Music Artistry & Promotion of Culture
9. Mr. John Magara – Entrepreneurial Works & Enterprise Development
10. Mr. Blasio Mugasa – Promotion of Unity & Culture
11. Prof. Samuel Majalija – Community Transformation
12. Owek. Yolamu Nsamba – Cultural Research & Documentation
13. Mr. Bakyetaho Rutona – Promotion of Unity & Culture
14. Mr. Henry Ford Mirima – Advocacy & Community Mobilization
15. Mr. Robert Rukahemura – Research, Documentation & Dissemination
16. Hon. Mukitale Stephen Biraahwa – Promotion of Unity & Culture
17. Mr. Ben Moru – Promotion of Unity & Culture
18. Mr. Ernest Wanda – Promotion of Unity & Culture
19. Dr. Lawrence Bategeka – Education Sector Development
20. Mr. Wabyona Jackson Rugambwa – Education Sector Development
21. Ms. Nsungwa Noeline – Education Sector Development
22. Mr. Joseph Kasumba – Entrepreneurial Works & Enterprise Development
23. Mr. Kyanku Canan – Mass Media Broadcasting Sector Development
24. Mr. Kiiza Edward – Mass Media Broadcasting Sector Development
25. Mr. Kasoro Kyamwanywa – Commercial Agriculture Sector Development
26. Dr. Milton Wabyona – Music Artistry & Promotion of Culture
27. Dr. Cindy Evelyn Magara – Film & Literature Sector Development
28. Mr. Bosco Kansime – Work in Forestry & Environmental Protection
29. Mubende Banyoro Committee – Community Mobilisation & Advocacy
30. Kitara Students' Association (KISA) – Education & Cultural & Advocacy
31. Three Ways Shipping Company – Business & Entrepreneurship
32. St. Andrea Kahwa's College – Hoima Education Sector Development
33. Mandela S.S – Education Sector Development



34. Flobbeto Primary School – Education Sector Development
35. Albertine Mineral Water – Business & Industry Development
36. City Medicals & City Ambulance – Health Sector Development
37. Adman Source & Contacts Limited – Business & Industry Development
38. Kitara Football Club – Sports & Talent Development
39. Dove Football Club – Sports & Talent Development
40. World Wildlife Fund – Wildlife & Environmental Conservation
41. Mtn Uganda – Corporate Social Responsibility
42. Kabalega Resorts – Hospitality Sector Development
43. Hoima Resort Hotel – Hospitality Sector Development
44. Miika Eco Resort – Hospitality Sector Development
45. Hoima Bufalo Hotel – Hospitality Sector Development
46. Star Light Hotel – Hospitality Sector Development
47. Mubende-Banyoro Association – Community Mobilisation & Advocacy
48. Kabalega Secondary School Old Boys Association – Educational Support
49. World Vision – Community Empowerment & Advocacy
50. Mirac Uganda – Community Mobilisation & Advocacy
51. Development Revolvers-Uganda – Energy & Environment
52. Friends Of Masindi – Community Mobilisation & Advocacy
53. Greening Uganda – Environmental Conservation
54. Igme Band – Music & Cultural Development
55. Mr. Harrison Magezi Businge – Mass Media Communication
56. Mr. Kaakwa Martin Isaac – Mass Media Communication
57. Ms. Sharon Kobusinge – Mass Media Communication
58. Mr. Fredrick Kusiima Akiiki – Mass Media Communication
59. Mr. Byenkya Fred – Mass Media Communication
60. Ms. Ritah Karungi – Tourism Sector Development
61. Ms. Jacent Nyamahunge – Outstanding Performance in Sports
62. Mr. Jessy Nector Mugisa – Promotion of Culture through Music
63. Mr. Patrick Abitegeka (Easy P) – Promotion of Culture through Music
64. Ms. Jovi Keyla – Promotion of Culture through Music
65. Mr. Figo West – Promotion of Culture through Music
66. Demagneto Wa Kwamugi – Promotion of Culture through Music
67. Mr. Amanyire Ronald Apuuli – Promotion of Culture through Music







DIASPORA CELEBRATION OF 100 YEARS OF KABALEGA



From **July 5th to 7th, 2024**, the Bunyoro Diaspora came together to commemorate 100 years of Omukama Cwa II Kabalega at the Hilton, Rockville Pike, Rockville, U.S. The event was organized by the **Bunyoro-Kitara North America Association (BUKNAA)**, a befitting celebration of Kabalega's legacy and the enduring strength of the Bunyoro people and friends of Bunyoro abroad.

