

**HURIPEC's BARAZA ON BUGANDA'S QUEST FOR FEDERO  
A RIGHT TO SELF GOVERNANCE OR BUGANDA NATIONALISM?  
IMPLICATIONS FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN UGANDA**

**June 30, 2006**

**Narrative Summary Report of the Proceedings**

## **1. Introduction**

The Human Rights and Peace Centre baraza on **Buganda's Quest for Federo** took place on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2006 at Hotel Equatorial, Kampala.

The baraza that was organized along the theme ***“BUGANDA’S QUEST FOR FEDERO: A RIGHT TO SELF GOVERNANCE OR BUGANDA NATIONALISM? IMPLICATIONS FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN UGANDA”*** attracted participants from academia, representatives of political parties in Uganda, Members of Parliament, civil society organizations and the media among others.

Among those in attendance included: former presidential candidate - Dr. Abed Bwanika, President General of Forum for Integrity in Leadership Party- Mr Emmanuel Tumusiime, former Member of Parliament Ruhaama County- Mr Jack Sabiiti, former Member of Parliament Samia Bugwe county- Mr. Aggrey Awori and the President General of the Conservative Party- Hon. Ken Lukyamuzi. Also in attendance was the Member of Parliament for Rubaga South- Hon. Susan Lukyamuzi and Member of Parliament for Gomba county- Hon. Rose Najjemba.

## **2. Objectives of the Baraza**

The baraza had three major objectives:

- To raise public awareness about the federo system of governance
- To get public clarification on Buganda's stand on the federo issue
- To explore the implications of granting Buganda a federo status on the future of peace and stability in Uganda.

## **3. Opening Remarks**

Opening remarks were made by Ms. Rose Nakayi from the Faculty of Law, Makerere University, on behalf of the Director of HURIPPEC who was unable to attend the dialogue. Ms. Rose Nakayi thanked the participants for responding to HURIPPEC's invitation in big numbers. She informed them that HURIPPEC was committed to promote good governance in Uganda through among other things facilitating and convening public dialogues on issues of human rights, good governance, peace and security. She wished the participants fruitful deliberations and officially opened the baraza.

## **4. Summary of the Presentations**

The baraza featured three main presentations by Mr. Godfrey Lule- the Attorney General of Buganda Government, Mr. Appolo Makubuya-Minister Buganda Government and Mr. Arthur Bainomugisha- Director of Research at Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE).

Mr. Lule and Mr. Makubuya clarified that the federo system of governance which Buganda demands is not synonymous with federalism but is a hybrid of the latter and

a home grown system of governance. They argued that federo is a Bugandanised concept that connotes a fusion of federalism and monarchism. The aim of Buganda's demand for federo, they clarified, was to achieve self governance in Buganda with recognition and respect to traditional and cultural heritage of the Baganda with an influential and constitutional Kabaka.

Mr. Lule argued that Buganda is a nation and has always been so. He emphasised that there was nothing wrong for Buganda to express their nationalism when it comes to the issue of Federo, which he argued was an imperative for good governance in Uganda. The Attorney General was however quick to add that Buganda's zeal which underlies their quest for federo is not nationalism in the sense of a desire to form an independent state, but is an expression of the right to self governance which is fundamental for good governance. "Buganda's desire for federo is for it to be recognized as a nation with all attributes of a nation but within Uganda as a State", he added.

The Attorney General summarized the principles that under pin federal as a system of governance and argued that what Buganda is demanding was not peculiar and was legally provided for in the 1900 Buganda Agreement. He summarized Buganda's demands within the federo arrangement as including: Buganda kingdom being constitutionally recognized as a province with its own government, recognition of Buganda's geographical boundaries as were set out in the Buganda Agreement and sharing with the Central Government revenue and revenue yielding resources that come from Buganda. He ended his presentation by pointing out that "Buganda regards self governance as its birth right and not just an instance of nationalism".

Making the presentation on *Implications for Granting Buganda a Federo Status on the Future of Peace and Stability in Uganda*, Mr. Arthur Bainomugisha argued that Federo would bring about contentment in Buganda region thus create a united, stable and peaceful country which would enhance regional stability. He also argued that federo for Buganda would form a building block for the greater East African federation which the countries in the region are currently fast trucking.

On the negative side, he warned that failure to grant Buganda federo could have disastrous effects on the country. He emphasized that the federo question would remain unresolved and would trap the country into a state of insecurity with a possibility of war, which would disrupt social order. He pointed out that tensions that would remain between Buganda and central government would create a sate of uncertainty that would make Uganda a risky country to live in.

He summarized his presentation by calling upon Buganda to be realistic in its demand for federo and that Buganda should respect future agreements it enters into with Government on the issue of federo.

## **5. Major Issues that Emerged**

Although the baraza was not designed to generate any resolution per-se, there were a number of consensus issues that emerged during the ensuing discussion. The following were the main points of agreement that emerged from the baraza.

- Buganda' quest for federo is legitimate.
- Federo can peacefully co-exist with other forms of governance like decentralization.
- Buganda's demand for federo does not and should not in any way mean imposition of federo on other regions/tribes that do not want to federate.
- There is need for vigorously sensitization of the masses to demystify fears that Ugandans have about granting Buganda a federo status.
- Future negotiations on federo should involve all stakeholders in the country.
- There is need for research on the question of federo to inform policy decision making.