



**A brief report on**

**The 2016 National Heritage Awarding ceremony as CCFU marks 10 years of existence**

*Nommo Gallery, Kampala, Uganda – June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016*

About 140 people including representatives of government, civil society, cultural heritage enthusiasts, the media and well wishers gathered to witness the 2016 National Heritage Awarding ceremony as the Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda (CCFU) marked 10 years of existence and promoting our culture for a dignified people.

To mark 10 years of existence, CCFU's partners shared their experiences and interaction with the Foundation from 2006 to date, highlighting their involvement in research and documentation of case studies, promoting community museums, pluralism knowledge, heritage education, and cultural rights; engagement with cultural institutions and the youth; and preserving historical and cultural properties. A recorded tribute was made by Simon Molesworth, the outgoing President of the International National Trust Organisation on CCFU's participation in this global heritage movement.

CCFU shared its reflections and insights over the past 10 years, noting changes in the policy environment, an increase in the budget allocation to the culture sector (from 0.003% to 0.1%); the ratification of UNESCO Conventions (2003 and 2005) and subsequent inscription of cultural elements in need of urgent safeguarding. CCFU recognized the wealth of cultural heritage in Uganda and the strong desire by the different cultural communities to preserve their heritage as a firm foundation to invest in cultural tourism. The Foundation acknowledged with much appreciation the contribution of national and international partners funding its heritage work to date. CCFU also recognized the contribution of long standing staff, friends and partners, and made special tribute to the late Moses Wafula Mapesa (formerly CCFU Board Chairperson) and the late Joseph Walugembe (cultural activist and ardent supporter of CCFU).

In 2013, the Foundation held the first National Heritage Awards ceremony during the International Conference of National Trusts in Entebbe. At this 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Awarding ceremony, Mr. Stephen Rwangyezi, who made a key note address on why heritage is important in this day and age, noted that the civilization of a society is founded on the ability to accumulate techniques of solving day to day challenges, devising means of survival, and developing security and social systems. These are all important aspects of culture that should be celebrated. He declared that “...*anyone who questions whether heritage is useful for us is questioning whether we are useful in this world!*”

The National Heritage Awards responds to the urgent need to preserve and promote Uganda's rapidly vanishing cultural heritage. This year, a national wide call for nominations of individuals, groups or organisations that have made outstanding contributions to preserving and promoting

Uganda's heritage (built, natural or intangible) was made. CCFU received over 60 nominations out of which 6 nominees were selected by a panel of Ugandan heritage experts.

In his opening remarks, the Guest of Honour, Prof. Austin Bukenya, Department of Literature, Makerere University, one of the awardees of the 2013 National Heritage Awards), underlined the importance of recognizing the efforts made to preserve our national heritage. With personalized prologues, Prof Bukenya awarded Cwinyaii Richard Atya of Nebbi Cultural Troupe, Albert Ssempeke and family and the Ndoté family in Iganga for preserving and promoting intangible cultural heritage, and St. Peter's Secondary School Nsambya, the Madhvani family and PROMETRA Uganda for preserving and promoting tangible cultural heritage. Each of the awardees received a cash reward of UGS.2 million. House of Talent, a long standing partner of CCFU provided cultural entertainment and music throughout the event.

The Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda, alongside partners in the culture sector urged the Government of Uganda to establish a fully fledged, well resourced Ministry of Culture to forge a common vision for the development of our diverse national cultural heritage - to harness national and international resources to preserve and promote our diverse cultures, to educate our youth about the value of cultural heritage, to protect and develop our historical and cultural properties, to promote and develop cultural expressions and the creative industries, to develop cultural infrastructure and promote cultural tourism. More than 100 participants at the event signed up to a petition in support of the establishment of a Ministry of Culture.

*CCFU, June 22, 2016*

## PICTURES





**CCFU** @10 The Cross-Cultural Foundation of Uganda 10 Years! Date: 17 June 2016

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*Celebrating 10 years of promoting our culture for a dignified people*

