

A formidable, generous, bold and brilliant man goes to be with the Lord



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and I a monarchist/capitalist. None of these were favoured by Amin and on the day of elections the Asians who had been ordered to leave the country were asked to go and be counted at Kololo in a census. I lost all my capitalist Asian supporters. During the campaign, we were hosted on TV for live presidential debates.

We made front-page headlines of Kenya, Tanzania and Ugandan newspapers. All the prominent people within and without Makerere were rooting for either of us. My brothers Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, Amama Mbabazi, Peter Kabatsi, Amb. Moses Sebunya, Omwony Ojwok (a member of what was later called the Gang of Four that tried to influence post-Amin politics) and James Ekwaro were in his camp. On my side was Prof. Ali Mazurui and his assistant John Ken Lukyamuzi, Mohan Kiwanuka, Sam Kutesa, Abu Mayanja, Tim Lwanga, Syda Bbumba and Rt. Rev. & Rt. Hon. Baron John Sentamu, now in the UK House of Lords. And many others.

Mutebile narrowly won the race and I conceded and pledged to support him. Even in those days, it was unheard of to concede and congratulate and pledge to support the winner. After the election we had a huge party at Bat Valley where we partied all night. Our elections were tough and civil. We formed life-long friendships across the political divide. My partner and life-long brother at Kampala Associated Advocates Peter Kabatsi was Mutebile's Guild speaker.

Mutebile did not finish his term, he had to flee the country because Amin was on mad rampage.

He returned to Uganda after the fall of Amin and has served ever since.

He was appointed finance ministry permanent secretary/Secretary to the



Emmanuel Tumusiime-Mutebile

Treasury in the early 1990s replacing James Kahoza and he was also the longest-serving Bank Of Uganda governor. He was further Africa's longest-serving central bank governor.

He was the permanent secretary/Secretary to the Treasury at a time when our economy was in shambles.

He was responsible for arresting inflation which had run amok and was at one point in triple digits. Uganda's inflation was one of the highest, if not the highest in the world. He was a key mind in formulating our liberal economic policy that has stabilised our economy under the guidance and leadership of President Museveni. At that time, Uganda was totally dependent on coffee whose price was collapsing. There was scarcity of basic commodities like sugar and salt. It was illegal to deal in foreign currency. Most basic supplies were bought on the "black market". Even

something as basic as a bottle of soda could not be obtained easily. Under the leadership of President Museveni and together with his team at the Ministry of Finance, including, but not limited to Keith Muhakanizi, Chris Kassami, Patrick Ocailap, Lawrence Kizza, Ken Mugambe and others they went about boldly disrupting the status quo. They liberalised the economy; allowed foreign exchange to be freely convertible and opened the country for business and trade. Looking back, it is incredible that this country no longer depends on the price of coffee. Many countries in Africa are still dependent on one commodity. It is incredible that we can freely trade in foreign currency. That is not the case everywhere. It is incredible that we hardly talk about inflation anymore. It is incredible that Ugandans using shilling debit cards can travel the globe and shop using Ugandan currency.

He wasn't superhuman and obviously made mistakes. But no fair person can say that he has not left the country that he loved much better than he found it.

He wasn't only about work. We both became Rotarians and were member of the same Rotary Club – the arch club. The Rotary Club of Kampala.

Mutebile was a triple-plus Harris fellow in Rotary. That means he donated substantial sums of money to Rotary.

He was chairman of the fundraising committee for the Rotary Hospital in Mukono and worked hard to bring the hospital to life. He sponsored a number of people to go India for treatment. He was a generous donor to the heart institute, the cancer institute and each and every cause of Rotary for as long as I can remember.

He gave dignity to the Rotary Club

of Kampala. In Rotary, he did not carry himself as governor. He was known as Emmanuel. He was a jolly good fellow. He enjoyed singing Rotary songs and enjoyed a hearty laugh. He enjoyed a good time.

He was able to lend our club his dignity and presence and lit up the fellowship. Even in his final days he walked in steadily and self-assured. His empty chair at our club will remain an eyesore – almost unbearable. We will miss him dearly at our fellowship. He was an active member of All Saints Church together with his born-again wife Betty.

Mutebile was an icon. A friend, strong, direct, open, friendly and dignified. He exhibited a sense of duty, honour and integrity. He was a giant intellectual. He had a great sense of humour and was always wonderful company. He was the personification of a true patriot. I salute you in reverence my brother and comrade. I have lost a brother. Uganda has lost an iconic son.

His wife Betty Kyakyo, son Duncan, daughter-in-law Marion and his family have lost a pillar.

A true leader of the Banyakigezi community has rested. A visionary has departed from the stage.

The curtain of his active life has closed. He has played his part incredibly well. His memory will linger on forever.

Prof. Emmanuel Tumusiime-Mutebile has run the race and kept the faith.

He died serving his country. Rest in peace my brother.

#Governor.

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