

A BOU TRIBUTE

TO PROF. EMMANUEL TUMUSIIME-MUTEBILE

PART 3

PROF. TUMUSIIME-MUTEBILE;
THE HUMANITARIAN



PROF. EMMANUEL TUMUSIIME-MUTEBILE

GOVERNOR, BANK OF UGANDA | 2001 - 2022

Rest in Peace



Somebody once said, **“Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man’s character, give him power.”** Prof. Mutebile was certainly a man who wielded power in his lifetime, and it is testament to his character that he used the power accorded to him to do good for his country, Bank of Uganda, and the individuals who crossed his path.

In this final part of the BoU tribute to Prof. Emmanuel Tumusiime-Mutebile, we share Governor’s humanitarian side.

It is nearly impossible to exhaustively document the support that Prof. Tumusiime-Mutebile provided not only to individuals in need, but to communities as well. Through the Bank of Uganda Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Rotary, where he was a leading member, many beneficiaries of his charity were able to see a silver lining when it often seemed like all hope was lost.

Consequently, Governor led BoU in the renovation of health centers and the donation of various medical equipment in diverse districts.

The support for humanitarian initiatives such as the Rotary Cancer Ward at Nsambya Hospital, the Rotary Blood Bank at Mengo Hospital, medical equipment to Mulago National Referral Hospital, and the ongoing drive to enhance maternal and child healthcare in various health centres around the country, was inspired by Prof. Tumusiime-Mutebile's bold desire to positively impact communities. The national spread of the initiatives is proof of what is commonly said about the late Governor i.e., 'where you came from, who you were, or your position on the social ladder' were immaterial in the making of decisions concerning you.

The care and compassion for the dignity and humanity of others near or far gave him the greatest purpose. The testimonies from those who worked with him directly indicate how much he cared for their personal welfare. Indeed, of the numerous things he accomplished, Prof. Tumusiime-Mutebile seemed at his happiest when he helped someone in a vulnerable position.

If you observed how he spoke to students who often courageously walked up to him after public events, for instance the Joseph Mubiru Memorial Lecture, or how he spoke to staff who were not in his orbit of interaction, you saw paternal kindness and generosity. He humanized the weighty and grand office that he occupied gracefully.



Rotarian Emmanuel

"I could fill several pages with testimonies of Prof. Tumusiime-Mutebile's generosity, but that would not be fair to Emmanuel who always wanted no fanfare around his person or his actions. But I will say one thing. Emmanuel taught us that humility and *Ubuntu* are all you need to live a fulfilling life. In Rotary, he lived and gave us a fulfilling life. What a privilege it has been for us to share his life, his faith, his humanity, his humour and care for others." Henry Rugamba, President, Rotary Club of Kampala.

According to Rotary Club of Kampala records, Rotarian Emmanuel joined the club in January 1983; and was a passionate Rotarian for approximately 39 years.

He walked into fellowship as Rotarian Emmanuel, not as the Bank of Uganda Governor that he was, or the Permanent Secretary/Secretary to Treasury at the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, back then. He also participated as required by reciting the 4-Way Test or saying the Grace or offering the Final Toast. It was evident how much Rotarian Emmanuel liked music, especially when it came to singing the national anthem, or the Club Song. Indeed, many people visiting the club would watch in awe at the humility that the 'country's giant' displayed when at fellowship.

While the Rotary Club of Kampala was his club, Rotarian Emmanuel was a global Rotarian who never hesitated to get involved and support the causes that other clubs were involved in. It is for this reason that the pain of his passing has had an impact on Rotary in Uganda and across the East African Region.

As we ponder on the impact that his passing will have on us and the work we do, I know we are all quietly reciting the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 121 – I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help"

Emmanuel would undoubtedly respond **'My, help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth.'**

Rest Well Emmanuel. We shall soldier on as you would want us to.

Henry Rugamba
President,
Rotary Club of Kampala

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Health Centers

Governor championed BoU's outreach programs. During the celebrations of Bank of Uganda's 40th Anniversary (BoU@40) and 50th Anniversary (BoU@50), BoU staff and well-wishers raised funds through charity walks, to support the health sector in Uganda. In 2006, proceeds from the BoU @ 40 charity walk were used to purchase a ventilator machine that was donated to Mulago National Referral Hospital. Previously, the Bank had donated a motorized water system for an internally displaced people's camp in Gulu, and a haemodialysis machine to Mulago National Referral Hospital.

Ten years later, a charity walk in commemoration of the Bank's 50th anniversary (BoU@50) raised funds to support maternal and child health care through the purchase of maternal equipment for health centers across the country. Consequently, Governor led BoU in the renovation of health centers and the donation of various medical equipment in diverse districts.

BoU has so far completed works and handed over seven health centers, namely, Kyanamukaka Health Centre IV in Masaka City, Rutete Health Centre III in Kabarole District, Bwizibwera Health Centre IV in Mbarara District, Ayivuni Health Centre III in Arua District, Nakaloke Health Centre IV in Mbale District, Omel Health center II in Gulu District, and Hamurwa Health Centre IV in Rubanda District. Works are underway in other health centers in Jinja and Kabale Districts.



Donations

The Governor also supported numerous education, religious, health, and needy people's causes. Many attest to his generosity and kindness that was often funded 'out of his own salary' and not the Bank's Corporate Social Responsibility funds. With his 'large' heart, he touched so many lives by paying school and tuition fees for needy students, people's marriage ceremonies, church construction projects, and even hospital bills of strangers in need.



With his passing, Prof. Tumusiime-Mutebile leaves behind a legacy of illustrious public service, hard work, decisiveness, kindness, compassion, and generosity. He treated people with respect and made everyone feel very important. He shared good humor and a big smile with everyone he met. He held his head high as well as Uganda's economy, until the end, portraying what it means to 'finish strong'.

Through his lifetime, Prof. Tumusiime-Mutebile became more aware of the plight and the anguish of others including sick children who had no access to decent healthcare, and pregnant women that did not have facilities for safe child delivery.

What we can do is to live our lives with purpose, love, hard work and clear values. We can learn from our mistakes and grow from our failures, as

we strive to make a better world, so that one day, we know that our presence had a lasting positive impact on our economy and the lives of others. This is how Prof. Tumusiime-Mutebile lived his life. This is his legacy.

For years to come, we as BoU staff shall remember Prof. Tumusiime-Mutebile's voice saying "Obugalo", at different events and meetings.

***Therefore, today, as we once again bid adieu and salute Uganda's revolutionary economist, we have the honour to say;
Obugalo to the gallant BoU Governor,
Obugalo to the lion of BoU staff welfare,
Obugalo to Rotarian Emmanuel,
Obugalo to Prof. Tumusiime-Mutebile!***

May Governor "omuntu w'abantu" continue to rest in eternal peace.



PROF. EMMANUEL TUMUSIIME-MUTEBILE

1949 - 2022

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