

Education fraternity mourns Kalinda

By Nicholas Wassajja

Cranmer Kalinda, who has been described as a humble modern educationist, yet culturally solid, died on Saturday at Kadic Hospital in Nakasero. He succumbed to acute ulcers and hypertension at the age of 82.

Even at his frail age, Kalinda was writing a new Luganda book titled, *Emmamba Akawungezi* (Dawn at Dusk).

Kalinda's blueprint manuscript explains the fact that life begins at retirement.

His daughter, Dr Fiona Kalinda, in an interview with *Bukekede*, said: "Dad has been bedridden for about five years, battling heart-related complications. We are grateful that the Office of the President has been paying his medical bills for this long."

Kalinda has been described by fellow educationists and politicians as an accomplished teacher, whose role cast a beam of hope to the education sector.

The Minister for Presidency, Esther Mbayo, said Kalinda's service to the nation not only portrayed him as an intelligent hardworker, but also a true statesman.

The principal of the College of Education and External Studies at Makerere University, Dr Fred Masagazi Masaza, a fellow linguist, said Kalinda was a well-read scholar, with a vision



- Kalinda was born in Lule-Semuto, Luwero district in 1935.
- He attended NTC Kyambogo from where he secured a certificate in education, before getting a scholarship to the UK to study English.
- Upon returning to Uganda, Kalinda, became the headteacher of Mengo Primary School, but later joined Makerere University for a second degree in education and, thereafter, Ibadan University in Nigeria for a master's degree in education management and development.
- He lost his wife, Nightingale Kitoogo Kalinda in 2013.

PROFILE



Children of the deceased laying a wreath on the casket. Photo by Vivian Nakitende

for a better Uganda.

"The expectation would have been him being a proud English writer, but that was not the case. Elites tend to think that having a grasp of our mother tongues is lowly, which is a blow to conserving the African culture, but Kalinda thought otherwise.

"His Luganda books elevated authorship and have always been a part of the Luganda

syllabus," Masagazi said.

Kalinda's works

With books like *Bazibumbira*, *Kirimuttu* and *Kiyitawaggulu*, Kalinda probably exhibited the greatest Luganda literature skills and the fame that tagged along did not deter him from translating the famous *Animal Farm* by George Orwell into *Amaka ga Bawansolo*.

before taking a shot at politics, where he chaired the National Resistance Movement in Makindye division and later became the Kampala resident district commissioner.

Grace Baguma, the NCDC executive director, described Kalinda as a man that understood the best concepts of curriculum development and loved young people. She said his death is a great loss to the country.

Schools and healthcare

Kalinda is among the founders of Kansanga Primary School and Bukasa Primary School.

"This school is in a very sorry state. If I had a chicken dear to my heart, I would not let it stay in such makeshifts," Kalinda once said of Kyamula Primary School, before offering to refurbish it.

Besides schools, he also founded Kiruddu Hospital, now under Kampala Capital City Authority, as a small community healthcare centre.

The information minister for Buganda kingdom, Noah Kiyimba, said the kingdom will forever be grateful for his contribution to the development of Luganda and the education sector.

Yesterday, a funeral service was held at St Stephen's Church of Uganda in Kabowa. Burial will take place today at Lule-Semuto in Luwero district.

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