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I am also grateful to my many other friends, too many to mention by name, for their kind assistance in connection with this work. I would also like to thank Messrs. R. S. Shackell and E. J. Wayland whose articles on the game, in the Uganda Journal, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 20 added to my desire to write this book.

Mr. F. Serwahwe rendered me special assistance by producing draft illustrations of the game. I am greatly indebted to him.

To my friend R. A. Snoxall, who edited the manuscript and wrote the foreword I owe a great debt of gratitude.

M. B. Nsimbi
FOREWORD

It is always a memorable event when a book appears from the pen of Michael B. Nsimbi, and doubly so when he provides an English version of the Luganda text. The African Studies Center of U.C.L.A. is to be complimented on its initiative in publishing this little book on the game, Omweso, which is a favourite game in Uganda, and is also played throughout the Continent of Africa. It is a common supposition that the first work to be printed by Thomas Caxton on his famous printing press was Ye Gayme and Playe of Chesse and it is suitable that a comparable African game should provide the title for an early and attractive publication by the University of California.

Michael Nsimbi writes and speaks such fluent and accurate English that my task of editing the English version has been an extremely light one, but, important as it is, that such works as this should help to interpret an African culture to those who can only read about it in English, it is equally valuable that the Luganda in which the author writes should provide an example of elegant and idiomatic Luganda. This Machiel Nsimbi, as in all other Luganda books which he has written, has consistently done.

The value of the little book is enhanced by some good pictures and diagrams and one can but hope that its success may encourage the author to interpret for us in a similar way some of the other games which people play in Uganda.

RONALD A. SNOXALL
Visiting Associate Professor of African Languages
August 1968
OMWESO IN UGANDA

The Board Game is probably one of the oldest pastimes in Uganda. Many tribes appear to have known it for centuries. The place of its origin is still obscure although some people have ventured to advance theories which have not yet been satisfactorily substantiated. Travellers and anthropologists have seen it played in countries bordering on Uganda, namely Kenya, Sudan, Congo, Ruanda, Tanzania and further down in Central Africa, on the West Coast and in Northern Africa.

The claim that Omweso was introduced to Uganda from outside is a proposition which needs a great deal of linguistic, archaeological and ethnological study to prove. The argument from the other side is that it could have been taken from Uganda to countries outside.

Coming back to Uganda, it is interesting to note that various tribes know the board by names which have no linguistic affinity at all. A guess might be that certain tribes copied it from one tribe and coined a suitable name for it from the elements of their languages. Some tribes, however, know the board by names which have the same genetic features. This is clear evidence that certain tribes learned the game from their neighbors of the same ethnic descent or from their conquerors or from the people they conquered. See the names by which the board is known in the different languages of Uganda:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LANGUAGE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ateso</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karimojong</td>
<td>ngikilees</td>
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<td>Sapeiny</td>
<td>kechiyek</td>
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<td>Lango</td>
<td>coro</td>
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<td>Acholi</td>
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<td>Alur</td>
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<td>Runyoro/ Rutoro</td>
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<td>Jopadhola</td>
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<td>Kumam</td>
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<td>Lusamia</td>
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<td>Luganda</td>
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<td>Lusoga</td>
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<td>Runyankore</td>
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<td>Rukiga</td>
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I have collected some information on the history and the rules of the game in Buganda.
HISTORY

The name *omweso* (plural *eznyeso*) means the board itself and the game as well. The board is usually carved out of wood. One square or hole of *omweso* is called *essa* (plural *amasa*). Brown seeds called empiki from a tree known as *omuyiki* are used as counters. Playing the game is called *okwesa*. It is highly probable that the verb is derived from the name *omweso*. A game is called ekyeso (plural *ebyeso*).

In Luganda, the language of the Baganda, there is some kind of linguistic evidence that may be taken to show that the game of *omweso* has been known in Buganda for a very long time. This meagre evidence is found in idioms and proverbs of which the following are the best known:

1. A very short person is compared to the empiki used in omweso. The idiom runs, “*Mumpi ng’ empiki*” = He/She is as short as *empiki*.¹
2. When some one is skilled in something he is compared to a player of omweso. The idiom says, “*Akiznanyi ng’ omweso*” = He knows it as the game of *omweso*.
3. A situation in which a person finds one of his belongings suddenly missing from a place where he expected to find it is compared to a player of the game of omweso who all of a sudden finds an empty hole where he had hoped to collect counters. The idiom is this, “*Akutté mú lyá ‘mpiki*” = He/She has put his hand in an empty hole.
4. The following proverb combines wisdom and a spirit of sportsman-ship. It instances a student who learns and eventually excels his tutor. It says, “*Gw’óyigirizd ókwesa ákugobya/nkaaga*”³ = A person you teach to play omweso may beat you with a collection of sixteen counters.

Royal tradition throws further dim light on the likely period the omweso has been known in Buganda.

Soon after his accession every new Kabaka was required to go to Buddo, the coronation hill, to perform the ritual of *okwesa*. The Master of Ceremonies at Buddo hill was *Ssemanobe* of the *Mmamba* Clan (*mmamba* = lung-fish), traditional keeper of the royal hill. Authenticity of this tradition is given by no less a writer than Sir Apolo Kagwa, in his book *Empisa za Baganda*. Dealing with the accession of Bakabaka he writes, “Then *Ssemanobe* took him (the Kabaka) to the *lúki* tree which was near the head-quarters of *Makamba*, Chief of Buddo. From the tree he (the Kabaka) picked *empiki bútéba* which was to be used later in the *omweso* which was kept in the court hall known as *Ggombolola* or *Másengeregansazé* in which the *Katikkiro* (Prime Minister) played *omweso* while he decided cases.”

Sir Apolo Kagwa continues, "The significance of *empiki butéba* is that the Kabaka shall not be outwitted by his people in his kingdom. Should they try to trick him he would always overcome their stratagem by using his tact to rule them just as an expert in the game of *omweso* defeats his opponent by using a few counters in a reverse movement.

Nobody knows the actual Kabaka with whom the ritual of *okwesa* started as part of the accession ceremony. However, the ritual seems to be quite ancient, if not as old as the kingship, which is said to be about five hundred years old from the time of *Kíntu*.

Apart from the ritualistic game of *omweso* played at *Buddo*, the game was extremely popular in the

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¹ An average empiki is about one-half inch in diameter.
² *lya* is a possessive particle agreeing with nouns of Class 5.
³ This is a collection of sixteen counters which when dropped in playing the game end up in the hole from which they have been collected.
Kabaka's palace. The Kabaka played it with his principal wives and with his sisters. He could also invite the Katikkiro and some other senior chiefs to play with him.

Administrative chiefs and clan elders throughout the country had emyeso in their enclosures. Their subordinate chiefs and their subjects played the game nearly all day in the halls only to be interrupted by the chiefs' meals to which they were all welcome. The game provided chiefs with the opportunity to meet their people socially and to know them personally.

As they played the game they could talk about different topics, thereby getting to know what was going on in the country. If people brought any dispute, the chiefs and their people assembled to play the game would listen to the complaints and all the people would hear the chiefs' judgement and advice. It is from these informal assemblies open to everybody that the following proverbs arose:

(a) 'Ákiika émbugá ámanyá ensonga He who frequents a chief's place becomes well informed.
(b) Nnantakiika nti 'Ehy'embugá biríibwa báganzi' = He who does not call on the chief, or attend his court, complains that only the chief's favourites are welcome to his bounty.

From their sub-chiefs and subjects assembled to play omweso chiefs would choose trusted men to go on different errands. In case of an immediate decree coming from the Kabaka to senior chiefs demanding the collection of certain taxes, e.g. white ants, barkcloths, hoes, etc., or ordering chiefs to summon warriors, the sub-chiefs and other men found at the chiefs' place playing omweso would be the first to vouch loyalty and to receive commissions. In this way, the game created a kind of depot from which chiefs recruited men for both national and private services, and it helped men of ability in leadership to be recognized for promotion to senior posts.

Another important aspect of the game is that it relieved boredom. Senior chiefs and relatives waiting to see the Kabaka played omweso in the waiting house called akagango which was close to the Kabaka's residential house called Twekobe. Princesses also had their own house in which they played the game while they waited to see the Kabaka.

As referred to above, the Katikkiro played the game in his court hall Masengeregansaze, in which he sat settling disputes and discussing matters of state with his chiefs. It is believed that Mukasa, who was Katikkiro during part of the reign of Mutesa I and Mwanga II, was a genius in playing omweso. It is said that he could play the game and at the same time listen to the statements of two people in a suit. At the end of the statement he could repeat the plaintiff's and the dependent's statements with amazing accuracy and then give his judgement, which is said to have been often correct and fair.

We must now turn to some other aspects of the game. There were restrictions forbidding certain people to play the game.

With the exception of princesses and the wives of the Kabaka and those of senior chiefs, ordinary women were generally not free to play the game. For women in the lower grades of society it was almost taboo to play the game. They were warned that if they put their hands into the holes of omweso their crops would not bear food. Since women were solely responsible for growing food for the home, the warning was clearly one for them to follow.

