

SMACK's first black headteacher mourned

By Mathias Mazinga

"During his reign, we never had any strike. Bro. Kyemwa had a personal touch with students. He would wake us up. He would also patrol the school early morning and during the night to ensure our safety and order. "It is in appreciation of his contribution to our future that we decided to build a sh3b HSC Block and name it after him," recalls his student Festus Kibuuka, an old student of St. Mary's College Kisubi (SMACK).

His memories are no different from many of the educational fraternity currently mourning the passing of Bro. Anthony Kyemwa, who died on Tuesday after a long battle with brain cancer. He was in retirement at the headquarters of the Brothers — Mount St Theresa, Kisubi.

Kyemwa, 87, was a member of the Catholic religious institute of the Brothers of Christian Instruction alias Brothers of Kisubi.

Kyemwa was a seasoned teacher and education manager. He taught fine art with utmost clarity. His legacy of perfect education management manifested most when he became the headteacher of SMACK in 1969. His 11-year administration was interpreted by many people as an experiment of African educational administration, which would open

opportunities for the appointment of other African headteachers on account of its success.

Stephen Maloba, a former commissioner and chief education officer at the education ministry, said Kyemwa was a wonderful teacher and seasoned administrator.

The former executive secretary of UNEB, Matthew Bukenya, said: "He was the first native Ugandan chief examiner of fine art. Even during his retirement, he continued to offer us pro-bono services."

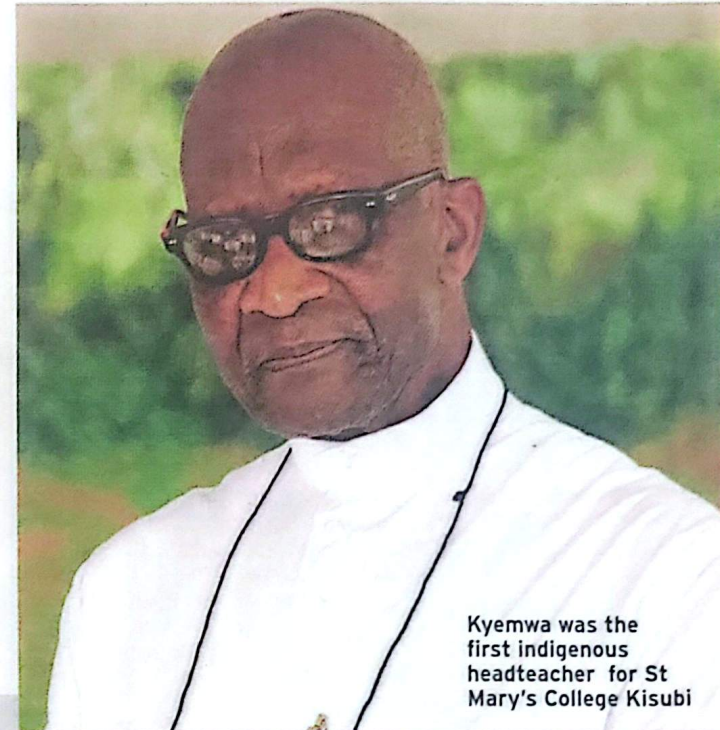
"He managed the post-missionary era of SMACK. The school did not

lose its allure after the departure of the initial missionary and white headmasters," said Charles Peter Mayiga, the Buganda premier.

The Provincial Superior of the Brothers of Christian Instruction, Bro. Peter Kazekkulya, described Kyemwa as a "faithful and exemplary member of our congregation."

"He remained faithful for 65 years. He has left us a wonderful legacy to emulate".

Kyemwa will be buried today at Mount St Theresa, Kisubi. The requiem Mass will be at St Mary's College Chapel at 1:00pm.



Kyemwa was the first indigenous headteacher for St Mary's College Kisubi

KYEMWA'S FACTFILE

■ Kyemwa was born in Fort Portal in 1930 to the late Suzanna Nantume and Joseph Kasule.

Education:

■ He attended Busuubizi Primary School in Mityana district and then St Mary's College Kisubi.

■ In 1952, he started to train as a religious Brother of Christian Instruction at Mount St Theresa, Kisubi. On January 1, 1953, he took his first vows of poverty, chastity and obedience,

which qualified him as a professed member of the congregation.

■ From 1965-1966, he was in England for his second Novitiate.

■ From 1954-1959, he was at Makerere University, where he studied fine art in education.

■ From 1966-1967 he was at the University of Notre Dame for a master's degree in school administration.

Work experience

■ Kyemwa taught fine art at St Leo's College Kyegobe from

1959-1961.

■ He was transferred to SMACK in 1961, where he taught for several years until 1964, when he was appointed deputy headteacher.

■ From 1965-68, he took a study leave to England and US.

■ Upon his return in 1968, he was appointed as the headteacher of St Edwards Bukuumi SSS.

■ In mid 1968, he was appointed to St Mary's College Kisubi, becoming the first indigenous headteacher of the

school.

■ From 1980-82, he took a sabbatical leave.

1983-88, he was appointed as the headteacher of St Henry's College, Kitovu.

■ He also served as the headteacher of Caltec Academy, Makerere.

From 1988-1992, he was a member of staff at Terre San Frontier, Canada (1995-2000). He also served as lecturer of fine art at the former Institute of Teacher Education, Kyambogo (1995-2000).