

**Statement by OBB, OBR and Toro Kingdom on Youth, Violence Prevention and Peace building
in the Rwenzori region.**

We the Cultural Institutions of Obundhingiya Bwa Bwamba (OBB), Obusinga Bwa Rwenzururu (OBR) and Toro Kingdom each represented by the Prime Minister and Ministers of Culture, Youth and Security at a tripartite meeting held from February 19th to 20th, 2015 at Crane Hotel, Ishaka-Bushenyi District under the auspices of Rwenzori Forum of Peace and Justice and International Alert.

We appreciate the fact that the youth in our region has been selfishly used before to further occasions of violence and undermine the culture of peace, a practice we condemn in the strongest term possible.

We are aware that those who conscript the youth into acts of violence strategically make these conscriptions to realize their interests at the expense of the youth.

We appreciate the fact that cultural Institutions in our region can snatch the youth from acts of violence and guide them towards positive and mutually enhancing activities.

We applaud efforts of the youth to craft a regional violence prevention and peace building strategy for Rwenzori region.

We are cognizant of the fact that the youth in our region face interlinked economic, social and political challenges that hamper their pursuit for happiness, progress and success.

We are all conscious of the beauty of our region and the many physical features we share including the adored Mt. Rwenzori.

We are cognizant of the tendencies by many actors to narrowly brand conflicts in the region as ethnic, ignoring other political and economic drivers of these conflicts.

Intrinsically convinced of the fact that the youth in our region have more to unite them than what to divide them and that all young people deserve parental love and guidance from elders in a manner that will maximize and guarantee mutual respect, appreciation of delivery and cultural harmony.

We resolve as follows;

To use our credibility and public trust to mobilize and inspire the youth to work for peace and the culture of non-violence.

To reject and mobilize against all schemes that seeks to conscript the youth into occasions of violence and conflict.

To work with and through our youth wings to further the culture of non-violence and peace in our region.

To continue nourishing the divine gift of intercultural diversity in our region for mutual enhancement and gain.

To support in all possible ways, implementation of the Rwenzori regional violence prevention and peace building strategy for the youth.

To uphold all laws governing the operations and functioning of cultural institutions and value the indispensable equality of all peoples within their diverse cultural strata.

We make the following appeals;

Parents, elders and opinion leaders should desist from socialization processes that further intercultural discord and stereotypes.

Cultural institutions should continue to work with and through their youth structures to galvanize young people for the culture of non-violence and peace.

All leaders and citizens of Rwenzori region to treat the youth with dignity and consider all possible approaches and actions that will spur the potential of young people to prevent violence and build peace.

CSOs, local and central governments to prioritize more than ever before, needs and interests of the youth in all government plans and development processes to address enormous economic and social challenges that make them easy prey to selfish actors for short-term gain.

Youth of Rwenzori region to reject all schemes that drive them into acts of violence and conflict, respect elders and accept to engage in productive engagements including participating in agriculture.

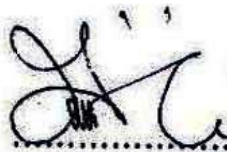
Cultural leaders from Rwenzori region to quickly form a cultural leaders' forum to give cultural guidance and foster intercultural harmony and mutual appreciation.

CSOs and other peace actors to support cultural institutions to meet the youth and discuss matters of youth, non-violence and peace in our region.

Government to support and/or create avenues for discussions with cultural institutions on matters pertaining to peace, reconciliation and development in the Rwenzori region.



Rt. Hon. Muhindo Enoch
Prime Minister/OBR

 Signed

Rt. Hon. Mubulya Wilson
Prime Minister/OBB



Rt. Hon Steven Kaliba
Prime Minister/Toro Kingdom

Dated... THIS 20th Feb 2015 ...at Crane Hotel, Ishaka-Bushenyi District