Young girls were advised that if they engaged themselves in the game their breasts would not develop and as a result, they would never get married. The thought of remaining unmarried was enough to keep them away from the game. As wives and their daughters did all the domestic work in the home it is obvious that if they were left free to occupy themselves in this time-consuming game they would never get through their daily chores.
Another important point to remember is that the game of *omweso* brought together many people under conditions in which they could easily become familiar with one another. Husbands feared that if their wives and daughters were to mix freely with men the standard of their morality would be adversely affected.

As for young boys, they were not allowed to play the game at any time in their homes. They had enough occupations in the home, e.g. herding goats and cattle, and going on errands. However, while they were away from home, grazing goats and cattle, they would dig holes of *omweso* in the ground and enjoy playing the game. They would use pebbles or some round berries instead of *einpiki*. This might be the explanation for the emyeso holes found on flat rocks in many parts of Uganda. If this is true, one wonders what kind of tools they used for digging the rock out!

Because of the way the game engrossed people engaged in the game, some overcautious village chiefs hated to see their people playing it. They feared that the whole village could be massacred or plundered in some surprise attack launched by an enemy or by a decree from the *Kabaka*. Such chiefs would throw away counters if they found their men playing the game.

Tradition ruled against playing the game at any time during the night after sunset. People were told that if they played the game at night and a jackal or an owl or a hyena happened to cry while they were playing, they would be required to take the counters to the spring one by one and wash them. This would be the only way to avoid a possible calamity that would be caused by breach of the tradition.

Anyone who was about to go to court as a defendant or as a plaintiff was also advised not to engage in the game. The analogy was probably that if he lost the game he would lose the case as well.

**TEMPORARY DECLINE OF OMWESO**

As might be expected, by the beginning of the last quarter of the 19th century *omweso* together with other kinds of traditional pastimes and sports were being affected by the impact of western civilization, which was beginning to change the pattern of traditional social life. New forms of economy and a different kind of administrative machinery were being established. Spasmodic wars to plunder were ending through the action of the British who were assuming responsibility for the government of the country through the chiefs. People were becoming less dependent on the chiefs for their livelihood. As a result, the number of people hanging around chiefs' places was dwindling. Men with a spirit of adventure were taking to retail trading in clothes, hides, etc.

After Uganda had been made a British Protectorate in 1894, all able-bodied men were required, from time to time, to carry the loads of Government Officers, particularly the District Commissioners, traveling on duty. Nobody liked to do this kind of forced labour for which they received very little in return. One temporary escape from it was to avoid congregating at chiefs' places.

When cotton was introduced in Uganda in 1904, to enable peasants to have the means of paying poll tax. Baganda men started for the first time to cultivate the soil. Before then it was shameful for a man to dig the soil. Cotton growing kept most men busy in the fields and reduced their time for playing *omweso* that came to be regarded as an occupation for the lazy.

Another serious set back for the game had come through the coming of jigger-fleas (called *enrrmzd*)
which were brought to Uganda from Tanzania by Baganda ivory traders who had penetrated as far as the country of the Wanyamwezi (they called it Bunyaanyimbe). From the time of their coming, jigger-fleas were a scourge in Buganda. They buried themselves in dirty feet, and wherever anyone went with them in the feet he would scatter their eggs about, which would quickly hatch out and spread in the place where the eggs had been laid. Since the game collected together many people it soon came to be regarded as a means of collecting jigger-fleas. To minimize the danger of collecting those people began to keep away from omweso. Jigger-fleas thus created another demoralizing effect on the life of omnweso.

When schools were started towards the end of the first decade of the present century the game was not encouraged in schools along with foreign indoor games, e.g. draughts, ludo, snakes-and-ladders. Some few boarding schools later provided pupils with emyeso in the schools but only some pupils cared to play the game since it had already been given a bad name in their homes. However, some traditionalists kept emyeso in their homes and used them occasionally with some of their close friends. These men kept the knowledge of playing the game alive, and we are grateful to them.

Mention may be made of yet another possible obstacle, which stood in the way of continued interest in the game. Until quite recently there was a deplorable lack of quick and reliable transport between towns and the villages where most employees in Government and private companies lived. Working hours for all non-Government employees were also not yet fixed by law. Moreover, it is a fact that most employees lived between three and fifteen miles from the towns. Their main means of transportation to their places of work was the “famous” bicycle. They obviously spent a good deal of their time in cycling home, and by the time they got there, they had little time left to play the game, even if they had the mind to. The less well-paid workers did the journeys on foot and when they got home, they would be too tired to play the game. Their only desire would be to get a meal—any meal they could afford. It is no wonder that for such men the game of omweso was out of the question.

**REVIVAL OF OMWESO**

It is difficult to pinpoint any one single factor as the sole cause of the current new interest in the game of omweso. The easiest and the best thing that one can do is to mention all factors which are likely to have contributed to the popularity which the game enjoys to-day in Buganda. One should perhaps mention first the Bataka Movement, which was boosted in 1947 by James Miti, Sezario Mulumba and their colleagues, then the return of Sir Edward Mutesa II from exile in London, in 1955. Next comes “the gospel of African Personality” first preached in West Africa, then the coming of town buses with some kind of regular service, and the use of hire-taxis in towns and the suburbs. Mention should also be made of the use, on a large scale, of light motorcycles, and the fixing, by Government, of regular working hours for employees in towns. The last of the factors is the influx of Africans into towns and their suburbs. The coming of many Africans to live in towns and the suburbs means that there are many among them who like to spend their leisure time playing omweso.

All the above have directly or indirectly played their part in arousing new interest in the game.

Today an observant person who goes through marketplaces in Kampala and other big meeting places outside the town during the lunch hour and in the late afternoon, may see small or big, closely packed, groups of men all of them intently watching the game. The game is as interesting to the spectators as to the players. Competitions that are held from time to time raise tremendous enthusiasm among contestants and their supporters. In some places, competitors play for money and spectators make bets.
Modifications in the traditional rules of playing the game have helped to cut short the time which one game may take. In the past one game used to last between ten to twenty minutes but now it lasts between three and seven minutes.

The wonder of it all is that this game which has suffered so many setbacks should survive to withstand the onslaught of its many adversaries. Time has proved its worth. Let anyone who says that it is an uncultured game learn to play it and see for himself that the intricacies involved in mastering and enjoying it compare very favourably with the best indoor games the world over.

**RULES FOR PLAYING OMWESO IN BUGANDA**

1. Sixty-four counters (called é'mpiki) are used. If there are not enough of them for a game, pebbles or other kinds of seeds may he added to make up the required number.

2. Each player sits or squats on one side of the board which is placed crosswise between them, on level ground or a stand. The counters are divided equally between the two players.

3. Each player controls or owns all the counters in the sixteen holes in the two rows of holes next to him.

4. Each side may have more than one player all working as a team.

5. To make sure, before play, that each side has the required number of 32 counters, each player groups his counters in fours in each hole, in the back row (see front cover of book).

6. To get ready to start a game each player arranges his counters in groups of different numbers and in holes where he knows them to be in the strategic positions. Arranging counters in such positions is called ókúteékka in Luganda. Counters so arranged are called ékyeso (plural ébyeso). Ébyeso or groupings of counters before play starts are divided into senior and junior groupings (known as ébyeso ebikulu and ébyeso ébito). Senior groupings have, in one hole, more than sixteen counters and junior groupings do not have more than sixteen counters in any one hole. There are many different kinds of groupings but about six have definite names, i.e. `Nsánve (with seventeen counters in one hole), `Nkáága (with sixteen counters in one hole), `Ntáánwe (with fifteen counters in one hole), `Nnvínya (with fourteen counters in one hole), Nsátwe (with thirteen counters in one hole), `Mbírye (with twelve counters in one hole).

Some other groupings which have names are not often used, e.g. `Nnyénda and `Nnáána (with nineteen and eighteen counters respectively in one hole). These generally pile up after a player has made some rounds of moves.

The aim in all kinds of groupings is to marshall one's counters into some kind of relay positions from which one can make more than a full round movement. (See diagrams 1, 2. 3, 4a, 4b, 5, 6a, 6b, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 for above groupings and others which have no definite names.)

7. At the start of play any side may open the game. This is called ókwaliika. After the first game the loser normally starts the next game. It is possible that originally it was the winner who started the next game. Even today, if he wishes to do so he can. He starts by announcing “Ômiúghóhó tansoóká kúwerà= The defeated does not precede me in vowing loyalty and bravery.

8. At the opening stage each player drops his counters in his holes according to the accepted rules for the particular grouping of counters he followed. One player may drop one or two counters in one hole. With certain junior groupings it is permissible for a player to move some counters from holes in the back row straight to the holes in the front row.

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4 in some of the conventional rules have been modified
9. As soon as one side has captured some counters from the other side (which is called \textit{ókútta} (literally to kill) dropping counters in the holes follows the normal rule, i.e. one counter in each hole during any one move.

10. In actual play a player scoops up all counters in a hole (there must be at least two) and drops them one by one in each hole, in an anti-clockwise direction. The dropping of counters in holes in this way is what is technically called \textit{ókwesa} (see direction of movement in diagram No. 12).

11. Dropping counters in holes is done in turns. The turns alternate between the two sides.

12. Each player tries to capture as many counters from his opponent as he can, taking care that in doing so he does not expose many of his valuable counters to seizure by the other side.

