

# Ugandans to the rescue



Posted by Musa

## Deliberate sabotage of Buganda's finances



Kabaka Mutebi (L) and President Museveni

President Museveni's fear of a financially powerful Buganda monarch was responsible for the failed bid by a company in which Kabaka Ronald Mutebi II has interest to build 1,000 housing units near Kampala, it has emerged.

The Observer has learnt that the Kabaka's secret business associates had struck a deal with the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) to build the housing estate and the project had got the

blessing of President Museveni.

The President is, however, reported to have swiftly changed his mind after he was told that NSSF was dealing with a company in which the Kabaka had shares.

Knowledgeable sources have also reconstructed for us the events that led to the suspension of the Nsimbe Housing Project, disbandment of the NSSF board and expulsion of the fund's top managers in 2004.

It raises the question as to whether the Nsimbe saga was about passion for NSSF savers' money or, as the former supervising minister, Zoe Bakoko Bakoru, has said, it was about politics.

The story also throws up another question – that if the President cared so much about the workers' savings in NSSF, how come he pleaded with Parliament to let off his minister, Amama Mbabazi, who was accused of irregular involvement with the pension fund?

Amid reports that the continued closure of Buganda's CBS radio has seriously affected the kingdom's revenues, these latest revelations lend credence to the argument – by some in the Buganda establishment – that Museveni hopes to use the radio closure to keep Mengo on the leash.

According to our sources, the story starts in London with a US-based Ugandan real estate developer named Paul Tamale. Between late 2002 and early 2003, Tamale met Kabaka Mutebi in London and they discussed ways of developing the kingdom. Of the many options, they chose investing in housing, given that the Kabaka is known to have large chunks of land.

In March 2003, Tamale and his American business partners teamed up with the Kabaka – through his company known as Rexba – to form a new investment company called First Homes Limited. But the shareholding of First Homes was a

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secret, known only to the Kabaka and his closest confidants, Tamale and his partners.

In fact, the Kabaka's name or Buganda Kingdom did not feature anywhere in the company documents. Our sources indicate that this was a precautionary measure to avoid attracting undue state attention to First Homes' investments.

It was this company, First Homes, that later contacted NSSF with a proposal to set up a joint venture to build at least 1,000 houses on the Kabaka's land at Nantabuulirwa, next to the Namanve Industrial Park.

Tamale presented himself as the main man behind the company and convinced the NSSF bosses that investing in housing would not only build the fund's assets, it would also spur economic growth.

With NSSF board members won over, the remaining hurdle was President Museveni, without whose blessing NSSF could not invest large sums of money.

In November 2003, when Museveni visited the United States, NSSF bosses, including Board Chairman Onegi Obel and MD Leonard Mpuuma, arranged for Tamale and other investors to argue their case before the President at his hotel.

It is understood that the President was so impressed that he encouraged the Fund to work with First Homes. By the end of 2003, our sources say, NSSF had committed itself to invest an initial \$2 million in the joint venture with First Homes. The news is reported to have pleased the Kabaka, who was constantly briefed by Tamale.

According to the arrangement, First Homes was to present about 200 acres as its equity in the joint venture, while NSSF would provide the money. Housing units would then be built and sold to Ugandans with the profits shared between NSSF and First Homes.

## **SECRETS LEAK**

However, three things happened that upset the whole scheme. First, when First Homes tried to "lease" land from the Buganda Land Board, it found much of the Kabaka's land at Nantabuulirwa was full of squatters, while another part was being claimed by the Uganda Investment Authority.

Yet without presenting a land title and unencumbered land, First Homes would not get the money from NSSF.

While the Kabaka's men were sweating to get squatters off the land in the shortest time possible, NSSF started implementing the Nsimbe project – a partnership with James Isabirye's Mugoya Estates Limited that was expected to deliver 5,000 housing units at Nsimbe, 20kms on Kampala-Masaka Road.

