



OBUKAMA BWA TOORO

TOORO KINGDOM

P.O Box 80

Karuziika Palace, Fort Portal City

29th August, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROTOCOLS, TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS GOVERNING THE FUNERAL RITES AND SUCCESSION PROCESS FOLLOWING THE PASSING OF HIS MAJESTY DR. OYO NYIMBA KABAMBA IGURU RUKIDI IV, OMUKAMA OF TOORO

The Office of the Musuuga, Head of the Babiito Clan, issues this statement to inform the people of Tooro, the Government of the Republic of Uganda, the Babiito Clan, and all friends and well-wishers of the Kingdom of the protocols, traditions and customs that will govern the funeral rites and succession process following the passing of His Majesty Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV. This guidance is issued pursuant to the resolutions of the Kingdom's formal meeting held on 28th August 2026 at Karuziika Palace, chaired by the Musuuga and attended by a wide spectrum of the people of Tooro from the various clans and members of the Rukurato.

1. AUTHORITY OVER THE FUNERAL RITES AND CULTURAL CEREMONIES

The meeting resolved that the Office of the Musuuga holds authority and custodianship over all cultural ceremonies of the Kingdom arising from the demise of the King. As Head of the Babiito Clan, the Musuuga is responsible for convening and presiding over all meetings connected with the funeral, for directing preparation of the burial arrangements, and for overseeing the succession protocol from beginning to end. All Kingdom organs and structures engaged in the funeral and succession process act under this authority, so that the rites proceed with the order, dignity and unity that the occasion demands.

2. RECEPTION AND HANDLING OF THE BODY OF THE KING

The body of His Majesty shall be transported from the airport directly to Palace (Karuziika) at Kabarole. This is done in observance of the established custom that the body of the King may not be moved from place to place, since the Kingdom maintains only one Palace as the King's official seat; every other royal building is a residence and not a palace. Karuziika Palace is therefore the sole and proper place at which the body of His Majesty will lie for the duration of the mourning period, and no further transfer of the body between locations will take place.

3. THE NINE DAYS OF MOURNING

In accordance with Tooro custom, the official period of mourning preceding burial shall run for nine days. This period shall be deemed to commence upon the arrival of the body of His Majesty at Karuziika Palace, and all cultural activities connected with the mourning period shall be organised and conducted with reference to that date of arrival.

4. SUCCESSION PROTOCOLS

The meeting reaffirmed that succession to the throne is a cultural ritual falling under the authority and custodianship of the Office of the Musuuga, and that the Babiito Clan bears responsibility for the succession plans and protocols that follow on behalf of the people of Tooro. Accordingly, a Committee of twenty-one members has been constituted from among the elders of the Babiito Clan and confirmed under the leadership of the Musuuga, Head of the Babiito Clan, **to carry out the succession protocol on behalf of the Clan and the people of Tooro in order to ensure unity, diversity, inclusiveness. The Committee's mandate covers** identification of the successor to the throne, formal announcement of the successor to the relevant stakeholders, and preparation of the traditions and cultural ceremonies attached to the succession.

The Committee comprises the following members:

1. Musuuga Charles Kamurasi
2. Msgr. Dr. Isaac Mayombo
3. Fr. Dr. Charles Oyo
5. Omub. Dr. Kagoro Kaijamurubi
6. Omub. Job Karamagi
7. Omub. Gilbert Mujogya
8. Omub. Mbogo Rukidi
9. Omub. Isaac Rwabwoni
10. Omub. Justice Mugamba Paul
11. Omub. David Mugamba
12. Hon. Harriet Nyakake
13. Hon. Muganzi Patrick
14. Omub. Kawamara Patrick
15. Omub. Sam Rukidi
16. Omub. Kato Rwakatale
17. Omub. Olimi Hassan
18. Omub. Rose Mpuro
19. Omub. Martha Mugamba
20. Omub. Martha Rabwoni
21. Omub. Ruth Ogeni

5. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

A dedicated Committee has been constituted to handle all official communication issued from the Palace on matters connected with the passing of His Majesty, the funeral rites and the succession process. This Committee comprises Fr. Dr. Charles Oyo, Mr. Musinguzi Moses and Omub. Isaac Rwabwoni working in coordination with the Omuhikirwa and other stakeholders. All official statements to the public, the media and other stakeholders will be issued through this Committee, and the people of Tooro and the general public are urged to rely only on communication released through this channel.

For liaison between the Kingdom and the Government of the Republic of Uganda, Hon. Tom Butime has been identified as the official contact person, through whom all matters requiring coordination between the two shall be channelled.

6. CONDOLENCE CONTRIBUTIONS



All condolence funds and financial contributions intended to support the official funeral and succession arrangements shall be channelled through the official Tooro Kingdom Palace account, held as follows:

Account Name: Tooro Kingdom Palace Account

Bank: Stanbic Bank, Fort Portal Branch

Account Number: 9030028901924

The signatories to this account are Dr. Richard Rwabuhinga, Hon. Harriet Nyakake and Musuuga Charles Kamurasi. Members of the public and all well-wishers are urged to channel condolence contributions exclusively through this account, in the interest of accountability, transparency and proper coordination.

7. RESOLUTION OF THE MUSUUGA, THE BABIITO CLAN AND THE PEOPLE OF TOORO

The Office of the Musuuga, on behalf of the Babiito Clan, calls upon all Abatooro, members of the Babiito Clan, cultural and religious leaders, government authorities, institutions, friends of Tooro and all well-wishers to remain united and to maintain dignity, respect and discipline throughout this solemn period. The cultural rites surrounding the passing of a King carry profound significance for the people of Tooro, and all persons and institutions are urged to respect the established cultural authorities named above and to allow them to coordinate the rites and activities without interference.

Further communication regarding the cultural programme, the Kutaabaza burial ritual, the official nine days of mourning and other related activities shall continue to be issued by the Office of the Musuuga through the appropriate official channels set out in this statement.

May the people of Tooro remain united during this solemn period.

Issued by:

OFFICE OF THE MUSUUGA

Head of the Babiito Clan

TOORO KINGDOM

Date: 29th August, 2026

Official Contact: 0772588821

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. Kamurasi', is written over the official text of the document.