13. All the 64 counters remain in play until one side wins. They are merely transferred from one side to the other when they are captured.

14. Dropping counters in holes, in actual play, is very much like running a relay race. When the last counter in a player's hand is dropped in an occupied hole, the player collects all the counters from that hole and continues his movement, beginning with the hole next to that from which he has collected the last counters. If the last counter of his second collection also falls in an occupied hole he again collects the counters and continues his onward movement. He goes on doing this until his last counter falls in an empty hole and he then stops. Stopping in this way is also called \textit{ókwali}. In moving counters each player tries to entice the other by offering him counters the capture of which, if not properly calculated, may mean a bigger loss of counters through a capture in return. To save his counters from being captured, a player tries to avoid placing them in two directly opposite holes, one in the front row and one in the back row.

\section*{CAPTURING COUNTERS}

15. When one of the two contestants has counters in any two of his opposite holes, one in the back row and the other directly opposite it in the front row, the counters in the two holes are open to capture. When during a move, the other player's last counter drops into one of the holes in his inner row and directly opposite the other player's exposed counters those counters can he captured providing the player making the seizure has one or more counters in that hole. The player capturing the counters collects them all from the two holes and continues his move with them in the ordinary way, on his own side of \textit{omweso}. Starting from the hole next to that from which he collected the counters with which he made the capture. If the last of the captured counters drops into a hole opposite some other exposed counters, he collects them as well and continues his move, as before. During one single move, a player may capture counters several times before his last counter falls into an empty hole. Skill in the game consists in knowing well ahead how many captures are possible in one's next move while avoiding ex-posing one's counters to capture by the other side.

16. If one player fails to collect counters that have fallen a prey to him during his move his opponent may opt to group them in any one of the two holes in which they are lying or to force his opponent to collect them. If hechores to add them together he considers in which of the two holes
they will he most beneficial to him. If he prefers his opponent to take them, he says to him, “Toleka báfu mábega” = Do not leave dead bodies behind.

**CAPTURING COUNTERS IN A REVERSE MOVE**

17. When a player sees some exposed counters, he may capture them in a reverse move. He moves his own counters in a clockwise direction from any of his last two holes in each row, on his left hand side. In the reverse movement, counters are dropped backwards, one in each hole as usual, starting in the hole next to that from which they are collected. It is permissible to make more than one reverse move to capture counters. Counters captured first in the reverse move are dropped again back-wards to capture other exposed counters, providing the captures are made in one move. When a player has captured in the reverse move all the counters he cares to capture he continues with his normal forward placing of counters, using the last counters captured in the last reverse move. He starts from the hole next to that from which he made the reverse movement.

To move in the reverse mode is called ókutebuka. The first counter a player drops when reversing is called buteba. The maximum number of counters that can be used in any single reverse movement is nine. No player is allowed to make a reverse movement except for the sole purpose of capturing counters. (See holes and direction of reverse movements in diagrams 13, 14, 15, 16, 17.)

18. A player cannot be forced to make a reverse movement if he does not like to do so.

**DESIGNATIONS OF MOVES**

There are two ways of counting counters:

a) **FORWARD PLAY:**
Counters which when dropped in holes, in playing, end up in the hole from which they are collected must be sixteen. These are known as nkáága = the sixteen.

Counters which go one hole beyond that from which they were taken must be seventeen and they are called `nsánmwe = the seventeen.

Counters which extend to two holes beyond that from which they were taken must be eighteen and they are known as `nnáána = the eighteen.

Counters which reach three holes beyond that from which they were taken must be nineteen and they are known as `nnyénda = the nineteen.

Groups of counters numbering 20, 21 and above have no definite names and in fact they seldom occur.

b) **BACKWARD PLAY:**
A collection of counters which falls one hole short of that from which they were taken must be fifteen and they are called `ntáámwe = the fifteen.

Those which fall two holes short behind that from which they were taken must be fourteen and they are called `nnyínya = the fourteen.

Those which fall three holes short behind that from which they were taken must be thirteen and they are called `nsátwé = the thirteen.
Those which fall four holes short behind that from which they were taken must be twelve and they are called 'mbírye = the twelve.

Counters which fall five holes behind that from which they were taken must be eleven and they are called 'kkumi n'emu = the eleven.

Counters which fall six holes short behind that from which they were taken must be ten and they are called 'kkumí = the ten.

Counters which fall seven holes short behind that from which they are taken must be nine and they are called lwánga = the nine.

Counting backwards does not go beyond the nine. This system of counting is used when a player is calculating how far he can go and from what holes he will be able to capture counters during the move he is about to make. In actual counting, during play the words are shortened as follows: -`ítá -- `nnya -- 'ssátu - 'bbiri — ómu – 'kkumí — lwánga. Those are the words which one hears when players are calculating counters during play.

Two counters, one in the front row and one directly behind it in the back row, which are open to capture, are called kayiki. (See diagram No. 18.)

**KINDS OF VICTORY**

There are four kinds of victory:

(a) **NORMAL VICTORY**

This is achieved by one of the players capturing from his opponent so many counters that he leaves him with so few that he cannot continue to play effectively. Even if one player still has quite a number of counters left on his side, if those counters are spread one in each hole, he counts his game as lost because a single counter cannot be used to make a move. To make a move a player needs at least two counters in one hole.

Normal victory is counted as one score gained by the winner in the set. The play may end after any number of games played. (See diagram No. 19 for a game lost in the normal victory.)

(b) **THE DOUBLE SCORE** (Conventional)

When a player accidentally or deliberately puts counters in the two extreme pairs of holes, one at each end of his rows, the state of his counters is said to be of two heads (known as émitwe-ebiri). If his opponent manages to capture in one move, the counters in both those pairs of holes, he wins by what is known as ókutema to cut.' As the winner drops the last counter to win the game he cries out his victory (this is called òkulayira). He shouts such words as, "My friend the host," "My ancestor Nnámuguizi é Kásá’gga." "My master Ssekiboobo," etc. If the winner fails to cry out his victory, he automatically forfeits it.

Winning by ókutema counts for two scores in the set. (See diagram No. 20 for counters in the state of two heads.)

(c) **WINNING BY A SET IN ONE GAME**

If one player places counters in every single hole in his rows he puts them in serious danger. If his opponent succeeds in capturing them all in one move, he wins by a full set called ákawumbi. ‘Akawumbi
consists of twelve scores and twelve scores make up a set in the game of onnveso.

After winning by akawumbi the winner turns the hoard upside down, scattering all the counters about. He then asks the loser to turn up the board with his teeth and replace all the counters in the board again using his teeth only. The request is of course never complied with and this often means the end of the play.

Victory by akawumbi is a rare thing. (See diagram No. 21 for a state of counters in which a player may win by akawumbi.)

(d) THE KNOCK OUT (Also known as ókitema)
If one player captures counters twice from his opponent before the other player has made any capture at all the former wins by ókitema. The winner gains two scores as in (b) above. There are, however, five conditions which must be fulfilled to make this kind of victory valid:
1. Both sides must have agreed at the start of the game that they are going to play a knock out.
2. The second and final placing of counters to win must not be made in a reverse movement.
3. The winner must have offered his opponent some counters which he failed to capture.
4. The final placing of counters to win must not be made in a relay movement. It must be a direct move to the opponent's exposed counters which are captured to win.
5. Just as in victory (b), the winner must cry out his victory. This kind of victory is quite new.

Modes of Play

Today there are three modes of playing omweso.

(a) COUNTING (Technically known as `Ekyokubala)
In this kind of play each player is allowed to spend some time counting and deliberating on the advantages and disadvantages of different moves open to him. In such calculations a player is able, before making a move, to know what counters he will be able to capture from his opponent and where his movement is going to end. He can also find out how best he can avoid exposing his own counters to capture. If, however, one player spends too much time on deliberation his opponent may become impatient and if he does he may say to him while shuffling the board forwards and backwards, "The board is being eaten away by white ants." On hearing this remark the other player usually makes his move.

(b) THE "IRRETRIEVABLE-MOVE" MODE PLAY (Known as `Ekisibé)
In this kind of play the two players exchange two counters at the beginning of a game, as a symbol of a contract which neither of them is allowed to break. The contract prevents each player from changing his mind once he scoops counters from a hole to make his move. He cannot put the counters back in the hole to collect others he considers more useful for his move.

(c) NOT COUNTING OR NON-STOP (Known as `Ekyobutabal)
In this kind of play no player is allowed to spend a moment calculating or deliberating the advantages and disadvantages of different moves open to him. As soon as one player has finished his turn the other must immediately start his move. If he hesitates for a moment his opponent at once makes a second consecutive move in the way of a penalty. The penalty is known as ókútdnza. This mode of play is fairly recent but it is the most commonly used today, particularly in towns. It has made the game more brisk and lively but it requires quick observation and decision.
FURTHER NOTES ON THE GAME

1. CHEATING
In playing omweso there are some forms of cheating just as there are in many other games. The following are some of them:
(a) Hiding a counter in the little finger to avoid finishing in the next correct empty hole.
(b) Dropping one or more counters into or out of the lot one plans to use in his next move, to improve their deployment.
(c) Ingeniously slipping a counter or counters into or out of an opponent's hole to improve one's own chances of winning.
(d) Skipping a hole or dropping two counters in one hole to make one's move more profitable.
(e) Feigning to drop one's counters accidentally into an opponent's hole or holes in order to recover more or fewer from him — whichever suits.