Around the same time, our sources tell us, information was leaked to Museveni about the links between First Homes and the Kabaka. It is not clear how this happened; some suspect that someone in the Kabaka's inner circle could have passed this critical information to the state.

Also, Tamale's American partners appear to have been so excited about the impending deal that it's possible they forgot to be discreet.

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We found this information on [www.prexton.com](http://www.prexton.com): "In March 2003, Jaret Investments Ltd, the Ugandan entity of the Prexton Development Group, formed a partnership with Rexba (U), Ltd, the company of the King of Buganda.

Together, they founded First Homes, Ltd., a joint-venture company that will establish residential housing estates in Kampala. In September 2003, the board members of the NSSF (National Social Security Fund), a pension fund in Uganda, visited Washington, DC.

The executives of Prexton met with them to discuss about the financial partnership between NSSF and First Homes, Ltd." With such 'secrets' being freely whispered, it was not long before the truth behind First Homes was unearthed.

Museveni's intelligence machinery was so incensed that NSSF had dared to do business with the Kabaka's people. At best, it was seen as a case of sheer incompetence and insensitivity to the interests of the government; at worst, Museveni feared a conspiracy by the NSSF bosses to empower a potential enemy of the ruling group.

Either way, the decision was taken to move against the NSSF bosses and place the organisation in the hands of 'less reckless' people. According to our sources, among the people assigned to prepare the grounds for Museveni's intervention in NSSF was Teddy Sseezi Cheeye, the then Director of Economic Monitoring in the Internal Security Organisation.

Although the real target was the Nantabuulirwa project, it was deemed both difficult and imprudent to simply stop it out of the blue.

Difficult because First Homes had not gotten any money from NSSF, thanks to the squatters on the land. Imprudent because information would soon leak that Museveni had blocked the project because of the Kabaka's involvement.

The government strategy, we are told, was to pull the plug on Nsimbe and suspend all investment activities by NSSF.

Cheeye's first assault on the Nsimbe project was to declare that it was run by financiers of the Uganda People's Congress, which, in Uganda's parochial political circumstances, was bad enough.

A closer scrutiny of Nsimbe deal enabled him to put together a persuasive case to the effect that the Nsimbe deal was overvalued and riddled with corruption.

It was on the basis of Cheeye's popular report that the President ordered the suspension of NSSF MD Mpuuma, dissolution of the board, and transfer of the Fund from the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development to that of Finance, Planning and Economic Development.

Further investigations left Onegi Obel, Mpuuma and Minister Bakoko Bakoru looking bad, despite their protestations that the Nsimbe deal made sound business sense.

Nsimbe became synonymous with land over-valued to the tune of Shs 4bn, irregular payments and even allegations that some NSSF bosses had taken bribes before approving the deal.

That marked the end of the Kabaka's Nantabuulirwa ambitions.

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## SILENCE

Our sources say that because the Kabaka's involvement was discreet, he and his advisors could not complain and have since suffered silently.

**Matters were not** helped when it emerged, in 2008, that Security Minister Amama Mbabazi and his business partners like Amos Nzeyi had pressured NSSF to pay Shs 11 billion for their land in Temangalo, Wakiso District. Why, the sources ask, was Museveni reluctant to act on the Temangalo deal while he was very keen on Nsimbe?

**A source close** to Kabaka Ronald Mutebi confirmed that indeed there was an attempt to develop Nantabuulirwa. But this palace source sounded guarded against blaming the project's failure on politics.

**“Officially, at least,** what we know is that it failed because of the Nsimbe troubles,” the source said, adding that the Kabaka had even appointed people to oversee his interests in First Homes but they even never held one meeting.

**But the First Homes boss,** Paul Tamale, said he had no doubt that Museveni blocked that project after learning of the Kabaka's involvement and that Nsimbe was but a smokescreen.

