



Mr. Livingston Wafukho Simiyu Standing seated are from left in-law Mrs. Rodah Khevali Weranunu sister to Mrs. Agnes Namarome Weranunu his wife and child Mr. William Simiyu Wafukho. Apostle Simiyu is Born in Iuhya tribe from Tachoni Sub tribe clan Avakuvwayi, Door of Mr. Wambwere Wenani saving us the first President and the Founder at THE HOLY SEED CHURCH NEEMA EVANGELISM CENTRE GLOBAL HEALING MINISTRIES.

LIST OF LUHYA SUB TRIBES

The Luhya sub tribes are 18, and here they are; Banyala, Masaaba, Marama, Tachoni, Bukusu, Maragoli, Samia, Batsotso, Idakho, Isukha, Gisu, Kisa, Marachi, Tiriki, Kabras, Khayo, Banyore, and Wanga.

With a total of 18 Luhya sub tribes, each speaking its own dialect, Luhya is a unique tribe. The Luhya sub tribes occupy the western region of Kenya that is rich in agricultural land. They mainly practice subsistence farming, but border Nilotic communities like the Luo, Teso, Maasai, and Kalenjin are mainly cattle keepers and fishermen. Read down below to know more about the Luhya sub tribes 18 Luhya sub tribes. Source: softkenya.com Source: UGC The Luhya community has about 750 clans, yes, that is a huge number of clans, perhaps it is the reason why their political stand matters so much to the leadership of the Nation. Some sub tribes of Luhya are so different from each other that they can't understand each other's language. As a nation, we have Kiswahili as the national language to help ease conversations between people of different tribes, in Luhya, there is no unifying language. Though most of the subtribes share certain words and can communicate; there is no 'universal' Luhya language that allows for flawless communication between people from different Luhya sub tribes in Kenya. The history of the Luhya Nations has been documented in two books, namely Luyia Nation: Origins, Class, and Taboos (2013) and Luyia of Kenya: A Cultural Profile by both by Shadrack Amakoye Bulimo. As the author introduces you to the book; Luyia Nation: Origins, Class, and Taboos, he states that the Luhya nation was brought together for political reasons.

To put his words verbatim, "The Luyia nation is relatively new by historical standards cobbled together as a political necessity a little less than three generations ago." He also mentions that Luhya-speaking people are well-spread in Africa and live beyond Kenyan borders in countries like Cameroon, Rwanda, Congo, and Zambia. The word Luhya is derived from the word Oluyia which means fireplace and is a reflection of the way the Luhya community used to sit around the fireplace and talk about how their day was. The sub tribes in Luhya have nearly the same cultures, and while some can't grasp what another sub tribe says, some sub tribes can get along in a single language.

For example, a Musamia can converse with a Manyala in his language, and the Manyala will understand 90 percent of the conversation. On the other hand, a Marachi can only understand 10 percent when a Maragoli speaks. Though the languages might be different, the cultures and rites of passage remain the same in most Luhya sub tribes. All Luhya sub tribes population totals to 5,338,666 residents in Kenya.

This number is good for political advantage and is often used by politicians as a measure of milestone a political party has made. On the flipside, this number makes the voice of the Luhya

nation stronger, especially when vouching for a fair political representation in Kenya. How many sub tribes of Luhya do you know? When you encounter a Luhya, you won't be able to know which sub tribe of the community he belongs. This is because there are many sub tribes of the Luhya community and each one of them has its own dialect. So if you've been wondering how many Luhya sub tribes are there, then today you will find the answer in this article. The Luhya sub tribes are 18, and here they are; Banyala, Masaaba, Marama, Tachoni, Bukusu, Maragoli, Samia, Batsotso, Idakho, Isukha, Gisu, Kisa, Marachi, Tiriki, Kabras, Khayo, Banyore, and Wanga. Let's look at them one by one.

1. The Bukusu The Bukusu is one of the largest Luhya sub tribes of Kenya. The Bukusu live in Bungoma and Mount Elgon region. They speak Lubukusu and practice circumcision as a rite of passage from childhood to adulthood. The Bukusu myth of origin states that their god, known as Wele Kakhaba created the first humans Mwambu and Sela who gave rise to the entire tribe. The Bukusu has so many clans. A clan constitutes a people of common ancestry.