All forms of cheating are called ókūbbira. If one player notices his opponent cheating him he stops him continuing the move and asks him to rectify the mistake. In serious competitions umpires are now appointed to watch against cheating and to settle disputes.

2. PIECES OF WOOD (Known as ébití)
To aid memory in counting scores, some players keep pieces of wood called ébití (singular ékíti). They number twenty-four in all. Each time a player is defeated in the normal way he is given one piece of stick to keep on his side. A player who is defeated by the double score (okutema) of each kind, is given two pieces. At the end of a play the games played are represented by the sticks held by each player. A player with the least number of sticks is the winner of that tournament. A player with twelve sticks is defeated by a set known as ákagoba.

Another practice is for each player to have twelve sticks at the beginning, which he tries to reduce by each victory he gains, leaving them only on the side, which has lost most games at the end of the play.
Preliminary step or checking counters before play. Diagram K
NSANVE — THE SEVENTEEN
EKYESO EKIKULU — Senior Grouping
Diagram 1

NKAAGA — THE SIXTEEN
EKYESO EKITO — Junior Grouping
Diagram 2
OMWESO, A GAME PEOPLE PLAY IN UGANDA

NTAANWE — THE FIFTEEN
EKYESO EKITO — Junior Grouping
Diagram 3

NNYINYA — THE FOURTEEN
Diagram 4a
NNYINYA — THE FOURTEEN
EKYESO EKITO — Junior Grouping
Diagram 4b

NSATWE — THE THIRTEEN
EKYESO EKITO — Junior Grouping
Diagram 5
OMWESO, A GAME PEOPLE PLAY IN UGANDA
NNAANA — THE EIGHTEEN
EKYESO EKIKULU — Senior Grouping
Diagram 7

EKYESO EKITO — Junior Grouping
Diagram 8
E KYE SO E KI TO — Junior Grouping

Diagram 11

Normal direction of movement.

Diagram 12
THE REVERSE MOVE

a, b, c and d are the squares or holes from which reverse movements may be made, one at a time, or consecutively, according to the positions of counters in the opponent's squares.

Diagram 13

THE REVERSE MOVE

Reversing with three counters from square E to capture counters in squares C and D.

Diagram 14
THE REVERSE MOVE
Reversing with four counters from square G to capture counters in squares P and Q.

Diagram 15

THE REVERSE MOVE
Three consecutive reverse moves from square Z: 1st to capture counters in squares J and H; 2nd to capture counters in squares R and S; 3rd to capture counters in squares U and T.

Diagram 16
THE REVERSE MOVE
Reverse move with nine counters from square X to capture counters in squares V and Y. When this move is made a series of relayed moves results in the capture of more counters.

Diagram 17

KAYIKI
Diagram 18
Side B has suffered normal defeat.

Diagram 19

OKUTEMA (WINNING BY THE DOUBLE SCORE)
Side A has two heads (Emitwe Ebiri). If player on side B is to play next he can win by the double score (okutema) by moving counters in square L up to square M and then by a relayed forward move to square N.

Diagram 20
AKAWUMBI

If player on side A is to play next he can win by "akawumbi" by making one relayed non-stop move during which he captures all his opponent's counters.

Diagram 21
OMWESO MU UGANDA

Omweso guyinza okuba nga gwe gumu ku mizannyo gy’omu Uganda eg’y’edda ennyo eg’y’okwewummulizaako. Amawanga mangi gafaanana okuba nga gamaze emyaka bikumi na bikumi nga gaguzannya. Omweso gye gwatandikira tewali amanyiddeyo ddala newankubadde nga waliwo abantu abawa ebirowoozo byabwe ku nsibuko yaagwo. Ebirowoozo ebyo tebinnaftuna bibikakasa mu ngeri ematiza bull muntu. Abatambuze n’abayizi b’ebifa ku mpisa z’abantu ez’obuwangwa, omweso bagusanga ne mu nsi zino eziri ku nkingi za Uganda: Kenya, Sudan, Congo, Ruanda, Tanzania, n’okweyongerayo mu Africa eya wakati.

Abantu abamu bagamba nti omweso gwava mu nsi z’ebweru ne guyingira mu Uganda. Ekyo okukikkiriza kisaana kumala kwekenneenyezebwa mu bintu bino — ennimi ez’enjawulo ezoogerwa mu Uganda, ebintu eby’edda ebisangibwa mu bitundu bya Uganda ebitali bimu, ensibuko z’abantu b’omu Uganda abali mu bitundu ebitali bimu. Ate abantu abalala bwe bagamba nti omuzannyo ogwo gwava mu Uganda ne gugenda ebweru n’abo tetusaana kumala gabawakanya.

Ka tuddeyo ku Uganda. Kye tulaba amangu kye kino nti abantu abamu aboogera ennimi ez’enjawulo balina amannya agatava ku kikolo kimu ge bayita ekintu kye beesezaamu. Ekyo kyiynza okutugambisa nti bull ggwanga omuzannyo ogwo lyaguvumbula lyokka. Naye ate tuyinza n’okugamba nti oboolyawo ng’amawanga agamu gaagukoppa ku malala ne negaguyiyiiza amannya mu nnimi ze googera. Sso nno ate waliwo agamu agayita ekintu kye beesezaamu amannya agalabika nga gava ku kikolo kimu eky’ennimi ze googera. Ekyo kiragira ddala ng’amawanga ago omuzannyo gaaguggya ku mawanga agagaliraanye bwe gall mu kika ekimu oba ku mawanga agaagawangula oba ge gaawangula mu biro eby’edda. Laba amannya ekintu ekyo kye beesezaamu ge kiyittibwa mu nnimi ezitali zimu:
OLULIMI

Ateso
Karimojong
Sabiny
Lango
Acholi
Alur
Lugbara Madi
Kakwa
Lunyoro/ Rutoro
Luganda Lusoga
Lunyole Lugwere Runyankole
Rukiga

ERINNYA

aireisit
ngikilees
kehchiyek
coro coro soro soro soro orusoro
weri elec olbero
omweso
omweso
omweso
omweso
ekyeso
ekyeso
ekishoro
by'omweso ne ku mateeka g'okwesa mu

Nafuna ebigambo ku byafaayo Buganda by'omweso ne ku mateeka g'okwesa mu

EBYFAAAYA

Erinnya 'omweso' (mu bungi 'emyeso') litegeez a ekibajje mwe beezea ate n'omuzannya gwennyini. Omweso gutera kubajjibwa mu muti. Ekinnya ky'omweso ekimu kiyitibwa 'ssa' (ebingi 'masa'). Ensigo enzirugaalirivu eziyitibwa empiki, éziva ku muti oguyitibwa omuyiki, ze zikozebewa mu mweso. Okuzannya gwennyini kuyitibwa 'kwesa. Ekiraga ekyo kiringa ekyava mu linnya 'mweso.' Omuzannya guyitibwa 'kyeso' (ebingi 'byeso').

Mu lulimi Oluganda mulimu ebifaanana okulaga ng'omweso gwa dda nnyo mu Buganda. Ebiraga ebyo hisangibwa mu njogera ze tuyita ebisoko era ne mu ngero. Enjogera ezimanyiddwa ennyo ze zino:

1. Mu Luganda, omuntu omumpi ennyo bayinza okumugeza ku mpiki. Bagamba nti, "Mumpi ng'empiki."  
2. Omuntu bw'amanya ennyo okukola ekintu bamwogerako nti "Akimanyi nga mweso."
3. Omuntu bw'asanga ng'ebintu bye we yabadde asuubira okubisanga tebirriwo bamugeza oba yegeze ku muntu ayesa n'atasanga mpiki mu mwa'abadde asuubira okuzisanga. Bamwogerako nti, "Akatte mwa lya impiki."  
4. Ate luno olugero Iwo lubuulirira bantu buteekuza. Lugererwa ku muntu ayiga ekintu n'akikugukamu okusinga eyakimuyigiriza. Lugamba nti, "Gw'oyigiriza okwesa akugobya nkaaga."

Ebyafaayo by'obwakabaka nabyo birinayo ekiraga ng'omweso gwa dda nnyo mu Buganda. Bull Kabaka omuggya olwamalanga okusika n'agenda e Buddo, ku lusozoi olwatikirirwagango Bakabaka engule, n'akolayo n'omukolo "gw'okwesa." Omukulu w'emikolo gy'oku Buddo yabanga Ssemanobe Òw' emmamba, omukuumi w'olusozoi lw'Obwakabaka. Akakasa omukolo gw'okwesa ku Buddo ye muwandiiizi omwatiikirivu, Sir Apolo Kagwa. Mu kitabo kye ekiyitibwa Empisa ~a Baganda, yawandika bw'ati ku mukolo "gw'okwesa": "Bwe yamuggyanga awo (Ssemanobe) n'amutwala mu luyiki, lwabeeranga kumpi n'awaabeeranga embuga ya Makamba Omwami w'oku Buddo. Omwo mwe yanoganya empiki buteba eyabeeranga mu mweso ogwabeeranga mu kigango Gombolola oba Masengeregansaze. Katikkiro gwe yayezezangamug ng'asalira abantu emisango. Naye empiki eyo buteba amakulu gaayoo nti 'Kabaka taasingibwenga magezi mu bwakabaka bwe eri abantu be; abantu be bwe banaamusaliranga amagezi ag'okumusinga era ye y'anaasinganga okubasalira amagezi amalungi ag'okubafuganga, ng'omwesigw'amezei bw'agobya munne empiki entono eza buteba.'"  

