



# 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.













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## GET IN TOUCH!

### KABALEGA FOUNDATION

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#### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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## GET INVOLVED!

### 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.kabalegafoundation.org/donate/](http://www.kabalegafoundation.org/donate/) to find out how.

### VOLUNTEER WITH US

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.kabalegafoundation.org/volunteers/](http://www.kabalegafoundation.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.kabalegafoundation.org/membership/](http://www.kabalegafoundation.org/membership/)

**WWW.KABALEGAFOUNDATION.ORG**