**“Isabirye was the** silencer on the pistol that took out the Kabaka's deal,” Tamale said by e-mail from the US.

**“The leaders of the** organisation, Onegi-Obel and Mpuuma, were getting too big for their breeches. Their biggest mistake was their wholehearted support for First Homes, the company in which the Kabaka had an interest. They had to be stopped.”

**Tamale said that** after the Nsimbe saga exploded, he had been warned by a friendly agent that Obel and Mpuuma were dealing with a political problem rather than a business one.

Tamale, who is involved in estate development in the US, concurred with our source that the President is wary of the Kabaka becoming rich as this might make him a bigger political threat than he is by virtue of his position.

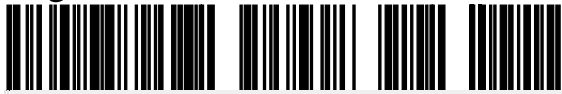
**That indeed was** why the Kabaka's name had been kept out of official documents.

“Museveni's best defence against the Kabaka is economic. Keep the Kabaka completely dependent on government funds and give him just enough to get by. If, however, the Kabaka suddenly becomes flush with money, all bets are off. He becomes very difficult to control,” Tamale said.

**Relations between** President Museveni and Kabaka Mutebi are at all-time low despite the two leaders meeting for the first time in two years last September.

**The kingdom's CBS radio** was shut down earlier that month and Daily Monitor recently quoted a government

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minister as saying that Museveni expected Mengo to capitulate once they started feeling the financial squeeze.

## NOT JUST THE KABAKA; ALL UGANDANS

Relations are at an all time low? No NO that is an understatement. Relations are now forever low between any self-respecting Ugandan and M7 for all his abuses and misdeeds. He knows it very well, hence the beatings in our towns and City. May God rid us of these guys who beat up old women and babies.

### Museveni

**Do** you think you can tame a snake by just covering it in a basket?

**I just pity** you; Time is coming when that basket will have to be lifted. And do you know what is going to happen? I will leave it to you to ponder.

**Remember** Buganda is bigger than you.

**Once foreign** governments start dealing with local leaders such as the KABAKA and start dealing with them directly just as the US does in Iraq, Museveni will be finished.

**You can read** the US ambassador 's meeting with the Kabaka as the beginning. Museveni's wings will be trimmed. Pass on the foreign aid to local leaders who have their people's interest at heart rather than tyrants whose only interest is to lead in perpetuity.

**Once this happens**, the so called national leaders will have to deal with local leaders and the real beginning democracy will reign in Africa. Otherwise, people like Museveni are leading Uganda not only at the bottom of the third world, but pretty soon into a bottomless abyss! The fourth fifth sixth world???!!!!!!!

**That's m7 it now** the high time people in Buganda open our eyes let us fund our kingdom. As per now we still have a change we have our votes as our weapon a Muganda know it from today that if you vote m7 that is trison u may not face it today but its better you wait as other kingdoms are waiting to see who is m7 its better u wakeup now.

It is only a fool that puts out fire with water!!! Time will tell who the winner is, M7 or Buganda. An individual will never outlast an institution that has lasted through centuries.

### REMEMBER\_ABACHA?

dear all, u remember Sani Abach? once he died, his very people he was giving orders to implement his schemes, undid everything he did or was doing.

**He's gone but Nigeria** is till around, likewise Buganda will stay around, its a matter of time. I dont want to mention Saddam koz the situation is different, but he too is no more, Iraq is. Awangaale Ssabasajja

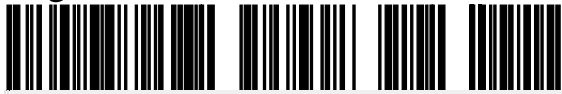
### Oh my !!

When will all this end ! But I know it will very soon. Buganda Shall rise !!

**It is very clear that** Museveni and his clique are very scared of anyone who becomes economically powerful that is why they had to take down greenland bank,now CBS and many more are coming.

But all this, they should know is not forgotten and it is still very fresh in our minds. A day is going to come when they will

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surely wish they could reverse all the unkind acts they have done to the people who supported them come into power.