Tewali amanyidde ddala Kabaka eyatandika 'okwesa' ng'omukolo mu kusika kwa Bakabaka kyokka omukolo gwo gulinga ogw'edda ennyo newankubadde nga guyinza obutaba gwa dda nnyo

5 Empiki eye bulijjo eweza 'h insi okuva erudda okutuuka erudda singa ogikubyemu akatuli wakati (diameter).
6 Iya ke kagambo akategeezaa obwannannya mu lubu lw'amannya ga class No. 5.
7 'Nkaka ze mpiki ezaalika mu ssa mwe zivudde; ziba 16.
ng'Obwikabaka obulowoozeba okuweza emyaka ng'ebitaano okuva ku Ssekabaka Kintu.

Omukolo gw'okweseza e Buddo mu kusika ng'ogutadde ebbali, omweso gwayagalihwanga nnyo mu lubiri Iwa Kabaka. Kabaka yayasanga ne bakyala be abakulu era ne bannyina, abambejjia. Oluusi yayitanga Katikkiro n'abaami abakulu n'ayesa nabo.

Abaaami n'abataka abakulu bull gye baaheranga yonna nga baba n'emyeso mu bisakaate byabwe. Abaami abakulu n'abato n'abasajja be baafugaga baayesanga kumpi hull lunaku enkya n'eggulo.

Akatuusoo ke kaabasalangako anti nga bona basembezebewa ku mmere y'emhuga. Mu mweso abaami mwe baafricanrangha omukisa okulaba abantu abakulu n'okuhamanyana mu ngeri y'omukwano. Bwe baahanga beesa nga banyumya ku bintu bingi ebya bull ngeri. Mu kwesa abaami ne basajja baabwe mwe hamanyniranga ebifa mu nsi. Bwe waabangawo abajja okubasalira ebibakaayanya ng'abaami ne basajja baabwe abali mu mweso bawuliriza ensonga zonna. Abaami bwe baasalanga ensonga nga basajja baabwe nabo bawulira ensala y'abaami n'amagezi ge baawanga abantu ababaabanga babatwalidde ebigambo ebyetaaga okutawulula.

Mu nkiiko ez'engeri eyo eza bona ezitaabanga ntongole mwe mwawa engero zino:
1. Akiika embuga amanya ensonga.
2. Nnantakiika nti "Eby'embuga biriibwa baganzi."

Mu basajja baabwa ababaabanga baku77aanye okwesa, abaami mwe baalondanda abasajja be beesiga ne babatuma eza bull ngeri. Kabaka bwe yatumangha amangha ahaaka mu baami okumusolooleza omusolo, gamba ng'ogw' enswa oba ogw'emhugo oba ogw'enkumbi oba ogw'engeri endala oba okutwala abatabaaazi, abasajja abasaangibwanga ku muhga nga beesa be baasookanga okuweru n'okugabwa okukulembera abalala. Mu ngeri eyo omweso gwabanga ng'ekku7 j aniero abaami mwe baggyanga abantu ab'okubawerezea n'okuweereza Kahaka. Omweso gwayambanga abantu abasobola emirimu okumanyika amangu mu baami n'okuweebwa ebifono.

Ekirala ekikulu ekyali ku mweso kwe kumala ku bantu ekiwuubalo. Abaami abakulu n'abantu abalala ababaabanga balindiridde okulaba Kabaka haamulindiriranga nga heesa mu kagango akaabanga okumpi n'ennyumba Twekohe, Kabaka mwe yasulanga. Abambejjia nabo baalina akagango akaabwe mwe baaheranga nga heesa okutwula Iwe haasoholanga okulaba Kabaka.

Nga bwe tulabye waggulu, Katikkiro yayesezanga mu kigango Masengeregansaze, mwe yatuulunga ng'asala emisango n'okutawulula ababaabanga n'ebibakaayanya. Bagamba nti Mukasa eyaliko Katikkiro wa Mutesa I ne Mwanga II yali kayingo ku kwesa. Mbu abantu baamuwoleza ng'eno bw'ayesa. Bwe haamulanga okuwoza n'addamu ebigambo omuwaabi by'awozezza era n'eb'omuwawaahirwa. Mbu byonna yahiddangamu mu ngeri eyeewuunyisa. Bwe yamalanga okubiddu mu nga abaami hamaze okukubira omusango, n'alyoka asala omusango. Bagamba nti ensala ye yabanga ya magezi era nga ya hwenkanya.


Abakazi ne bawala baabwe nga bwe baalina omulimu gw'okukola ku by'emmere byonna mu maka era
n'emirimu emira, kyangu okulaba nti singa baalekerwa eddembe okwessa ku mweso ogumala ebiseera bwe gutyo tebandisoboddenga kumalawo mirimu gyabwe egya bull lunaku egyali emingi bwe gityo.

Ekirala ekikulu kye tusaana okumanya kye kino nti omweso gwakul'jaanyanga abantu bangi abe buli ngeri ate nga mu kuku77aana okwo baggyangamu okumanyagana ennyo. N'olwekyo abasajja abafumbo baayagala nti singa baleka bakazi baabwe ne bawala baabwe okubera mu mweso n'abasajja abu buli ngeri kiyinza okuvaamu ebitali birungi.

Abalenzi abato nabo tebakkirizibwanga kubera awo nga beesa ebbanga lyonna, anti nabo baalina eye'okukola bingi, ng'okulunda embuzi n'ente, nokutumwa e'j'jendo eza bull ngeri. Kyokka bo bwe baabanga ku ttale nga balunda embuzi oba ente beesaliranga amagezi ag'okwesaako. Baasimanga emyeso ku ttaka ne beeseza omwo. Mu kifo ky'empiki zennyini bakaakosanga mayinja oba ensigo z'ebimera ze basabolanga okufuna. Abasumba bayinza okuba nga be baasima emyeso egisangibwa ku njazi, mu bitundu bya Uganda ebimu. Naye oba ng'ekyo bwe kiri, kizibu okumanya ebintu bye baasimisanga amasa g'emyeso ku njazi c77 umu bwe zityo!

wokubanga omweso gwatuuzanga abantu ne batayagala kuguvaamu, ne guberabiza n'ebintu ebirala byonna, abaaami b'ebiyalo abamu abakuumanga ennyo ebyalo byabwe, tebaayagalanga kula baasajja baabwe nga beesa mu byalo byabwe. Abaaami ab'engeri eyo baatyanga nti singa omulala azinda ekalyo amangu oba Kabaka okugaba ekiwendo ey'amangu, ekalyo kyonna kiyinza okuttibwa oba okunyagibwa. Abaaami abaatyanga eyo bwe baasanganga basajja baabwe nga beesa nga bayinza okubaggyako empiki ne bazisuu.

Okwesa kwaliyo omuzizzo omulala omukulu:
Abantu tebakkirizibwanga kwesa kiro ng'enjuba emaze okugwa. Baagambanga nti singa abantu beesa ekiro akabe ne kamala kakaaba oba ekwuugulu oba empisi ng'olwo nno ababadde beesa zibasanze. Baalagirwanga okutwala empiki zonna ku luzzi okuzooza ate nga bull mpiki bagitwala yokka. Okwoza empiki lye ddagala lyokka lye bakkirizanga nti lye liyinza okuggyawo akabi akayinza okujuja ng'ekimu ku hintu ebyo kikaabye ng'abantu beesa ekiro.

Omuntu agenda okuwoza omusango naye teyayesa. Mpozzi beefaanaanyiriza nti singa omuntu agenda okuwoza ayesa ne bamugoba mu kwsa, ne mu kuwoza bayinza okumusinga.

OMWESO NGA BWE GWADIBA OKUMALA EKISEERA
Kino kyalgi ng'omuntu nti bindozirowoozeza. Mu matandika g'ekitundu 'S ekyafundikira omulumbe gwe 19. omweso wamu n'emizannyo gy'e'enderi endala gyali gitandise okugenda nga gifeebebewa empisa z'abagwira b'Ebuvanjuba ezaali zigenda zikyusa embeera za bannansi ez'edda. Efufu nyebintu wamu n'ebiyalo byali bitandise okukyuka. Entalo z'okunyaga ebintu n'abantu zaali zikomezeddwa Abangereza abali batandise okufuga ensi nga bayita mu baami hannansi. Ebyokufuna abantu baali tebakkirizibwanga nyo ku baami. N'olwekyo abantu baali batandise obutakayeeranga nyo ku baami nga beesa. Ab'aamaanyi baali batandise okusubulanga ebintu ng'engoye n'amaliha.

