



INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF BANYAKIGEZI NEW JERSEY CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

[PART OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY OF BANYAKIGEZI
(ICOB)]

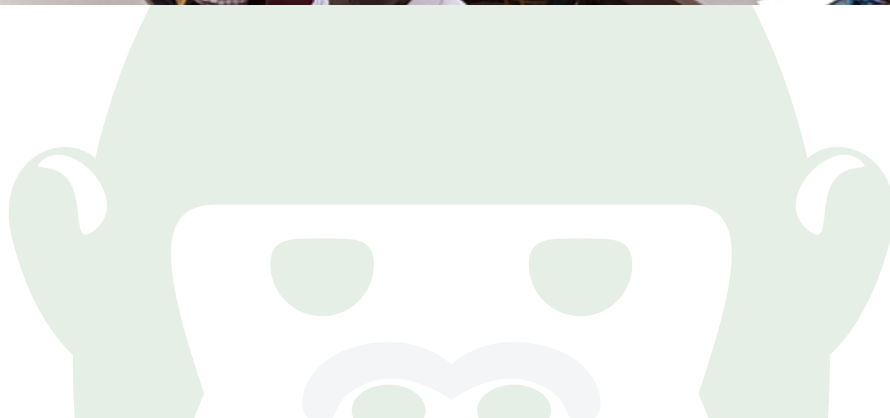
ICOB NEW JERSEY 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

At the beginning of August all roads led to East Rutherford, New Jersey for the 17th Convention and Annual General Meeting of the International Community of Banyakigezi (ICOB) which was held at the Hilton Meadowlands, 2 Meadowlands Plaza, East Rutherford, NJ 07073 from Thursday August 1, 2019 to Monday August 05, 2019. The theme for the Convention was "Innovation Driven Tourism". This year's theme was an extension of last year's convention theme and program that focused on Tourism as an Engine of Uganda's Development.

The convention was graced by the presence of His Excellency Mull Sebuja Katende the Ambassador of Uganda to the US, Ambassador Philip Odida Uganda's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Duncan Muhumuza Laki and Dr Peter Ngategize Head of the Private Sector Development Unit (PSDU) Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development among others. Several guests from Uganda, Canada and the United Kingdom were in attendance.



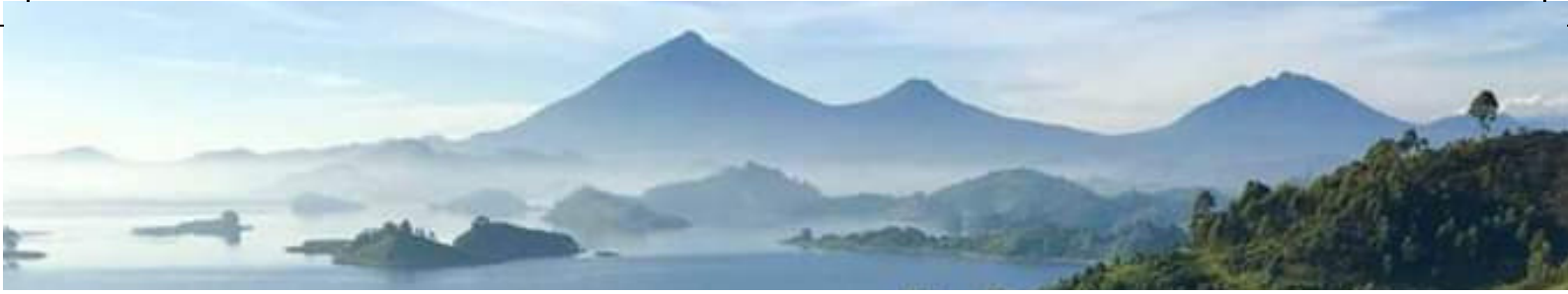
The convention began with a welcome address from the Chairperson Organizing Committee, Sarah Sebikari-Rukunda and the Vice President Meadowlands Chamber & Meadowlands LIVE Convention and Visitors Bureau, Judy Ross. Thereafter the delegates were addressed by the President ICOB, Muniini K. Mulera, the Ambassador of Uganda to the US and Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN. The business session of the convention was then in full gear. The well attended sessions involved panel discussions on tourism and notable presentations from experts in the sector like Dr. Peter Ngategize on Community Based Tourism, Isaiah Jobs Rwanyekiro of Breathtaking Uganda and the keynote speaker Ashley Norman from PHG Consulting who presented on Uganda Tourism Marketing Efforts in the US.





The ICOB youth as always were involved and contributed to the convention's proceedings. The youth panel discussed how we can put Uganda on the Map using Innovative Youth Led Case Studies. The panel was moderated by Michelle Byamugisha from the Washington DC ICOB Chapter and comprised of Jeff Fonda, Founder and CEO of The Literate Earth Project and Irene Jenifer, Founder and CEO of HouseofDoura.





On site we had a number of vendors including the National Identification and Registration Authority (NIRA) of Uganda, Centenary Bank, Breathtaking Uganda, Nyakagezi Tours and Travel, Starling Express Shippers and Harkiss Designs.



