

**A speech by the Prime Minister of Tooro – Rt. Hon. Kaliba Steven Ateenyi to the members and friends of Tooro American Association (TAA) on May 2, 2015 in Hyattsville, Maryland, USA.**

For the benefit of those of you meeting me for the first time, I am called Kaliba Steven Ateenyi Omusiita, omwihwa wa Abahinda kandi mwijukuru wa Abagweeri na Abachwamba. Before his Majesty the King appointed me Prime Minister of Tooro, I was a member of the Republic of Uganda's 8<sup>th</sup> Parliament – representing Fort Portal Municipality. And prior to that, I had worked at Makerere University for 17 years – where I had attained a senior position of Head of Department and member of the University's Senate. I was also a visiting Associate at the University of Cardiff in Wales, South London. And, I have and continue to work with Kampala International University as a freelance consultant and Director of the School of Professional and Extra-Mural Studies. That is me; and, I am happy to be with you this evening in the Washington DC area. It is by the grace of God that I am here, and may his name be glorified.

Members and Friends of Tooro American Association, allow me to take this opportunity to convey to you warm greetings from His Royal Majesty the King of Tooro, the only cultural and constitutionally the legitimate King of Tooro, Dr. Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV. The King loves all of you in the name of Jesus Christ, and wishes you good health.

May I take this auspicious occasion to congratulate you all on the successful launch of the Tooro American Association here in Washington DC on April 4, 2015. Congratulations!

This launch was done at a time when the Kingdom needed it most – especially, when we have now embarked on mobilizing all the subjects of the King living in the diaspora, and North America in particular – for the development of Tooro. Many thanks and may the good Lord give you all the wisdom and courage to move forward.

Allow me to quote your mission statement, "Tooro American Association (TAA) is to galvanize an expansive diaspora of Batooro (and Friends of Tooro) in North America to support development and charitable programs in the Tooro sub region; foster a cultural understanding and restoration of Tooro values and traditions - through education and support of Tooro's cultural institutions; and, strengthen our community ties through networking, empowerment, and supporting each other".

This is a very relevant mission to the present needs and aspirations of the people of Tooro and I do again pray that God almighty grants you the wisdom and courage to operationalize this mission or to turn into practical reality.

Members of Tooro American Association, please kindly be informed that as a kingdom, we have made great strides and we are now at the stage of what Political Economists call the 'take-off' stage. We would like to work with you to mobilize people to unite and work together - and actively participate in Government's wealth creation projects. Some of the opportunities being advocated for by both the Government of the Republic of Uganda and Tooro Kingdom include, but are not limited to coffee planting, fruit and vegetable growing, tree planting, banana growing, poultry, beekeeping, zero grazing, fish farming.

TAA can also partner with the Kingdom in some of the identified projects in the Kingdom. These include:

1. Setting up value-addition processing factories or plants for bananas and other fruits and vegetables for export markets
2. Setting up a briquette making factory to discourage deforestation and protect our environment
3. Starting a University of Science and Technology – with emphasis on vocational and entrepreneurship training – to equip our youngsters with modern skills that will enable them to be job creators, as opposed to job seekers.
4. Setting up a modern livestock farm and meat processing plant – targeting the big East African Community market.

This is only to mention, but a few – and, when I go back, I will send you detailed development plans of the above and other projects the Kingdom has identified to lift our people out of poverty. Tooro needs your support. I would like you the members and friends of Tooro American Association to do the advocacy and lobbying for the development of Mother Tooro. Let us all take-off together.

Also, with the wise guidance of His Royal Majesty Dr. Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV, we did request the President of the Republic of Uganda, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, who is also the Omujwara Kondo and Omukuza of our King, to preside over the Central Government of the Republic of Uganda to return Tooro Assets and properties. These assets and properties are an important lynchpin in the proposed development projects mentioned; and it is our strong hope and belief that as he presided over the return of Buganda Kingdom assets and properties, he will do the same for Tooro Kingdom. But, even in our Oliver Twist moments (where we keep asking for more), it should also be noted that the Central Government, at the President's behest has returned some assets and properties to the Kingdom of Tooro. The President has also done a lot to support our Kingdom and our King, and as Prime Minister, I can categorically say that the Kingdom and people of Tooro have no greater friend than H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

Finally, as you implement your programs, may I request you to stay true to and always look at the mission of Tooro American Association – again and again – Neera! Neera! Neera!

Omukama Ruhanga Abalinde Kandi Abakozese.

Omukama Ahangirize

Long Live HRM Dr. Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV

Long Live Tooro American Association

Long Live Tooro

Long Live Uganda

Long Live the United States of America

For God and My Country