

# **A presentation about Omukama's (King) / BKK will to transform the Kingdom during the era of Oil and Gas development**

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## **1. ABOUT BUNYORO-KITARA KINGDOM**

Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom is the mid-western region of Uganda. It comprises 8 districts and 1 City: Kikuube, Hoima, Kibaale, Kagadi, Kakumiro, Bulisa, Masindi and Kiryandongo. It borders with Nwoya, Oyam and Apac in the North, Mubende, Kyenjonjo, Kabarole and Bundibugyo in the South, Kyankwanzi, Nakaseke and Nakasongola in the East and Lake Albert in the West. Has a population of 2,200,000 as per 2014 census. The Kingdom covers a total area of 18,578.2sqkm, while 3,241.47sq. Km is covered by water bodies.

## **2. MANDATE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF BKK**

BKK derives its mandate and responsibilities from the age old traditions and heritage of the people AND from the Constitution of Uganda Article 246), the National Culture Policy(Section 8.8.) and the 2011 Institution of Traditional or Cultural Leaders Act, as well as from other laws .The Mandate of BKK includes to:

- Promote and preserve cultural values, norms, rituals and practices that enhance the dignity and well-being of people
- Preserve, conserve and protect our tangible and intangible cultural heritage including the sustainable management of cultural sites and other natural resources.
- To promote the well-being and enrichment of the people including the most vulnerable and minority groups.

## **3. BKK LEADERSHIP**

**OMUKAMA (King)** is the Cultural Leader of the Kingdom **with a** Royal Commission (7 members) is an advisory body to the King.

1. The Prime Minister who is the head of the administration assisted by Assistants.
2. Cabinet representing key thematic areas in BKK.
3. County.
4. Sub county.
5. Parish.
6. Sub Parish Chiefs.
7. The Speaker (Omutalindwa) heading the Orukurato.
8. The Orukurato made up of S/C representatives both male and female youth and old.

9. Clans leaders of over 163 clans with totems.

#### **4. Key issues on Bunyoro-Kitara Kingdom**

1. The Palace (Office of the King/Omukama)
2. Regalia and artifacts.
3. Clans (163) and totems
4. Cultural communities (Bacope,Baruuli,Bagungu, Basindi, Batyaba, Banyakibiro, Bakobya, Bagahya, Bagangaizi, etc).
5. Language and dialects basing on the above cultural community,
6. Orthography Runyoro-Rutooro.
7. Cultural sites and custodians under the Kingdom leadership (over 200 registered).
8. Livelihoods in terms of traditional nutritious foods.
9. Herbal medicine and indigenous knowledge.

Omukama **Solomon Gafabusa Iguru I**: Son of Abeeri clan who ascended to the throne on June 11, 1994 after Kings were restituted by Government. He celebrates his reign on June 11<sup>th</sup> annually traditionally known as **Empango (Big drum) day**.

Omukama Iguru I is the first King to reign in a Republic. He has united Banyoro and promoted peaceful co-existence of over 60 tribes and 172 clans.

Has provided leadership to the Uganda Kings and Cultural Leaders Forum and has championed the fight against HIV/AIDs, Maternal Mortality and Gender Based Violence.

#### **ROLE OF OMUKAMA AND BKK IN SOCIO- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

1. Promote cultural values and customs for the benefit of the society, including family roles and responsibilities, and on traditionally rooted family and community leadership mechanisms, family and community stability for the preservation of our cultural heritage and its value;  
Integrate aspects of responsible and safe family planning, gender and youth related issues, the fight against domestic violence, as well as children's rights and welfare,
2. Protect, preserve and observe good cultural practices and indigenous knowledge, including that associated with health and diet, traditional food security systems (e.g. through the promotion of traditional family and community gardens and granaries, sustainable harvesting and storage)
3. Promote cultural expression including art, music and sports, peace, manage conflicts and diversity across the different communities,
4. Ensure that families and communities play their role in environmental conservation, such as through traditional methods of soil and water conservation as well as social protection of the vulnerable and support government to develop and implement responsive social protection policies for them in a comprehensive manner,
5. Promote family and community roles in cultural, sacred and natural resources management, provide social protection of those in need like the elderly, youth, street

children, etc.) through clans, sensitizing communities to raise self-esteem by promoting positive aspects of BKK history,

6. Preserve artifacts and regalia for both cultural forms and artistic expressions including literature, art, dance, music, crafts, storytelling and these skills and knowledge passed on to youth.
7. Appoint people of different ethnic background, religion to cabinet, chiefs, Councilors and formally instructed his subjects to be accommodative cultural diversity.
8. Promote indigenous knowledge that promotes social and economic transformation and is deep rooted in society since this local knowledge is accumulated over time e.g. health, farming, nutrition, childbirth, building, natural resource use, and environmental management.
9. Recognize and award medals and certificate to distinguished Banyoro in respective sectors under his mandate: for promoting knowledge that fosters creativity, innovation, and the intellectual development of individuals and groups while discarding harmful practices.



*Explorer Missionary RW Felkins 1879 report on Bunyoro-Kitara Cesarean Birth at Kahara in Masindi Municipality.*

### **Omukama's / BKK will to transform the Kingdom during the era of Oil and Gas development.**

- a. In 2017 Omukama ordered for a cause socio-economic transformation.
- b. In 2017 Omukama formed 3 Task Forces on Land; Culture and Management to cause transformation.
- c. In April 2018 Symposium was organized and recommended for the transformation.
- d. In 2018 a 50 year strategic plan was made to guide the transformation.
- e. In 2018 Omukama formed a new Cabinet, Kingdom Parliament and secretariat.
- f. The Kingdom has developed structures and systems for the Kingdom.
- g. Has streamline land ownership and administration with Inventory of land register.

- h. The Kingdom has signed different Memoranda with different development partners and organisations.
- i. The Kingdom officials conduct weekly radio talk show.
- j. Oil companies organize quarterly engagements with the Kingdom and other actors.
- k. Kingdom strategically positioning itself and its people to tap from oil and gas.
- l. Empowering clans and chiefs to support the people as well as ensure justice and fairness is administered by the state and non-state actors.
- m. The Kingdom developing cultural sites to promote heritage and tourism.