

Mumbere calls for peace, calm among his subjects

By John B. Thawite

The embattled leader of the Rwenzururu cultural institution, Obusinga Bwa Rwenzururu (OBR) has hailed his subjects in the Rwenzori sub-region for remaining peaceful despite the woes facing his kingdom.

"We all remember the difficult time we went through during the Christmas season last year when many of our people had died and I,

together with several people arrested and imprisoned following the unfortunate events that took place at the time," Omusinga Charles Wesley Mumbere said.

The Rwenzururu leader made the remarks in a December 24 one-page Christmas message, written in Lhukonzo and English addressed to all AbanyaRwenzururu (Rwenzururu royalists), religious leaders and Christians.

According to the OBR spokesperson,

Clarence Bwambale, the message, was conveyed to Kasese on Sunday morning and distributed to various stakeholders including the media.

"I thank you for remaining peaceful and resolute to maintain peace in your villages all over Rwenzori and for remaining faithful and supportive of Obusinga Bwa Rwenzururu," the 62-year-old Rwenzururu leaders added.

He called for - peace-building and harmonious co-existence

as a prerequisite for community development.

"Her Royal Highness Queen Agnes, myself, all the royals and your children who are in detention are hoping that one day soon we shall return home and live together happily ever after by the grace of God," he concluded.

On November 26, security forces raided the institution's administrative offices and overran his palace on grounds that the Rwenzururu royal guards had become a threat to

national security.

Mumbere and 201 of his subjects including his former acting premier Johnson Kitumbire, were arrested during the operation in which scores of people, including 16 Police officers died.

Mumbere and his co-accused including eight juveniles are facing various charges including treason, murder, attempted murder and aggravated robbery in the Jinja Circuit Magistrate's Court.