

CHAPTER 19

POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN UGANDA DURING THE COLONIAL PERIOD

THE KABAKA CRISIS IN BUGANDA IN 1953

CAUSES OF THE KABAKA CRISIS OF 1953 IN BUGANDA

1. Like the name suggest, the Kabaka crisis in Buganda was a situation of serious political disagreements between the colonial government under Sir Andrew Cohen, the then British governor in Uganda and the Kingdom of Buganda under Kabaka Mutesa II.
2. The event was so memorable in that the Kabaka had to be deported to England on 30th November 1953.
3. The Kabaka crisis therefore was a trying moment not to only the British government but to also Buganda specifically and Uganda at large.

The causes were:

4. The desire of Buganda to get her independence from Uganda, that is to say the need for Buganda to establish an Independent entity outside Uganda.
5. The British on the other hand wanted to dominate Buganda fully.
6. The controversial or contentious opinions between the Kabaka and the colonial governor. The Kabaka and the members of Lukiiko objected to the idea of East African federation.
7. Kabaka Mutesa II needed more political power which the colonial governor could not accept.
8. The Baganda were too confident and determined to attain Independence.
9. Kabaka Mutesa II wanted to restore the glory of Buganda as exemplified by its rich history in the pre- colonial period.
10. The aggressive nature of the then colonial governor of Uganda, Sir Andrew Cohen led to this crisis.
11. Buganda had totally rejected the reforms made by the Governor like setting up elected local councils.
12. The emergency of young, energetic and politically vibrant Baganda like Abu-Mayanja and Ben Kiwanuka among others helped to create the crisis.
13. Buganda was totally oppressed to the idea of the East- African federation where she knew that her position as a kingdom would be sidelined or submerged into East African federation.

14. The overwhelmingly support that the Baganda always gave to their Kabaka made him to think that he was unchallengeable.
15. The Kabaka's complete failure to co-operate with the colonial administration at the time, created a state with in a state hence leading to the Kabaka crisis.
16. The most immediate factor inevitably was the deportation of the Kabaka by the colonial administration that annoyed and surprised the Baganda.

EFFECTS OF THE KABAKA CRISIS

1. Buganda became more united for her demands.
2. The idea of uniting of East Africa states into a federation was completely given a death blow.
3. The Kabaka's going into exile removed any sympathy of Baganda toward the colonial governor under Sir Andrew Cohen.
4. More political parties were formed in Buganda to act as a forum for Buganda's interests and Uganda in general, for example Democratic Party in 1956, Uganda People's Congress in 1960, among others.
5. The Kabaka was made to be responsible to members of Lukiiko and even the governor.
6. It inspired or encouraged the growth of nationalism in Buganda although it was a tribalistic nationalism.
7. The Kabaka purely became a constitutional monarchy.
8. It spear headed the struggle for independence starting from Buganda to other areas of Uganda.
9. A group of people that included Thomas Makumbi and Apollo Kironde among others went to London to ask for the release of the Kabaka.
10. The Kabaka returned in Buganda in 1955, which was a sign of victory to the Baganda.
11. It resulted into the signing of the Namirembe agreement on 18th October 1955, which tried to revisit or revise the 1900 Buganda agreement.
12. It proved the extent to which the British went against the Buganda agreement, for example they had failed to recognize the Kabaka of Buganda which was a central figure to the 1900 agreement.
13. It led to more political confusion in Buganda as Baganda became more unruly and lost their patience towards the colonial government.

14. The event surprised the Baganda; they will never forgive the colonial government for it.
15. Buganda still remained part and parcel of Uganda.

Revision questions

- i. What led to the Kabaka crisis in Buganda of 1953?
- ii. What were the results of the Kabaka crisis?