

---

# IMUKA Membership Benefits (2023)

---

There is much more to be a member of an association than you had traditionally believed. First at the end of the day, it all boils down to return on investment especially for a paid-up member. If each individual member feels that he or she is receiving value for money from being a member of IMUKA then that's what really matters. The second imperative of a membership of IMUKA and indeed any other association is for IMUKA to transform and adapt to continue to remain relevant to its members' needs. IMUKA has evolved over the past 10 years.

Many individuals join associations with a hope of receiving one specific benefit or achieving one goal, only to find that the association has many more benefits and holds much more opportunity than previously imagined. Belonging to a community provides a sense of belonging and support, helping Bamasaba in diaspora maintain their cultural identity and connections. IMUKA often organises events, celebrations, summer BBQs and gatherings that allow members to connect with others who share similar backgrounds, traditions, and dialect.

Additionally, like any other community in the diaspora IMUKA provides practical assistance and resources to newcomers, such as guidance on navigating new systems, finding housing or employment, and accessing healthcare or educational opportunities. IMUKA can offer a support network that understands and addresses the unique challenges faced by Bamasaba living away from their home country.

Being part of a diaspora Bamasaba community fosters social connections and friendships, reducing feelings of isolation and loneliness. It provides opportunities for networking, mentorship, and collaboration, both personally and professionally. Bamasaba community members can exchange knowledge, experiences, and advice, creating a collective wisdom that can be invaluable in adapting to a new environment.

Overall, belonging to Bamasaba community in the diaspora can enhance well-being, provide support, and facilitate a deeper connection to our heritage while navigating life in a new country.

While the motivation for joining IMUKA may vary according to the needs of each member, here are some of the top benefits to IMUKA membership:

## **1. Networking**

This is the most common and most obvious benefit of joining IMUKA and indeed any association. In every society, who you know matters, and IMUKA has potential contacts and professionals who can help you move to the next level and become more prominent in Bamasaba Community in UK. IMUKA members (particularly the more active ones) can build long-term relationships and partnerships that are mutually beneficial. They provide a forum for like-minded individuals to come together to share ideas, strengthen ties and even find new jobs and make connections that would not be possible without the association.

## **2. Influence**

One of the key benefits of joining IMUKA is the ability to support its mission and possibly influence national policies in UK and in Uganda that may affect Bamasaba as whole. For example IMUKA leadership has been approached to participate in mediation process of current cultural stalemate in INZU issues. The combined resources of the members of IMUKA can be used to lobby lawmakers and sway public opinion more positively towards the goals of IMUKA. Another example relevant in this context is the assistance IMUKA extended to victims of landslides in Bududa.

## **3. Information**

Membership of IMUKA means immediate access to any news or developments that affect Bamasaba in UK and elsewhere. IMUKA's vibrant two WhatsApp mediums of communication are relevant in this context (IMUKA/EVENTS and BAMASABA 24/7 WhatsApp). Outside of the usual social medium of communication to each other, IMUKA can generally provide newsletters, email updates and informative resources that help its members stay on top of recent developments in UK and elsewhere that affect Bamasaba. Typical example is regular communication to members from Uganda's High Commission in UK.

---

## IMUKA Membership Benefits (2023)

---

### 4. Perks.

In most associations, its offerings are for paid-up members only. The following are typical examples but not exhaustive;

- In bereavement of a close immediate relative especially mother, father, son, daughter, brother and sister, IMUKA will assist to organise and cater for vigil and take charge of collections.
- Contribute to repatriation of deceased where it occurs in UK.
- Contribute to burial arrangements in Uganda.
- Participation in SACCO (group savings to aid individual cashflow issues)
- Ability to access a soft loan for those in extreme financial hardship and affordable rate that is not punitive.
- Unlimited access to ZOOM facilities. Anybody can request use of ZOOM facilities for anything including communicating with loved ones in Uganda.
- Use of IMUKA CREDIT CARD (This is proposed). The reasoning behind this is that as opposed to a debit card, under Consumer Act Sec 75, one is allowed to raise a claim against a credit provider if the item is paid off by a credit card easily. It is easier to claim your money back. This is especially useful for items above £100 like air tickets. Some members of IMUKA might be caught in personal credit problems resulting in adverse credit history with inability to obtain credit cards. In this way IMUKA credit card can be used and you reimburse it instead.

These are some of the benefits but obviously more will be added with time.