

MURDERED ENTEBBE COUPLE TO BE BURIED TODAY

By Stuart Yiga

The couple that was murdered in Entebbe municipality, last year will finally be buried today at the Dubendorf Cemetery in Switzerland, 10 months after they were murdered in cold blood in Uganda.

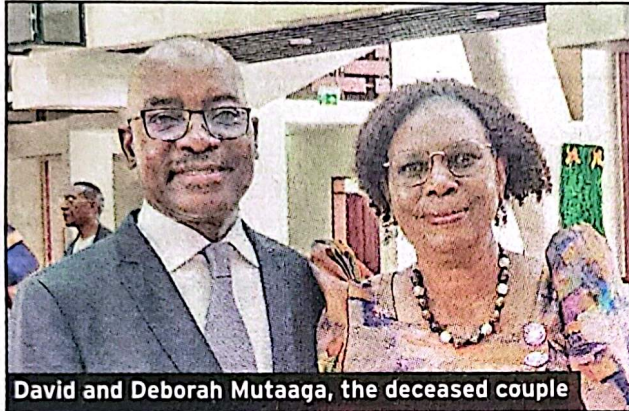
David Mutaaga and his wife Deborah Mutaaga were on July 6, 2025, murdered at their residence in Lugonjo-Nakiwogo cell, Entebbe municipality in Wakiso district.

During a memorial service that was held at St Paul's Cathedral, Namirembe on November 27, the couple's children said they made a 'painful' decision to repatriate the remains of their parents back to Switzerland for burial, instead of their ancestral home in Uganda.

Isabel Najitta Mutaaga and Mark Ernest Kabenge Mutaaga, who are currently residing in Switzerland, attended their parents' memorial service via Zoom.

They said it was their desire to have their parents buried in Uganda, but the failure by security agencies to find the people who murdered the couple made them reconsider their decision.

"The wait has been long;



David and Deborah Mutaaga, the deceased couple

we all thought the ongoing investigations would yield positive results, but all has been in vain," the children said.

THE COURT DECISION

The decision to have them buried came after the High Court in Kampala settled a long-running family dispute over the burial of the couple whose bodies had remained in a funeral home for more than nine months.

Initially, some members of the extended family wanted to block the children's decision on grounds that the deceased were Baganda with strong cultural ties and should be buried at the ancestral home

in Buddo, Wakiso, in line with their custom.

Kabenge turned to court, seeking orders to take custody of the bodies and block their clan (*Nvuma*) leader from overseeing the burial.

In a ruling, Justice Celia Nagawa gave Kabenge, who is also a Swiss national, the final authority to decide how and where his parents would be buried.

The court also directed the Attorney General and the Police to ensure the bodies are released within 48 hours, which paved way for the smooth repatriation.

The court also barred any other party from handling the bodies without his written

ABOUT THE MUTAAGAS

David Mutaaga was born to the late Ernest Kabenge and Christine Kibirige.

He was born on May, 1, 1956 and attended Budo Junior School and King's College Budo. He pursued a bachelor of science degree with a concurrent diploma in education from Makerere University. He later pursued a post-graduate degree at the University of Zurich. He married Deborah.

Deborah was born on December 4, 1962, to Rehoboam Lume Kisadha and Freda Deborah.

She grew up in Jinja and attended Jinja Girls' Secondary School. Family sources said Deborah's father worked at Nytil in Jinja before he was also murdered in cold blood and to date, the whereabouts of his remains have never been located by his family.

They had careers in top Swiss communications and banking firms spanning over 30 years before they retired and returned to Uganda in 2021.

consent. However, Justice Nagawa urged the family to find common ground, stressing that while the children have the right to decide on burial, all relatives still have the right to mourn their loved ones.

OTHERS MISS OUT

Dr Edward Kayondo, who studied with the Mutaagas, said they wanted to attend the burial, but many of them have been unable due to visa issues.

"The challenge has been getting visas because many people who wanted to attend

I think due to the Ebola outbreak," he said.

FAMILIES SPEAK OUT

In a statement, the families of the deceased thanked people who stood with them.

"Your love, patience, understanding and immense comfort have carried us through the most difficult seasons of our lives. As we have worked through the arrangements to send off our people with the honour, dignity and peace they deserved, your presence and support have meant more

to us than words can truly express," the statement in an advert read.

Before the burial, a memorial service will also be held at Kirch, 8600 Dubendorf, Switzerland.

INVESTIGATIONS

According to police preliminary findings, the assailant entered the home by jumping over the perimeter fence before accessing the house.

"There were clear signs of tampering with the asbestos roofing and the bedroom window was broken," a senior detective privy to the investigations said.

After committing the murder, the suspect exited through the main gate, a move that suggests the perpetrator may have been familiar with the layout of the home.

The forensic team lifted fingerprints and collected several materials of evidential value from the scene.

In addition, investigators retrieved CCTV footage from the home for analysis.

Sources said the footage shows how the attacker came with a knife and said some words as he stabbed the deceased.