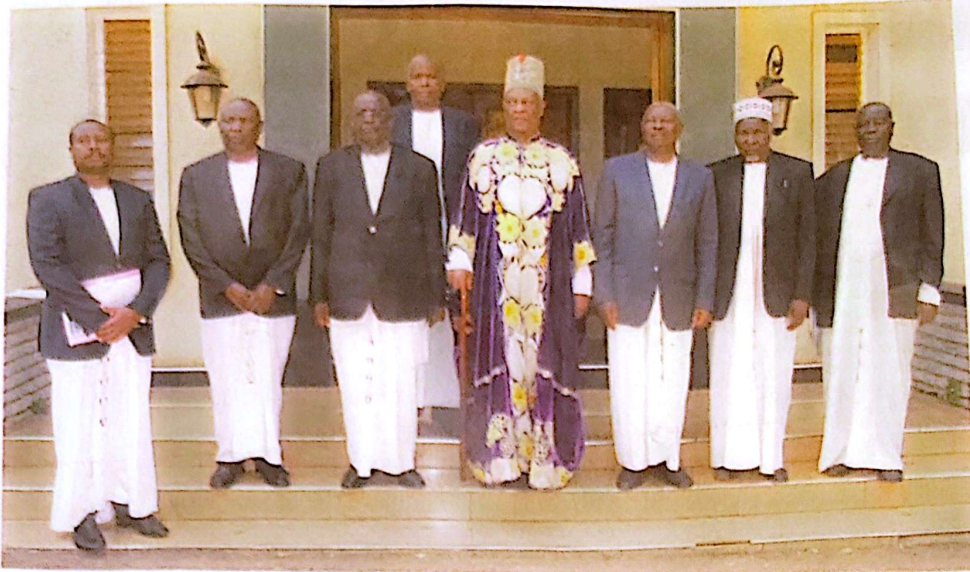


IGURU ALSO DISSOLVES ENTIRE CABINET AFTER A STRING OF SCANDALS THAT ARE YET TO BE



The King of Bunyoro, Solomon Iguru (centre), with some of the members of the royal commission on Tuesday

Bunyoro king appoints oil expert as premier

HOIMA

By Robert Atuhairwe and Pascal Kwesiga

The newly appointed prime minister of Bunyoro kingdom is a Norwegian-trained petroleum geoscientist and an accomplished management specialist.

The Omukama of Bunyoro, Solomon Iguru, announced the appointment of Andrew Byakutaga in a statement issued at his palace in Hoima on Tuesday.

Iguru also dissolved the 30-member cabinet that has been beset by a string of scandals, including the sale of kingdom property, mainly land, and the disposal of 10% shares allocated to the institution in Kinyara Sugar Works Limited in Masindi.

The controversial lease of the kingdom's 22sq. miles of land to Hoima Sugar in Kyangwali for 99 years at sh3b is among a number of the latest transactions that generated controversy among the subjects, with the cabinet having nothing tangible to show for the money.

"I have appointed Byakutaga to head the office of the prime minister. Please liaise with your predecessor, Norman Lukumu, to hand over to you the office," Iguru stated in a January 15 appointment letter.

New directive

The Omukama directed the new prime minister and the royal commission he

Kabagambe said the new cabinet will be smaller than the current one, full of kingdom loyalists

constituted last year to set up a new cabinet.

Iguru constituted the commission last August as calls from subjects intensified for punitive action against the dissolved cabinet for, among others, using their positions to negotiate illegal deals on behalf of the kingdom and selling its property supposed to be held by the institution on behalf of the people.

The commission is chaired by Fred Kabagambe Kaliisa, the former permanent secretary in the energy ministry and now senior presidential advisor on oil, gas and mining.

Kabagambe holds the *Omujiwarakondo* (he who wears the crown because of his extraordinary role in the kingdom) title, the highest honour in the kingdom.

The commission members include retired Supreme Court Justice Cosmas Kato Adyeeri; the former vice-chairperson of the Electoral Commission, Dr Joseph Biribonwa; the king's former principal private secretary, Yolamu Nsamba; the former Kibaale district chairman, John Hope Munyongo; George Nyamyaka and Haji Muhamoud Kazimbiraine.

Unveiling the commission, the Omukama said it will

among others, review all past controversial agreements and set up an inventory of the institution's property, as well as vet future appointees to cabinet.

On Tuesday, Iguru also announced the constitution of a seven-member task force headed by Edgar Iningoma, a senior partner in KPMG, an international audit firm, to establish management and administrative structures in an institution that has been

running without clear systems.

The other members of the task force expected to formulate a 30-year strategic plan for the kingdom include Prof. Vincent Bagire, a lecturer at Makerere University Business School; Dr Silvestre Kugonza, a lecturer at Uganda Management Institute; Dr Fred Muhumuza, a senior economist and lecturer at Makerere University; Abdul Byakagaba, a petroleum geologist and Patrick Byabakama Kaberege, the chairperson of the National Social Security Fund board.

Old guard appreciated

However, the Omukama appreciated the cabinet he "retired" for the services they have rendered to Bunyoro since 2015, when they assumed office.

Kabagambe said the Omukama has directed that a Bunyoro-Kitara symposium be held to collect and discuss the expectations and aspirations of the people of Bunyoro, which will be captured in the strategic plan.

"The plan is to roll out the new management systems and the strategic plan before the next coronation (*Empango*) anniversary (on June 11)," he explained.

Kabagambe stated that the commission would ensure that appointees to the next cabinet have the requisite qualifications. He also indicated that the next cabinet would be small and should be composed of people who have "Bunyoro at heart".



Andrew Byakutaga

Who is

Andrew Byakutaga is married to Rose and they have children. He holds a PhD in geoscience from Norwegian University of Technology and a post-graduate diploma in petroleum exploration from the institution. The institution is research-based and is the largest in the country.

Byakutaga is a post-graduate in management at Makerere University. He is also an administrative revenue manager.

He has a BSc in geology from the University of Makerere and participated in a master's programme in geology from 1997 to 1999.

He has also worked in the geological survey department and in the interpretation of petroleum data at the Albertine Rift. From 1997 to 1999, he was involved in a geological survey collection and interpretation of petroleum data at the Albertine Rift.

Between 1997 and 1999, he was deputy director of customs at Ugar Authority with UR worked in the division of customs department.

He also supervised the customs manager.