



PRESS RELEASE

BAGANDA CONFERENCE IN AMERICA HAIL NAMBOOZE, DECLARE BUGANDA AUTONOMY NON-NEGOTIABLE

The recently concluded Ttabamiruka '08 conference in New Jersey hailed the courage of the three Buganda officials who were recently arrested in Uganda. The conference in its final resolution declared that cowardice and self-effacement are now taboo in Buganda affairs, and that Buganda's right to internal autonomy is non-negotiable.

The conference, which was opened by an official Message from Ssabasajja Kabaka Muwenda Mutebi II, was focused on the future political options of Buganda. The highlights of the two day meeting were addresses by retired Katikkiro Dan Muliika and members of Parliament Beti Kamyá and Hussein Kyanjo. The hugely popular trio were frequently interrupted by tumultuous applause and standing ovations.

The conferees resolved that Buganda must take a new political direction based on direct discussions with the other peoples of Uganda to forge a New Deal. The political order of the last 42 years whereby the central government has had unlimited powers was declared a failure for having bred injustice, poverty and strife. The conferees asserted that the 14 Ugandan nationalities whose symbols were engraved on the walls of Uganda's Parliament and which agreed to the 1962 independence constitution are still the legitimate base of Uganda as a country.

A special Youth Track also focused on Buganda's future, with special attention given to how to build a stronger sense of identity among young Baganda in Diaspora. The youth sessions were moderated by, among others, Owek. Muliika and Owek. Betty Kamyá. The young Baganda resolved to give highest priority to mastering the Luganda language and creating a robust global contact network.

The emotional highlight of the conference was a video of Kabaka's official Mrs. Betty Nambooze Bakireke describing her arrest and torture. Many openly cried at hearing her describe the humiliation and pain that she was forced to endure, especially at her being locked up in a closet with two other women without enough space to sit down. Her resolve and refusal to buckle under pressure electrified the meeting. The meeting in its final resolution commended her and her colleagues to Ssabasajja Kabaka and promised to emulate the high standards of bravery that she has set. At the meeting, several thousand dollars were raised to assist with her medical expenses.

More details on Ttabamiruka '08 are available at the conference website: www.ttabamiruka.com. Video clips can be found at www.youtube.com.

Ttabamiruka '08 Organizing Committee
September 1, 2008