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Ttabamiruka '07

Conference Report

Buganda nnyaffe eyedda, leero, n'enkya
(Buganda is my past, my present, my future)

A. Introduction Background

In October 2006, Gwangamujje NY/NJ, Inc. (Gwangamujje) created a special committee to organize Ttabamiruka '07, under the provisions in Article V of the organization's Constitution. That special committee was named the Ttabamiruka core organizing committee and consisted of the following individuals:

1. Edward Semambya – Chairperson
2. Michael Muganga – Publicity
3. Wycliffe Lule-Musoke – Treasury
4. Charles Mukasa – Program and Project Management

The above core committee co-opted several other highly dedicated Baganda to create subcommittees and constitute an expanded Ttabamiruka Organizing Committee (Organizing Committee) which planned, resourced and executed the memorable conference, Ttabamiruka '07. Nevertheless, the Chairman and his core committee retained the mandate to directly conduct the business on Ttabamiruka '07 as provided by the Gwangamujje Constitution.

The purpose of this document is to report on the proceedings and results of Ttabamiruka '07. The primary audience is the members of Gwangamujje NY/NJ. However, this document will be available to the general public.

B. Theme and Objectives of Ttabamiruka '07

The theme of Ttabamiruka '07 was **Buganda nnyaffe eyedda, leero, n'enkyia** (loosely translated as **Buganda is my past, my present, my future**).

The objectives of the conference was to “bring together Baganda from across the globe, joined by relatives and friends, to review the state of our motherland, get to know each other, discuss Buganda's future, and celebrate our culture and achievements.”

B.1 Ttabamiruka '07 Theme

The theme of Ttabamiruka'07 was Buganda nnyaffe eyedda, leero, n'enkyia (loosely translated as Buganda is my past, my present, my future).

B.2 Conference Objective

The objective of the conference was to “*bring together Baganda from across the globe, joined by relatives and friends, to review the state of our motherland, get to know each other, discuss Buganda's future, and celebrate our culture and achievements.*”

B.3 Acknowledgements

Above all others, the Organizing Committee extends its most heartfelt thanks to His Majesty, Ssabasajja Kabaka Muwenda Mutebi II for supporting and promoting Ttabamiruka '07. The

Organizing Committee acknowledges the following for their contribution towards the success of Ttabamiruka '07.

1. Delegates from Buganda (our visitors)
 - Katikkiro Emmanuel Ssendaula
 - Buganda Government delegation
 - Nalinnya Sauda Nabanakulya
 - Abalangira n'Abambejja
 - Omutaka Nakirembeka Alan Waliggo, Chairman of Abataka, Abakulu b'Ebika bya Buganda
 - Members of Buganda Lukiiko
 - Abaami b'Amasaza ga Buganda
 - Abazaana n'Abasajja ba Kabaka
2. Abaganda n'Abajjwa from North America, Europe, and elsewhere outside Buganda (the hosts)
3. Friends of Buganda

C. Conference Proceedings and Outcomes

C.1 Opening of Art Exhibition

The Ttabamiruka '07 art exhibition was a world-class show, staged by three of Buganda's best and most internationally celebrated artists: Dan Sekanwagi, David Kibuuka and John Mubiru. The exhibition was open to the public and it wowed score of art enthusiasts, led by Ssabasajja Kabaka .

Ssabasajja Kabaka officially opened the exhibition on Saturday.

C.2 Welcoming Ceremony and Clan Meetings

The initial welcoming ceremony was cancelled because most of the delegates were still either checking in or trying to find their long lost relatives or friends.

C.3 Introductions and Recognition of Dignitaries

The thunderous applause that Ssabasajja Kabaka received on entry into the main conference hall set the tone for this segment of the program. The introduction and recognition of dignitaries and attendees went smoothly. The speeches by the Chairperson of Ttabamiruka '07, Chairperson of Ggwangamujje and Kabaka's Representative in the North Eastern USA, respectively, were very well received.

