

HIS MAJESTY RUKIRABASAIJA AGUTAMBA SOLOMON GAFABUSA IGURU I.

Hangiriza Agutamba!!! Hangiriza Omwebingwa!!! Egunda gunde Karuziika nk'obujogera bwa Kogeere!!!

HANGIRIZA HM RA

MWEBINGWA, MWIJUKURU WA KABALEGA, AGUTAMBA, MUKUZANFUUZI, NKYANUNGI, MUSENDAMINARO, EKITULE KINOBERE ABEEMI, SINGA WAMALA, ENTALE YABUNYORO, EMANZI YA BUNYORO, EMANZI YA KABALEGA

by The Grace of God, Omukama of The Kingdom of Bunyoro-Kitara, Ruler of Hoima, Masindi, Kibaale, Buliisa, Kiryandongo, Kagadi and Kakumiro, The One who everyone Seeks, The Grandson of Kabalega, The Healer, The Good Luck, The One who sends away Poverty, The Hater of Rebellion, The Lion of Bunyoro, The Hero of Bunyoro, The Hero of Kabalega, The Defender and Protector of Banyoro Culture, The Defender and Protector of Banyoro Heritage, The Defender and Protector of Banyoro Oral Tradition, The Defender of Traditional African Religions, The Defender of the Religions

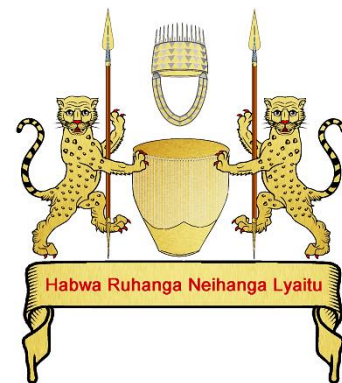
– 49th Omukama of The Kingdom of Bunyoro-Kitara, 27th Omukama in The Babiito Dynasty-

The Sovereign Head and Grand Master of The Royal Order of Omujuwara Kondo, The Royal Order of Engabu, The Most Exalted Royal Family Order of Bunyoro and The Order of The Royal House of Babiito; The Sovereign Head, Grand Master and Protector of The Most Honourable Order of Omukama Chwa II Kabalega, etc. etc. etc.-

Birthday: 18th June 1948 | Crowned: 11th June 1994 | Reign: 11th June 1994 – until today

1. HISTORY

The Kingdom Bunyoro Kitara was a very extensive, prestigious and famous at the height of its power. Socially, people were organised in strong clans with the royal clan of the Kings, princes and princesses. The King held executive, judiciary and legislative powers. His word was highly respected and almost equated to the word from God. The King's subjects ensured that their King lacked nothing economically. Clans would bring food stuffs (Ebihotole) in turn and each clan had a specific duty to perform for the King. For example, Abaliisa clan were the shepherds of the Kings cattle (Enkorogi), the Abahamba clan were the hunters and body guards (Abakumirizi) for the King, the Abasiita clan being the artisans and craftsmen and the Bayaga clan were the chief entertainers of the King. Politically, the King had absolute authority over his subjects. He appointed the county chiefs (Abamasaza) to administer each county. Below them were sub county chiefs (Abagomborizi) who were sub-county administrators. These received reports from parish chiefs (Abemiruka) and Sub-parish chiefs (Abatongole). At the very grass root were the village chiefs (Bakuru b'emigongo). With this hierarchical arrangement the king's messages used to reach at the grass root very fast. Later on the office of the Prime Minister (Omuhikirwa/Katiikiro) was established to head the civil service of the entire Kingdom. All county chiefs report to him and he in turn reports to the King. Economically, the Kingdom of Bunyoro was the supplier of food stuffs to other neighbouring kingdoms. The fertile soils of the kingdom enabled people to grow plenty of food for home consumption and the surplus was sold to the neighbouring communities. People's economy thus was greatly hinged on Agriculture carried on using traditionally made hoes. Barter trade was also common. The people along Lake Mwitanzige (Albert) known as the Bagungu were fishermen. Some communities were hunters using nets, knives and spears as their locally made tools for killing small animals while the big ones were killed using well dug deep pits (Obuhya). People thus exchanged fish or dried meat (Omukaro) with food stuffs. The coming of the Bachwezi introduced the culture of cattle keeping on a larger scale with their long-horned cattle which yielded more milk. Salt processing in Kibiro is still going on up to today. The Abanyakibiro got their living through the exchange of this salt and fish. The Banyoro also produced a number of wooden items, hides and skins items, palm and sisal items, iron and stone items, pottery and mud items, and many others on economic basis. These were either sold or exchanged for other items that they needed.