The Dinner provided an opportunity for members of the Bunyoro-Kitara diaspora to reflect on the significant contributions of Omukama Kabalega to the Kingdom and unite in fostering connections across generations. It was also a moment to inspire and strengthen the cultural, social, and economic ties between the people of Bunyoro and those residing in North America.

Throughout the weekend, guests enjoyed a series of cultural and social events, culminating in a formal dinner that featured prominent speakers, cultural performances, and reflections on Kabalega's pivotal role in Bunyoro's history. The event also highlighted the contributions of Bunyoro's diaspora in preserving the Kingdom's heritage and promoting its development from abroad.

The dinner attracted prominent figures from the Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom, distinguished members of the Bunyoro Diaspora, as well as public officials, business leaders, and cultural advocates. The event reflected on Kabalega's legacy to inspire future generations and explored how the diaspora could continue contributing to the ongoing transformation of Bunyoro.

This Diaspora Dinner in the U.S. served as a powerful reminder of the global reach and impact of Kabalega's legacy, emphasizing the collective responsibility to preserve and promote the Kingdom's rich heritage while advancing its future development. The event offered an important opportunity for the Bunyoro Diaspora to renew its commitment to the Kingdom's prosperity and unity, while continuing to honor the memory of a leader whose courage and vision continue to inspire.



The Diaspora Edition of 100 Years of Kabalega was organized by the Bunyoro-Kitara North America Association (BUKNAA)

DIASPORA CELEBRATION OF 100 YEARS OF KABALEGA



List of BUKNAA Awardees

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Rt. Hon. Andrew Byakutaga Ateenyi | - Prime minister of Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom: | For Outstanding Service to BKK |
| 2. His Worship Brian Kaboyo Adyeeri | - Lord Mayor – Hoima City | For Outstand Service to Hoima city |
| 3. Owek. Stuart Mwesigwa Ateenyi | - Diaspora representative | For Diaspora & BKK Coordination |
| 4. Florence Baitwa Ateenyi | - Previous BUKNAA President | For Service to BUKNAA |
| 5. Richard Kyomuhendo Amooti | - Previous BUKNAA Vice President | For Service to BUKNAA |
| 6. Amooti Immaculate Masamba | - Previous BUKNAA Treasurer. | For Service to BUKNAA |
| 7. Brenda Mbabazi Adyeeri | - Previous BUKNAA Secretary | For Service to BUKNAA |
| 8. Kugonza Kasaija Akiiki | - Previous BUKNAA Vice President | For Service to BUKNAA |
| 9. Julius Asimwe Amooti | - Previous BUKNAA Chief Publicity | For Service to BUKNAA |
| 11. Pius Bugembe Abooki | - Current BUKNAA Vice President | For Service to BUKNAA |
| 12. Teddy Kemirembe Abwooli | - Current BUKNAA Secretary | For Service to BUKNAA |
| 13. Ateenyi Brenda J. Kyalisima | - Current BUKNAA Treasury | For Service to BUKNAA |
| 14. Gerald Kyamaywa Amooti | - Current BUKNAA Publicity | For Service to BUKNAA |
| 15. Precious Byakutaga Amooti | - Current Youth representative | For Service to BUKNAA |





KABALEGA CULTURAL SQUARE



Bringing the Legacy to Life

Kabalega Cultural Square is inspired by the enduring legacy of Omukama Cwa II Kabalega—a visionary leader who embodied courage, resistance, and pride in African identity. His fight against colonial domination and his commitment to the sovereignty of Bunyoro-Kitara continue to inspire generations.

