

BUGISU CULTURAL INSTITUTION

P.O. BOX 14
MBALE - UGANDA



OFFICE OF THE SPOKESPERSON
TEL. 0782 231577

Date: 11th July, 2025

Hon. John B Nambeshe
Member of Parliament
Manjiya County

Salutations Hon.

RE: CULTURAL EDUCATION AND OTHER RELATED MATTERS ON BUKUKA

I convey you my personal and official fraternal greetings from Bugisu Cultural Institution which now has His Highness Jude Mike Mudoma as Umukuka III of the Bamasaaba people.

Allow me without skirting around bring, to your attention our concerns which are informed by the various petitions, we have received from Manjiya and Bududa and through our own ocular observations and not limited to radio voice notes.

As a cultural institution and particularly the office of the Spokesperson which is a public relations office meant to promote good public image of Bukuka in the community and beyond, **your current stance on the leadership of Umukuka and his team** has not been a good one. You have incessantly used **various radio stations and any available public space** in a very unfavorable way towards the current leadership of Umukuka III.

We take particular cognizance of your positive comments on Bukuka and our leadership struggles in the formative days when we were pushing for the gaette or be gazetted.

However, your current stance towards us as Bukuka is very troubling and we are unable to decode the ulterior intentions.

As cultural institution, we are hesitant to respond to you using the very channels you used, as it could be construed as de-campaigning your Parliamentary aspirations 2026, we settled on this method of writing to you so that we are able to get your side of the story or as succinctly captured by the **Latin phrase audio alteram partem (do not condemn unheard)** your conduct as alluded to above could be dictated by certain reasons, as a cultural institution, we are ready and willing to listen to you Sir.

Laws on politics – cultural institutions are restrained by the constitution of Uganda from becoming centres of politics and particularly **Article 246(3)(e)** and other forbidding provisions as captured by the CLA 2011.

Our roles as spelt under Article 246 in its wholeness and buttressed by the cultural leaders Act 2011 restrict us to **promotion and preservation of cultural values, norms which enhance the dignity and wellbeing of the people Sec. 9(a) of the CLA 2011.**

Sec. 9(b) CLA Supra further **clothes us with mandate to promote development** and enrichment of all people in the community (meaning we interact with everybody irrespective of their political persuasions.

The law as it is, enjoins us to be receptive to everyone and it was in this same culturally and statutory spirit that His Highness the Umukuka welcomed you and your principal Bob wine, when you chose to pay courtesy on him in August 2024 during Mbalu festival, it would have been quite disturbing on your part if His Highness had closed his doors unto you, and politically this could have been a very huge humiliation and you are aware this “visit” was not well planned by our team, it was quite improper in all respects and we didn’t get the necessary clearances, which is regrettable.

Accusations that we changed Bubuka.

As an elected Member of Parliament and a law marker, it is you to guide us if we and Umukuka act outside the law, you have actually every latitude to guide Bukuka on any legal direction than **haranguing us.**

It is indeed a trite fact that changes were recently effected around 2025 or there about, to bring us upto speed with customary and statutory provisions. I persuade you to read **Article 10(a)** of the constitution of Uganda and this provisions will remind you that you are not Inzu but rather a Mugisu if am allowed to lift Article 10(a) verbatim it says; “*every person born in Uganda one of whose*

*parents or grandparents is or was a member of the indigenous communities existing and residing within the borders as at first day 1926 and set out in the third schedule to this constitution (**belongs to that community or tribe my emphasis**).*

As a law scholar, I can also volunteer more information to you Section 2 of the **pre-independence** constitution of Uganda says we are Bagisu and our Coordinates on where we stay is well documented writing about 120 years back an English Historical Scholar Roscoe mentions us as Bagisu / Bamasaba and no Member of Parliament has challenged this claim by proposing for an amendment.

I have equally seen Members of Parliament from this region calling themselves in their association as **Bugisu Parliamentary Caucus**, other examples abound like **Bugisu Cooperative Union (BCU)** why not Inzu Cooperative Union or Inzu Parliamentary Caucus.

How names come

There are no rituals to be performed when naming places. In 1498 approximately 627 years ago when a Portuguese explorer visited East African Coast and saw heavy smoke in the Islands of Makau and Mwenenemutapa empire, he inquired from his minders who stayed that end, he was told that there was an Arab man called **Musa Bisque** (based on this he collectively referred to the place as Mozambique and the name has stayed upto date.

Personally am convinced that my great grandfather Nasasa Wamurye of Bukharela died minus reaching Bukalasi which is 3 kilometers from his home a man born in 1860s had no business beyond his own environ and I strongly believe your great grandfather didn't even know Bududa corner.

The Bagisu got this name because the Marakwet community admired our lash grass and christened our place as grazing area hence this name Bugisu again my great grandfather didn't know this, his concern was his community which I suspect was nameless.

The current corrigenda as effected by the Gender Minister Hon. Betty Amongi and was done within the provisions of the law Article 10(a) and in congruence with our customs and norms of the Bamasaba people who are also Bagisu. We salute the founders of Inzu but unfortunately it was not established or founded on a firm legal footing and was quickly swept off its feet by the Cultural Leaders Act 2011 and Article 246 and state cultural objectives XXIV.

I petition you on behalf of Bukuka to always ask yourself in every situation, on what does the law say on such an issue? What does this verse say or what does our culture say on this and that before throwing your opinions in public space.

In conclusion, allow me say this on behalf of Bukuka.

The dispute of Bukuka was extinguished by Article 246(2) and Section 16(1) and now Sec. 15(1) of CLA 2011 and now Court is mindful of this and so is the Chief Justice of Uganda. We carefully exhausted those conflicts on Bukuka through Alternative Justice System (AJS) or Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). We no longer have noise on Bukuka and Umukuka is serving his community and promoting government programs in the community.

We equally request you to always consult His Highness the Umukuka wherever you feel so, His Highness has severally extended several invitations to all Members of Parliament from Bugisu and the invitations are open ended.

As a cultural institution we are not clothed with power to compel anybody to pay allegiance to Bukuka, and hence those who have their own reservations on our leadership, we request them to keep their peace, since allegiance is voluntary.

Again we are mindful on decorum and other protocols that is why we are writing to you as opposed to rushing to radio stations or petitioning NUP in Kampala. You are a child in Bukuka and that is why we chose this method of reaching out to you.

We remain mindful on legal protocols in place and we shall never take and make any partisan positions in favour of any particular candidates, on this the law restrains our conduct.

Linda Lukoosi.



Steven Masiga
Spokesperson Bugisu Cultural Institution
Tel. 0782231577

c.c His Highness the Umukuka
c.c Prime Minister Bukuka
c.c Minister for Culture Bukuka