

CHAPTER 13

POST-REVOLUTION AND PRE-INDEPENDENCE POLITICS

13.1 PK's Involvement in Modern day Politics

It can be said that the first political party in Buganda was “*Baana ba Kintu*” (lit. Children of Kintu), which was formed in 1938. Mr Ignatius Musazi was its moderator or leader. Its principal objective was to unite and organise African farmers and traders so that they could maximise their performance and profits. Firstly, to collectively market their produce, especially cotton, in order to get better prices. Secondly, to reduce the spread and influence of the foreign traders who were mostly Asians, in the rural country areas (villages). In the later stages, with the ascension to *Katikkiro*-ship of Martin Nsibirwa, several of the **Baana ba Kintu** members developed bitterness against Nsibirwa and his treasurer Serwano Kulubya, both of whom they perceived as being too pro-colonialists sabotaging the progress of the citizens. So those members started campaigning for the removal of those two officials. Finally, **Baana ba Kintu** was transformed into a political party to fight for independence when the academics, teachers and workers joined its ranks and broadened its objectives. PK was not a registered member of this party due to his employment position. But it is said that he was a staunch supporter of its broad nationalistic objectives. It is said that even His Majesty, *Kabaka* Daudi Chwa II was a sympathiser if not a clandestine supporter of that organisation's objectives, a revelation that never impressed the colonial administration. The organisation was disbanded in the upheavals of 1945 in which the colonial administration arrested and exiled its leaders, close associates and advisers, like Paulo Kiyingi. The nationalist *Kabaka* Daudi Chwa is also said to have recruited Paulo Kiyingi as one of his private advisers, especially pertaining to matters between the then protectorate government and His Majesty's Government. Paulo Kiyingi, through his nationalistic sentiments, was well positioned for this role by virtue of his employment in the Provincial Commissioner's Office. This was further necessitated because the Kabaka had lost trust in his top officials: the *Katikkiro* - Martin Nsibirwa and the *Omuwanika* - Serwano Kulubya.

As the ancestral Kiganda proverb goes, “*Awakula ennume, tewakula emu*” (a herd never has one top bull, there is always another one in the offing to succeed it). So in 1946, while Paulo Kiyingi and his colleagues were still in exile, those who stayed behind formed another elders' party which they named **Bataka Union (BU)**. This was started by those elders who still felt for their country's liberation, with aspirations articulated along the same lines as the disbanded **Baana ba Kintu**. They campaigned strongly for the release of those exiled without proper cause, which eventually forced the Government to relent and release them. Since the main objectives of the Bataka party were very similar to what PK and his compatriots had been campaigning for all along and were possibly related to the reasons for their exile, PK had no reservation in joining that party as soon as he was released. The party embraced people of all sorts of backgrounds: commoners and chiefs, farmers and traders, teachers and other workers, Baganda as well as people from other parts of Uganda, people of all religions, men and women, all without discrimination. They were all united in one broad aspiration - to work towards the emancipation of the indigenous Ugandan, to end the exploitation of the Asian trader, to end the colonisation by the Europeans and work towards the country's Independence. The main thrust, support and membership of the party were largely drawn from Buganda, and so the Baganda had a big influence

in setting the agenda. For example, they were also fighting for the preservation of their cultural traditions and heritage, as promulgated in the 1900 Agreement.

They appointed Mr Ssemakula Mulumba, an ex-seminarian recently returned from London where he had just graduated in Bantu languages, to be the emissary of the Bataka party (BU) in Britain and the United Nations. His main mission was to present their case directly to the British Colonial Secretary and petition the United Nations assembly. This was because they could no longer trust the Governor, the British monarch's representative in Uganda. They used to contribute money towards the upkeep of Ssemakula Mulumba in Europe.

Ignatius MUSAAZI, who was the leader of another party “**Uganda African Farmers Union**”, after his release from exile also joined arms with the Bataka party and intensified the struggle. They demanded the raising of prices for cotton and coffee so that the farmers could increase their income.

Paulo Kiyingi welcomed and fully supported this latter demand since he had concentrated his energies into farming in the village/country. His aim was to stay in the rural areas and fuel his nationalistic campaigns there. He wanted to educate the common people in the village/country so that they too could understand and become sensitive to the unfair, exploitative, hypocritical and crafty methods the Protectorate Government had introduced in Buganda and the whole of Uganda. He also aspired to increase the educational standard and financial prospects of the people there.

Confining himself to the village though, had its drawbacks for PK. He missed out on participating fully in the modern political parties which commenced in the 1950s. These were largely run and prospered in the big cities of Kampala and Ntebe. PK remained in the Bataka Union party, even when it started losing momentum, right up to the very end. The reason for that stance is not very clear, but it is presumed that he preferred working in a political framework which preserved the cultural traditions and institutions of Buganda. And if so, that may be why in the 1962 Mengo parliamentary elections PK had contested in the primaries or pre-selections for the “**Kabaka Yekka**” (the King Only) party candidature, to represent Kapeeka- Bulemeezi, pitching himself against another Kabaka Yekka candidate Settimba who was a favourite of the Mengo establishment headed by the Katikkiro Michael Kintu. When PK lost out in the pre-selections he quit politics for good. He was aged 66 years at the time, possibly getting weaker and frail.