2. ORIGINS OF BUNYORO-KITARA THE OMUKAMA'S (KINGS)

The Empire of Kitara (also known as Bachwezi, Bacwezi, or Chwezi Empire) is a strong part of oral tradition in the area of the Great Lakes of Africa, including the modern countries of Uganda, northern Tanzania, eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. In the oral tradition, Kitara was a kingdom which, at the height of its power in the fourteenth and fifteenth ...centuries, included much of Uganda, northern Tanzania and eastern Congo (DRC), ruled by a dynasty known as the Bachwezi (or Chwezi) who were the successors of the Batembuzi Dynasty. According to the story, the Kitara Empire lasted until the 16th century, when it was invaded by Luo people, who came from the South of the present day Sudan and established the kingdom of Bunyoro-Kitara. Evidence suggests that the clans of Buganda, for instance, have their own history (based on oral tradition) that is exclusive of the history of the Kingdom of Buganda.

I. The Batembuzi Dynasty

The first kings were of the Batembuzi dynasty. Batembuzi means harbingers or pioneers. The Batembuzi and their reign are not well documented, and are surrounded by a lot of myth and oral legend. There is very little concurrence, among scholars, regarding the Batembuzi time period in history, even the names and successive order of individual kings. It is believed that their reign dates back to the height of Africa's Bronze Age. The number of individual Batembuzi reigns, as given by different scholars, ranges from nine to twenty one.

II. The Bachwezi Dynasty

The Bachwezi are credited with the founding of the ancient empire of Kitara; which included areas of present day central, western, and southern Uganda; northern Tanzania, western Kenya, and eastern Congo. Very little is documented about them. Their entire reign was shrouded in mystery, so much so that they were accorded the status of demi gods and worshipped by various clans. Many traditional gods in Toro, Bunyoro and Buganda have typical kichwezi (adjective) names like Ndahura, Mulindwa, Wamara, Kagoro, etc.. The bachwezi dynasty must have been very short, as supported by only three names of kings documented by historian. The Bachwezi kings were Ndahura, Mulindwa and Wamara; in this order. In addition to founding the empire of Kitara, the Bachwezi are further credited with the introduction of the unique, long horned Ankole cattle, coffee growing, iron smelting, and the first semblance of organized and centralized government, under the king. No one knows what happened to the Bachwezi. About their disappearance, there is no shortage of colourful legend. One legend claims that they migrated westward and disappeared into Lake Mwitanzige (Albert). Another legend has them disappearing into lake Wamala, which bears the name of the last king of the dynasty. There is a popular belief among scholars that they simply got assimilated into the indigenous populace, and are, today, the tribal groups like the bahima of Ankole and the batutsi of Rwanda. The bahima and batutsi have the elegant, tall build and light complexion of the Bachwezi, and are traditionally herders of the long horned Ankole cattle.

III. The Babiito Dynasty

The Bachwezi dynasty was followed by the Babiito dynasty of the current Omukama of Bunyoro-Kitara. Any attempt to pinpoint the dates of this, or any other dynasty before it, is pure conjecture; as there were no written records at the time. Modern day historians place the beginning of the Babiito dynasty at around the time of the invasion of Bunyoro by the Luo from the North. The first mubiito (singular) king was Isingoma Mpuga Rukidi I, whose reign is placed around the 14th century. To date, there have been a total of 27 Babiito kings of Bunyoro-Kitara.

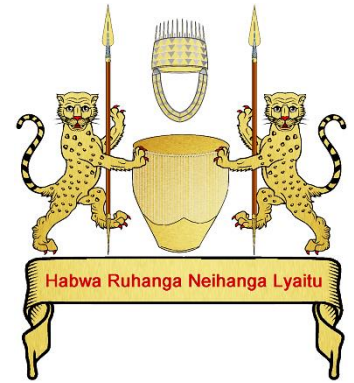
Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom is a subnational monarchy (traditional)

His Majesty The Omukama Rukirabasajja Agutamba Solomon Gafabusa Iguru 1st. is a reigning constituent monarch, traditional ruler, He reigns over a legally recognised dominion, but with no sovereign governing / political power. However all his titles, are recognised by the Republic of Uganda. Furthermore His Majesty The Omukama Rukirabasajja Agutamba Solomon Gafabusa Iguru 1st. is the Chairperson of The "Forum for Kings and Cultural Leaders in Uganda" (under Rule 113 (3) of the Rules of Procedure of the Parliament of Uganda).