Based on feedback received, the delegates were happy that the speeches delivered a direct and clear message on the issues of Buganda land and governance.

C.4 Katikkiro's Speech

Katikkiro Ssendaula's speech chronicled the programs and activities that have been planned and executed by Buganda Government over the last 5 years. He also highlighted the challenges that Buganda faces including the continued occupation of Buganda's land and other assets by the Uganda central government.

C.5 Kabaka's Speech

Kabaka Mutebi gave a strong speech which was very well received. It echoed some of his previous speeches on Federo and Buganda's land, clarifying that he is committed to lead his subjects towards getting what is ours. He counseled Baganda to seek alliances with other nationalities in Uganda in our fight for the form governance we cherish.

An audio recording of Kabaka Mutebi's speech is available at:

<http://www.ttabamiruka07.com>.

C.6 Slide Show - Buganda and Its History

In this presentation by Dr. Sam Kigongo Mwesezi traced the challenges, setbacks and successes Buganda has experienced since shortly before colonization in the 1880's. He then offered what he called his personal views on "the Miracle of Buganda" – the reason why Buganda remains alive despite seemingly insurmountable challenges. He exhorted Baganda realize that Buganda's current problems present tremendous opportunities which, if fully exploited, can bring a bright future for our nation.

C.7 Buganda Governance

Seven papers were submitted for this session. Four papers were presented due to time limitations and priority was placed on:

1. Papers that were submitted very early in the process;
2. Presentation from a Buganda Government official; and
3. Variety of topics.

Haji. Hussein Kyanjo opened with his superb rendition "Abasajja batubye!", which set the tone for other excellent presentations on Federo and Human Rights by Apollo Makubuya, James Ssemakula, Aloziyo Lugira. The audience also jumped in with spirited contributions. The spirit of this session far outweighed the content of the individual contributions. Most delegates felt that this session ended prematurely.

The presentations and discussions in this session were very well received, as demonstrated by the many standing ovations that both the presenter and members of the audience received. The high attendance was described by one Patrick Kitenda of Ohio as "knee-cap to knee-cap". The feedback has also been very positive on the performance of the moderator, who skillfully guided this emotionally charged session.

C.8 Kabaka Meets Children

Ssabasajja received the children and the Youth with great enthusiasm. He met with the pre-teens in the morning and the young adults in the afternoon.

The pre-teens performed several songs in Luganda for Ssabasajja. The songs included "Nabubbi Yazimba" where they loudly proclaimed that "Tuzze okulamusa, Ssabasajja Kabaka." Ssabasajja especially enjoyed that part.

C.9 Land, Lubiri and Modernization of Mengo Operations

Several draft papers were initially submitted on Land, Lubiri and modernization of Buganda Government operations. However, information became available that in early 2007 the Buganda Government had publicly announced that the Lubiri Redevelopment Committee would widely consult with Baganda before moving forward with the redevelopment of the palace. Consequently, the Organizing Committee assumed that the Buganda Government delegation would address the issue at Ttabamiruka 07.

Buganda Government delegation did not make a presentation on Lubiri redevelopment during Ttabamiruka '07. However the papers that were submitted are available on the conference website at www.ttabamiruka.com.

C.10 Mengo Project Proposals

Owek. Kabuuzza Mukasa, Owek. Florence Kasule and Owek. Dr. Masaazi Masagazi made presentations on the following subjects:

1. Buganda Kingdom - Economic Development and Potentials for Development; and
2. Buganda Development Agency (BDA).

A Buganda Land Board paper was also submitted for inclusion in the proceedings. The papers, except for the BDA presentation, are available on the conference website at www.ttabamiruka.com.

Overall, the presentations were well received. Several delegates appeared to be learning for the first time about BDA and how it works. Questions asked during this session were ably answered.

C.11 Interfaith Prayers for Buganda

The interfaith prayers on Sunday morning were graced by Ssabaaajja, Kabaka Mutebi, among others. The presiding religious leaders included:

- The Reverend Canon Benjamin Musoke Lubega;
- Father John Mukasa-Ssebaana;
- Mr. Sulaiman Bunkeddeko; and
- The Reverend. Kaasa Nakabaale.

