

# Kingdoms decry govt delay to return property

BY DERRICK WANDERA  
& JAMES KABENGWA  
editorial@ug.nationmedia.com

**KAMPALA.** Tooro and Buganda kingdoms have reignited the demand for their properties and land from the central government.

Speaking to the press shortly after a closed door meeting yesterday, Tooro Prime Minister Benard Tungakwo, said the meeting with government was to demand their property.

"The slow running wheels of government bureaucracy over the return of Kingdom properties and assets is working to the detriment of the kingdom. We would like this to improve. Ministry of Local Government in one of the major occupants of kingdom properties and assets," the statement read in part.

Since the revival of kingdoms in Uganda in 1993, government has not yet returned most of the properties, Tooro Kingdom being one with a young king, the pursuit to have their land which is preoccupied by local government has remained fruitless.

**“** We are putting in place proper mechanisms to see that the whole process moves smoothly. We have been discussing and this is one of the issues. The formal meeting had brought the Prime Minister on board and there will be more meetings such as these.” **MR CHARLES PETER MAYIGA, BUGANDA KINGDOM PRIME MINISTER**

"Government has so far returned a paltry, approximately five per cent of kingdom land and assets. 95 per cent remains under the central government and various institutions representing more than 120 square miles. The Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Local Government said there was need to identify and verify the properties in question and that the Ministry would help in registration of some of the unregistered lands," he said.

However, Local Government Minister Tom Butime, said: "We met and discussed the way forward on the meetings we have always had. We are now waiting for a directive from the Attorney General. Unlike Buganda Kingdom which is in advanced stages of getting back their properties, Tooro Kingdom needs to be considered immediately. The decision will be made on whether to evict and evacuate the government officials on the land or confiscate it," Mr Butime said.

Mr Tungakwo said: "The Government agreed to comply with the provisions of the restitution of Properties Act to forthwith release and return all private estates to enable the king develop them. We are particularly concerned