These Clans include; Batura, Bamalaba, Banywaka, Banyangali, Bamwale, Bakikayi, Bhatasama, Bhakiyabi, Basirikwa, Baechale, Bhatemlani, Bhasakha, Baechalo, Bakibeti, Bakikai, Bhakitang'a, Bakhisa, Bamwayi Bamwaya, Baluleti, Babasaba, Bang'oma, Basakali, Bakhurarwa, Bakamukong'I, Bakiabi, Baliuli, Batilu, Bakhurarwa, Bamuki, Bakhona, Bakhone, Bakimwei, Bakoi, Bameme, and Basombi among others. Shadrack Amakoye Bulimo lists all the clans of the Bukusu in his book: Luyia Nation: Origins, Clans, and Taboos, you can grab the book know all there is to be known about the Bukusu.

2. The Samia The Samia lives majorly in the southern parts of Busia District, currently, Busia County. Part of the Samia occupies Eastern Uganda. The main economic activities of the Samia are fishing in Lake Victoria, crop farming, and animal rearing. The Samia value music and most of their ceremonies are punctuated by cultural songs and folklore. Among the many clans of the Samia are; Abalala, Abadongo, Abatabona, Abasonga, Ababuri, Abakhulo, Ababukaki, and Abakangala.

3. The Marachi The Marachi speak Lumarachi and live in Butula in Busia County. The Marachi trace their ancestry from Ng'ono Mwami's father who was also known as Marachi, the son of Musebe. Musebe was the son of Sirikwa. The Marachi were a fierce people who fought the Luo of Jok Omollo who were expanding to exercise control of Nzoia and Sio Rivers. The Marachi won the war and gained control of port Victoria and Sio Port. They use these ports as fishing grounds. Some of the Marachi clans include; Ababere, Abade, Abasubo, Abafofoyo, Abamuchama, , Abang'ayo, Ababule, Abatelia, Abapwati, Abasumia, Abarano, Abamutu,

Ababonwe, Abamucheka, Abaliba, Ababirang'u, Abakolwe , Abatula, Abamurono, Abasimalwa, Abakwera, Abakolwe, Abamalele, and Abamulembo among others.

4. The Khayo The Khayo sub tribe occupy the Matayos Divison in Busia county and Nambale District. The Khayo speak in a language known as Lukhayo. Some of the clans in the Khayo sub tribe include; Abasota, Abakhabi, Abaguuri.
5. The Nyala The Nyala occupy Busia County and speak Lunyala. Other Nyala can also be found in Kakamega in the North–West region. The Nyala groups who occupy Kakamega are known as the Abanyala ba Kakamega. Though the Banyala of Kakamega might be living in a different location, they speak the same dialect as the Banyala of Busia. In fact, the Banyala of Kakamega lived in Busia before being led to Kakamega by a leader called Mukhamba. Mukhamba was a revered leader among the Abanyala ba Kakamega, but he is not the only notable leader as they also had a colonial chief known as Ndombi wa Namusia who was a very powerful political figure who was entrusted with political and social affairs of his people until he was succeeded by his son known as Andrea. The clans within the Banyala include; Abahafu, Ababenge, Abayisa, Abayundo, Abachimba, Abadavani, Abasiondo, Abachende, Abaengere, Abakangala, Abayaya, Abayirifuma, Abakhubichi, Abakoye, Abaumwo, Abacharia, Abakwangwachi, Abalanda, Abaucha, Abauma, Abalecha, Abalindo, Abasuu, Abatecho, Abamani, Abalindavyoki, Abasumba, Abasonge, Abamisoho, Abamuchuu, Abasia, Abasiloli, Abamugi, Abamulembo, Abasakwa, Abasaya, Abamani, Abaokho, Abasaacha, Abamwaya, and Abasenya. Since the clans share a common ancestry, it is a taboo for a Banyala to marry from the same clan.
6. The Idakho The Idakho live in the southern region of Kakamega County. The dialect of the Idakho is called Lwidakho. The Idakho like most Luhya sub tribes practices circumcision of the males as a rite of passage from childhood to adulthood. Some of the clans of the Idakho include; Abangolori, Abamahani, Abamusali, Abamuhali, Abashimuli, Abashikulu, Abashiangala and Abamasaba. The Idakho people is one of the Luhya sub tribes known for amazing cultural practices like the Isikhuti dance. Other activities that the Idakho people involve in include pot making, and gold digging along River Yala and Sigalagala.
7. The Kabras The Kabras occupies the northern region of Kakamega district. Their language is Lukabarasi, a dialect that sounds nearly the same as the Tachoni dialect. The Kabras split from the Banyala sub tribe. Today, they occupy Malava in Kabras division in Kakamega County. The Kabras are living between three other sub tribes; Tachoni, Isukha, and Banyala. You would think that they derived the name from the division they live in, but the word 'Kabras' has a deeper meaning. The word is derived from Avalasi, a word that means 'Mighty Hunters' or 'Warriors.' This name denotes the fierceness of the Kabras people as they engaged in endless battles with the Nandi community for cattle and pastures. It is believed that they lost their numbers to these fights and that is why they are among the fewer Luhya sub tribes by numbers as compared to the Bukusu and the Maragoli.