The primary messages from the men of God were as follows:

- 1 The message from the Koran is that God made people and deliberately decided to assign them to different languages, cultures, nations and tribes. We must not question God's decision but honor Him by showing pride in the Buganda he gave us and working hard to make it better.

- 2 We are, first and foremost, born Baganda before we identify with our religious faiths or citizenships. Therefore, we must pray to God to help Buganda and all Baganda to overcome their challenges regardless of faith.
- 3 We must understand that, what is happening to Buganda today has happened to other nations as described by the Reverend Nakabaale who read and discussed the book of Lamentation, Chapter 5, in the Bible.
- 4 In order to overcome our many challenges, we must return to the cultural values that God gave to us as Baganda. To be strong, young Baganda must be taught to respect themselves, their parents, elders and leadership.

C.12 Buganda Trust, Asenguka and Omukolo gw'Ebitabo

This session launched three new initiatives that were designed to be the long-term deliverables of Ttabamiruka '07.

C.12.1 Buganda Trust

Buganda Trust, Inc. was launched to create permanent and growing term financial base that will support the Buganda nation all over the world for centuries to come. The USA based Trust will be independent of the perennial political and economic upheavals in Uganda. Under the guidance of Baganda men and women, the Trust will generate funds from all over the world and extend grants to initiatives that advance the national interests of Buganda. The presentation on Buganda Trust by Dr. Charles Mukasa was well received. Indeed, by the end of the conference commitments totaling more than \$ 10,000 had been made in support of Buganda Trust. The Trust's governing structure is expected to be completed in early 2008.

Update

The Trust's governing structure, including Board of Directors and Officers is on track to be completed in early 2008. The Trust's website is under construction and is expected to be operational in early 2008. Since Ttabamiruka 07, funds and long-term financial commitments in support of the Trust continue to be received.

C.12.2 Asenguka

The objective of Asenguka is to assist Baganda who wish to take advantage of United States Green Card visas that are offered through an annual lottery program. This program received unanimous support from all attendees, after the excellent presentation by Rev. Benjamin Musoke-Lubega. Moreover, weeks after the conference, positive feedback continues and offers of information and other resources continue to come in.

Update

During the October 2007 US Visa Lottery program Nkoba za Mbogo, with assistance from the Ttabamiruka '07 organizing committee and BDA officials, registered 400 Baganda. Special recognition goes to Bazukulu ba Kintu of Seattle, Washington, USA, who provided most of the necessary resources.

C.12.3 Omukolo gwe'Ebitabo

Omukolo gwe'Ebitabo (Ceremony of Books) is a long-term institutional framework for Baganda in the Diaspora, and our friends, to contribute towards the establishment and maintenance of

world-class library services at Mutesa I Royal University, Masaka. The audience was enthused by the presentation from Mr. James Ssemakula and Mr. Thomas Lwebuga and pledged to support the programs over the years.

Update

Since Ttabamiruka 07, Mr. Thomas Lwebuga of Portland, Oregon, worked with friends Dr. Joyce and Dr. Ray Lockard of Beaverton Rotary Club, and in cooperation with Gaba Rotary Club, to ship 90,000 pounds of University and lower level text books to Muteesa I Royal University. Together with the books are about 1,000 feet of library shelving that was donated by Pacific University.

C.12.4 Summary

Overall feedback to this session has been very positive, with many offers of support for all the programs, once they take off. The major complaint by delegates about this session was that it was not allocated adequate time.

C.13 Kabaka Meets Youth

Ssabasajja was visibly happy to meet with Baganda youth. The group included young Baganda aged 15 – 30 years. During the meeting, Ssabasajja switched between Luganda and English as need arose.

