

...and ... them into
fake security or business deals.
"We, therefore, urge members of the

...agezi said at the Minis-
try of Defence headquarters in
Mbaya, Kampala City, yesterday

...the UPDF and police. The invest-
tors own Black Wolf Global, a compa-
ny specialising in security and defence

...conned a Kenyan company and made
off with \$310,000 (Shs1.14 billion).
"The suspect was arrested, but was re-

...in the ...
Shs164b in the same period. The police
were only able to recover Shs10b

Helen Nakimuli is eulogised as a leader who lobbied and carried the torch of service to the less privileged, even when resources at hand were as thin as a shoestring.

BY DAVID SEKAYINGA
& DAN WANDERA

At Kalangala District Headquarters, where a section of workers once had the privilege to interact, share office space, and work alongside fallen legislator Helen Nakimuli before she crossed into politics, a sombre mood hung heavy over the corridors of the main office block yesterday.

Preparations were underway to receive her remains later in the day on a ferry from Nakiwogo in Entebbe Municipality docked at Ssesi Islands, and grief seemed to seep into every corner like a shadow at dusk. The ferry docked at Lutoboka in the island district after 6pm yesterday, with several residents lining the streets to receive the funeral cortege.

Nakimuli, a former community development officer (CDO) attached to Kalangala District, had served with diligence and discipline, and was a stickler for rules yet driven by a burning passion to uplift the disadvantaged.

Ms Irene Nateme Kabala, a worker in Kalangala, recalled the time she served with the deceased.

"Even after leaving civil service for politics, Nakimuli has been fighting to

CORRECTION

The infographic titled "Pain at Pump: How a Shs200 fuel tax will drive up costs," which we published on the cover of our edition on Friday, April 17, contained some inaccuracies.

The Excise Duty (Amendment) Bill 2026 seeks to raise fuel tax by Shs200, increasing excise duty on a litre of petrol to Shs1,750 and diesel to Shs1,430, contrary to what we published. We regret the error.

-Editor

Nakimuli: Kalangala's flower that was just blossoming

have the welfare of the mothers (women) get better. She wanted the women attending antenatal at the different health facilities to get better services like the other mothers outside the island district of Kalangala," Ms Kabala said.

Kalangala LC5 Chairperson Rajab Semakula likened the legislator to a rare breed of politicians; leaders who carried the torch of service to the less privileged, even when resources at hand were as thin as a shoestring.

He said: "When Nakimuli first got to Parliament, many people held their respective breaths, possibly misjudging her ability to deliver as a young and inexperienced politician. We were caught off-guard. Nakimuli has loved the people of Kalangala and served selflessly. She has been braving the strong winds on the Lake Victoria waters night and day, switching between Kampala City and Kalangala to have many issues fixed for the islanders."

He urged leaders not to let her dreams die with her, rallying them to carry the torch forward. Nakimuli had envisioned Kyamuswa Constituency acquiring a ship to bridge transport gaps whenever the current vessel, MV NODL, went for maintenance.

"We must not let her unfinished business gather dust," Mr Semakula echoed. Nakimuli's appeal cut across generations. Her ability to bond with both young and old made her stand out as a leader with a heart of gold.

Mr Augustine Kasirye, the Mengo Ssaza Chief for Ssesi, remembered her tireless efforts to uplift youth through sports and other projects.

"Nakimuli was the advisor of the Ssaza sports team, often coming up with plans aimed at strengthening the team while encouraging open discussions that target the welfare of the team and pride of Ssesi as a county in Buganda Kingdom. We had many plans to fulfil with her as our district woman representative in the 12th Parliament, but we also believe that God had His own plans. We are left in grief, but we thank God for the time He has allowed Nakimuli to serve the people of Kalangala. May the Good Lord rest her soul in eternal peace," he said.

Though she belonged to the Opposition National Unity Platform

(NUP) party, Nakimuli's approach to national issues transcended party lines. She was a bridge-builder, a leader who refused to draw lines in the sand based on political differences.

Ms Aidah Nabawanuka, a retired teacher and resident of Bujumba County, has a testimony to Nakimuli's leadership style.

"Nakimuli welcomed the different women groups and offered support to groups without minding about the respective political party affiliations. She always called me and sought advice on many issues, even when she knew that I belonged to the NRM party. She extended a helping hand to women's groups and ensured that the girl child is not left behind when the women raised family-related issues at the different forums," she said.

Mr Moses Kabusu, the Kyamuswa MP, recounted her relentless push for projects that Kalangala had long been denied. "We have been fighting together with Nakimuli to improve water transport on Lake Victoria. Nakimuli always acted selflessly and desired to see the people of Kalangala enjoy services shared by many other people outside Kalangala."

"She did not want to see the women of Kalangala die because of giving birth at facilities that do not have the required medical personnel, medicine, and other facilities," he said.

Crossing to politics

Yet even when she became a stellar politician, the decision to join the trade caught several of her colleagues

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENT

Parliament of Uganda yesterday released a programme detailing funeral arrangements for the late Helen Nakimuli, the Kalangala District Woman MP.

On Monday, the funeral cortege departed for Kalangala aboard a ferry via Nakiwogo, Entebbe Municipality.

Today, a special session of the Kalangala District Council and public viewing is expected to be conducted at Kalangala District Headquarters. The body will be transported back to Kampala via Masaka District.

Tomorrow, there will be a public viewing at Parliament, and thereafter, a special House session will be convened for lawmakers to pay tribute.

On Thursday, Mass will be conducted at the Namungo-na Orthodox Church, followed by the burial at Nakimuli's ancestral home in Lunyola Village, Luweero District.

Compiled by
Dan Wandera

and friends off guard.

Colleagues at Kalangala District Administration, who worked with Nakimuli as a CDO from 2013 to 2020, said her

sudden resignation was a bolt from the blue. Her discipline and commitment to communities made the switch to politics seem like a leap of faith.

Nakimuli joined the civil service in 2013, serving across several islands, often burning the midnight oil when duty called.

Mr Willy Nkumbi, the district probation officer, has a vivid recollection of Nakimuli's time.

"We got posted in the same year, 2013. Nakimuli was posted in Bube Sub-county as a CDO, while I went to Mazinga Sub-county as CDO. Nakimuli loved her work and did not mind sleeping on any of the islands to ensure that her assignments were complete. When Nakimuli brought her resignation letter, it was a big surprise to many of her fellow workers. When we inquired about her plan B in case politics fails, she smiled and said all was well," Mr Nkumbi said.

Her colleagues never doubted her mettle. Mr David Omongot, the district disaster focal person, said her death was a cruel twist of fate, leaving behind unfulfilled promises but also a legacy that will light the way for Kalangala's future.

Family background

Nakimuli was born in 1985 to Fr Christopher Walusimbi and Ms Maria Nalwaga at Bukasa Village, Kyamuswa Sub-county, Kalangala District, where her father served as a parish priest under the Orthodox Church.

She began her studies at Bukasa Primary School, later moving to Hormisdalen Primary School in Kampala. She obtained her Uganda Certificate of Education at Our Lady of Good Counsel SSS Gayaza, her Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education at St Augustine Secondary School, Wakiso, and earned a Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences at Makerere University.

In 2013, she joined Kalangala District Local Government as a community development officer, serving until 2020 when she resigned to join politics.

In 2021, she was elected Kalangala District Woman Member of Parliament and was re-elected in January 2026.

On Sunday, Nakimuli was pronounced dead at Alexandria Medical Centre, a private women's healthcare facility in Kampala City. She had visited the facility to undergo surgery.

