



PDFLEGENDS

Awoŋo (Idi Amin Dada)

Awoŋo was born on 10th Dhul Hija (Eid al Adh ha) which works out to either May 17, 1928, or May 30, 1928, or May 29, 1928. He died on August 16, 2003. **Awoŋo** was from the **Adibu** clan in **Ko'buko District**. He joined the Uganda Army in 1948, and was later promoted to Army Commander and eventually Field Marshal, and as the President of Uganda (1971-1979).

Silvanus Wani

Wani was born into the clan of **Nyanjiliya** in **Ko'buko District**. He, along with **John Donyi**, was ordained as a Reverend by the African Inland Mission (A.I.M.) in 1942. **Bishop Wani** served as the Chief Champlain in the Uganda Armed Forces. He became Arch Bishop of Uganda, Rwanda and Boga-Zaire in 1977. He died in the mid-1990s.

Rembi

Rembi was an illusionist, a teacher, leader, healer, magician, mentalist, shaman, "priest", and revolutionary who fought the Belgians and the British administrators in Uganda in the early 1900s. He was from the **Yondu** clan. The literature claims that the British captured **Rembi**, and eventually hanged him in Western Uganda (at **Masindi**) but the Kakwa believe that given his powerful **yakanye**, the British took **Rembi** to England where he has perhaps continued to produce children and live to this day.

Baba Di

Baba Di sailed from the village of **Azu** near the present town of **Baaze-Kengezi**, in the **Kakwa County**. The name **Di**, was a nickname given to him when he jumped off the high slave prison wall called **Kanda**, located at **Adumi Sub-County**, and hitting the ground making the characteristic landing sound "**Diiii**"!!!

Ali Kenyi

Kenyi was a very handsome and strong young man. These qualities drew immediate admiration from the British officials then running the newly-created **West Nile District**. Consequently, they made him County Chief of the Kakwa people of **Ko'buko District** in Uganda. Then for about four decades, **Ali Kenyi** continued to rule the Kakwa with an ironfist until his death in 1946. He was buried in the Muslim cemetery owned by **Malimu Sakari** of the **Morudu** clan, found just outside one of the soccer fields of **Ko'buko Secondary School**.

But, who exactly was **Ali Kenyi**? **Kenyi** sailed from the **Dimu** clan in **Ko'buko District**. At that time, Ko'buko's largest clan of **Midiya**, had its own traditional chief called **Abowo** of the sub-clan of **Pakayo**. The **Midiya** relinquished their chieftaincy to **Ali Kenyi** in mysterious ways. Some **Dimu** maintain that it was a bad omen in those days to align oneself with alien people like the British because that would bring a bad omen and a possible extinction of the clan from which such a chief sails. To save their clan, therefore, the **Dimu** decided to banish their son to his **Midiya** uncles. However, the most talked about explanation is that **Ali Kenyi** had an unusual genetic sexual deformity termed in Kakwa **luwe**. This is an abnormality by which the testis fail to descend out of the pubic region even at maturity. Because of this rare genetic aberration, the **Dimu** feared that **Ali Kenyi** would bring a misfortune onto them. As a result, they threw away young **Ali Kenyi** and his mother back to **Pakayo** who readily welcomed their nephew and daughter.

Ali Kenyi supposedly derived his power and authority from divine sources but overwhelmingly through the strength of his white bosses. As a result, he was mostly responsible to the foreign power which installed him but not accountable to the people he ruled. He did not, therefore, have any obligations to govern in the best interests of his subjects although he remained cognizant of the Kakwa. For instance, when riding his white horse from one village to another, the inhabitants in between the villages, had to sweep clean the path the animal would tread on otherwise, a stiff penalty would be imposed upon them. The horse he rode was white in colour, a status symbol of his colonial proteges. Moreover, during Ali Kenyi's reign, nobody was ever allowed to wish for anything, however jokingly that was. Whoever did so, would be ordered to have that thing in a large quantity. For instance, if one wished that he or she wanted some meat, a whole bull would be slaughtered for him or her. Failure to complete consuming the meat, would immediately bring severe and swift punishment. Very many men were also openly caned for minor offenses in front of large crowds.