In Uganda, the ancient kingdoms and chiefdoms that were found by the colonialists when they first arrived on the African continent are now constitutionally protected as regional entities.

Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom is the "Grandfather" (ancestry, origin) of all Kingdoms of Uganda!. All other kingdoms and royal families in these Kingdoms in Uganda & Kingdoms of the African Great Lakes region are descended from Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom from the current Royal Family of Bunyoro-Kitara, the Babiito. The kingdoms and Royal Families of the African Great Lakes region include that of Burundi, Eastern Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, northern Tanzania present day Karagwe and Uganda.

At its height, Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom controlled the Great Lakes Region of Africa with many small states in the Great Lakes region the earliest stories of the kingdom having great power comes from the Luo migration.. Most of the Royal descendants from Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom who governed this great empire moved south to the Present day Rwanda. Later on new Kingdoms emerged in the Great Lakes Region such as Ankole, Buganda, Toro, Busoga, Bagisu of present day Uganda Bunyoro-Kitara rose to power and controlled a number of



the holiest shrines in the region, as well as the lucrative Kibiro salt works of Lake Albert; having the highest quality of metallurgy in the region made it the strongest military and economic power in the Great Lakes region then.

Restoration of Traditional Rulers / Cultural Leaders.

„All kingdoms in Uganda were abolished in 1967, and a republic declared by the then Prime Minister Dr. Apolo Milton Obote. He abrogated the 1962 constitution, replaced it with a pigeon whole constitution of 1967 and a republic declared.

His Majesty the Kabaka of Buganda (Edward Frederick William David Walugembe Mutebi Luwangula Muteesa II) was by then the president. The kingdoms were later restored by the 1993 statute and later confirmed by the 1995 constitution. The deposed kings did not agree with the abolition, they opposed it, and now therefore the kings opposed there abolition and the royal prerogatives prevail.“

His Majesty The Omukama (King) Rukirabasajja Agutamba Solomon Gafabusa Iguru 1st . was officially restored on the 24th day of July, 1993, **all kingdoms were restored by Statute No. 8, and also by the Amendment Act [No. 8] - Article 118 (1)- of 1993 enacted by the Parliament of Uganda AND officially recognized and protected by the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda by Chapter IV. –Article 37.-, Chapter XVI. -Article 246. (1) – (6)- of 1995 AND by the Amendment [No. 2] Act -schedule V. -Article 178.8- of 2005 AND by the Acts Supplement [No. 4] -Act 6. of 2011.**

Therefore the Republic of Uganda constitutionally restored the traditional kingdoms that thrived in ancient times but had been abolished by the then dictatorship in 1967. Unlike the sovereign rights the ancient kings held then, the now restored kingdoms have no political power per see, and in addition, His Majesty The Omukama (King) Rukirabasajja Agutamba Solomon Gafabusa Iguru 1st of Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom, was specifically recognized as the rightful heir to the throne and King of Bunyoro-Kitara by the Supreme Court of Uganda under; (Civil Appeal 18/94 and All Members of the Committee of Coronation of Prince Solomon Iguru 1st, of April 25, 1994). Similar to other reigning monarchs in Uganda, all traditional kings currently serve as "cultural figures" or "traditional leaders" and are barred from engaging in active partisan politics.

His Majesty The Omukama is the 49th Omukama (king) of the Kingdom of Bunyoro-Kitara and 27th Omukama (king) in The current Babiito Dynasty. Furthermore His Majesty The Omukama and his dominion are restored, recognized and guaranteed at the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda.

