

The widow says her husband always prayed for candidates every year, making the Prayer Mountain one of his go-to places ahead of PLE.

BY JANE NAFULA

The widow of the proprietor of Hormisdallen Schools has described her late husband, Kizito Mukalazi, as a prayerful person who always sought God's guidance to accomplish his tasks.

Ritah, who was accompanied by family members, yesterday told mourners at Mukalazi's memorial service at the Christianity Focus Centre at Kisenyi in downtown Kampala, that her husband always spent 30 days at Prayer Mountain on Entebbe Road before Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) every year to pray for his learners to excel.

The family members believe this routine contributed to the good grades the schools have maintained over the years.

Mukalazi, 70, died at Kampala Hospital last Friday after a long illness.

"I was the first to get saved, and I had no hopes of him getting saved, given that he was a staunch Catholic. I was surprised when he got saved. He has been braving rain and scorching sun to attend prayers. Whenever children are going to sit for PLE, he would spend 30 days on Prayer Mountain. One time, he spent 40 days praising and worshipping. He has been a prayerful person," the widow said.

She added: "When we were in the hospital, he could wake up at 2am to pray. The first time he was admitted, we over-stayed in the hospital. I thought he could not survive, but he survived. This time, I thought he would make it, but he didn't. I'm sure he is in the right hands."

Ritah also revealed her husband always woke up at 2am to pray and start planning for the day. He could tick off tasks he accomplished every day.

She also noted he was an ardent churchgoer who, even in his last days, strived to attend church services.

"He was weak. I stopped him, but he insisted and came to church and went

Why Hormisdallen Schools' owner spent 30 days in prayer



Pastors, family members, friends, and teachers attend a funeral service for the late Kizito Mukalazi, the founder of Hormisdallen Schools, at Christianity Focus Centre in Kisenyi, Kampala City, yesterday. PHOTO/GEORGE MUTUMBA

back home about 1am. We had a service at home. He knelt and prayed again," she recalled.

Pastor Cindy Kigganda of Christianity Focus Centre said when Mukalazi attended the last overnight prayers, his appearance showed he was not fine, and when she inquired whether he was okay, the late only said, 'Pray for me'.

"I thank God that for the last three weeks, he wanted to talk to Bishop [David] Kiganda. He said, 'Mummy, I want to talk to the bishop'. He came and sat through the overnight prayers. His facial expression showed he wasn't

okay. I went and told him that you were not well. He only said 'pray for me'.

We thank God for the lives he touched.

He has been a blessing to us. He always attended the National Prayer Day," Pastor Cindy Kigganda said.

Service in church

Bishop Kiganda, a senior pastor at Christianity Focus Centre, described Mukalazi as a hard working and prayerful entrepreneur who served in church despite his busy schedule. He said Mukalazi even had time to attend Bible classes at the church.

Bishop Kiganda challenged the family to remain united, serve God, and grow Mukalazi's legacy.

Mr Hasadu Kirabira, the chairperson of the National Private Educational Institutions Association (NPEIA), who spoke on behalf of teachers, said Mukalazi was among the few individuals who started private schools before the education sector was liberalised in 1993.

"He had a passion for education. He and the late Lawrence Mukiibi of St Lawrence Schools, Ms Sarah Nkonge Muwonge, Dr Crysostom Musingo, and others were the first to visit some countries to benchmark how the private sector could partner with the government to increase access to education," Mr Kirabira said.

Meanwhile, Dr Joyce Kaducu, the Minister of State for Primary Education, has described Mukalazi as a visionary educator and entrepreneur whose con-

ABOUT HORMISDALLEN SCHOOLS

Hormisdallen Schools' Kamwokya branch, off Mawanda Road, was founded by Kizito Mukalazi on February 12, 1986.

The institution, with nursery and primary sections, has since expanded to include other branches at Gayaza, Kyebando, and Bweyogerere-Kirinya.

Mukalazi will be buried today at his ancestral home in Kagembe, Semuto, Nakaseke District. A crusade has been organised at his ancestral home ahead of his burial, something he had requested to be done.

tribution to the sector will be greatly missed.

"Mr Mukalazi has been a pillar of education and a hero of transformation in the sector. We have not just lost an educationist but a great pillar in our country's development," Dr Kaducu told *Daily Monitor* yesterday.

She added: "He is remembered as a pioneering educationist, visionary educator, an entrepreneur who created jobs, and shaped the future of many learners. Let's celebrate his life, a legacy of service delivery, dedication, and transformation."

Mr Robert Semakula, the headteacher of Hormisdallen Nursery and Primary School, Kamwokya, described Mukalazi as a hardworking entrepreneur who strived to achieve the set targets to promote quality education in Uganda.

"He has not been feeling well for some time. Mr Mukalazi has been a very humble person, keeping a low profile but very hard working and systematic. He worked with systems and focused on accomplishing set targets. The education fraternity will miss him," he said.

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MUKALAZI'S AGE