

Kabaka calls for revival of coffee industry

By Ashraf Kasirye

Revival of the coffee industry can help curb the biting poverty, Kabaka Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II said yesterday.

Speaking at the official opening of the Rotary Club 93rd District convention and assembly at Imperial Resort Beach Hotel in Entebbe, the Kabaka highlighted a number of ongoing Buganda kingdom programmes which are geared towards empowering the agricultural sector.

He said many years ago, Buganda was a major coffee producing part of the country but that is no longer the case.

"The coffee industry has declined drastically, and there is real and biting poverty among our people. I am sure

we can compare notes with the Rotarians in the fight against this tragedy," he said.

The Kabaka said the kingdom was also considering safeguarding food security as well as a dignified environment for the people.

The Kabaka said there was evidence in Uganda's economic history which proves that small scale farmers used to earn the country most of the export income and there was relative prosperity in the villages but it is not the case anymore.

The Kabaka appreciated values displayed by Rotarians such as that of high ethics. In his view, without ethical behaviour in professions, businesses, governments and communities, the country will never make any progress in

whatever excellent visions they may conceive.

He condemned corruption, saying it had persistently remained a big challenge in Uganda.

The Kabaka also paid tribute to his late grandfather Rotarian George Kasedde Mukasa, who passed away early this year. He

described him as a well-known hardworking Rotarian.

Kasedde was a long-time Rotarian who donated 10 acres of land in Mukono Ngandu village, where a sh2b Rotary hospital was built. The Rotary Club International president, Ian Riseley, was represented by Rotarian John Smerge, whose

speech made many Rotarians shed tears as he narrated some of his last days with the late Rotary International president-elect Sam Owori.

The Rotary District governor 9211, Keneth Mugisha, lauded Buganda kingdom for introducing life-saving programmes like the annual

Kabaka birthday run which raises money for helping patients.

Mugisha said Buganda kingdom operates like a voluntary humanitarian body which has no income whatsoever, but different people donate to uplift the well being of others.



Mayiga (left) and Rotary Club District governor Mugisha (second-left) looking on as Kabaka Mutebi receives an award of recognition from the Rotary Club district representative John Smerge

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