Initially, the young Baganda appeared awed to be in the presence of the Kabaka. However, Kabaka Mutebi put them at ease when he indicated that he wanted to learn about their day-to-day lives and to answer any questions they might have about the kingdom. They introduced themselves individually and asked questions about how they can contribute to furtherance of Buganda Culture. Kabaka also asked questions or made comments on issues such dating, marriage and use of speaking Luganda.

At the end, the Baganda youth assured the Ssabasajja that they are behind him all the way and were willing to confirm this support with cash contributions to Buganda programs.

C.14 Tapping Buganda's Silent Populations

A total of four papers were submitted, one on Baganda Youth in the Diaspora and two on Women in Buganda. However, the authors of the papers on Women were not available to present them and therefore, a decision was made to cancel this session.

The papers are available on the conference website www.ttabamiruka.com.

C.15 Writing Conference Resolutions

The original purpose this session was to give all conference delegates an opportunity to discuss and pass formal resolutions on the major objective and deliverables of Ttabamiruka '07. These were:

1. Whether the delegates supported the establishment of Buganda Trust, Inc.;
2. Whether the delegates supported the Asenguka program;
3. Whether the delegates supported the Omukolo gw'Ebitabo initiative; and

4. Whether Ttabamiruka '07 had enabled Baganda and their friends to get together to review the state of their motherland, get to know each other, discuss their future and celebrate their culture and achievements.

The overwhelming enthusiasm exhibited by the delegates for Ttabamiruka 07's main deliverables during their initial presentations constituted an evident vote of support for Buganda Trust, Asenguka and Omukolo gw'Ebitabo.

His Majesty, Ssabasajja Kabaka Muwenda Mutebi II graced Ttabamiruka '07, accompanied by his Katikkiro, Omutaka Nakirembeka, Naalinnya Sauda Nabanakulya, Members of Lukiiko, Ow'essaza Kaggo and several Buganda Government officials. Over 350 Baganda from around the world attended Ttabamiruka '07 and, in addition to networking and attending various conference sessions, met Kabaka and got entertained by Afrigo and other cultural groups. Baganda and their friends got together and reviewed the state of their motherland, got to know each other, discussed their future and celebrated their culture and achievements.

C.16 Rejuvenation of Buganda Clans

This session was one of the best attended and received excellent reviews for giving the attendees the opportunity hear the Chairman of Baganda clan leaders, Omutaka Nakirembeka Allan Waliggo, present a world class paper on the value of culture. The attendees were equally captivated by the presentations by Professor Edward Bewayo, on the meaning of Baganda names and Mr. William Mpalanyi on the power of the Luganda language.

During this session, some delegates expressed strong interest in sponsoring their clan leaders to attend future Ttabamiruka conferences. Members of the Mpeewo clan specifically informed the organizers that they intended to launch a campaign to achieve this goal.

C.17 Baganda Achievement Awards

The Baganda Achievement Awards were designed to celebrate specific actions or efforts by Baganda men and women who have demonstrably benefited the nation of Buganda. This year, all those recognized, were given the awards posthumously.

Ttabamiruka '07 Baganda Achievement Awards were given to the following:

- **Abubaker Kakyaama Mayanja**
For his fight against the Regional Tier form of Government for Buganda
- **Dr. Joseph Zirabamuzaale Kazigo**
For his role a founder and promoter of Ggwangamujje NY/NJ
- **Dr. Michael Nsimbi**
For founding Ekibiina ky'Olulimi Oluganda (Luganda Language Society)
- **Polycarp Kakooza**
For composing "Kitiibwa Kya Buganda" (Buganda national anthem)
- **Rebecca N. Muliira**
For organizing and leading Baganda women to campaign for the return of Ssekabaka Muteesa II from exile.

C.18 Programmed Meetings with Kabaka

The following groups had special meetings with Kabaka:

- Ggwangamujje NY/NJ members
- Ttabamiruka '07 Organizing Committee
- Kabaka's representatives in North America
- Baganda women

C.19 Fashion Show

The flow of the fashion show was aligned with the Ttabamiruka '07 theme, "Buganda is my past, my present, my future" and displayed the evolution of popular fashions in Buganda. The show started with garments made out of lubugo (bark cloth), followed by busuuti, kanzu, gomesi, (boodingi), kitengi, and modern dresses and suits. Some models were as young as 5 years and other were senior citizens. The fashion show was produced by Crested Crane, a local ladies club, under the leadership of Mrs. Christine Yawe.

