

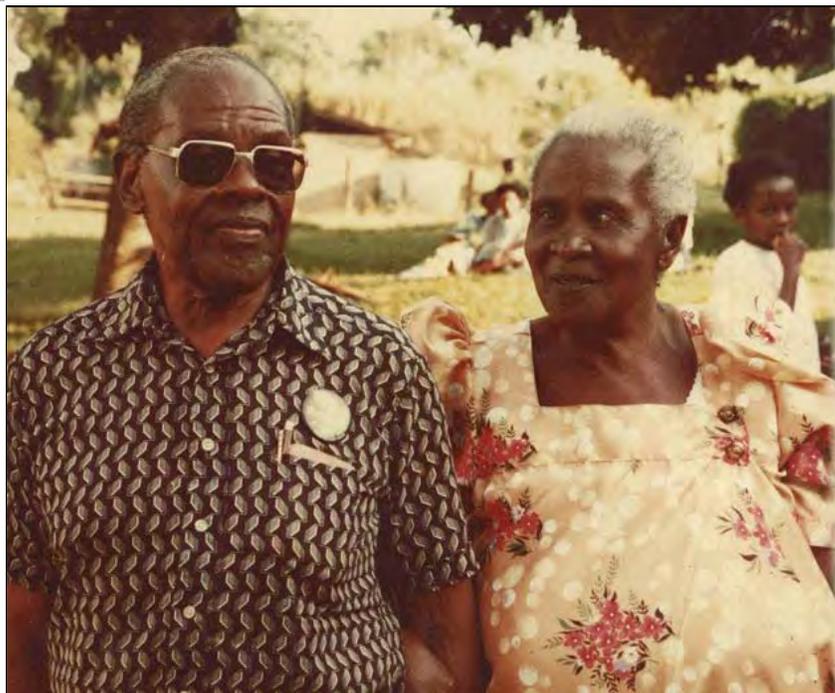
Prof Campbell to honour Musaaazi

News

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Written by John Musinguzi

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Ignatius Kangave Musaaazi (L) and sister Maliza

Renowned American scholar Horace G. Campbell is set to give a memorial lecture in honour of Ignatius Kangave Musaaazi in Kampala on October 7, at 2pm.

Musaaazi, who is buried at Kololo airstrip, is well remembered for having founded the Uganda African Farmers Union (UAFU) in 1947. He was one of the top leaders of the 1945 and 1949 pro-independence riots.

Musaaazi, along with Abubaker Kakyama Mayanja, founded the first political party in Uganda, the Uganda National Congress (UNC), in 1952. He is also recognised as the father of the cooperative movement in Uganda.

Part of the menu on the list of activities to mark Uganda's independence golden jubilee, the lecture at Makerere University will follow the laying of wreaths on Musaaazi's grave at Kololo on October 2. The wreath-laying ceremony will be led by President Museveni, announced senior presidential advisor, Kirunda Kivejinja.

He was flanked by officials from the IK Musaaazi Memorial Foundation at Uganda Media Centre on Tuesday. The occasion will also include the laying of wreaths on former president Yusuf Lule's grave, also at Kololo.

Elizabeth Musaaazi, daughter of Ignatius Musaaazi, and Kivejinja, further revealed that a grandson of Prof George W. Shepherd would receive the national independence award on behalf of his

grandfather. Shepherd arrived in Uganda aged 25 in 1951, after agreeing to Musaaazi's invitation to provide technical assistance in the struggle to correct agricultural policies that favoured Europeans and Asians at the expense of Africans.

Though he spent only two years here, Shepherd and colleagues helped reorganise the books of accounts of the Federation of Partnerships of Uganda African Farmers (FPUAF), redrafted the federation by-laws, sorted out transportation glitches, and helped them perfect their strategy. Kintu Nyago, newly appointed deputy head of mission at Uganda's UN embassy in New York, said that unlike past governments which ignored him, the NRM has always held Musaaazi in high regard to the extent of burying him as the national hero he was at the Kololo independence grounds. Musaaazi died in 1990, aged 85.

Nyago hailed Musaaazi as a revolutionary nationalist, who despite being a privileged son of a landed Buganda chief, sacrificed everything for the oppressed masses. For his role in organising the masses across tribal boundaries, Musaaazi was imprisoned by the colonial authorities a record 37 times.

Campbell, a professor of African American Studies and Political Science at Syracuse University in the United States, is a renowned peace and justice scholar who has had experiences in Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, the Caribbean and the UK.

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