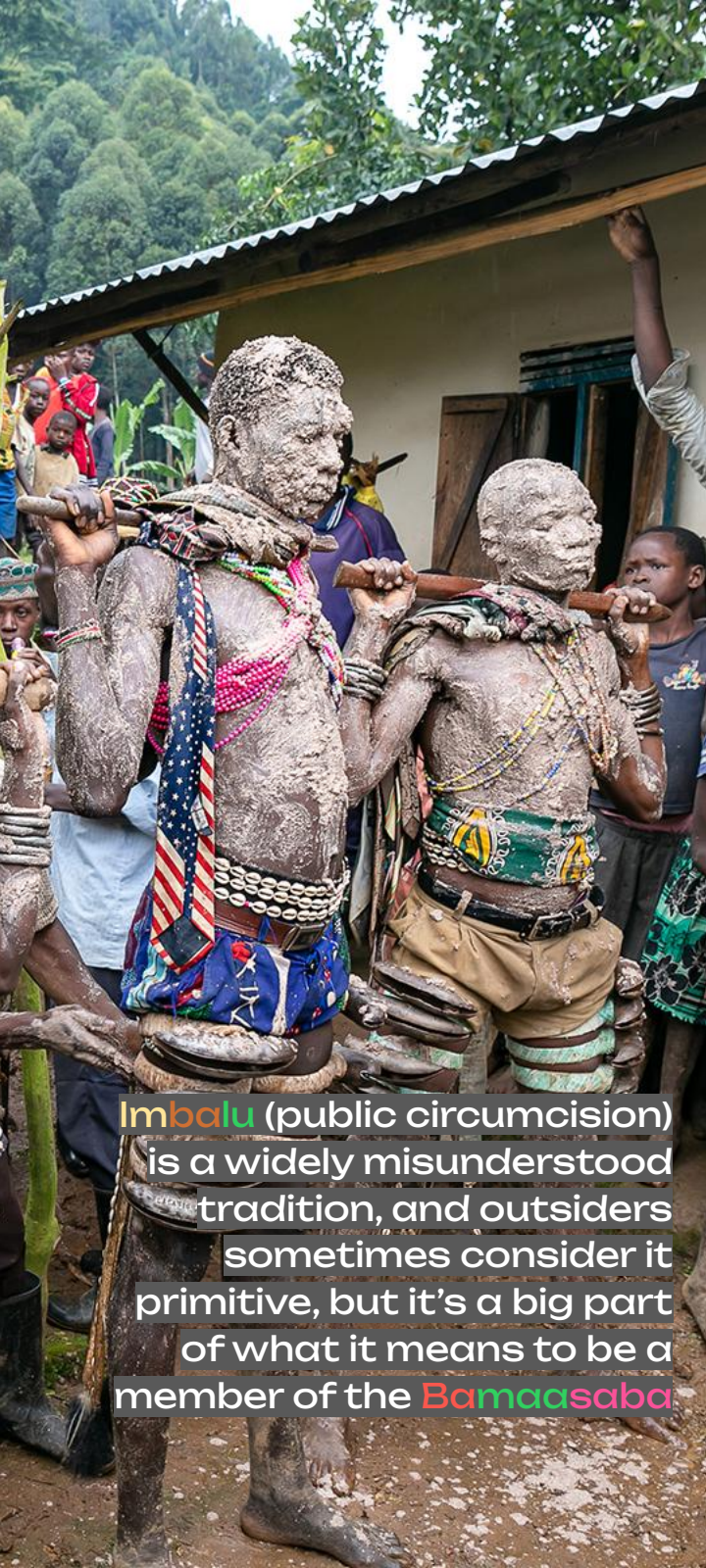




Basani Barura

KULOBA PETER TERA



Imbalu (public circumcision) is a widely misunderstood tradition, and outsiders sometimes consider it primitive, but it's a big part of what it means to be a member of the **Bamasaba**

For us, it is a rite of passage which celebrates the transition of boys into men







The ritual is the central part of a festival which happens once every two years.

It is the pride of all **Bamaasaba**, male and female.



Isonja, a cultural dance, is performed by boys before they are circumcised. The best dancers from each clan are chosen to perform the dance.



A family can spend as much as one million Uganda shillings for their son's traditional attire.







The new initiates are instructed on the duties that will be expected of them as men.



The clans meet before and share the sacred **litosi** to ensure that there are no grudges between them





Litosi is when initiates visit the shrine and are smeared with dark clay to get into fellowship with the spirit.





The initiates also visit relatives and are always treated to a heavy meal ahead of the ceremony

When a boy becomes a man, he is reminded of his commitment and covenant by losing blood to the land.





We live in a world
where a lot of
African cultural
practices are
regarded as
outdated or
unimportant.

This compelled me
to document this
sacred tradition.



Kuloba Tera on Instagram



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