C.20 Music and Entertainment

By all accounts, the combination of Ssabasajja Kabaka and Afrigo Band under the same roof left many die-hard Baganda intoxicated with emotions. On Saturday night, when Afrigo's special rendition of "Kitibwa kya Buganda" started blaring out of the huge speakers, one could see many men and women swinging hands like rock concert goers. There was no shortage of teary eyes and requests of "tukeese" ("Let us go on until daylight").

In general, there was a wide variety of first-class entertainment "by Baganda for Baganda". In addition to Afrigo the delegates were treated to hits from Stella Nanteza and Milly Namukasa. Omulangira Ssuuna from Washington, left many in awe with his "one man band" that pumped out what one delegate called "Kiganda funk". D.J. Monday provided the background music throughout the 3 day conference and, as usual, did a fantastic job.

As one would expect at a major Baganda event, Nankasa and Bakisiimba dances were abundant. A special show of the amazing Amaggunju dance was also performed. The dances were performed by the Buganda Cultural Heritage Ensemble, led by Saulo Kasule and Lutalo Sekanyo.

A superb comedy play entitled, "Nze Tebinkwatako" humorously aroused many delegates to the dangers of thinking that if it only hurts other Baganda, then it shouldn't bother me. This rib-cracking play was staged by a group of 5 young Baganda actresses: Frieda Sebalu, Judith Namakula, Ruth Kayizzi, Esther Kibalama and Judith Kobusinge.

C.21 Meals and Royal Dinner

All meals on the program were successfully served and according to feedback from the delegates the variety and quality of food was excellent. Delegates especially enjoyed the Royal Dinner on Sunday, which included matooke, binyeebwa and vegetables prepared in Kiganda style. Credit goes to the Baganda ladies of New York/New Jersey who worked tirelessly on these delicious meals, under the leadership of Mrs. Delores Bewayo.

C.22 Program Book

The 20-page Ttabamiruka '07 program book, designed by Mr. Michael Muganga, received highly favorable reviews for its excellent art work and efficient use of space.

C.23 Transportation

Transportation was a major consideration in choosing the venue for Ttabamiruka '07. The Hyatt New Brunswick is centrally located, close to a train station, major highways, fine shops and restaurants. Overall, the transportation function, including Newark Liberty International Airport pick-ups and drop-offs, was quite successful. Some delegates who flew into the Newark airport were able to conveniently come straight to New Brunswick by low cost train transport. Similarly, many delegates who wanted to see New York were able to take the train to the Big Apple on Sunday.

C.24 Security and Reported Incidents

There were no significant security incidents and were no reports of loss of valuables or damage to property.

C.25 Extension of Ttabamiruka '07 by Nkoba za Mbogo

Members of the Baganda Nkoba za Mbogo student's organization convened a 3 day extension of Ttabamiruka '07 at Bukalango, Busiro County. The highly successful Ttabamiruka '07 extension was attended by 50 youths and Buganda Government officials, including two ministers. It started on August 26, 2007 and ended on September 2, 2007.

D. Conference Resources

D.1 Hotel Rooms

Feedback received by the organizing committee on hotel rooms has been highly positive. Ssabasajja Kabaka and many delegates specifically informed the organizing committee that the Hyatt New Brunswick accommodation was excellent.

D.2 Conference Halls

The conference rooms were generally adequate for Ttabamiruka '07 activities. There were enough rooms for all plenary sessions and special meetings. All were properly equipped with the required facilities. The hotel staff was responsive to our special needs, for example, platforms and sitting arrangements that were appropriate of His Majesty, Ssabasajja Kabaka of Buganda.

