

LIRA UNIVERSITY PLOTS COMEBACK IN QUIZ



By Godfrey Ojore

After finishing in second position in the Ultimate University Quiz season two, last year, Lira University has announced its preparedness to claim victory in a contest that brings together over 20 universities.

They lost to Gulu University in a tight contest. "This year, we expect nothing less than the first place," said John Baptist Ogiete, a student.

Bright Hasahya Erato, one of the stars that put up a spirited fight that saw them take the second position, promised to do her best to make her university shine.

"I look forward to being in the third season and we are prepared. We are returning with new energy," Hashya said.

The university leadership promised its students total support that will enable them



PHOTO BY GODFREY OJORE

Front row: Adii (left), Kyalikunda (fourth-right), Owagonza (third-right) with students of Lira University after an orientation session at the university on Thursday

to win.

UNIVERSITY QUIZ COMMENDED

The vice-chancellor of Lira University, Prof. Jasper Ogwal Okeny, described the quiz competition as a valuable opportunity for students to widen their thinking capacities and gain confidence.

"In today's world, if you cannot express yourself, how can you succeed? You have

BETWEEN THE LINES

◀ Lira University finished in second position in the University Quiz season two, last year, where they lost to Gulu University.

to talk your way through life," Ogwal said during the orientation of students held at the university on Thursday.

The vice-chancellor praised Vision Group for organising the competition, saying it helps train the next generation of professionals.

"You're really helping us to train this generation. Training will increase the confidence of people, and it helps those of us who used to look for jobs. If you are not confident, then I don't see how you can get a job," he said.

THE SPONSORS SPEAK OUT

Sponsors of the event interacted with the students during which time they offered them advice on a range of topics.

The competition is sponsored by Bank of Uganda (BOU), Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) and National Environmental Management Authority.

Robert Owagonza, the



Ogwal

principal officer at BOU, advised the students to prepare well for the challenge and to jealously guard their personal identification numbers and to desist from participating in Ponzi and pyramid schemes.

Eng. George Kyalikunda, the UCC manager in charge of the northeastern region, implored the students to adapt digital online skills to keep safe while using online services.

The Vision Group project lead, Max Adii, expressed gratitude to the university leadership for their unwavering support to the project.

"The staff is dedicated to ensuring that the students perform to the level that is expected of them with their total support and that gives morale to the students to face off with other universities," Adii said.

By Annabel Oyera

The land question in Uganda emerged when the colonialists took land away from communities and donated it to a few individuals.

So, when Constituent Assembly (CA) delegates convened from 1993-1995 to draft the Constitution, they had to balance debates on four issues – land ownership by citizens, compulsory acquisition of land by the Government, balancing rights of landlords and tenants and the need to cure colonial land injustice.

"The provisions of the Constitution were by and large based on the wishes of the people as expressed in their views to the constitutional commission. In the CA, most of the provisions in the Constitution were adopted by the delegates through consensus. However, a few controversial provisions were resolved through a majority vote and some of these continue to attract controversy, debate and challenges in courts of law. The controversial provisions mainly related to the political system especially the issue of the suspension of political party activities, the referendum on political systems, the entrenchment of the movement system in the constitution, federalism and the issue of land," former chief justice Benjamin Odoki said in his essay: *The challenges of constitution making in Uganda*.

For many CA delegates, a true

How CA delegates tackled the land question



Odoki

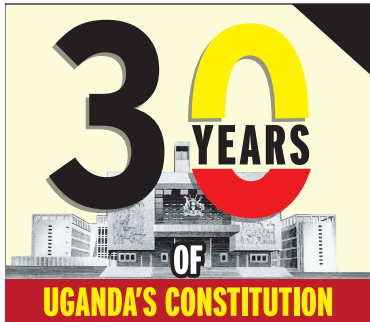
turning point came with the 1995 Constitution, which restored ownership of land to the people of Uganda. Article 237(1) vested land in the citizens, while Article 26(2) guaranteed protection from arbitrary deprivation of property without fair and prompt compensation.

This marked a decisive shift away from state ownership to citizen empowerment.

On the need to entrench land tenures in the Constitution, Butebo County delegate James Okanya said: "Land belongs to the people and being a factor of production, people should be enabled to easily acquire titles to land. A freehold system of land tenure should be enshrined in



Kajara



the Constitution itself and not left to Parliament to decide and make laws suitable."

Aston P. Kajara, the delegate for Mwenge County South, reinforced

this position in his submission, adding that: "We would like to see the customary land tenure system of bibanja holdings recognised and legalised for which they should be enabled to acquire titles at affordable rates. Tenants squatting on mailo land would like to acquire freehold titles to the land they occupy while the current owners thereof should negotiate with government for compensation."

To operationalise these principles, the 1998 Land Act was enacted. It recognised the four tenure systems – customary, mailo, freehold and leasehold – and required registration of customary land to avoid disputes. It also clarified that the Government could only acquire land for public purposes after fair compensation.

Constituent Assembly delegates argued that the Constitution's principle that land belongs to the people had to be entrenched and remains a cornerstone of Uganda's democracy. Yet challenges of disputes, compensation, gender inequality and balancing communal traditions with private rights persist.

As Uganda celebrates 30 years of the 1995 Constitution, the land question continues to be both a foundation of identity and a driver of future transformation.

VISION GROUP MAGAZINE

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of Uganda's Constitution promulgation, Vision Group will on October 7 publish a comprehensive magazine that highlights the milestones covered under the Constitution.

START OF CONSTITUTIONAL RULE

When the National Resistance Army (NRA) overran Kampala under the leadership of President Yoweri Museveni, the journey of transition to constitutional rule started almost immediately with the issuance of Legal Notice No. 1 of 1986.

The legal notice that repealed the 1967 Constitution effectively established the legal framework for the NRM Government, vesting legislative powers in the National Resistance Council (NRC) and outlining the code of conduct for the NRA.

The CA, which comprised representatives elected by the people under the chairmanship of James Wapakhabulo on September 22, 1995 promulgated the Constitution effectively replacing that of 1967.

In the run-up to October 7, *New Vision* will be publishing stories that showcase the progress that the country has made under the 1995 Constitution.