

# How Valentine's night went down at Sheraton

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BY TONY MUSHOBOROZI

Uganda might be one of the friendliest countries in the world but we sure are not near the top when it comes to romance. It is harder to find a Ugandan husband and wife walking down the road hand in hand than to chance upon a unicorn. Even when that rear occasion comes, more often than not, the two will likely walk a few meters apart, probably one behind the other. They will likely not talk much. And if they did, the conversation would be curt, stun and serious. Smiling is not acceptable. Laughing, for what? We have this aversion to public display of affection (PDA) as a nation.

I think this inability for PDA might be the reason that keeps us at the very back of the advancement line. Who knows? Maybe if we were more affectionate, we would have painted our very own Mona Lisa centuries ago. We would have developed our own typography with which to write love letters and poems before colonization. We would have our very own Taj Mahal somewhere on the shores of Lake Kyoga.

## Love in the air

Which brings me to Sheraton Hotel on Valentine's Day. The love that was in the air that evening could be cut open with a knife like a watermelon. You couldn't see all those loving couples enjoying each other's embraces and come away thinking Uganda is not a romantic country.

People feeding chocolate to each other, women leaning their luscious heads on their men's shoulders, men pulling chairs for their women, elderly couples shuffling hand in hand toward the desert table, name it. You just had to take one look at the lovers all over the poolside and you'd be amazed that as a country, we have so many people capable of PDA. It was a beautiful sight to see.

Obviously, few things are as heart-warming as seeing people in love. Whether it is those little quirks that people exhibit when they are being romantic which are barely visible to the naked eye or that leaning forward towards your person as if they are a meal or those soft bedroom eyes women adopt when they are really in the zone... all pure beauty. All this and more were on display at Sheraton's Paradise Restaurant and



At the Kyoga poolside, Lysha and the Band serenaded the lovers with all the love hits going as far back as the sixties. PHOTO/TONY MUSHOBOROZI

poolside.

## The décor

Someone went to the ends of the world to set the scene for the special night. The deco consisted of mood lighting (red of course), black tablecloths, white seat covers, red ribbons and roses. These colour combinations created a remarkably cozy atmosphere. The scene at the poolside, especially was simply out of this

world. The faint underwater lighting, the reflections on the surface of the pool, the candlelight, the tables all looked just perfect against the dark backdrop of the shrubs and the trees in the garden.

## The service

Other than the lovely environment itself, it is the service that will likely catch you off guard at Sheraton. Of course, none of this should surprise anyone. It is Sheraton we are talking about here. Sheraton is one of the oldest hotels in Uganda and it shows in the service. They have a wealth of experience when it comes to hospitality. They know a thing or two about making someone feel like the prodigal son returning home.

If you ever want to have a proper date that is sure to make your lover feels special, I'd say Sheraton is one of the few places to go. From the way the hostess speaks to you as she leads you to your table where you find your name printed out and placed there as if you are King Mswati to the manner of the waitresses. Everything is so nuanced you can barely put your finger on it, but it all adds up in the end. You will feel respected and loved. They simply know how to elevate your mood. Again, not that any of this comes as a surprise.

And for that, celebrating Valentine's night at Sheraton Kampala Hotel is more than special. It is stuff great memories are made out of. Chef's kiss.

## THE MUSIC

A romantic night is not worthy of the name without music. At the Kyoga poolside, Lysha and the Band serenaded the lovers with all the love hits going as far back as the sixties. That girl has the voice of a thousand robins. I can still hear her beautiful voice in my head, three days later.

In the garden front part of the hotel, which is where Paradise Restaurant is, Armani Music Hub (also a live band) kept it more upbeat and mostly Ugandan. Food and drinks flowed and flowed. The dessert section at the buffet table was simply all about love. Every single treat was heart shaped.