

LETTERS

Prof William Kasuja's death marks the passing of an era

THE SUDDEN death of Prof William Senteza Kajubi, 86, on May 2, came as a shock to the Makerere University community. The world and Makerere University in particular has lost a distinguished alumnus, a renowned scholar, mentor, great grandfather of education in Uganda and two-time vice chancellor of this great institution. Prof Kajubi's love for Makerere was unquestionable as demonstrated through his dedicated and exemplary service, even amidst turbulent times and the ever-present threat of death.

On December 20, 2010, Makerere University unveiled a bust in his honour at the College of Education and External Studies, in recognition of his 60 years of exemplary service to the Education sector in Uganda.

The academic staff at Makerere pass their sincere condolences to the Kajubi family.

Prof Kajubi's love for his nation was without a shred of doubt. Amidst his numerous national accolades, he was the chairman of the three sub-committees established to deal with Uganda's national symbols; including one tasked with coming up with a national anthem. Impassioned to see Uganda have a deserving national anthem and driven to desperation by the not-so-satisfactory compositions received, he contacted his old friend the late Prof George Wilberforce Kakoma. With only a day left, Prof Kakoma summoned every ounce of musical genius in him and came up with the national anthem in July 1962 much to Prof Kajubi's delight and relief. The nation and indeed the world will dearly miss these two brilliant men, when Uganda celebrate 50 years of Independence on October 9, 2012.

Our hearts go out to the Senteza Kajubi family for the loss of a father, grandfather, great-grandfather, mentor, friend and confidant who had an inexhaustible sense of humour. The nation and the world will indeed miss this multi-talented person of integrity with demonstrated commitment to duty, and an immense ability to relate, entertain and socialise. In the words of his dear friend Prof Lutalo-Bbosa, "Prof William Senteza Kajubi – the 'friend-raiser' is the true embodiment of a mentor for us all."

May the Lord comfort you all during this difficult time and may Prof Kajubi's soul rest in eternal peace.

Prof Venansius Baryamureeba

Acting Vice Chancellor

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Via E-mail

Corruption's a crime against humanity

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court refers to crimes against humanity as those odious offenses that constitute a serious attack on human dignity or grave humiliation or a degradation of one or more human beings.

Looking at this definition, the question one immediately asks is; hasn't corruption been a serious attack on human dignity of Kenyans and haven't many Kenyans been subject of humiliation by corrupt practices committed against them?

Similarly, the Statute views such crimes as non-isolated nor sporadic events, but those which are part either of a government policy (although the perpetrators need not identify themselves with this policy) or a wide practice of atrocities tolerated or condoned by a government or a de facto authority. Listed within the statute are murder, extermination, torture, rape, political, racial or religious persecution and other inhumane acts especially when they are part of a widespread or systematic practice.

The magnitude, prevalence and systematic nature of corruption in Africa has caused untold misery, suffering and deaths of many innocent people in the continent making many wonder if corruption shouldn't be included as a crime against humanity. We all know how dreams have been shattered, careers killed, communities marginalised and businesses shut down due to corruption in this country and other parts of Africa. Endemic theft and misappropriation of public resources in Africa and Kenya in particular has been sickening.

The recent audit report revealing how money donated by the Global Fund to fight HIV, malaria and tuberculosis has been misappropriated over the years, add to the ever rising number of graft cases in Kenya. These strategic and crucial funds were meant to address the plight of the poor. This is how low the greedy and corrupt individuals are willing to stoop in their quest to amass more

without caring about the plight of the sick and the disadvantaged. When deaths of the marginalised and the poor occur as a result of such corrupt practices, isn't that not crime against humanity? We should not have HIV patients suffering and children and pregnant mothers dying from malaria while greedy officials revel in ill-gotten wealth. Mere restitution by those who have been involved in stealing Global Fund resources may not be good enough.

David Sonye

Via E-mail