Furthermore His Majesty The Omukama is the Chairman of the “Forum of The Kings and Cultural Leaders in Uganda”, he is the Head of the Babiito Dynasty (Main line of all dynasties in the region) **AND His Majesty The Omukama has the privilege to crown all the kings in Uganda.**

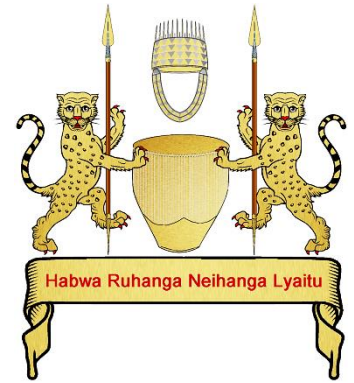
As such, it is an outstanding position within the culture in the Republic of Uganda as a Subnational monarchy. Referred as such, it is described as a Reigning Monarchy. His Majesty The Omukama has a Prime Minister (Katikiro), 21 Ministers, a Royal Government, a Royal Parliament and a Supreme Council.

The Grandfather of the current Omukama (king), His Majesty The Omukama Kabalega Chwa II., is the only one “National Hero” of the Republic of Uganda and “Hero of Bunyoro”.

Because his ancestors never renounced their rights, never abdicated the kingdom, never ceded sovereignty, suffered exile rather than capitulate and concede anything, they maintained their original royal status and sovereign rights. This is very significant as His Majesty The Omukama (King) Rukirabasajja Agutamba Solomon Gafabusa Iguru I. is not simply a constitutional king. He is also the heir to a dynasty that has kept all its ancient rights intact.

According to the census of 2016:

- Total population: Between 1,800,000 and 2,100,000 people;
- Households: 300,000 - 410,000;
- Area: 18.578 km² (7,173 sq mi);
- Districts: Hoima, Masindi, Kibaale, Bullisa, Kiryandongo, Kagadi and Kakumiro;
- 96% of the population live in rural areas;



- 1% of the population uses electricity for lighting and cooking;
- The literacy rate is 46% for men and 55% for women;
- more than 92% of the population are poor, and earn less than half of the Ugandan national average per person (638 US\$; 2016) = **319 US\$ yearly income per person**;

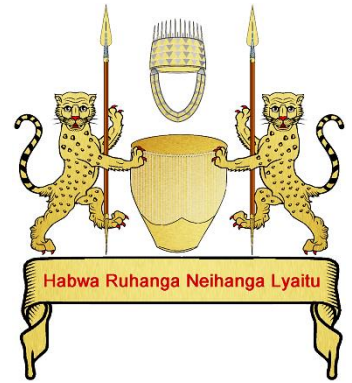
Size ratio:

Kingdom of eSwatini: 17.364 km² (6,704 sq mi) | State of Kuwait: 17.818 km² (6,880 sq mi) | Republic of Fiji: 18.274 km² (7,056 sq mi) | **Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom: 18.578 km² (7,173 sq mi)** | Republic of Slovenia: 20.273 km² (7,827 sq mi) | State of Israel 20.770 km² (8,019 sq mi)

BUNYORO-KITARA KINGDOM

proud of a resplendent history and traditions dating from time immemorial, upholding the cultural and oral tradition, Kingdom abolished in the year 1967 by dictatorship, restored by the Amendment [No. 8] Act - Statute No. 8, Article 118 (1)- of 1993 enacted by the Parliament of Uganda **AND officially recognized and protected by the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda** by Chapter IV. –Article 37.-, Chapter XVI. -Article 246. (1) – (6)- of 1995 **AND** by the Amendment [No. 2] Act -schedule V. -Article 178.8- of 2005 **AND** by the Acts Supplement [No. 4] -Act 6. of 2011,

- having assumed the mission of international bilateral cooperation and peaceful development of our powerful kingdom and having determined to consolidate national unity with Justice, humanitarianism and brotherly love,
- and to destroy all social vices and injustice,
- and to afford equal opportunities to every person and provide for the fullest development of individual capabilities in all fields, including economic, social and cultural life by further strengthening the basic free and humanity order conducive to private initiative and public harmony,
- and to help each person discharge those duties and responsibilities concomitant to freedoms and rights, and to elevate the quality of life for all Banyoro and contribute to lasting world peace and the common prosperity of mankind and thereby to ensure security, liberty and happiness for ourselves and our posterity forever.



ROYAL FAMILY OF BUNYORO - KITARA KINGDOM -Subnational Monarchy-

Republic of Uganda



**His Majesty The Omukama
Rukirabasajja Agutamba Solomon
Gafabusa Iguru I.**

**Her Majesty The Omugo
Margaret Adyeri Karunga**

**Her Royal Highness
Princess Masamba
Nkwanzi**

**His Royal Highness
Crown Prince David
Mpuga**



www.bunyoro-kitara.org

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