Uganda ng'ema ze okukiriza okukumiibwanga Ahangereza, abasajja abalamu baatandika okulondebwanga okwetikka emigugu gy'abakozi ba Gavumenti, naddala Baddiisi, nga ball ku mirimu gy Gavumenti. Abantu tebaayagalanga kukola mirimu gy nga njeri eyo kubanga empeera gyro baagifunangamu yamaganda ntono nyo. Okuwoza runi mirimu egyo, abantu kye baakolanga kwe kwewala okukunnaaniranga mu baami okwesa.
Ppamba bwe yaleetebewa mu Uganda mu 1904, okusobozeza abantu okufuna ensimbi z'omusolo, abasajja Ahaganda ne batandika okulima so ng’okuva edda n’edda kyabanga kya nsonyi omusajja Omuganda okulima. Okulima ppamba kwasihanga abasajja bangi mu nnimiro ne mu maka, nga balongoosa ppamba. Emirimu gya ppambaahasajja tegyabalekerangawo kiseera kya kwesa. Ate n’oluvannyuma omweso haaguyita omuzannyo gw’ahagayaavu.

Ekirala ekylai kyagala okudibya omweso ze nvunza ezaaleetebewa Abaganda abasuubuzi b’amasanga, nga haziggya mu Tanzania. Abasuubuzi abo baatolontokanga ne batuuka mu nsi y’Abanyamwezi, Unyamwezi (Abaganda bagiigityanga Bunyaanyimbe). Envunza zaali zeefudde za kabi nnyo mu Buganda. Zaayingiranga mu higere by’ahantu abajama ne zikulira omwo. Omuntu eyabanga n’envunza ennyingi mu higere bwe baabanga bazimutunduddemu ng’ebigere birwala. Mpozzi okulwala kw’ebigere by’envunza kwe baayita `okuvunda’ n’obuwuka obwabivunzanga ne babuyita ’envunza.’

Omuntu eyabanga n’envunza ennyingi mu bigerc buli we yagendanga ng’alekawo amagi gaazo. Amagi tegaalwanga nga gaalula, nga gasasaana mu kifo ekyo mwe gaahanga gaalulidde. Omweso nga bwe gwaku77aanyakga abantu ahangi awamu, gwalabika nga guku’yaanya n’envunza. Olw’okwagala okudduka envunza abantu kyehaava hatandika okwewala omweso. Envunza bwe zityo bwe zaali zaagala okutta omweso.

Amasomero bwe gaatandikibwa mu myaka ng’ekkumi egyatandika omulumbe guro gwe tulimu, omweso tegwassibwamu nnyo maanyi ng’emizannyo gy’abagwira egi’omyu nnyumba, okugeza nga draughts, ludo, emisota n’ama daala. Kyamazima amasomero awamu ag’ebisulo oluvannyuma gaafunira abayizi emyeso naye abayizi abaayesanga tehabanga bangi nnyo olw’okubanga omweso gwali gumaze okuvumanganibwa nti ‘guleeta envunza.’ Kyokka abantu abamu abakulu, abaagazi b’ebintu byaffe eby’obuwanga, bo emyeso baagikuuma mu maka gaabwe ne beesezangamu olusinooluusi ne mikwano gyabwe. Abantu abo be baawonya omweso okuzikirira wonna mu Buganda era tusana okuheebaza ennyo.

Ka tulabe n’ekintu ekirala ekifaanana okuba ekimu ku bintu ebyaziyiza omweso okweyongera ennyo mu maaso:
Okutuusa jjo Juno, mu brio ehitaya bya wala nnyo, tewabadde bidduka ebyangibwa, ebyanguya abakozi ba Gavumenti n’abatali ba Gavumenti okubaggya mu byalo, abasinga ohungi gy e basula, okubatuusa ku mirimu gyabwe ate n’okuuhazzayaay. Esaawa za’abakozi bonna abatali ba Gavumenti ezmirimu nazo edda zaali teziiriiko mateeka ga Gavumenti amakakafu nga bwe kiri kaakati. Ate kimanyiddwa ng’abakozi abasinga ohungi gy kuyve basula okutukesa edda ku kikuho nga hasotta ohugaali. Ate nno ku nsozi nga basindika husindike. We baatuukiranga ewahwe nga n’abandyagadde okwesa tehakyalina kiseera kimala.

Abakozi abaafunanga emisaala egiteeyamba baakubanga kigere. Abo nno we baatuukiranga eka nga booya husera, nga n’agecsa tebagalina ate era nga n’enjuba emaze okugwa mu nnyanga. N’abandihadde n’ekiseera eyxesa, mu budde obwo haabanga heegomba kufuna kaakuzza eri mumwa. Kale nno tekyewunyisa okulaba ng’ahakozi baali tebakyasohola kwesa oha okukulowoozaako.

**OKUDDAWO KW’OMWESO**
Kizihu nnyo okulondawo ekintu ekimu ne tugamba nti kye kyazzaawo omweso ne gikwagazisa n’ahantu nga hwe hagwagala kaakano. Ekisinga obwangu kwe kugatta awamu ehintu hyonna bye tulowoowa nga birina kye byakola ku kuzzaawo omweso n’okugwagazisa abantu.

Okujja kwa hbaasi ezikola mu bibuga, nga zigezaako okutambulira mu biseera ebimanyiddwa, ate n’okufuna mmotoka za takisi ezikola mu bibuga ne mu mirirana gyahyo by’asobozesa abantu hangi okutuukanga amangu mu maka gaahwe nga hamaze okukola ne basobola n’okwesaako. **Okwo** ssako okweyongera kwa bupikipiki ohutono ate ne Gavumenti okussaawo essaawa ez’ettecka ezinnyukirwamu mu bibuga. Abafrica okweyongera obungi mu hihuga ne mu miriraano gyahyo naky okyayongera ku bungi bw’abantu ahayinza okwesezaamu nga hahadde tebagenze mu mizannyo mirala. Ebyo byonna bye mmenye birina kye hikoze ku kuddamu okwagazisa abantu hangi okutuukanga amangu mu maka gaahwe nga hamaze hegaba ne basobola n’okwesaako.

Mu nnaku zino. omuntu amanyi okutunula ennyo bw’ayita mu butale, mu Kampala ne mu hifo cibirala chiku’llaanirwamu abantu ahangi ehiri ebweru wa Kampala, mu ssaawa ez’ekyemisana n’ez’olwegguloggulo, yinza okulaba ebikuukuulu bwahantu nga heetoolodde omweso. Aheesa, omweso gubanyumira nga hwe gyunyimira abatunuluilizi. Abaagazi b’omweso oluusi hassaawo empaka ne zinyumira abazihaamu ahangi ehiri ebweru wa Kampala, nga b’obw’entecka ennyi okuyita obulungi mu balabe baagwo bonna, neguddamu okwagalibwa ennyo. Bye guyiseemu bikakasiza ddala nga bwe guli omuzannyo omulungi.

Okujjulula ku mateeka g’okwesa ag’edda kuyambye nnyo okukendeeza ku kiseera ekyeso ekimu kye kimala okuggwa. Edda ekiseera ekyeso ekimu kye kyamalanga okuggwaamu kyabanga wakati wa ddakiika 10 na 20 naye kaakano kiri wakati wa 3 na 7.

Ekyewuunyisa ennyo kwe kulaba ng’omweso ogwayolekerwa ebizibu ebingi bwe hityo ate gwe gusinze okuyita obulungi mu balabe baagwo bonna, neguddamu okwagalibwa ennyo. Bye guyiseemu bikakasiza ddala nga bwe guli omuzannyo omulungi.

Omuntu yenna agamba nti omweso si muzannyo gwa magezi kirungi ayige okuguzannya, yeerabireko ng’obukodyo bw’ateekwa okuyiga okuba omukugu mu gwo n’okugunyumirwa bwenkana n’obw’emizannyo gy’omu nnyumba egisinga obulungi egisangibwa wonna mu nsi.

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**AMATEEKA G’OKWESA MU BUGANDA**

1. Empiki ezikozesebwa nga beesa ziba nkaaga mu nnya. Empiki zennyini bwe ziba nga teziwera bassaamu obuyinja oba ensigo ez’engeri endala okujjuza omuwendo ogwo

2. Buli omu ku bazannyi atula ku ludda lw’omweso nga gwerambise bukiika mu maaso ge. Empiki 64 bazigabanira wakati.

3. Buli omu ku bazannyi y’aba nnannyini mpiki zonna eziba mu masa 16 ag’omu nnyiriri ebbiri eziri ku ludda lwe.

4. Oludda olumu luyinza okubaako abazannya abasukka ku omu, nga bona bakolera wamu. Okukakasa nga buli ludda luweza empika zaalwo 32, ng’omuzannyo gugenda okutandika, buli

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8 Amateeka agamu ag’edda gajjuluddwako.
M. B. NSIMBI

muzannyi assa empiki nnya nnya mu masa omunaana ag’omu lunyiriri olumuliraandide ddala (labs ekifaananyi ku ddiba ly’ekitabo).

