

#UBUNTU CREATIVE COMPETITION 2024
ESSAY ABOUT THE “ECONOMY”
SUBMITTED TO “TAF NARRATIVE FOCUS UNIT”

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**ESSAY TITLE: UBUNTU, A HEARTBEAT FOR ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT IN
BUGANDA**

My heart beats with the rhythm of Buganda, a land in Uganda country, rich in culture and steeped in the philosophy of Ubuntu. It is a land where the spirit of "I am because we are" permeates every aspect of our lives, guiding our actions towards a more just and prosperous future. As a proud “Muganda” from Buganda Kingdom in Uganda, I see this philosophy reflected in our daily lives, particularly in the way we approach economic empowerment.

Our ancestors understood the power of collective action. They believed that each individual's success was intricately linked to the well-being of the community. This is embodied in "Bulungi Bwansi" (community well-being), a tradition ingrained in our culture. It involves not just cleaning our communities, but also actively engaging in projects that improve everyone’s lives. This spirit of collaboration has been instrumental in driving economic progress.

I vividly remember my own experience witnessing the launch of the "Emwanyi Terimba" (Coffee Doesn't Sleep) program in 2016. The “Katikiro” (Prime Minister) of Buganda, “Owekitiibwa” Charles Peter Mayiga, launched this initiative in Buwekula county one of the **18** counties that make up the Buganda Kingdom located in Mubende district. In this initiative, the Prime Minister of Buganda Kingdom (“Owekitiibwa” Charles Peter Mayiga, inspired people to embrace coffee farming. The program since then, has become a resounding success, with countless individuals benefiting from the increased income. Since then, coffee has become a source of pride, allowing people to purchase land, build

homes, and contribute to a thriving economy. I have seen families lifted out of poverty and entire communities transformed by this program. (**Note:** for instance, for this recent last coffee harvesting season of April-July 2024, coffee farmers have really witnessed sowing the true seeds of gold due to the increased coffee prices where each farmer was left with a deep smile. Farmers, truly got back to thank the Prime Minister of Buganda of Kingdom for this outstanding initiative he introduced as they have gone ahead to encourage others to also embrace coffee growing to change their economic status).

The Buganda Kingdom's commitment to economic empowerment extends beyond agriculture. Programs like "Entanda Ya Buganda", launched in 2005, celebrates our culture and fosters unity. This competition, held annually, recognizes individuals with deep knowledge of our history and traditions, awarding them with valuable prizes. These prizes empower winners, motivating others to preserve our heritage and contributing to the growth of our society.

Beyond these initiatives, I witness the spirit of Ubuntu in the countless SACCOs, like the CBS PEWOSA SACCOs (this includes SACCOs such as Buddu CBS PEWOSA SACCO, Kyadondo CBS PEWOSA SACCO, CBS PEWOSA Nsindika Njake Eyeeterekera SACCO, among others) that have sprung up across Buganda. People come together, pooling resources and supporting each other's dreams. These SACCOs provide access to capital, fostering entrepreneurship and enabling individuals to build their own businesses.

The Buganda Kingdom and its people have a profound understanding that economic progress requires a collective effort. Through programs like "Emipiira gy'Amassaza ga Buganda" (Buganda counties Football Competition) and "Bingwa Wamabingwa" (Sports Champions), the Kingdom empowers the youth and promotes talent development. These programs not only nurture athletic skills but also instill values of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance, preparing the next generation for success.

Ubuntu is more than just a philosophy; it is a driving force that guides our pursuit of economic empowerment. The Buganda Kingdom and its people demonstrate that, through collective action, shared responsibility, and a commitment to empowering each other, we can create a more prosperous and equitable future for all.