The Square envisions a living space where culture, memory, and identity intersect—a place where the past informs the future. It seeks to awaken communal pride, foster intergenerational learning, and provide a home for stories, rituals, and values that shaped Bunyoro’s soul.



Kabalega Monument



Aerial view of the full planned square



View of back gallery space at the square

Vision

Kabalega Cultural Square envisions a dynamic public space that restores, preserves, and elevates the cultural identity of Bunyoro-Kitara. It aims to become a landmark of pride, education, and cultural revival. Through inclusive programming and timeless design, the Square will inspire future generations to cherish their roots.

Design Inspiration

The design of the Square blends traditional Bunyoro architectural aesthetics with modern functionality. Symbolic elements will reflect Kabalega’s life, Bunyoro’s royal heritage, and key cultural motifs. Planned spaces will accommodate performances, storytelling, exhibitions, and community gatherings in a dignified yet welcoming environment.

Community Impact

The Square will serve as a cultural heartbeat—bringing together elders, youth, artists, and scholars in shared celebration and learning. It will offer economic opportunities through cultural tourism, craft exhibitions, and events. Above all, it will strengthen the community’s sense of identity and belonging.



CALL TO ACTION!

WE OWE IT TO HIM! BE A PART OF THIS PROJECT'S DEVELOPMENT

JOIN US TO BRING KABALEGA'S LEGACY TO LIFE!

DONATE TO PROJECT

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Swift Code: EQBLUGKA

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KEY MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS



H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni
President of the Republic of Uganda

"As an icon of unity, independence and development in the great lakes region, it is a pleasure that such a commemoration is organized in his honor; an acknowledgement and appreciation of the efforts early African leaders played in organising the African people into kingdoms and chiefdoms in order to work together for development."

H.M. Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II
Kabaka of Buganda Kingdom

"Omukama Kabalega fought tirelessly to defend his people and the Kingdom, the bond created by Mwanga and Kabalega should inspire the people of Bunyoro and Buganda to work together."



Owek. Andrew K. Byakutaga
Prime Minister – Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom

"What made Omukama Cwa II Kabalega a hero and endeared him to his people in both the good times, and times of adversity was that he refused to betray his people on several occasions when external forces advanced their interest for him to surrender the sovereignty of Bunyoro-Kitara."

Prof. Mwanbushya Ndebesa
History Scholar – Makerere University

"I admire the courageous, patriotic, and great nationalistic mind that Omukama Kabalega espoused. Reflecting on his visionary leadership, the people of Bunyoro, and Uganda at large have a huge debt to pay to Omukama Kabalega, especially by promoting unity, and embracing pan-africanism, learning from his sacrifices, and working together for the common good of society."



Prof. P.L.O Lumumba
Pan-Africanist & Professor of Law

"Long live Kabalega! When you do good things what happens is that your motto remains; appear to die, but you never die. His progeny are alive, and should keep him alive. The British owe Bunyoro for the atrocities committed against it, and its people, for their looted artefacts."

Hon. Asinansi Nyakato
WMP – Hoima City & Great-Grand Daughter of Omukama Kabalega

"Omukama Kabalega's legacy of unity, strength, and cultural pride passed down through the generations is felt across the nation, and continues to inspire us to safeguard the values he dearly cherished. On this centenary mark, we celebrate and are inspired even the more to uphold and build upon his legacy."