On Saturday we indulged in serious ICOB organization business which included the roll out of the Kigezi Investment Fund (KIF) spearheaded by Emmanuel Turyamuhaki, Chairman UK chapter and a strategic planning session led by Mr. Henry K. Bagazonzya.

During the proceedings, the delegates prayed and thanked the Lord for the life of one of their own, Judy Nkusi, who was miraculously healed after a long illness. In unison, the delegates sang the popular revival hymn Tukutendereza Yesu.

New leaders were elected to the executive and board. The election was over seen and monitored by H.E Ambassador Mull Katende, Ambassador Duncan Muhumuza Laki and Dr. Richard Otto. Voting by secret ballot was free and fair.



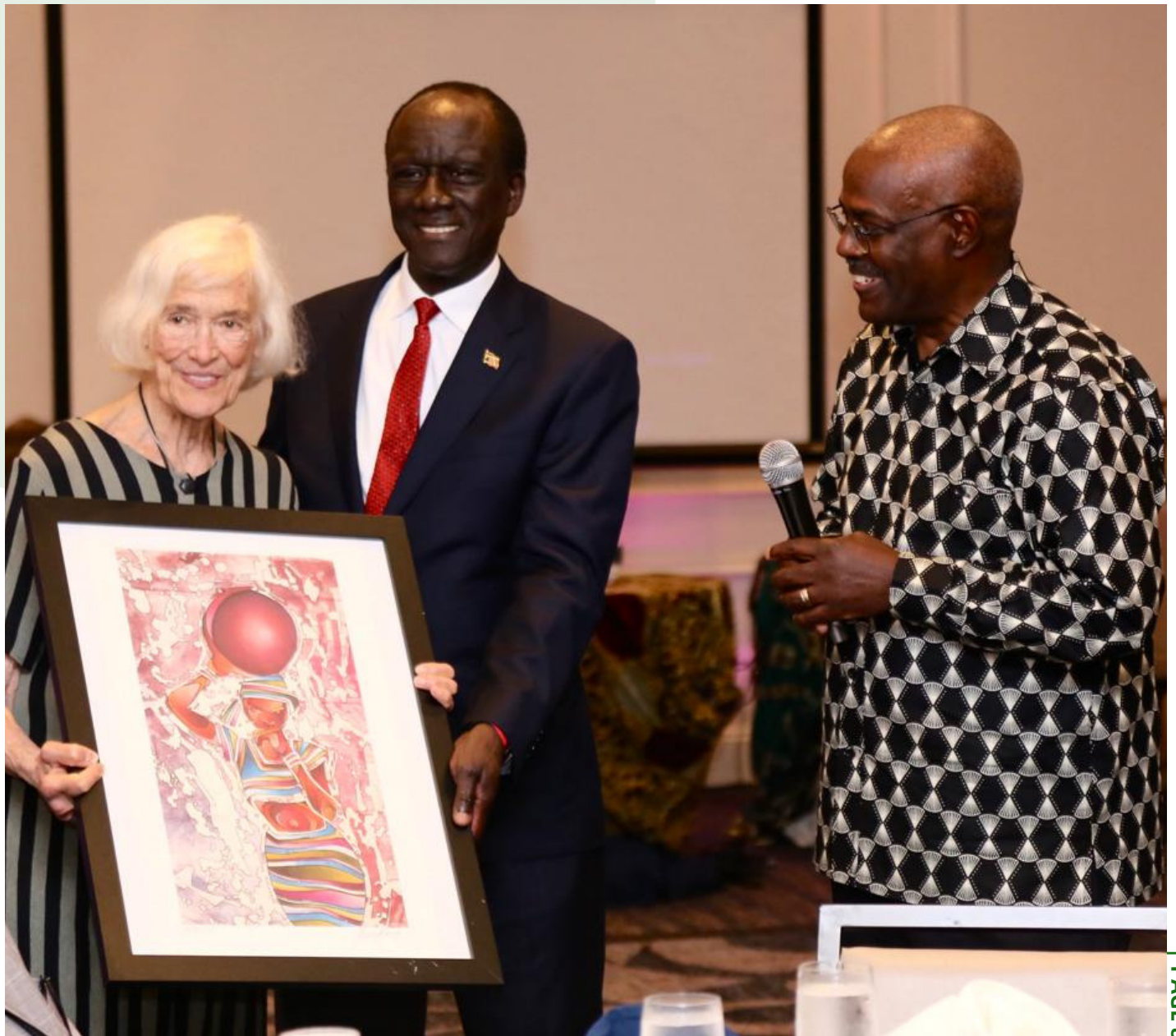


On Saturday evening guests attended a fun filled fundraising banquet that included dazzling performances by the celebrated jazz musician Isaiah Katumwa and a talented traditional dancer, Damien Mupenzi. Guests participated in the traditional dance famously known as the kitagururo.





At the dinner gala, a patron of the arts in Uganda and founder of the famous Nommo Gallery, Ms. Barbara Neogy Lapchek was honored for her contribution to the development of arts in the early 1960s.





The two-day convention was crowned on Sunday with the guests being treated to a Family Friendly Lunch Buffet Cruise aboard the Infinity Hornblower Yacht across the Hudson river. Guest enjoyed a buffet lunch, beautiful New York Scenery and Music by one of New York's favourites DJ Clein

