

CHAPTER 11

LIFE AND NATIONALISM AT BUKATIRA, BULEMEEZI

11.1 PK and his Second Wife Susaana Nakitto at Bukatira

When PK left his son Samwiri Kaggulire's home to set up his own, also at Bukatira Namasinda, he found it difficult to run it on his own without a wife. Much as he wanted his wife Eseza to join him in the village, circumstances could not permit since that would essentially have meant closing down the Makeerere city home. So PK negotiated with Eseza until they both agreed that the best thing was for PK to take a second wife to look after their rural home, while Eseza looked after the urban home. He therefore took on Susaana Nakitto, the sister of Reuben Kalumba and the daughter of Mr and Mrs Yakobo Kacwano of Kiteredde, Kirema. They got married in a traditional wedding ceremony. Their happy marriage lasted approximately twenty years, before PK died in 1968. Unfortunately it was not blessed with a child between the two of them, although Susaana had had a child (Nagaddya) from her first marriage. Susanna's death was not properly recorded, but she is said to have died in the "Luwero Triangle" during the liberationist war Yoweri Kaguta Museveni was waging against Milton Obote's second regime, somewhere between 1981 and 1986.

When PK first got to Namasinda in 1947, there was a school which had already been set up by one Mr Buzza in the very home of his son (nephew) Samwiri Kaggulire. It was a small elementary school with only four primary grades. PK immediately put his two children Kaggulire and Bbosa into that school and then set about motivating other parents in the area to develop and expand it into a bigger school. They approached a prominent landowner Bulasiyo Buyisi who owned a large piece of land around Kalege. He agreed to lend them space on Kalege hill so they could build a bigger school. That school was built and in 1948 the school was moved from Samwiri Kaggulire's home to the new premises on Kalege hill. They called it "Muteesa I Memorial School, Kalege" in memory of the late King Ssekabaka Muteesa I who "brought light" to Buganda by inviting the first Europeans to come to Buganda with their formal educational school system. The school became famous for being the first privately built and owned school in the area and possessing highly qualified and modern teachers. In addition, unlike other schools in the area, which were largely missionary and not allowed to teach English, Muteesa I Memorial School taught English as a subject. The following year 1949, the school expanded to take in Primary 5 and 6 pupils. At the end of that year five pupils successfully completed Primary 6, ready to move on to Junior Secondary schools elsewhere. Such enthusiasm gave Muteesa I Memorial School a strong leverage in attracting students from surrounding missionary schools. Its popularity grew to unprecedented proportions within such a short time. Unfortunately that was its undoing, for the owners of those other schools felt very uneasy about the competition. They conspired with the local politicians and started undermining the school. For example, they approached the owner of the land on which the school stood, Mr Bulasiyo Buyisi, to ask him rescind his loan of the place. Many other false accusations were levelled against the school, which forced the administrators to relocate it from Kalege hill to somewhere else. Inevitably the school gradually lost momentum and with time eventually closed. There is no doubt that PK's involvement in the school, with his background in the nationalist movement was a major weapon used by his opponents in undermining the school. With the prevailing circumstances in the country at that time, it would have been very presumptuous to think that the school

would continue to thrive. Hence PK's plans and efforts to spread his nationalist sentiments through that school, if he had any, were thwarted.

PK then concentrated on farming, cultivating cotton and coffee in plenty. He had a good yield and used the proceeds of the sale to purchase 50 acres of land on which he built his second home on Bukatira village. He named his property Kibutamu. Up to today the property still stands, occupied and maintained by one of his sons, Damasiko Kaggulire, who went with him into captivity. Damasiko Kaggulire is caretaking the property on behalf of all the Kiyingi family to whom the property was bequeathed.

11.2 PK in Defence of the Common People Before the Law

PK used his wise counsel and knowledge of natural justice to assist many common people in their pleas before the law, especially people around the village of Bukatira in Namasinda. People would go to him for advice on how to put their defence, or sometimes for direct representation in the local courts. The charges would usually be between the government appointed chiefs, in the exercise of their duties, against the commoners; especially if PK detected any form of injustice being exercised against the commoner. From time to time the cases would be referred to the magistrate's court at Mengo in the city of Kampala. PK would not hesitate to accompany the accused, put him up in his own city home at Makeerere, from where they would follow up the case at Mengo. After the first mention in the court PK always preferred an adjournment to the following or another day, so he could frame their defence most appropriately. He had a popular saying to go with that wish: "*Ogusula, gwe gukuwa empoza*" (an adjourned case always gives you a better defence). He built himself a strong reputation as a people's pleader (*Pro Bono Advocate*), except that he was never paid for it. It was all in the spirit of nationalism.

11.3 PK Initiates a Co-operative Spirit in His Community

Paulo Kiyingi was the initiator of the co-operative spirit among the people of his area, when he persuaded them into building their own store or shop locally at the Kalege Trading Centre. They would then purchase commodities for the shop at wholesale prices, and sell the same commodities to themselves at reasonable prices.

11.4 The Struggle to Acquire Rights to Process Cotton and Coffee

Paulo Kiyingi was one of those who petitioned the protectorate government to give the Africans freedom to process their coffee and gin their cotton, if they so wished. This was a collaborative effort by all nationalists of the time, most notably Ignatius Musaazi and other nationalists who were applying pressure in the major cities, while PK and others applied pressure in the villages. The government finally acceded to the demands of the Africans by bringing in an expert, Mr Fenar Broakway, to look into the matter. His recommendation was unreservedly to allow the Africans to process their cash crops, in competition with the Asian traders. This was granted in 1949.