What these people should know is that the Kabaka does not need money to be loved by us the baganda. We recognise him as our true leader who does not need guns, rigging votes or bribery to have that position. We do not even need a bill or lectures to love our nation and the Kabaka.

He is the unifying symbol of the nation of buganda period. And we shall do whatever it takes to protect him and our nation just like some warlord is doing his best to discredit or kill buganda. Obote came and went, Amin came and went, obote came back and went but buganda has remained and will be forever.

The problem is that our colonial designed clones of leaders have one thing in common, they always forget to recognise who the real Bull in the herd is. Awangale naantakwatta simu.

## **kabaka, museven fell out over NSSF**

written by Mark , February 25, 2010

Nursery school conspiracy. U guys can do better than that, u have clearly lost the track u started with. Get lousy imaginations and we shall keep reading

## **Tusabe !!!!!!!**

written by Nkuba Kyeyo , February 25, 2010

During this time of lent , ley everybody fast and pray for Museveni before he kills Uganda .

Amen !

## **Kitalo**

written by Mukadde Magezi , February 25, 2010

Time to reflect on the motive of this guy.

## **Kyoka**

written by Alex Nsubuga , February 25, 2010

Kyoka banange, Museveni???

## **Mr**

written by kabayekka , February 25, 2010

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What then was the intention of NRM Parliament removing term limits for a popular President to rule for ever? Who exactly is fooling who?

## **Be objective Phill**

written by Omunyoro PK Byenkya , February 25, 2010

Whereas i share the sentiments of Baganda on crippling their development and strongly abhor politics of intrigue and patronage, i strongly disagree with emotional and subjective rhetorics of the likes of Phil that all westerners are evil.

As i argued on the Banyoro-"Bafuruki" saga, character and behaviourism is personal rather than corporate, that is every individual should be responsible for his actions and make accountability.

Genocidal talk breaks communities, nations and people for nothing. Such senseless talk can emotionalise communities and families and break us apart. I come from the west and i respect Buganda and humanity. In my work i help and support every one alike.

The likes of Phil who generalise personality are no better than the people who stifle "tribes" and suppress others as punishment for their ilk. Maturity mate!!!

## **Think much and talk less**

written by Jose , February 25, 2010

Whatever happened cant be reversed. I will ask a one question.

What is wrong with the Kabaka getting involved in business?

Is an economically powerful Buganda a security threat?

Iv lived here for long and I know central people(Baganda) arent interested in power but financial security.

I dont know why the government was scared of the First Homes Project, and in most cases BUCADEF has done more projects that sustain rural development.

Probably, it is misplaced fear and caution seeing an economically powerful kingdom.

I really dont know....., this sounds like economic sabotage which government preaches about in broad daylight but covertly practices it on some citizens in the night.

...

written by Ssegona M. , February 25, 2010

M7 is still way high up in the sky. Time will come (soon btw) for him to come down to feed.

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He's forgetting what he wrote (mastered seed) how he came to power.

No worries Baganda. No moment is permanent.

## **NSSF not a Pension Fund**

written by Christopher Muwanga , February 25, 2010

The NSSF is not a pension fund, as the article claims. NSSF is, by its own definition, a PROVIDENT fund.

How it works: Non-Government enterprises and their workers pool savings and deposit them on the worker's account.

When conditions are ripe for the worker to withdraw his/her dues, with interest, if any, he/she claims and gets the lump sum amount.

The idea of one getting a monthly payment as pension payments should be, is alien to this behemoth of an enterprise.

The NSSF is actually a money-lending organisation. It gets money from 'saver', lends it to investors, etc on interest.

They then take some of this interest to give the owner of the money some 'interest', determined not by the realities of the investment returns but on the whims of the Board, that changes this interest payable arbitrarily, from time to time.

Way forward: privatise the NSSF today, if yesterday ins impossible.