One interesting belief that the Kabras hold dearly is that they are the descendants of Nagwiwo who is linked with Nimrod of the bible. Any Kabras would state this claim as a matter of fact, and the claim is enunciated with religious reverence, and pride of belonging. Some of the Kabras clans include, but not limited to; Abakhusia, Bamachina, Abamutama, Basonje, Baluu, Batobo, Bamakangala, Abamutsembi, Bachetsi, and Abashu. Nabongo Mumia of the Wanga was the ruler of the Kabras. A Kabras elder represented them at the council of elders and saw to it that they got what every other sub tribe under the ruler got. The most known elder to have represented

the Kabras in the council of elders was Soita Libukana Samaramarami. Soita came from Lwichi village located in Central Kabras not far from Chegulo market. The Kabras are among the Luhya sub tribes who welcome Arthur Chilson, a missionary who established Quakers missionary churches that were christened Friends Church. The missionary lived among them and even had his children speaking in Kabras. This happening showed another side of the Kabras who were believed to be fierce; they could also be hospitable.

8. The Isukha The list of Luhya sub tribes wouldn't be complete without mentioning the Isukha. The Isukha occupies the eastern part of Kakamega County and is also known for the Isikhuti dance. Some of the clans in Isukha include; the Abakusi, Abakondi, Abamwilonje, and the Abamahalia.
9. The Tsotso The Tsotso live in the western part of Kakamega and speak in a dialect known as Olutsotse. The major clans of the tsotso include; Abamweche, Abashisiru, Abashibo, and Abangonya.
10. The Maragoli The Maragoli are among the hugely populated sub tribes of the Luhya. They occupy Vihiga region and speak in the Lulogooli dialect. The clans of the Maragoli include but not limited to; Avasanga, Avagitsunda, Avamumbaya, Avamuzuzu, Avamasingira, Avamaseero, Avasaali, Avakizungu, Avagamuguywa, Avasaki, Avamageza, Avagizenbwa, Avakirima, Avamaabi, Avamutembe, Avayonga, Avasaniaga, Avakebembe, Avagonda, Avanoondi, Avalogovo, Avasweta, Avaliero, and Avavurugi.
11. The Nyole The Nyole occupies Bunyore region in Vihiga. They speak in a dialect known as Olunyole. Som eof the clans of the Nyole are; Abamutete, Abakanga, Abayangu, Abamukunzi, Abanangwe, Abasiloli, Abasiralo, Abalonga, Aberranyi, Abatongoi, Abasikhale, Ab'bayi, Abakhaya, Abamang'ali, Abasubi (Abasyubi), Abasakami, Abamuli, Abasiratsi, and Abasiekwe.
12. The Tiriki Like their name suggests, the Tiriki occupy the Tiriki region in Vihiga. The Tiriki speak a Ludiliji dialect. Some of the clans in of the Tiriki are; Balukhoba, Baguga, Basuba Baumbo, Bamabi, Badura, Bamuli, Barimuli, Basianiga, Balukhombe, Bamiluha, Bashisungu, and Bajisinde.
13. The Wanga The Wanga speak the Oluwanga dialect and live in Matungu and Mumias districts. The Wanga was under the rulership of Nabongo Mumia and being a clan with twenty-two clans; it was a sub tribe that was fortified in both food resource and security. The clans of the Wanga include; Ababule ,Abamulembwa, Abashitsetse, Abakolwe, Abalibo, Abang'ayo, Abaleka, Abachero, Ababonwe, Abatsoye, Abamurono, Abashieni, Abakulubi, Abang'ale, Abambatsa, Abashibe, Abakhami, Ababere, Abamwende, Abamwima, Abashikawa, and Abamuniafu.
14. The Marama The Marama live mainly in districts of Butere. They speak in Lumarama dialect. Some of the clans of Marama include but not limited to; Abashitsaha, Abacheya, Abatere,

Abashirotsha, Abamukhula, Aberecheya, Abamumbia, Abamatundu, Abanyukhu, Abakhuli, Abakokho, Abashieni, Abamani, Abashikalie, Abakara, and Abatsotse.

