

**SPEECH BY HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS, THE KWAR ADHOLA, MOSES STEPHEN
OWOR ON THE OCCASION OF CELEBRATING HIS 20TH CORONATION
ANNIVERSARY ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 7TH, 2019 AT ACHILET PRIMARY
SCHOOL GROUNDS**

The Guest of Honor, H.E. President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni,

The Rt. Hon. Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda

Your Lordships, the Justices of the High Court,

The Royal Highnesses, and All Cultural leaders here Present,

The Chairman of the Luo Council of Elders – Kenya and your delegation,

Your H.E. the Governors and Deputy Governors (Siaya & Kisumu – Kenya) and
Your delegation,

The Hon. Ministers here present,

The Hon. Members of Parliament,

The Resident District Commissioners,

The District Chairpersons,

The Speaker, Tororo District Local Government,

Your Worship the Mayor, Tororo Municipality,

Religious and Civic Leaders present,

The Prime Minister of Padhola and Cabinet,

The Speaker of the Supreme Assembly and members of the Supreme Assembly
of Padhola,

The Padhola Clan Leaders,

Jumikwenda, All the people of Padhola, All our Friends,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

I welcome and greet all of you individually and severally.

In the name of the Cultural Institution, Tieng Adhola, of which I am privileged to serve and have served as the Kwar Adhola for the last twenty years, I have the honor and pride to welcome you to this auspicious function that marks Twenty Years of since my Coronation on the 7th day of August, 1999. We have indeed followed the footprints of the long journey of this great Institution.

I am extremely overjoyed to see a great multitude of the people of Padhola, our neighbors and friends who have positively responded to our invitation to come to grace and witness this function. Most importantly, I would like to express my gratitude to our distinguished Guest of Honor, H.E. President Yoweri K. Museveni for putting aside his busy schedules to come and grace this occasion with his presence.

To all, I say YOU ARE VERY, VERY MUCH WELCOME!

The theme of the celebration is, ***“20 years, a milestone of Unity, Peace, Development and Nation building”***. The main purpose of this celebration is to look back twenty years down the road and make a critical and objective evaluation of the realization of the objectives, and aspirations as embedded in our Constitution and put the challenges of Tieng Adhola into perspective in order to design an appropriate and sustainable projection for its continuous progress and transformation.

By coming to celebrate this function, you have appreciated that the people of Padhola possess a culture which they cherish and are prepared to use it to cooperate with other people, from near and far, in order to foster development and transformation.

Before the inception of Tieng Adhola, the people of Padhola were breeding and feeding on divisionism, mutual mistrust, suspicion and lack of confidence and patriotism for Padhola and their country, Uganda.

Tieng Adhola was, therefore, instituted to offer a lasting unity and a forum for promotion of development and cherished cultural values compatible with the contemporary situation of Padhola, Uganda and the global village.

The people of Padhola are therefore, committed to co-exist peacefully with other ethnicities and to reciprocate every gesture of respect and fraternity. Tieng Adhola is also committed to work hand in hand with Government in a symbiotic relationship with the view of achieving positive transformation and development in Uganda. We are, therefore, partners in development and not rivals.

Notwithstanding the achievements my Prime Minister has enumerated, a number of critical challenges still exist as follows;

1. Poor standards of Education

Standards of education in Primary and Secondary Schools have generally been poor, save for a few Schools, in and around the towns.

2. Unemployment

Rapid population growth, coupled with low production of skilled manpower has led to production of large number of unemployed/and unemployable people, especially the youth.

3. Poor funding of Tieng Adhola activities

The funding of activities of Tieng Adhola is sourced mainly from voluntary contribution of the people of Padhola and their sympathizers. The services offered by the Tieng Adhola administrators are usually given as voluntary services. The Cultural and Traditional Leaders Act 2011,

does not allow us to put pressure on people to support the Cultural Institution. This has made it hard to solicit for funds for Tieng Adhola activities. Due to poor funding, it has been difficult for Tieng Adhola to adequately mobilize people at the grassroots.

4. Encroachment into Padhola Cultural Sites

There are isolated cases where people have encroached on Padhola Cultural sites (kunu), such as the Nyakiriga.

5. Land Fragmentation

The culture of dividing land into small plots to the children of the deceased has led to serious fragmentation of land. Which now stands at acres per average of two household. This makes it difficult for large scale commercial agriculture to be under taken in Padhola. With high rate of population growth, there is high pressure on land utilization which has led to soil exhaustion, poor crop – yields, and low house-hold income. The overall result of all these is poverty increase among the people of Padhola.

A. Salutation to the LUO people

The Jopadhola can trace their origin through the Migration of the Luo from the Southern Sudan following the Nile, to approximately 700 years. Our Great Grandparents settled on this land now known as Padhola (Budama) between 1500 and 1550, now approximating over 500 years ago. It is from Tororo that Owiny the brother of Adhola led another Luo group to Kenya.

B. Conclusion

I wish to express my sincere gratitude first and foremost to the NRM Government, under the wise leadership of His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for restoring the active functioning of Cultural Institutions in Uganda. We would also like to appreciate the recognition and support rendered to Tieng Adhola by both the local and central government organs since its inception. I pray for continuation of such support.

I further extend my appreciation to the people of Padhola, my family and all of those who participated in various capacities to make this occasion a success. I do not need to emphasize that you were all identified individually and collectively because of proven competence and skills. To all of you, I say THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

What we have celebrated today is the transformation of Tieng Adhola from simple beginnings to the final installation of His Royal Highness the Kwar Adhola in 1999, the result of which is the 20th anniversary we are celebrating today. It removed the people of Padhola from oblivion and placed them conspicuously on the map of Uganda, Africa and the world at large as a people with solidarity, determination, common destiny and vision.

Once again I thank all the people of Padhola for placing great confidence and honor in me to lead them democratically for the last twenty years. I pray that God gives me the good health and wisdom to continue doing so, I thank all of

you very much indeed for coming to attend this function and I pray to God to protect you as you travel back to your respective destinations.

GOOD BYE TO ALL OF YOU

FOR PEACE, UNITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF PADHOLA

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY.

Moses Stephen Owor

His Royal Highness the Kwar Adhola