

HISTORY^{of} **BUSOGA**

Y.K. LUBOGO ESQ.

© Isaac Christopher Lubogo grandson of the late
Y.K. Lubogo

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FOREWORD

his "History of Busoga" is a translation of the original work of Mr. Y.K. Lubogo which was written in Luganda between 1921 and 1938. While considerable effort has been made to produce a readable English version, the objective of the translation is to preserve the content and style of the original work rather than produce a literary work. The facts and figures given were set forth by Mr. Y.K. Lubogo and have not been checked by the Literature Committee. It is a pity that such a long delay has occurred between the completion of the manuscript and the publication of the book. Nevertheless, it is fortunate that this newly constituted Literature Committee has been able to produce for distribution the result of so many years hard work by the author. Since there has been this lapse in time between the writing of the original work and the appearance of this edition "The History of Busoga" is far from up-to-date and readers have to remember that when the author refers to "present day conditions", he naturally means at the time he was writing; some time prior to 1939.

A.P.S. SHERIDAN
Chairman E.W SMITH
Secretary

EASTERN PROVINCE (BANTU LANGUAGE)

LITERATURE COMMITTEE, JINJA - UGANDA.

ENDORSEMENT

he Basoga ‘Fine Pencils in God’s Hand: Lessons for Posterity’ as narrated in “The History of Busoga” was meticulously written by the Great Y.K Lubogo (Esq- Commander of the British Empire-CBE) approximately one hundred years ago. Y.k Lubogo, who is believed to have been born unofficially in 1869: some people allege that at the time he died, he had reached a very ripe age of one hundred and twenty years. Others on the other hand claim that he died at the age of 95 years. Be as it may, what is written by Y.K transcends time. It is indeed a history of the incredible people of Busoga from a long time ago, a credible and delightful guide, full of important information for those who want to enjoy companionship with the people of Busoga. “Fine Pencils in God’s Hands.”

certain and truly portrays Y.K. as a very authoritative figure both in both the public and cultural domains. He was highly learned considering the times and was hence very instrumental in the forming and forging the Busoga kingdom as we know it today. Therefore what Y.K writes is living history stretching back to over one hundred years old narrated by a man who lived and saw the evolution of incredible Busoga. For starters, among the nonkingdom Bantu, the Basoga are surrounded by water bodies with River Nile to the west, Lake Victoria to the south, River Mpologoma to the east and Lake Kyoga to the north.

The Basoga lived as farmers under circumstances akin to those of the Baganda neighbours to the west. Although Busoga had no central authority at the advent of the British rule, she had developed small principalities, each with its own hereditary ruler. Later she consolidated her central authority acquired a king ruler, the “ISEBANTU KYABAZINGA”, and imitated the kingdoms in matters of government. Busoga became part of Uganda. In 1894 Berkeley’s was granted authority from England to add Toro, Ankole, Bunyoro and Busoga to the Protectorate of Uganda which originally comprised of Buganda only. In the non-monarchical society, such as the pre-colonial Basoga principalities, a council of elders wielded the powers of the supreme chief in chiefly societies mainly because they had equal

recognition for the place and function of authority in society and recognised central authority.

Grace Ibingira, in his book “The forging of an African Nation”, argues that indirect rule (call it decentralisation) provided a comparatively attractive method of governing indigenous tribes, and thus could not be open to serious challenge.

The traditional rulers and chiefs secured ready obedience to their orders from their people, as well as obedience to orders of the protectorate authorities, which the chiefs were committed to administer. The smooth working of its machinery as told by Y.K in this book is testimony enough. It was on this foundation that legal system, the local government and legislative councils based on kingship or chieftaincy or elders of the family, and recognition of authority was inherent in their midst. “Whether this society is a monarchy of a gerontocracy; one common denominator is the constant aspiration towards the initiation of Isebantu as cultural leader of the Busoga was just the starting point in the people’s programmes to protect and strengthen their cultural values living to the true creed of “Basoga” Fine Pencils in God’s Hands”:

ENJOY THE RENDEZVOUS WITH THE FINE PEOPLE OF BUSOGA.

ISAAC CHRISTOPHER LUBOGO - Grandson of Y.K Lubogo, A Proud Musoga & (Attorney at Law, Lecturer of Law)

LLB – Legum Baccalaureas,

LLM- Legum Magister,

LLD Doctor of Laws Fellow.

Founder of much coveted Suigeneris Law App

Busoga Kingdom Flag



Map of Busoga Kingdom





Y.K. Lubogo ESQ. (the first African Mayor of Jinja 1961-1962)

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