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On July 3, 1971, Emmanuel Kayemba of Busoga and his lawyer Lawrence Sebalo went to the High Court in Kampala to listen to a ruling delivered by Justice Jeffreys Jones on civil case No. 159 of 1965.

Kayemba had petitioned court seeking damages for wrongful dismissal as Kyambalango (Buyaga county chief) on July 16, 1962 by Buganda government when Sir Edward Mutesa II was the Kabaka. Kayemba claimed that at the time of his dismissal, he was about to be promoted from Kyambalango to Pakino (Buddu county chief). He further revealed that Buganda government's concealed reason for his dismissal was because he had publicly greeted the Democratic Party (DP) leader, Ben Kiwanuka, when he was Uganda's prime minister.

Actually, lawyer Arthur Oder, who represented the Attorney General in that case, did not contest the dismissal reason Kayemba gave. Hence, Justice Jones awarded Kayemba sh10,000 plus interest at the rate of 6% from the date of the judgment, in addition to costs.

By and large, the aforesaid case manifests the beleaguered relations which existed between DP and Ssekabaka Mutesa's government. No wonder, Mutesa, in 1962, endorsed a political alliance between Uganda People's Congress (UPC) of Milton Obote and Mengo's nurtured Kabaka Yekka (KY), thereby ending DP and Kiwanuka's days in power. The alliance's combined seats in the National Assembly enabled Obote to become the executive prime minister of Uganda at independence. In turn, Obote, in 1963, pushed for the election of Mutesa in the National Assembly as the ceremonial president of Uganda. Obote's backing of Mutesa somehow irked some UPC members whose preferred candidate for president was the Kyabazinga of Busoga, Sir William Nadiope, who was also a UPC honcho.

Cognisant of that melee, Obote sweet-talked pro-Nadiope UPC legislators. Accordingly, he pushed for the first amendment of the independence constitution, which resulted in the creation of the position of the vice-president. As a consolation, Nadiope became the first vice-president.

KABAKA MUTESA DIES

Not long, the KY-UPC alliance disintegrated. Efforts to revive it were futile given that the July 1963 KY-UPC reconciliation talks collapsed.

The failed talks were attended by the KY delegation, which included

HOW AMIN RETURNED MUTESA'S BODY



Amin saluting the body of Mutesa shortly after it arrived at Entebbe airport in 1971. Mutesa had been buried in the UK

Katikkiro Kinru, Sheikh Ali Kulumba, E.M.K Mulira, Saulo Lubega, Abu Mayanja, Dr G. Sembeguya, Amos Sempa, A.D Lubowa and Masembe Kabali.

The UPC delegation comprised of Obote, Paulo Muwanga, Cuthbert Obwangor, Felix Onama, John Kakonge, Grace Ibingira and Balaki Kirya.

In light of those unsuccessful talks, Mutesa and Obote clashed on the subsequent national issues such as the November 1964 referendum on the lost counties of Buyaga and Bugangazi. At the climax of their disagreements, Obote directed Col. Idi Amin to command a military attack on Mengo palace, where Mutesa was residing.

Fortunately, Mutesa managed to escape, and fled into exile in the UK, from where he died on November 21, 1969. He died in an apartment located on 28 Orchard House, Rotherhithe, Bermondsey.

He was temporarily buried on December 3, at Kensal Rise cemetery after a funeral service led by Bishop C.E Stuart, John Taylor and the Rev. S.J Davies at Wellington barracks chapel. Some of the prominent Baganda that attended that burial included John Nagenda, Mayanja Nkangi, Fred and Joyce Mpanga, Ben Kiwanuka, Canon Yokana Mukasa, Bishop Adrian Ddungu and Monsignor Anatoli Kamy, who represented Catholic Archbishop Emmanuel Nsubuga.

BURIAL ATTENDANCE

It should be noted that Prince (now the Kabaka) Ronald Mutebi's mother Sarah Kisisonkole, never attended that burial in London because of the health complications she developed, the moment she received the sad news of the death of her dear one, Mutesa.

But, the Nabagereka, Damali Kisisonkole attended that burial. Mind you, Damali and Sarah were sisters. Their parents were CMS Kisisonkole and Victoria, the daughter of Ham Mukasa. In his book (*Desecration of my Kingdom*), Mutesa admits that he first fell in love with Damali, but when the two developed a lover's glitch, he talked to Sarah. In fact, when Mutesa made

an advance to Sarah, she notified her sister, Damali. Interestingly, Damali replied: "Take heart Sarah. Let us seize that opportunity so that the Kabaka marries from our family." That also came to pass because their stepmother, Puma from Southern Africa was favouring Sarah to become Mutesa's wife. Eventually, Mutesa married both, but Damali was the Nabagereka.

RETURN ARRANGEMENTS

On January 26, 1971, president Amin announced that the body of Mutesa would be returned for burial with full military honours.

Thus, Amin appointed a six-man ministerial committee to commence preparations for the return of Mutesa's body. Committee members were education minister Abu Kakyama Mayanja (chairman), the minister of internal affairs, Lt. Col. Obitara Gama, foreign affairs minister Wanume Kibedi, works minister James Zikusooka, health minister Gesa and the minister of state for defence, Charles Oboth Ofumbi.