After his death, the colonially-designed rule of **Ko'buko District** significantly shifted away from **Midiya** to the clan of **Ombasi** in **Ko'buko District**. **Ali Kenyi** was therefore, succeeded by **Ukuni** who was then succeeded by his son **Fadimula**. After the latter's death, his son **Nua**, succeeded **Fadimula**. **Nua** ruled, sometimes in rotation with **Nafutali Amiji** of **Danya**, till 1979. As in other parts of Uganda, the County Chief was guarded by locally-raised soldiers known in Kiswahili as *asikaris* and more commonly nicknamed *chamu gweno* (chicken eaters in **Luo**). **Ali Kenyi** is credited with bringing and spreading **Islam** in **Ko'buko District** and in parts of the **Kakwa County**.

Ayume Francis

Lawyer by profession, **Ayume** held several posts in different administrations in Uganda, the last one being Attorney General (AG) (1998-2001). Before that, he held the following posts: Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda (1998-2001); Minister of State Office of the President (1996-1998); General Manager Fourways Group of Companies (1991-1994); Secretary to the Electoral Commission (1985-1994); Secretary of the President, Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister (1983-1985), Solicitor General (1977). **Ayume** was from the clan of **Leyiko** in **Ko'buko District**. He died on May 16, 2004.

Agele

Poet and musician, **Agele** composed most of the present **lorujo**, **bayiko**, and **mute** songs that are now freely and widely used in Kakwa traditional dances. He sailed from the **Ginyako** clan in **Ko'buko District**.

Meta Aloro Ruba

Meta Aloro Ruba was a prominent businessman in the **Kakwa County**. He brought electricity to the **Godiya Gombe** town and built roads linking **Kaya-Toliga Mago** and **Gombe** in the 1980s. He sailed from the clan of **Robu** in the **Kakwa County**. He died in the late 1980s.

Aseni Eli

Eli got the rank of Colonel in the Uganda Army, and was Uganda's Ambassador to Moscow in the late 1970s. He sailed from the clan of **Godiya** in **Ko'buko District**. He died in 1992.

Diri

Diri was a Kakwa teacher and Deputy Headmaster of **Ko'buko Secondary School**, who later became a full headmaster of the School. He sailed from the clan of **Adibu** in **Ko'buko District**. He died in the 1990s.

Tito Arube

Tito Arube was a Colonial Chief from **Ludara Sub-County** who ruled much of the then Ko'buko County in the 1950s.

John Donyi

Donyi was a Protestant Reverend in **Ko'buko District**, and was ordained in 1942, along with **Silvanus Wani**. He sailed from the **Godiya** clan in **Ko'buko District**. He died in the late 1980s.

Gbangale

Gbangale was a Kakwa Chief in the present area of **Morobu** and **Gulumbi** who served the Turkish-Egyptian administration in the mid-19th Century. He was very ruthless and often colluded with the invading Arabs to capture the Kakwa and surrounding tribes for slaves---as far as parts of the present areas of **Ko'buko** and the **Kakwa County**.

Charles Arube

Arube was a Sandhurst-trained soldier in the Uganda Armed forces, and who at one time held the post of Army Chief of Staff in the Uganda Army. He came from the clan of **Kaliwara** in Ko'buko District. He died in 1974.

Paul Yosa

Yosa was an Army Commander in Mobutu's Army in the 1970s and 1980s. He held the post of General.

Yusufu Fataki

Yusufu was a teacher, dancer and singer in **Yei County**

Samule Lugala

Lugala was a famous **duluka** dancer and singer in **Yei County** in the 1970s and 1980s.

Kokole Omari Haruna

Kokole was a Professor of Political Science. He was teaching at Bimingham, New York, when he died on September 22, 1996, at the age of 44. He was from the clan of **Lurujo**, near Mount Liru in **Ko'buko District**.

'Buruga Joseph

'Buruga was a Professor of Genetics at Makerere University. He died in 1998.

Agabito Kenyi

Agabito was the first Kakwa Senior Customs Officer with the Uganda Customs. He sailed from the clan of **Parikile-Oka** in the Kakwa County. He died in 1992.

