

THE PEOPLE OF BUNYALA LOCATION (PORT VICTORIA)

The major clans are the Abamulembo, the Abanyekera, the Abasinyama, and the Abakhone. The minor clans are the Abamatseke, the Abang'oma, the Ababoro, the Ababamba, the Ababono, the Abamenya, the Abasitwoki, the Abaiwani, the Abamakhia, the Abakwanga, the Abaineki, the Abaluo, the Abakhumatsi, the Abamuli, the Abanyifwa, the Abalubanga, the Abaleke, the Abadebo, the Abaye, the Abasirwa, the Abakhabala, the Abasora, and the Abakhala. Altogether they are twenty-seven clans.

Among these the first clans to settle in Bunyala and which were found there by the later settlers were the Abamatseke, the Ababoro, the Abang'oma, the Abakhone, the Abanyekera, the Abamahia, the Abasinyama, the Ababamba, the Abang'ineki, the Abanyifwa, the Ababoko, the Abaye, the Abadiera, the Ababongo, the Abamwakwe, the Abayobo, the Abakhala, the Abaiwani, the Abamuli, the Abaluo, the Abakhabala, the Abakhwanga, the Abaderu, the Abamuripo, the Abamenya, the Abakhumati, the Abalubanga, the Abasirwa, and the Ababotso. Of all these the Abakhone were the first to settle in Bunyala; they were followed by the Abamatseke, the Abang'oma, the Ababoro, the Abamulembo, the Abangineki, the Abakhunza, and the Abalubanga in that order. The rest came later.

The Abamulembo Clan

Their ancestor came from Tiriki. When they were there they called themselves Abarwa and belonged to the same clan as the Abashitsetse. After leaving Tiriki they went to Kabras; they do not know the people they found there. Then after leaving Kabras they went to Marachi and found there the Ababere and the Abafofoyo. They continued travelling and reached Bukhekhe in Samia where they found the Abakhulo and the Abalala clans.

Continuing travelling, they reached Ibanda in Busoga and found there the Abadepi and the Abakhone. From Ibanda they went to the Sigulu Island in the lake (Victoria) and found there the Abamalenge, the Abayima, and the Abasisosi. It was after they left this island that they came to Eluyu here in Bunyala. Then they gradually spread out. All these people whom the Abamulembo came in contact with spoke Oluluyia.

They emigrated from Tiriki because Murwa's child accidentally swallowed the "inyuma" belonging to the child of Wanga. These two were brothers and the sons of Masinde and his wife Nakuruku. Wanga was the elder - Wanga insisted on his brother giving him his "inyuma". Then Murwa took his child and cut him open and gave Wanga his bead. Disgusted and annoyed, he emigrated to Ematungu and left Wanga in Tiriki. He died at Ematungu and left a son called Shiyawa. It was Shiyawa who led the migration to Butula in Marachi. He found there the Abafofoyo and the Ababero who nicknamed him "Omumulembo" because he was endlessly changing homes.

Genealogies

Their ancestor, Masinde, died in Kabras. He was the father of Murwa who died at Imanga father of Shiyawa I, father of Mulembo; father of Shiyawa II; father of

Shikhonga; father of Warnurwa; father of Kwambo; father of Shiywa III; father of Makanda; father of Khwanga; father of Wanamanda; father of Mukudi I; father of Khasamba; father of Khayianza; father of Mukudi II; father of Namunza; father of ex-chief Mukudi; father of S. Adero. Apart from the last two, they all died here.

The Abakhone clan

Their elders said “the Abakhone are of here (Bunyala); they did not come from any other place”.

The Abamatseke clan

Their ancestors came from Alego Ebudenge and walked till they reached Sigulu Bumadhe in Alego. Then, continuing travelling, they arrived here in Bunyala and then began to disperse. They were Gem people when they were at Ebudenge in Alego they spoke Dholuo. Mbosia was their leader from there. They lived with the Alego people at a place called Alego Ebunyolo.

They migrated from Alego because of a domestic disagreement. Maungu’s cow ate the potato vines of his brother; then, in retaliation, his brother pushed a stick into the stomach of the cow through its anus. This angered Maungu; accordingly, he quarrelled with his brother and then decided to migrate with his family and people.

Genealogies

The ancestor of the Abamatseke died at Ebumadhe in Alego. He had three sons: Mahero, Sirimbeli and Munyala. Munyala died in Alego. Sirimbeli was the father of Mbosia; father of Nagumi; father of Mwari; father of Gwala; father of Mbosia; father of Muginu; father of Siduyu; father of Gemi; father of Muginu; father of Opamo; father of Oduku; father of OluIwe the spokesman; father of Onalo. Apart from the last two, they all died here in Bunyala.

They are called Abanyala because Munyala was Omumatseke’s son. Others say however, that the reason for their being called Abanyala was the fact that certain people drove away the Abakhone and, consequently, they boasted saying “khubanyalire” (we have served them right); thereafter, the name of “abanyala” became applicable to all the clans of the Abanyala.

The elders added further that the Abanyala are related to the Abanyala of Navakholo. The Abanyala of Navakholo migrated from here because of starvation and disputes.

The Abanyekera clan

They are the same people as the Abamulembo. They were descended from Munyekera but they separated at Imanga and went to Yimbo Location from where they came to Mwoya in Bunyala.

Source: Gideon S Were, Western Kenya, Historical Texts, EALB, 1967