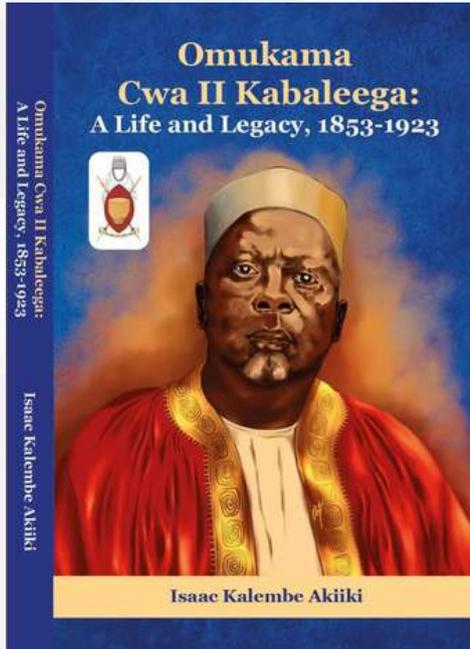




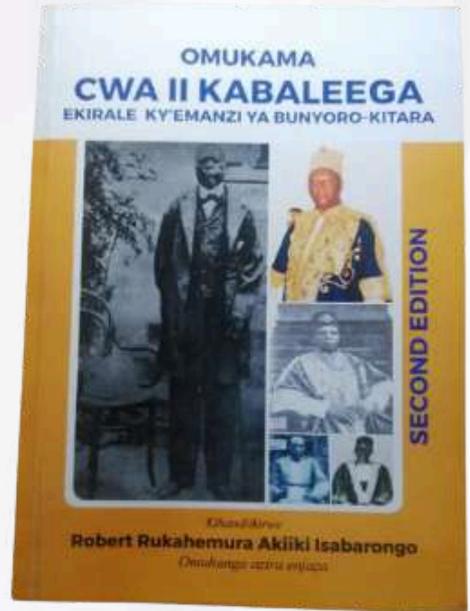
SHOP AT KABALEGA FOUNDATION

Celebrate the enduring legacy of Omukama Kabalega with exclusive memorabilia from the 100 Years of Kabalega commemoration.

These timeless items serve as lasting tributes to his vision, resilience, and impact on our heritage. Own a piece of history and keep the spirit of Kabalega alive for generations to come.



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Umbrellas @ 35,000/=



Polo T-Shirts @ 65,000/=

Visit: www.shop.kabalegafoundation.org. Part of proceeds go towards supporting the Foundation programmes



Omukama Cwa II Kabalega with family during captivity in Seychelles Islands - Indian Ocean



Omukama Cwa II Kabalega Ekitule Ekinobere Abeemi

THE TIMELESS GALLERY



Omukama Cwa II Kabalega



*John Kabarega (également connu sous le nom de Kabalega), Roi de Bunyoro. (1853-1923) ©SNA
Residence of John Kabarega (Ma Joie, Mahe) (1899-1923) Period of Exile in Seychelles ©SNA*



Omukama Cwa II Kabalega was interred at Mparo, one of his former favourite palaces (Back cover)



Omukama Kabalega upon capture in Kangai (present-day Dokolo District, Uganda) on April 9, 1899