Benjamin Moro

Benjamin Moro was from the Ludara clan in Ko'buko and he served as Education Officer for the then Ko'buko County. He died recently.

Seme Luete Solomona

Seme was born in 1939 in the village of **Abege** in Yei County. He received theological training beginning in the Sudan in 1960, and later in Nigeria. He was ordained a Deacon in 1964, and in 1985, was consecrated as **Bishop of Yei**. **Seme** did a number of important things for the people of the Sudan and Uganda, such as building the Bishop's Office, a Health Centre, an Orphanage Centre (currently Diocesan Guest House), all in Yei Town. He was also founding member of following: the New Sudan Council of Churches (NSCC) in Torit (in 1991), the Bishop Alison Theological College in Arua (now the Pastor's Training Institute for ECS clergy in New Sudan, **Nya, Jiliya Secondary School** (in Ko'buko District), West Nile Vocational Training Institute in Arua etc. The Rt. Reverend Solomon died on August 10, 2003, following complications from a stroke six years earlier.

Charles Abugo

Charles Abugo was a Kakwa Chief in the **Yei Town** in the 1990s. when the Southern Sudanese sought refuge in the neighbouring Congolese town of **Aba**, he continued to serve them there. **Chief Abugo** also rescued many innocent Refugees who were being constantly harassed and beaten by the unruly Congolese (then Zairian) local authorities. A primary school, **Abugo Primary School**, has now been named in memory of the late **Chief Charles Abugo**.

Ismail Abugo

Abugo was founding member and singer of the famous **Rajaf Night Club (Rajaf Jazz Band)** which originated in Yei Town.

James Yeke Aziyo

Yeka was a successful Kakwa businessman who originated from the Congo Kakwa but operated mainly in the Uganda and the Sudan. He died in Arua, in 1990.

Lokulu

Lokulu was the Chief of the Kakwa in the Aba area of the Kongo Kakwa. His rule was disrupted by the Belgians in the mid-1900s. He died in 1990.

Elia Lupe

Elia Lupe was the first South Sudanese to become a **Police Officer**. He was also the first Kakwa to train at a Police College during the Anglo-Egyptian Sudanese Condominium rule of 1899.

Nyemediya

Nyemediya was a charismatic Kakwa native doctor and soothsayer who reigned in the 19th century in what is now **Ludara** County. His reign included the areas of **Arindre** (near **Ke-i** and the present international border between the Sudan and Uganda). He also covered **Keruwa**, **Kulu'ba**, **Ora'ba**, **Lonjira**, **Jobu**, **Lurunu**, up to **River Kochu**. **Nyemediya** is credited with bringing the **Bura** people from the present Yei County area to help him administer his empire. The **Bura** people are, of course, considered the rain-making geniuses among the Kakwa people. **Nyemediya** is said to have reigned at the same time as **Gbangale**.

Nyokpa

Nyokpa is said to be an important legend among the Kakwa. He descended from **Nyemediya**. A tree under which **Nyokpa** was buried is said to have been several metres long and it could be seen as far away as the Sudan, across the River Kaya'

Female Kakwa Legends

Muri

According to Kakwa mythology, **Muri** was the first woman on earth. She was the wife of **Mungura**, the first man on earth.

Iba

Iba was the twin sister of **Biyu** who, after marrying each other, gave rise to **Nyingbo**, grandfather of **Yeki**.

Gbele

Gbele is said to have sailed from the clan of **Yata** (according to the Lugbara), and she was Yeki's first wife.

ṅa'da

She was of the **Kupera** clan, and Yeki's second wife. She became the mother of **Zaki**.

Lindro

Lindro was the sister of **Yeki** who followed her brother in his wanderings to **Mount Liru**.

Aate Aisha Chumaru

Aate Aisha Chumaru came from the **Okapi** clan in **Maracha County**. She was the mother of **Awonjo (Idi Amin Dada)**. She died in 1970.

Mary Basioni

Mary was from **Yei town**. She was a prominent member of the Sudan Socialist Union (SSU), and chief female delegate at the Addis Ababa Accord of 1972.

Do you know of any other Kakwa legendary figures? If so, please state their full names, their clan and why they or she should be remembered.