

**KATIKIRO'S SPEECH DURING THE COMMEMORATION OF THE MEETING BETWEEN MUTEESA I AND FR SIMEON LOURDEL MAPEERA (Lubaga 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018)**



I thank the Archbishop for this initiative. The commemoration of the meeting between Muteesa I and Fr. Simeon Lourdel Mapeera which marked the genesis of Catholicism in Buganda and Uganda.

Kabaka Muteesa I was a man of vision and deep intellect. He learnt other languages including Kiswahili and even the reading of Arabic and the Koran.

He was always yearning for knowledge and understanding of issues which were

beyond the borders of his Kingdom. So, he eagerly invited the missionaries, which marked the beginning of a new era in Buganda and later Uganda.

The Theme of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the creation of Kampala Archdiocese is very insightful: **“Remember; Rejoice; Renew”**.

It's important to remember the audience Kabaka Muteesa I granted Fr. Lourdel Mapeera and Bro. Amans. We rejoice because that audience introduced a new birth in baptism and Christianity.

And we need to renew ourselves in faith and our relations with others, as we commemorate the visionary leadership of Muteesa I and the deep faith and determination of the missionaries.

The Theme of this commemoration is timely: **“The Catholic Church and Buganda Kingdom 1879-2018: Together in Service of God's People.”**

The essence of our heritage, and as a Kingdom, is the wellbeing of the people through enjoyment of cultural freedoms and aspects.

The mission of the Church, on the other hand, is our salvation. However, the teachings of the church whose ultimate goal is salvation, are also premised on the wellbeing of the people. This is so because he who loves God, must love fellow human beings first.



The Church extends services, besides the administration of the sacraments, in the education field; in the social and economic wellbeing to Christians and followers of other faiths.

What is important to note is that the Kingdom provided the most fundamental resource upon which the Church relies to extend these services.

The most fundamental resource is LAND. The Kabaka has provided most of the land the Church owns and which it utilizes to serve God's people.

In the last 139 years since Mapeera's encounter with Muteesa, a firm partnership has been established between the Kingdom and the Catholic Church. All the different Kings have worked very closely with the Church.

Kabaka Mutebi II has nourished the co-operation between the Catholic Church and the Kingdom. And those of us entrusted with leadership in the Kingdom are determined to sustain and promote that co-operation.

We are all very proud of the fruits of the partnership between the Kabaka and the Church. We are not only proud of those fruits – but we are direct beneficiaries.



If Kabaka Muteesa I had not permitted Mapeera to preach Catholicism, the Church would not have gotten the land upon which the good schools like St. Henry's College Kitovu and St. Mary's College Kisubi, that I attended, were built. And maybe I would not be Katikkiro today.

Finally, I commend Archbishop Dr. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga for standing with us, standing with the Kabaka, standing with Buganda during the good and bad times.

I enjoin the Church leaders to continue praying for the Kabaka, and to continue supporting the Kingdom's programs.

In us, you have reliable partners.