

At home with ex-Leader of Opposition Ogenga Latigo

Prof Latigo's home is an expansive nine-bedroom house that features a private sitting room, a general sitting room, and a dedicated meeting room intended for confidential discussions, ensuring privacy for sensitive meetings.

BY GEOFFREY OYET OKWERA

It is exactly 7.30am as I proceed to Mutungo hill to have a chat with Prof Morris Ogenga Latigo, the former Leader of Opposition (LOP) of the eighth Parliament of Uganda. The home is an expansive double storeyed stand alone on Mutungo hill overlooking Lake Victoria.

Here, while you can still see the bustling city, the environment is quieter, the air cleaner and the surroundings more calming. Prof Latigo says he was captivated by the stunning lake view nearby, which he says inspired both the architectural design and his decision to build a home in Kampala.

"The lake offers a rare sense of calm and inspiration. I wanted a home that embraces that beauty while also serving as a place of reflection and purpose," says Prof

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"When I bought the land, Mutungo was still a relatively remote and quiet area, with limited infrastructure and minimal real estate development. Many Kampala residents were instead drawn to more established and prestigious neighbourhoods such as Kololo, which were then considered more attractive and valuable," he says.



Prof Morris Ogenga Latigo's house is an expansive nine-bedroom structure thoughtfully designed to serve both private and professional needs. PHOTOS/ BY GEOFFREY OYET OKWERA.

Latigo

As he walks me through the property, it becomes evident that the building represents more than just a residential space. It symbolises vision, perseverance, and a personal journey that transcends his political career, an enduring reminder of how nature, ambition, and legacy can intersect in meaningful ways.

The professor's home, is surrounded by mature vegetation that testifies to his deep affinity for nature and greenery. The compound has mature trees, shrubs, and natural foliage, creating a serene atmosphere that mirrors his calm and reflective personality.

He does not hide his love for birds, noting that their presence adds life and charm to his home.

"I particularly enjoy the soft, rhythmic humming of birds in the early morning. It is a refreshing and soothing way to begin each day," he says.

To him, the birdsong is a reminder of nature's generosity, he does not need an alarm, as the chirping of birds serves as a timely reminder through their dawn songs.

The architectural plan

Initially, Prof Latigo had not planned to construct a two storey structure. His original architectural design was a simple, ground-level residence that blended naturally with the surrounding environ-

ment. However, his plans took an unexpected turn when a neighbouring property owner constructed a building that partially obstructed his once-uninterrupted view of Lake Victoria.

The development forced Latigo to rethink his initial building plan. Unwilling to surrender the scenic panorama that had inspired him to settle in the area, he opted to redesign his house by incorporating a storied structure, an innovative adjustment meant to elevate his line of sight above the obstruction.

The redesign successfully restored his view of Lake Victoria, allowing him to continue enjoying the tranquil beauty of the water and the captivating sight of ships docking from Mwanza, Tanzania. Asked what would happen if someone else obstructed his view, Prof Latigo says he is prepared to elevate his own home for a glimpse of the waters of Lake Victoria. "This is a view I am determined to preserve at all costs," he stresses.

The composition of the house

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However, he notes that since his de-

parture from the Forum for Democratic Change (FDC), such high-level meetings no longer happen.

Acquisition of the property

Prof Latigo says he acquired the Mutungo plot in 1997 at a cost of Shs10m from the grandchildren of Ignatius Kangame Musazizi, the founding president of the Uganda National Congress (UNC), the first political party in Uganda and a key pillar in the country's early political history.

At the time, Musazizi's grandson was preparing to join the university and made the decision to dispose of the family property in order to raise tuition fees. Prof Latigo, says the sale was both a practical financial move and a notable moment given the historical and political legacy attached to the Musazizi family name.

The former Leader of Opposition says he saw long-term potential in Mutungo, and had confidence in Kampala's expanding urban footprint, a judgment that has since been validated as Mutungo has grown into a highly desirable residential suburb.

The extension

In a bid to expand his plot and create more space, Prof Latigo says he entered into a mutual arrangement with Musazizi's granddaughter. He constructed a house for her, after which they agreed to swap with land, allowing him to acquire an extension behind his home. This arrangement enabled him to enlarge his compound, giving the property a more spacious and functional layout.

The painting of Kalongo and Parabongo Mountains

Prof Latigo's most prized art piece is the gigantic painting of Kalongo and Parabongo Mountains that welcomes visitors into his compound. As he walks me around, he explains that, Kalongo is his hometown, a place deeply rooted in his identity and personal history.

For him, the art works is more than decorative piece; it serves as a visual tribute to his origins, a source of reminiscence and a constant reminder of the unique beauty and spirit of Kalongo and its surroundings. Kalongo, is a small town in Agago District, in Northern Uganda.