

AN INTERVIEW WITH MRS. BATENGA NAKISOZI

Diving into the Depths: A Conversation with Mrs. Batenga Nakisozi, Head of the Buganda Royal Regatta Technical Committee

In a recent interview with Mrs. Batenga Nakisozi, the esteemed head of the Buganda Royal Regatta Technical Committee, we delved into the intricacies and technicalities that are shaping the upcoming aquatic spectacle - The Buganda Royal Mini Regatta I, set to take place on March 30th, 2024, at Bunjako Beach.

The Technical Committee's Vision:

Mrs. Batenga passionately shared the committee's vision, emphasizing the commitment to professionalism and precision in organizing the regatta. She stated, "Our primary goal is to create an environment where tradition meets technical excellence, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Buganda through water sports."

Boat Specifications and Materials:

Discussing the boat specifications, Mrs. Batenga highlighted the choice of materials - Nkalati for the base (omugongo) and Mukebu for the rest of the boat and paddles. "These materials not only honor our traditions but also contribute to the sustainability of our cultural practices," she explained.

Ensuring Fair Competition:

The Technical Committee, under Mrs. Batenga leadership, has meticulously outlined rules to ensure fair play. "We've set precise measurements for boats and paddles to create a level playing field. Fair competition is at the heart of our regatta," she asserted.

Inclusivity and Eligibility:

Mrs. Batenga emphasized the regatta's open invitation, stating, "We want to promote inclusivity. This year, we've opened participation to 36 teams from landing sites in Busiro & Mawokota Counties, ensuring a diverse representation."

Selection Process and Random Draws:

Explaining the selection process, Mrs. Batenga highlighted the committee's commitment to transparency. "Random draws will determine the Masaza teams, creating an unbiased representation. We want every team to have an equal chance."

Prizes and Cultural Significance:

Mrs. Batenga unveiled the impressive array of prizes, including trophies, livestock, and cash awards. "These prizes not only recognize the athletic prowess but also reflect Buganda's cultural values. Livestock has always held significant cultural importance for us."

Exhibitions and Safety Measures:

The conversation shifted to the broader regatta experience, with Mrs. Batenga revealing plans for boat and open water swimming exhibitions. "We want the regatta to be a celebration of our water culture. Safety is paramount, and we have contingency plans in place to ensure a secure event."

Promoting International Recognition:

In closing, Mrs. Nakisozi spoke passionately about the committee's efforts to promote the regatta internationally. "We believe our regatta holds the potential to capture global attention. Through meticulous organization and adherence to international standards, we aim to put Buganda on the world map of water sports."

As the Buganda Royal Regatta Technical Committee, led by Mrs. Batenga Nakisozi, prepares to make waves on March 30th, the blend of tradition and technical excellence promises an unforgettable experience for participants and spectators alike. The Buganda Kingdom's commitment to fostering cultural pride through water sports is set to reach new heights with this upcoming regatta.