15. The Kisa The Kisa is also known as the Abakisa or Abashisha. They live in the Khwisero district and speak in a dialect known as Olushisa. The clans of the Kisa include the following; Ababoli, Abakambuli, Abakhobole, Abakwabi, Abamurono, Abaruli, Abashirotsha, Abalukulu, Abamanyulia, Abashirandu, Abamatundu, Abachero, and abalakayi among others.
16. The Tachoni The Tachoni occupies Bungoma, Lugari and Malava regions. They speak in the Lutachoni dialect. Some of the clans of the Tachoni includes; Avakuvwayi, Abasioya, Abaviya, Abasang'alo, Abangachi, Abatecho, Abachambai, Abamarakalu, and Abaengele. Other Tachoni clans include the Saniak that occupies Tanzania and Saniaga clan living among the Maragoli of Kenya.
17. The Gisu The Gisu got their name from a miss-pronunciation of the name Nkisu. When Maswahaba's son was born, he named him Mwambu, but his brother-in-law, a Maasai nicknamed the boy Nkisu which means a bull in Maasai. Since his father could not pronounce this nickname, he called him Mugisu, and that's how the Bagisu sub tribe found life. The Bagisu have a close link with the Bukusu in Kenya, but they mainly occupy Eastern Uganda.
18. The Masaaba The Masaaba people are a sub tribe of Luhya who lives in Uganda in the following districts; Mbale, Bulambuli, Bududa, Sironko, and Manafwa. The main economic activity of the Massaba people is farming. They grow millet, sorghum, bananas, and maize. Luhya cultural practices, sports, and lifestyle The Luhya tribe is a giant umbrella that homes so many sub tribes, and while each of these sub tribes might be having distinct locations and character, most of the Luhya sub tribes share in their cultural practices. When it comes to culture, it really doesn't matter how many Luhya sub tribes there are, most Luhya cultures traverse sub tribe borders. For example, male circumcision is a cultural practice that is widespread in nearly all the Luhya subtribes.

The ceremony is often preceded by months of preparation, and when the day comes, the celebration lasts into days as boys are initiated in adulthood and are expected to play their roles to make their communities better. In most sub tribes, the traditional circumcision ceremony takes place every year. Though some educated members of the Luhya community prefer to have their sons circumcised in hospitals, the importance of circumcision as a rite of passage transcends modernity and social class. Another cultural practice that some Luhya sub tribes practice is the removal of six lower teeth. This practice is common with Luhya subtribes of the western because of the influence of the Luo community they interacted with in most of their daily undertakings. Luhya marriage Marriage within clans is prohibited, and though polygamy

was acceptable, it only took men who had enough wealth to pay a dowry for many wives. In the past, people who had many women were highly respected since many wives denoted that you were a wealthy man. Dowry was very important, and one could pay dowry in forms of cattle, sheep, and goats. Though today, due to economic distress, few people can afford to practice polygamy, dowry is still upheld. Luhya naming system The Luhya naming system has a name that befits both male and female, but with little alteration. They also name children according to the seasons in which they are born in. For example, a boy born during famine is named Wanjala while a girl is named Nanjala, a boy born during harvest is named Wekesa while again born during the same season is named Nekesa. Children who are born during rains will be called Wafula and Nafula for boy and girl respectively. This system of naming children according to seasons is widespread among the western and the Nyanza tribes.

Even Luos name their children according to the seasons they are born in. The sports Luhya tribe engage in The Luhya are physically endowed people who are active sportsmen. The Luhya are some of the best rugby players the world has ever seen. Yes, the Luhya tribe has given us the likes of Humphrey Kayange and Collins Injera who play world-class rugby. The Luhya also love soccer, and AFC Leopards is their club as it was formed in the 1960s as Abaluya Football Club. Other traditional sports played by the Luhya is the bullfighting, a practice that Dr, Bonny Khalwale is known for. The bullfighting ceremony is officiated every year and attracts high-profile Luhya leaders. Luhya sub tribes food The Luhya eat Ugali as their staple food, and it is known as Obusuma. It can be made from maize flour, or an amalgam of maize, cassava, and millet flour to achieve the desired taste. The Obusuma can be eaten with any delicacies, but the best delicacy that can accompany Obusuma is chicken stew. READ ALSO: Kikuyu traditional attire designs and photos Curious Swahili culture facts you should know Latest Kalenjin songs 2018 Read more: <https://www.tuko.co.ke/279750-list-luhya-sub-tribes.html#279750>

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