The aforementioned committee set up four sub-committees to expedite the preparations. The sub-committees were the funeral committee, which was chaired by Lt. Col. Francis Nyangweso. It was tasked with the reception of the body at Entebbe International Airport, the organisation of its lying in state and at different venues such as Namirembe Cathedral, and its burial site at Kasubi Royal Tombs. Other members of Nyangweso's led funeral committee were Prince George Mawanda (elder brother of Mutesa), Prince Badru



Mutesa while in the UK

Kakungulu (father of Prince Kasim Nakhinge), Bishop Dusan Nsubuga, Kasujju Lubinga, Paulo Muwanga, Capt. Simuts Guweddeko, Nalinyira Sarah Ndagire, Capt. Emilio Mondo, Rev. Yokana Mukasa, J. Magoba, Otto Okello, P. Adroni, M. Ali, Senkali Kibaale, Dr Muyanga and Lt. Col. Bogere.

The other sub-committee was named the invitation and accommodation committee chaired by C. Baingana, the then permanent secretary of the ministry of foreign affairs. Its role was to make invitations of mourners from both inside and outside the country, and their accommodation throughout the mourning period. The other members of the invitation sub-committee members were Sheikh Kulumba, Raphael Nshekanabo, V.A. Ocima, Lwasa Kayizzi and W.T. Ochora.

The other sub-committee was named transport and works chaired by G.N. Karugonjo, the then acting permanent secretary/engineer in chief of the ministry of works, communication and housing. Its responsibility was to make transport arrangements for the body from Entebbe International Airport till its burial at Kasubi Royal Tombs. It also catered for transport of all invited mourners. The members to this sub-committee were Prince Mawanda, Dr. A. Lubega, Y. Kaduuya, the town clerk of Kampala and A.B. Dusan, the regional police commander in charge of Buganda region.

The fourth sub-committee was chaired by Prince John Barigye (secretary for foreign affairs, ministry of foreign affairs). It was charged with going to London to co-ordinate the return of Mutesa's body. Its other members were Prince David Ssimbwa (Mutesa's brother), Lt. Col. Nyangweso, Prince Rashid Kimera (Mutesa's brother), Lt. Col. Bogere, Elizabeth Ngalombi and Agnes Sekabunga.

Accordingly, in early March, Barigye, Nyangweso, Bogere and Simbwa travelled to London and engaged stakeholders, especially Mutesa's friends Maj. Richard Carr Gomm and Capt. Ronnie Owen. Barigye and his team was joined by foreign minister Kibedi, who delivered Amin's invitations to Owen and Carr Gomm.

Owen was the guardian of Mutesa's son, Mutebi.

Thereafter, Kibedi and his team held talks with British government officials such as foreign secretary Sir Douglas to allow the exhumation and return of Mutesa's body. Already, Damali, who was the next of kin, had blessed the process of exhumation and return of the body.

However, some members of the Buganda community in London demanded that Amin first proclaim that he would also allow the restoration of Kabakaship. Buganda loyalists in London who held that viewpoint included Joyce Mpanga and Kasozi Luganda. They used to hold their meetings in the house of Fred Mpanga, the former attorney general in Mutesa's government.

When Kibedi and his team were still in London, Amin held a meeting in Kampala with former Katikkiro Nkomo, Nabagereka Damali, Michael Kintu, Prince Kakungulu, Nalinyira Mpologoma, Prince Juuko, Prince Lukunga Nidawula and C.M.S Kisisonkole. That meeting was organised by Abu Mayanja and was also attended by Henry Kyemba, the permanent secretary cabinet affairs. Amin told the meeting that the examinations of Mutebi, which were then impending, were in no way going to lead to the postponement of the state funeral of his father. At first, there were calls for the funeral to be postponed so that Mutebi first concluded his examinations in London.

PRINCE JUUKO DIES

As arrangements to return Mutesa's body were still going on, his brother Prince Juuko died at Mulago Hospital, where he had been admitted with a throat complication. Juuko had been a member of the organising committee for the return of Mutesa's body.

Albeit Juuko's death, preparations for Mutesa's body return went on. They were amplified by the arrival of Owen and Carr Gomm in March 1971. It should be noted that Owen became a friend of Mutesa in 1947 while Carr Gomm became Mutesa's friend in 1948. It is out of that friendship that Mutesa decided to name Mutebi as Ronald, which is also the Christian name of Owen. Mutesa also named Mutebi's late brother Walugembe as Richard, also the Christian name of Carr Gomm.

The Owen and Carr Gomm trip and accommodation in Uganda in March 1971 were wholly financed by Amin's government. They as well met Amin and finalised the return of Mutesa's body. Amin's government chartered a Caledonian Airways plane owned by London businessman Adam Thomson, on which the body was loaded on March 30, 1971.

A high powered delegation led by Kibedi accompanied it to Uganda. It included Mutesa's younger brother, Kimera, Paulo Muwanga and Barigye.

On arrival at Entebbe on March 31, 1971 at 10:00am, Amin was at hand to receive it. Afterwards, the body was flown to Kololo Independence grounds for public viewing and to other places: parliament building, St. Paul Cathedral, Namirembe and Bamunika palace. Finally, Mutesa's body was laid to rest at Kasubi royal tombs on April 4, 1971.

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