

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF PARLIAMENT URGING GOVERNMENT TO RECOGNIZE AND PROTECT THE UNIQUE LANGUAGES, CULTURE AND CUSTOMS OF MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN UGANDA

(Moved under Articles 79 and 94 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, and Rule 120 of the Rules of Procedure of Parliament)

WHEREAS Article 36 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995 protects the rights of Minorities and guarantees their right to participate in decision-making processes and requires their views and interests to be taken into account in the making of national plans and programmes;

AND WHEREAS the 2014 National Population and Housing Census put the population at 34.6 Million people;

AWARE THAT Uganda is home to a large number of diverse ethnic and linguistic communities some of whom are listed in the third schedule to the Constitution;

FURTHER AWARE THAT of the ethnic groups in Uganda, the Baganda are the majority accounting for 16.5% of the total population, the Banyankore who account for 9.6% of the total population, the Basoga who account for 8.8% of the total population, the Bakiga who account for 7.1% of the total population, the Iteso who account for 7.0% of the total population, the Langi who account for 6.3% of the total population, the Bagisu who account for 4.9% of the total population, the Acholi who account for 4.4% of the total population and the Lugbara who account for 3.3% of the total population;

NOTING THAT Uganda has a number of ethnic minority communities who are scattered across the country such as the Alur, Ik (Teuso), Kakwa, Karamojong cluster, Lugbara, Luluba, Ma'di, Nubian, Bagungu, Bakenyi, Bavuma, Ik (Teuso), Soo,



Abayanda, Batwa, Ba'amba, Bakonzo, Benet, Bakyingwe, Bagabo and the Maragoli;

FURTHER NOTING THAT these minority groups suffer from negative perceptions of their ways of life, traditional livelihoods, occupations and land use leading to the loss of their identity, language, cultures and customs as well as their subjugation by their more dominant neighbors;

CONCERNED THAT the indigenous communities in Uganda continue to experience challenges to their existence including the lack of security in land tenure, marginalization in terms of political representation, exclusion from Government programs, human rights violations, including forced evictions from their ancestral lands, violence, intimidation and destruction of their properties and historical injustices such as the demarcation of national boundaries as well as the creation of national parks and game reserves during the colonial period;

COGNISANT THAT unless remedial measures are undertaken to address the challenges and historical injustices suffered by the minority communities in Uganda, the existing minority communities will lose their unique culture, language and identity resulting in their extinction.

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved by this Parliament that Government considers and-

- (a) Clearly defines and recognize ethnic minorities in the country and put in place specific laws and guidelines for the protection of ethnic minorities;
- (b) Recognizes and protects the unique languages, culture and customs of minority communities in Uganda.
- (c) Addresses historical injustices suffered by ethnic minorities in Uganda and ensure their right to access and occupy their



historical sites especially those located in protected areas is recognized and protected.

- (d) Takes urgent steps to promote the peaceful coexistence and eradicate the discrimination and persecution of ethnic minorities.
- (e) develops inclusive and intercultural educational curricula, which ensures that all ethnic minorities have an understanding of their multicultural society.
- (f) adopts policies that promote and develop the cultural heritage and distinctive cultural practices of ethnic minorities.
- (g) Ratifies the ILO Convention Concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries, 1989.



I beg to move.



**MOVED BY: HON. ASAMO HELLEN GRACE (MP)
PWD EASTERN/CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON EQUAL
OPPORTUNITIES**



**SECONDED BY: HON. KUMAMA NSAMBA GEORGE WILSON (MP)
BBAALE COUNTY**