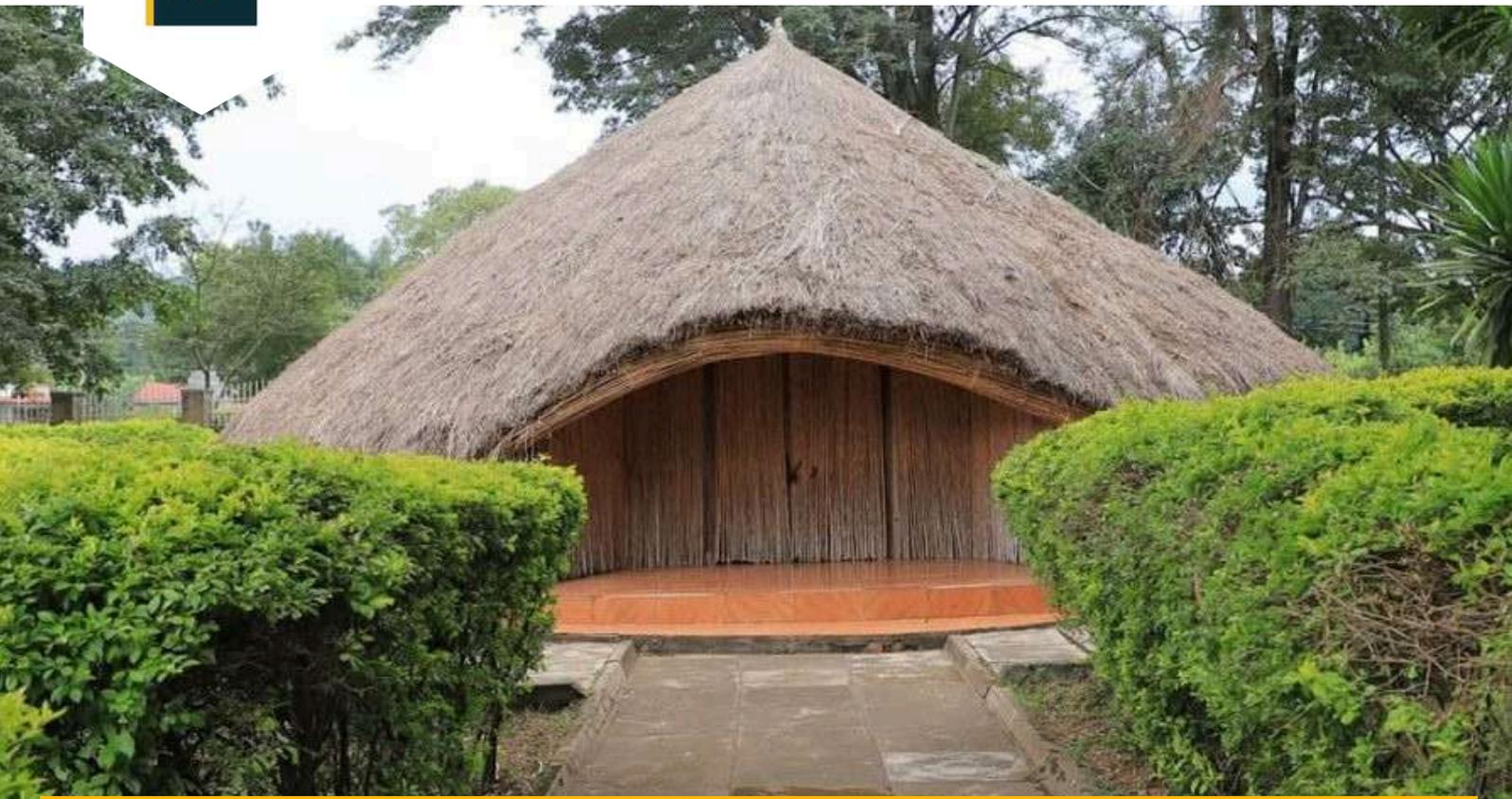
Omukama Cwa II Kabalega



The mark stone erected by locals at the place where Omukama Kabalega and Kabaka Mwangi of Buganda were captured in Kangai, Dokolo.



The 8-Legged stool throne from Bunyoro held at Pitt-Rivers Museum.



JOIN US IN KEEPING OMUKAMA CWA II KABALEGA'S LEGACY ALIVE

GET IN TOUCH!

KABALEGA FOUNDATION

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-  **Mobile:** +256-764-754259
-  **Email:** hello@kabailegafoundation.org

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SUPPORT OUR WORK

Support from like-minded individuals and organizations goes a long way in enabling us to fulfill our mission. Make a contribution, start donating today by visiting: www.kabailegafoundation.org/donate/ to find out how.

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Whether it is volunteering with your time and resources to support our work, events, or activities, or help fundraise, you too can make a big difference. Visit: www.kabailegafoundation.org/volunteers/

JOIN OUR MEMBERSHIP

Anyone—individuals, families, organizations, groups, students, or honorary members—can help preserve Omukama Kabalega's legacy. Learn more at: www.kabailegafoundation.org/membership/

WWW.KABALEGAFOUNDATION.ORG