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Uganda: Professor Munube Mashorogoto - First Virologist

5 MAY 2012

Prof. Germano Mashorogoto Rwakakindo Munube, 76, can no longer talk. But according to his son Dr. Deogratias Munube he was the first person in Uganda and probably in East Africa to train as a virologist.

As a young man who had just joined the East African Virus Research Institute (EAVRI) in late 1965, he was seconded in November 1965 to train as a virologist trainee at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, London.

He had been posted to the division of Virology and Experimental Biology on joining EAVRI, Entebbe. His training took place at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, USA, Yale University of Public Health and Epidemiology, New Haven, USA, Centre for Disease Control, Atlanta, USA, Pathology department and Bristol University in the UK.

He later worked as deputy director of EAVRI from August 1973 to July 1977. He was a principal virologist at the East African Veterinary Research Organisation Kikuyu, Kenya and also worked as an Associate Professor virology at the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at Muhimbili Medical Centre, University of Dar-es- Salaam, Tanzania. He worked as a WHO consultant from May 1979 to June 1993. From1994 to 2002, he was a professor of virology at Makerere Medical School, in the Department of Microbiology.

Born on March 9, 1936, at Mabonwa in Ibanda district to Zaverio Mashorogoto and Apolonia Bafokunaga, he attended Mabonwa Boys Primary School, (1943- 1950), St. Joseph's Junior Secondary School, Mbarara (1951-1953) and later St Leo's College, Kyegobe in Fort Portal (1954-56).

He then went to Makerere University College and obtained a degree in medicine. He is married to Edith Munube with whom they have five children. He was diagnosed with diabetes in 2000, which affected his brain and has been confined to his house since 2009.

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