The Royal Dinner on Sunday could have benefited from additional space and a more open arrangement.

D.3 Summary of Financial Highlights

<u>Income</u>	
Registration Fees	\$50,247
Other Income	11,951
Total Income	62,198
<u>Expenses</u>	
Hotel Expenses	35,208
Other Expenses	26,830
Total Expenses	62,038
Net Income (Loss)	\$160

E. Summary and Conclusions

Ttabamiruka '07 was the third major Baganda conference of its kind in North American. Based on the response that has been received, especially that from His Majesty, Ssabasajja Kabaka, Muwenda Mutebi II, the conference was rated resounding success. It far exceeded all expectations and set a new standard for future major Baganda meetings.

Despite the generous feedback from Ssabasajja Kabaka and delegates, the organizers of Ttabamiruka have identified opportunities for improvements, to ensure even better future Ttabamiruka conferences. These include:

1. Fewer items on the program, to allow more discussion time.
5. More visible participation of Kabaka's representatives.
6. Better and early education of delegates on Kabaka's protocol
7. Securing adequate conference sponsorship early.

Ttabamiruka '07 specifically met its major objective "Abaganda and their friends getting together to review the state of their motherland, getting to know each other, discuss their future, and celebrate their culture and achievements."

F. Thanks

Sincere thanks to all Baganda, Bajjwa and our friends who made it possible for, possibly the most successful international Baganda conference in history to take place.

Above all thanks to Ssabasajja Kabaka Muwenda Mutebi, Cuucu, Namunswa, Magulunnyondo for gracing Ttabamiruka '07 with his presence, guidance and the royal dinner on Sunday. Awangaale Ssabasajja!

Thank you Nalinnya Sauda Nabanakulya and all the princes and princesses who brought so much honor and dignity to Ttabamiruka '07.

Thanks to Katikkiro Ssendaula and the Buganda Government delegation for their contributions to the proceedings of the conference, for ensuring a safe and comfortable trip for Kabaka Mutebi and for their technical and logistical support.

Special thanks to Omutaka Nakirembeka Allan Waliggo, Chairman of Abataka, Abakulu b'Ebika bya Buganda, whose presence reassured Baganda that the clan structures that made it possible for our Kingdom to regenerate itself in the 1980s are still intact.

Thank you the honorable Members of Buganda Great Lukiiko and Buganda Ssaza chiefs whose presence completed the wonderful image of a Buganda whose fundamental institutions are back in business.

All Baganda institutions, from our Kabaka down to chiefs exist through the support of ordinary Baganda. So, thank you so much fellow Baganda, Bajjwa and our friends who came to Ttabamiruka as delegates.

Thanks to those of you who made presentations, entertained, cooked, drove, asked questions, made suggestions, cheered or even simply laughed during the various sessions or situations.

Special thanks to the fellow Baganda who fed us with the word of God and gave us hope during the special interfaith Prayers for Buganda.

Thanks to those of you who made special, "beyond call of duty", contributions. The men and women of New York who provided seed money for Ttabamiruka '07; those of you who generously made substantial "starter" donations to Buganda Trust Inc.; the Portland, Oregon heroes who jumpstarted Omukolo gw'Ebitabo; and those of you in Seattle, Washington, who donated computers and laptops and in Boston, Mass, who sent in a 3-in-1 Fax/Copier/Printer.

And to everyone who came to Ttabamiruka '07 in New Brunswick, New Jersey, thank you for being so relaxed, looking so beautiful and having such a fine time.

Special thanks go to Nkoba za Mbogo for working so hard and organizing such a successful extension of Ttabamiruka '07 in Bukalango, Busiro. You proved that Buganda's best days are yet to come. Thank you so much.

Greetings and thanks go to every Muganda and friend who could not come but supported Ttabamiruka '07, in spirit or prayer wherever you were in the world.

Last, but not least, special thanks to Ggwangamujje NY/NJ, Inc. who were the official sponsors of Ttabamiruka '07.

Awangaale Ssabasajja!