5. Mu kweteekerateekera okutandikira okwesa kwennyini, buli ludda lussa emiwindo gy’empiki egya bull ngeri mu masa gaalwo, mu ngeri gye lumanyi ng’enerugamba okugoba. Okutegeka empiki mu ngeri eyo kwe bayita ’okuteeka.’ Engeri omuntu gy’aba ategeseemu empiki ze kye bayita ‘ekyeso’ (mu bungi ‘byeso’). Ebyeso ekikulu kibaamu empiki ezisukka 16 mu ssa erimu; ekito tekibaamu ssa lirimu mpiki ezisukku ka 16. Waliwo ebyeso bya ngeri nnyingi ebiteekewba naye ebirina amannya amakakafu bira niga mukaaga:

6. **Nsanve** (kiba n’essa eririmu empiki 17), **Nkaaga** (kiba n’essa eririmu empiki 16), **Ntaaanwe** (kiba n’essa eririmu empiki 15), **Nyinyi** (kiba n’essa eririmu empiki 14), **Nsatwe** (kiba n’essa eririmu empiki 13), **Mbiry** (kiba n’essa eririmu empiki 13), **Mbiry** (kiba n’essa eririmu empiki ezizera 12). Ebyeso ebiralara ebirina amannya tebitera kuteekewba, okugeza Nyenda ne Nnaana. Empiki ezo zijjula bujjuzi mu masa ng’abanbu beesa. Ekikulu mu kuteeka ebyeso kwe kulaabu ng’ooyinza okuyitamassu ng’ostudde empiki okulumbulula olugendo (laba ebifaananyi 1, 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 5, 6a, 6b, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 ebiraga ebyeso ebyogeddwako waggulu n’ebirala ebitalina mannya makakafu).

7. Okwesa bwe kuba kutandikira ddaal omulundi ogusooka, buli ludda luyinza okutandikira (okwo kwe bayita ‘okwalika’) naye olulda olumu buwe luba lumaze okugoba omulundi ogusooka, omugobye, y’asooka okwalika mu kyeso ekiddirira. Kyokka kiyinzika okuba ng’edda eyagobanga nga y’asooka okwalika mu kyeso ekiddirira kuba ne kaakano bw’ayagala ayinza okutandikira nga bw’agamba nti “Omugobe tansooka kuwera.”

8. Mu kutandikira okwesa buli ludda lwesa ng’ekyeso kye luteese bwe kitandikira. Ayesa ayinza okusuala empiki emu oba ebiri mu ssa ebimu. Mu byeso ebibo ebimu omuntu ayinza n’okuggya empiki mu ssa ery’emabega n’azibuusa n’azisula mu masa g’omu lubu olw’omu maaso.

9. Oludda olumu buwe lumala okuggya empiki ku ludda olulala (kwe bayita ‘okutta’) ng’okwesa kwennyini kutandikira okugoberera etteeka erya bulijjo ery’okusuula empiki emu emu mu buli ssa.

10. Mu kwesa kwennyini ayesa ayoola empiki mu ssa n’agenda ng’asuka empiki emu mu buli ssa ku ludda lwe, nga yetooloolaa okufaanaana ng’essaawa gye banyoola nga bagizza emabega. Okusuula empiki emu masa kwe bayita ddaal okwesa. (Laba ekifaananyi ekiraga empiki gye zidda No. 12.)

11. Okwesa kuba mu mpalo, kwe kugamba nti oludda olumu buwe lumala okwesa n’olulala ne kwesa.

12. Buli ludda lugezaako okutta empiki zoku ludda olulala zonna ze lusobola naye nga lwegenderera lwo lulume okutitibwako empiki ennyiingi oba empiki ez’omugaso.

13. Empiki zonna 64 teziggibwa mu mwoeso; zibeeramu okutuusa ekyeso omu lw’akigoba. Okutta kwe kugenda kuzikyusa okuva ku ludda olumu okudda ku lulala.

14. Omuntu bw’asitula empiki okwesa ng’ekyeso kimaze okutaba agenda asuula empiki emu mu buli ssa, ng’atandikira mu ssa eriddirira eryo mw’aba ayodde empiki z’ayesa. Empiki evannyauma gy’aba nayo mu ngalo bw’egwa mu ssa omuli empiki emu oba ennyiingi ng’ate ayoola ezo nga nazo agenda azisualu mu masa era ng’ava ku ssa eriddirira eryo mw’aziggye. Agenda ayeesa bw’atyo okutuusa empiki evannyauma gy’aba nayo mu ngalo lw’egwa mu ssa eritalimu mpiki yonna n’alyoka amala. Okumala okwesa mu ngeri eyo nakwo kuyitibwa ‘kwalioka.’ Mu kwesa, buli ludda lugezaako okuwa olulala empiki nga lugenderera okulutega luzitte ate lwo lutte empiki ezisingako obungi oka okuba ez’omugaso ku ludda olwo oluba lumaze okutta. Okuwonya empiki ze ez’omugaso okuttibwa buli muzannyi agezaako obutaziweera.
OKUTTA EMPIKI

15. Ayesa bw'aba n'empiki mu ssa lye ery'emabega ng'ate alina n'empiki mu ssa ery'omu maaso eryesimbidde ddala mu eryo ery'emabega, empiki ze eziiru mu ssa lye ery'omu maaso zigambibwa nti `mpeerere.' Empiki zonna eziri mu masa ago gombi munne ayinza okuzitta bw'aba ng'asobola. Okutta empiki empeerere oyo azitta atteekwa okuba n'empiki emu oba ezisingawo, mu ssa lye ery'omulunyiriri olw'omu nda eriri ddala mu mutwe gw'essa eririmu empiki empeerere. Okutta empiki empeerere, ayesa ayoola empiki ezize z'ala nga zinatta eza munne, n'agenda ng'azisuula mu masa ge okutuusa empiki ye envannya lw'egwa ssa lye eriri ddala mu mutwe gw'essa lya munne eririna empiki empeerere. Empiki za munne eziri mu masa gombi aziyoolamu n'azeesa ng'atandikira mu ssa eriddirira essa eryo mw'aggiye empiki ezisse eza munne. Bw'aba akyayesa n'asanga empiki za munne endala empeerere nazo azitta n'azeesa nga bwe yayeeseza ezaasoose, okutuusa lw'ayalika. Omuntu bw'aba tannayalika ayinza okutta empiki za munne zonna empeerere z'asobola okutta mu lwesa !we olumu. Obukugu mu kwesa buli mu kumanya mpiki omuntu z'ayinza okutta ng'ate ezize taziweeredde mu ngeri mbi.

OKUTEBUKA

17. Ayesa bw'alaba empiki za munne empeerere z'ayinza okutta ng'adda emabega akkirizibwa okuzitta ng'asinziira mu limu ku masa ge ana agasembayo ku kkono we. Essa mw'asobola okugya empiki n'ezitta eza munne, ly'asinziiramu n'ayesa ng'adda emabega. Bw'aba ayinza okuttayo empiki emirundi ebiri oba n'okusingawo, akkirizibwa okuzitta mu ngeri eyo ey'okutebuka, nga buli mulundi empiki agenda azisuula emabega mu masa ge, nga bw'akola mu kutta okw'okugenda mu maaso.

Empiki z'asembyayo okutta ng'adda ennyuma z'ayesa ng'agenda mu maaso, ng'asinziira mu ssa eriddirira eryo lye yavuddemu okudda emabega. Okwesa ng'odda emabega olw'okutta empiki kwe bayita `okutebuka.' Empiki omuntu gy'asooka okusuula ng'atebuka gye bayita `buteba.' Empiki omuntu z'ayinza okuyoola ng'atebuka teziyinza kusukka ku 9. Tewali akkirizibwa kwesa ng'adda emabega bw'aba nga talina mpiki z'agenda okutta mu kutebuka (labu amasa omuntu g'ayinza okusinziiramu okutebuka, n'engeri y'okutebuka, mu bifaananyi 13, 14, 15, 16, 17).

OKUBALA EMPIKI MU KWESA

Waliwo okubala kwa ngeri bbiri:
(a) OKWOKUGENDA MU MASSO

Empiki omuntu z'ayesa n'ayalika mu ssa mwe yaziggye ziba 16, ziyitibwa `nkaaga.' Empiki ezijenda mu maaso essa erimu okua we zaavudde ziba 17; ezo ziyitibwa 'nsanve.' Ezijenda mu maaso amasa abiri okua we zaavudde ziba, 18; ezo ziyitibwa 'nnaana.' Ezijenda mu maaso amasa asatu okua we zaavudde ziba 19; ezo ziyitibwa 'nyenda.' Empiki ezibalibwa ng'ogenda mu maaso, ezirina amannya amakakafu zikoma awo. Ezeeeyongerayo
okuwera nga 20, 21 n'okusingawo tezirina mannya era mu kwesa tezitera kuwera nnyingi bwe zityo.