## **Philli's comments about westerner.**

written by ocen , February 25, 2010

It is good some ugandans have realised the effect of generalisation and condemnation of a whole tribe, region or ethnic groups for a mistake made by one leader.

Acholi, Langi suffered because of Obote when NRM/A came to power. They were called names: Banyanya, killers, backward etc. They were put in a bottle like Nsenene (grasshoper)for 24 years.

At the time many Ugandans were enjoying their new found peace and love with NRM/A.While Northerners especially Acholi and Langi were hiding. No body wanted them. They were dejected and rejected by many.

Now all of us are in the same soup. We need to think of Uganda not tribe or region. A child suffering of poverty in the North is same like on in any part of the country. Secterian leaders must be reject by all means. Get up stand up! Stand up for your right! The Pearl of Africa must rise and shine again! We must free our dear "Mother Land"

## **This is not an isolated case**

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written by Yafesi , February 25, 2010

Museveni is not comfortable with any Ugandan with money or influence unless they do dirty work for him. So the Kabaka is just one of the many.

## **This world !**

written by muzira Mamba , February 26, 2010

No situation will be the same for as long as day turns into night, and the reverse is true. Let us not forget that even the bible say that there is tyme for everything.

Let our friends do everything under the sun to fulfill their egos n desires

Be blessed n let your hearts no be troubled by the early being who are forgetful abt the passing times.

## **Tribalism in 21st Century? Unbelievable!!**

written by alexb , February 26, 2010

Its sad that we have to deal with tribalism in the 21st century. Not all westerners are bad just as not all bagandas are saints. There will always a bad seed in the bag, it does not mean that the entire bag is bad.

If we can root out the bad seeds, Uganda as a whole will benefit. To me the bad seeds are the problem NOT all westerners, northerners, easterners, baganda etc.

## **i hear nanta kwakasimu**

written by shinah , February 26, 2010

ha hahahahahahah kyoka Kabaka

## **Anyway let M7 have his fill**

written by Mbonye Richard , February 26, 2010

Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God. Thieves everywhere. In Buganda Kingdom, in Uganda government. So who is more theiving than the other. But we also have smaller thieves else where, those who shout hard when they are denied a chance to steal.

## **museveni - buganda alliance what a jock!**

written by opolot wilfred , February 26, 2010

i have always told my baganda friends point blank that they were excited over nothing. they got raw deal out of it. let

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them get back to basics

## **The true man's intentions are bare to see by all**

written by Birungi Andrew , February 26, 2010

Idi Amin was way better than Museveni in this respect because Amin genuinely wanted Ugandans to prosper and his actions prove it.

## **Museveni, Kabaka fell out over NSSF**

written by Julius N. Uma , February 26, 2010

I just the Observer with some of their exclusive stories. Keep it up Mr. Kavuma. No wonder u were CNN Journalist of the Year 2007. Your work speaks volumes.

## **fellow ugandans be patriotic**

written by chief , February 27, 2010

i've read all the comments above, amajority written by pple who claim they are ugandans, but i've not seen anything ugandan in their coments except only museveni and buganda or baganda! what about acholi, langi, karimojong,lugbar,iteso,basoga, etc.lets take every citizen as very important to the strungle to bring about democracy to our mother land uganda. it's not about buganda but uganda b'se uganda is bigger than buganda and museveni as well.what i see in all the coments above is some kind of arrogance and promotion of tribalism. idont surport m7 right since he came into power but buganda did. they helped m7.to distabilise this country. buganda and m7 , i compare them with arabs and western world [whites] the one bedmates who agreed to deprive the rest of the country good leaders for their selfish interests. buganda, you and m7 have no difference, your interests are common, chracterised by; greed, selfishness, tribalism, sectarianism and segregation! as the arabs and whites are killing themselves as aresult of GOD'S answer to the prayers of the black man, for those races had taken blacks to be less humans so buganda as well, you are the contributing factor to your own fate, you cant get satisfied!!! you, by the help of the whites, conquered all other kingdoms and destroyed them thinking that you'll be able to rule to the ends of the world.if you dont put on patriotic hearts and understand that uagnda is bigger than buganda you'll remain losers always.

thanks,

iremain, chief.

