



The logo of Inzu Ya Masaaba Cultural Institution features a central shield with a green and white design, topped with a sun and a banner. The shield is flanked by two hands holding a plant. Above the shield is a banner with the text 'INZU YA MASAABA' and below it is another banner with 'NE BUDWELA NI INZOHAZOHAA YE BAMAASAABA'.

**INZUYAMASAABA CULTURAL  
INSTITUTION**

## **BACKGROUND**

Inzu Ya Masaaba as a Cultural Institution was established in 2011 to foster Unity and Development amongst Bamasaaba and hopes to achieve this through working in partnership with local district Governments in Masaabaland and the Central Government. It is owned by every Mu-Masaaba and non Bamasaaba resident in Masaabaland in Uganda and Kenya and all friends and well wishers of Bamasaaba.

Before Inzu Ya Masaaba was formerly conceived, BaMasaaba from various parts in masaaba land had always been in discussion and proposed various ideas for the formation of an institution that would organize members of the Bamasaaba under a single umbrella to address issues of Masaaba welfare both at home and abroad. This culminated into a process to formalize ,which began on April 13 2007 when agroup of BaMasaaba gathered at the Uganda community center in Mbale , with the aim of forming an organization that would be the engine of preserving Masaba culture , and also act as catalyst for social and economic development in Uganda particularly in Masaabaland.

They emphasized that the organization would be a non-partisan and non-political , whose most important focus was to foster unity with the aim of coalescing BaMasaaba towards common development goals, particularly in the areas of health , education and economic development .They pointed some fundamental guiding principles to foster Unity which were commitment , respect, communication, and discipline.

The members deliberated and brainstormed on several other area's of concern to the community like marriage and family stability, cultural education of Children, Tourism, International trade and leadership among others.

They also lamented on the state of poverty and underdevelopment in the homeland and resolved to revive the pursuit of self-sufficiency that BaMasaaba have always had throughout their history. What was unanimously recognized was that the Masaaba diaspora had the people and the resources, it was now time to deliver leadership in addressing the welfare of its people. The next day on April 14, 2007 also in Mbale the formation of Inzu Ya Masaaba was initiated with the declaration of these resolutions:

We the BaMasaaba assembled here in Mbale on the 13th & 14th of April 2007 hereby resolve that:

1. We form an association to be known as Inzu Ya Masaaba
2. That the organization pays respect to the past and present leadership in Bugisu and promote recognition to those who have made positive contributions to the cause of the BaMasaaba
3. That we work to economically empower Bagisu as a people through a disciplined scheme that would enhance their well being
4. That we shall establish forums to educate our people on their rights, health, economics and political world around them.
5. That we shall encourage, help, educate Bagisu farmers businessmen-women, students to achieve their dreams
6. That we shall work to bring together all BaMasaaba and restore a sense of self-fulfillment to a people once imbued in plenty
7. That there shall be annual conferences conducted at alternative venues to discuss among others the way forward with the association.

A volunteer board was then established to run the affairs of the association until the time when elections were held later in September, 2010 in Mbale. The members of this board were:

1. Franco Wantsala - coordinator.
2. Florence Wakoko -. women affairs
3. Professor Simbi - coordinator
4. Bob Mushikori -
5. Sabastine Wanzama-
6. Mr.Makawa -. 7. Masaba Mwambu -
8. Margaret Khaitisa - Treasurer assisted by John Maberu-Mudonyi
9. Mr.John Wanda -. 10.

The following were asked to volunteer on women's committee :Florence Wakoko, Mary Khaukha, Daphne Wantsala 11. Davis B. Malayi - On 1st and 2nd September 2010 at Maluku in mbale district, the resolutions made were ratified and formalized. This was to be the first official annual general meeting. The first Inzu Ya Masaaba board was elected with the first Umukuuka His highness, Wilson Weyasa wamimbi,.

. Inzu Ya Masaaba deeply believes that the it is going to be one of the most important catalysts for development in Masaabaland. The association has since then spearheaded several development projects and it remains its principle focus to

continually identify partners, and support member initiatives that will have a positive permanent impact on our communities.