(b) OKW'OKUDDA EMABEGA
Empiki ezeesebwa ne zirekayo essa limu okutuuka we zaavudde ziba 15; ezo ziyitibwa 'ntaanwe.' Ezirekayo amasa abiri okutuuka we zaavudde ziba 14; ziyitibwa
Ezirekayo amasa asatu okutuuka we zaavudde ziba 13; ziyitibwa 'nsatwe.' Ezirekayo amasa anu okutuuka we zaavudde ziba 12; ziyitibwa 'mbirye,'
Ezirekayo amasa ataaano okutuuka we zaavudde ziba 11; ziyitibwa 'kkumi n'omu.' Ezirekayo amasa omukaaga okutuuka we zaavudde ziba 10; ziyitibwa 'kkumi.' Ezirekayo amasa omusanvu okutuuka we zaavudde ziba 9; ezo ziyitibwa 'lwanga.'

Okubala ng'odda emabega awo we kukoma. Embala eyo omuntu agikoza na ang'ayagala okumanya empiki z'ayagala okwesa gye zinaamutuusa, n'empiki z'anaasobola okutta.
Kyokka omuntu bw'aba abala, bigambo ebyo ayongera okubisalaako na'alekawino bino by'owulira ng'abala: tta, nny, ssatu, bbiri, omu, kkumi, I wang a.

Empiki emu bw'eweereera endala emu, zombi wamu ziyitibwa 'kayiki' (lab a ekifaananyi 18).

ENGieri Y'OKUGOBA EKYESO
Okugoba kuba kwa ngeri nnya:
(a) OKWA BULIJJO
Okugoba okwa bulijjo kwe kw'okutta empiki z'omulala ennyingi n'aba ng'asigazizza empiki z'atayinza kwesa n'agoba. Kyokka okusigaza empiki entono si kwe kugobwa; okugobwa mu ngeri eya bulijjo kusinziira mu ngeri empiki ezyi zirimu mu masa gaazo. Omuntu ne bw'aba ng'akyasigazza empiki eziwerako naye bw'aba nga mu buli ssa alinamu empiki emu era ab a agobedwa kuba empiki emu teggibwa mu ssa n'eyesebwa nga temaze kuleeterwako mpiki ndala. Ekyeso ekigobe mu ngeri ya bulijjo kibaalwa nga ky eso kimu. Abeeza bayinza okumala okwesa nga beesenza ebyeso byonna bye baagalala. (Laba ekyeso ekigobe mu ngeri eya bulijjo, mu kifanaanyi ekya 19.)

(b) OKUTEMA (okw'edda)
Ayesa bw'awubwa oba bw'akigenderera n'aweerera empiki mu masa ge abiri agasemba erudda n'erudda, ekyeso kye kigambibwa nti kiriko 'emitwe ebiri.' Empiki zonna eziri mu masa ago ana munne bw'azitta mu Iwesa olumu oyo gwe bazisseeeko aba 'atemmedwa' (agobedwa mu kye bayita 'okutaem'). Agenda okute ma olusula empiki envannyuma mu ssa n'layira mu ngeri yonna gy'ayagala, okugeza, "Nnannyinimu ali ku bbali," "Jjajjange Nnamuguzi e Kasagga," n'ebirala. Okutema kubalibwa ng'okugoba ebyeso ebi ebi. Kyokka atema ekyeso bw'atalayira okutema kwe tekubalibwa era talina ky eso ky abalirwa nti agobyeye. (Laba ekyeso 'eky'emitwe ebiri' mu kifanaanyi 20.)

(c) OKUGOBA AKAWUMBI
Omuntu bw'aweerera empiki ze zonna mu kyeso, munne n'azitta n' azimalamu mu kwesa olumu, oyo gwe bazisseeeko baba bamugobye kye bayita 'akawumbi.' Akawumbi bakabalamu ebyeso ekki na bibiri. Ebyeso ekkumbe n'ebiri kye bayita 'akawumbi.' Agobyeye akawumbi olumala okwesa n'avuunika owowo, empiki zonna ne ziyiika wansi, ate n'alagira gw'agobyeye okuvuunula owowo n'amannyo n'okulonda empiki zonna n'amannyo ng'azizza mu mweso. Kyokka gwe bagobyeye ekyo takikola era okwesa okw'omulundi ogwo awo we kuggweera. Okugoba akawumbi si kya bulijjo. (Laba ekifaananyi 21 ekiraga ekyeso ekiyinza okugobwa akawumbi.)

(d) OKUTEMA (okuggya)
Mu kugoba Ekyejiketema (ekiggya) oludda olumu bwe lutta empiki emirundi ebiri ng'oludda olulala temmnattayo ku mpiki, oludda olwo Iwe baba bassee elo empiki emirundi ebiri luba Iugobedwa mu ngeri gye bayita okutema okwengeri ey okubiri.
Atemye abalirwa okugoba ebyesobibiri nga mu (b). Waliwo ebintu bitaano ebiteekwa okutuukirizibwa omuntu alyoke akitirizibwe nti atemye mu ngeri ntuufu:

1. Abeesa bamala kukkiriziganya nti beesa kya Kitema.
2. Olwesa olutema terukkirizibwa kuba lwa kutebuka.
3. Gw'otema oteekwa okuba nga wamuwadde empiki ne zimulema okutta.
4. Olwesa olutema luteekwa okutuukira ku mpiki zennyini ezittibwa okutema. Ayesa okutema bw'ayoola empiki n'azeesa ne zikwata ku ndala ate n'ayoola ezo okutta munne omulundi ogw'okubiri.
5. Nga bwe kiri mu kugoba Ekyekitema ekiri mu (b) ne mu kino atema ateekwa okulayira.

**ENGERI Y'OKWESA**

Kaakano waliwo okwesa kwa ngeri ssatu:

(a) **OKW'OKUBALA** (oba Eky'okubala)

Mu kwesa okw'okubala buli ludda lukkirizibwa okubalirira empiki nga terunyayoola mpiki kwesa, lusobole okulondawo ezinaasinga okwesa obulungi oba okutta ennyo ez oludda olulala oba okwalika nga teruweeredde mpiki zaalwo ez'omugaso. Kyokka era oludda oluba lubala bwe lulwawo ennyo nga lubalirira oludda olula lugamba, nga bwe luseetulaseetula n'omweso, nti, Omweso enkuyege'zigulya." Okwo kuba ng'okulabula oludda olwo lwese mangu.

(b) **EKISIBE**

Mu kyeso kye bayita EKISIBE abagenda okwesa basooka kuwaanyisa mpiki. Bull omu aggya empiki emu ku ludda Iwe ng'agiwa munne nagissa mu zize. Okwo kwe kuba okusiba ekyeso. Mu kyeso ekisibe bull aba ayesa bw'ayoola empiki ze mu ssa n'asuulako emu mu ssa aba takyakkirizibwa kuzissa mu ssa mwaziggye okutwala endala zaba alabye nga ze zinaasinga okumugasa. Ateekwa kutwala ezo z'aba asoose okusitula.

(c) **EKY'OIBUTABALA**

Mu kyeso ekyiitibwa eky'oibutabala, buli ludda lusitula busituze mpiki ze lulaba amangu nga zigasa, ne Iwesa, awatali kumala kuzevililiira. Mu kyeso ekyengeri eyo ayesa omu bwalwawo okwesa munne ayinza okusitula empiki ezi ze ayesa newankubahde nga aba amazey lwo lwe. Bw'ayesa bw'atya nga munne tannayesa mu lwo lwe abo akola kye bayita okutanza. Okwesa Eky'obutabala kuggle nnyo naye kaakano kwe kusinga okwegaliwa, naddala mu bibuga, era kunyumisa nnyo omweso ate nga kugwanguya ogw'okugwa, kyokka kwetaaga okulaba amangu empiki ezisaana okwesa.

**EBIRALA EBIFA KU KWESA**

1. **OKUBBIRA**

Mu kwesa mulimu okukozesa obukujjukujju n'obukodyo omuntu asobole okugoba, nga bwe kiri mu mizennyo emirala. Bino wammanga bye bimu ku by'obukujjukujju ebitera okukolebwa mu kwesa:

(a) Okukwewa empiki mu nnashi omuntu aleme okwalika mu ssa ly'abadde agenda okwalikamu.
(b) Okutoola oba okwongera empiki endala, mu bubba, ku ezo z'agenda okwesa, zisobole okugusa nga bw'oyagala.
(c) Okutoola oba okwongera empiki ku za munno nga talabayo, ezizo zeeyongere okuba ezo'mugaso ngozeesa.
(d) Okubuuka essa oba okulisuulamu empiki ebbiri osobole okutuuka w'oyagala.
(e) Okusuula empiki mu ssa lya munno ng'olina awubiddwa, osobole okuggyamu empiki zooyagala.

Eby'obukujjukujju ebikolebwa mu kwesa bye biyitibwa 'okubbira.' Omuntu bw'alaba nga munne amubbira amuyimiriza n'amulagira okugolo, ensobi gy'akoze nga tanneyongera kwesa mpiki ezo z'aba nazo mu ngalo. Mu byeso eby'empaka kaakano mubaamu abalamuzi be bayita 'abasazi.'

2. **EBITI**
Okubayamba okubala ebyeso n'obugoba, abeesa abamu baba n'ebitundu by'emitì bye bayita 'ebiti.

Ate abeesa abamu bagabana ebiti nga batandika okwesa. Buli agoba munne ku biti bye aggyako kimu nakissa mu kifo kyakyo. Asinza ebiti ebingi ku nkomerero nga yagobedwa mu kwesa.