## **Buganda**

written by John Ambikyire , February 27, 2010

I am a mukiga from kabale, i think the NRM Government is a tyrant Government and i would be very glad for it to let some other "visionary leaders" to take over.

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But the problem is when u hear BAGANDA claiming their kingdom is being harassed!!! I even lose morale and wish the NRM stays forever because now the BAGANDA are more "racist" than the bahima.

Lets think of Uganda as a whole or this Government is here to STAY!!! i AM NOT GOING TO RISK MY LIFE TO FIGHT AND BE LED BY A KABAKA.. OVER MY DEAD BODY!!

## Uganda

written by kasirye hassan , February 27, 2010

the first governments also did the some s\*\*t as this govt are doing but there time also came and they had to go.lets pray for our nation.

## The pivotal nation

written by timothy , February 27, 2010

Strange how people castigate Buganda due to its superiority.Believe it or it,this is a bitter fact owing to our history.

Buganda will always emerge as victors even with the slightest effort.The president may surely be the man to rally behind to pursue one's interest but Buganda will surely find its footing even if its defiling attitude towards the visionalist.

## To John Ambikyire

written by Birungi Andrew , February 27, 2010

The Kabaka lead Buganda and Baganda not you. He is not interested in leading you, neither is he asking you to fight for him.

The Baganda claim they are being harassed and it is true. The above article about how the Kabaka's economic project was sabotaged is exhibit number one. More can be provided if you want them.

The same NRM is bending over backwards to give all sorts of concessions to foreigners. Even with lessons from past colonialism, It is very eager to be a present-day neo-colonialist agent. What a shame.

## WHAT TRIBALISM ?

written by Wa'matsiama , February 27, 2010

True its POVERTY,no any other sickness that is claiming Ugandans.

The theam is MUSEVEN,KABAKA FELL OUT OVER NSSF.See top story with picture.Then guys like Alexb and Chief with Kyankwanzism syndrome Calls it

Tribalism when one talks of Kabaka(Buganda) and Museven (Government)which in line with the topic.Please dont cause

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disorder,you can first go for your reharsols in Kyankwanzi.

## M7 IS GOING NO WHERE

written by Tinga Tinga , February 27, 2010

Those who think Museveni is going, should forget about it!

Those who think the invitation to the US ambassador by the Kabaka means anything, you are deceiving yourself.

You people stop thinking like a child! How on earth the government of the United States funds Mengo to over threw Museveni's government? NEVER.

Don't think Americans are fool.

They can't waste their millions to a man " Kabaka" to help them remove Museveni from yet they well understand, the man has no power even support from the Ugandan Armed Forces!!!! Thats waste of Money, and Waste of time. It's something American cannot do!

You have only one option, wait untill Museven dies!

But still there will be power struggle after Museveni's death, since Uganda is run under Military powers!

**Stop the wishful** thinking that he's going anywhere.It may or may not happen.

Can you imagine those that have since the 1950's wished Qaddafi,Mubarak,Castro away ?

**Going by the article**, it is clear that a COLD war was declared against Buganda and has been raging since the regime change a quarter of a century back-except it was underground.

**However, the cold** war has, for a few years now, come to the surface.

The prayers are that it may not become permanently hot, as the GoU is itching to make it, as evidenced by the blockade against the Katikiro at Sezibwa river-bridge, that 10th Sept. 2009.

**The "Man with a vision"** 'seered' and wrote about the enemy as being "Mengo" back in 1979, in the magazine called "Foundations". All the activities seen as pro-Buganda in the intervening period {between 1979 and 2009} were diversionary and tactfully calculated to deliver the results they did from the 1981-1986 period up today. The strategic objectives [to contain Buganda and cut her down to size] have never hanged.