

CHAPTER 5

PAULO KIYINGI'S MARRIAGE TO ESEZA NABWAMI

5.1 Paulo Kiyingi's Betrothal to Eseza Nabwami

Following the refusal of a wedding between Paulo Kiyingi and Ayisa Nakku by her parents due to differences in religious backgrounds, PK started looking around for another girl to marry. One of his best friends and neighbour Erieza Sekamwa was at the same time quite well-known at Mulago in Nakibuuka's household. He is the one who spotted Eseza Nabwami as a potential future wife of Paulo Kiyingi. Negotiations followed, culminating into introductions between PK and ENK. PK approved of the girl and it was then left to ENK to sound her approval. After some long and careful deliberation, ENK finally came down with her decision. She too approved of the man. Her approval was quickly communicated to PK, by none other than Yunia Nandawula, ENK's younger sister. PK rewarded her with 50 cents (*simooni*) in appreciation of that piece of good news. After that ENK formally introduced PK to her parents in a special ceremony called "*Okwanjula*". This ceremony was performed in the home of ENK's paternal uncle Erisa Googwa, also at Mulago. With the blessings of the parents from both sides the two proceeded to arrange their wedding ceremony.

5.2 The Holy Matrimony

PK and ENK staged their wedding on 29th September 1928 at St Paul's Cathedral Namirembe, witnessed by close friends and their extended families. It was a grand wedding which was talked about around town for a long, long time. They were joined in holy matrimony by the Rt Rev Ananiya Binaisa, the father of Godfrey Lukongwa Binaisa QC, ex-President of Uganda (1979-1980).

5.3 PK and ENK Start a Family

After the wedding PK and ENK settled in the home PK already possessed on Nanfumbambi Road, Makeerere, and started building and raising their family. They did not stay long in that home though due to some unfortunate events that befell them. They had their first child, a boy, in that home and they named him Nasani Luggya. Sadly he died soon after, in what appeared suspicious circumstances. After about one year and half in that home they were forced to move out and build another home elsewhere. By then PK and ENK had already shown their strong commitment to the Church Missionary Society Makeerere Parish Church on top of the hill, so the church allotted them a piece of its land to settle on. This is where they built their home, on the northern slopes of the hill, about 500 meters from the hill top.

5.4 Makeerere Hill

Makeerere hill is the place of origin of the Kiyingi family. The hill is of historical significance - being one of the original seven hills on which the original Kampala city was built. The oldest and most prestigious University in East and Central Africa is located on that hill, on its southern and eastern slopes.

The name Makeerere (which literary means “dawn”) started with King Jjuuko, the 16th King of Buganda. The story is told that in the year 1680 King Jjuuko was on a journey to woo a young beautiful girl called Nalunga. He and his entourage were walking on foot. They got to this hill in broad daylight and decided to take a rest for a breather. While resting, there was a total eclipse of the sun. All of a sudden darkness fell on the land, lasting minutes to hours, such that the chickens went inside their “houses”, like they normally do when night falls. But after some time, not lasting a whole night, daylight came back again, with the sun still high up in the sky instead of rising from the east. It is said that the king got baffled at what had happened. So he remarked to his men that “*Ha, gano nno gabadde makeerere*” (Well this has been an unusual dawn). From then up to today the hill and surrounding village is called Makeerere.

This hill therefore became the place of origin of the Kiyingi family and all the descendants of Paulo Kikwanguyira Kiyingi. The ancestral home is still located at Makeerere. That is the meeting place where they all gather for any important ceremonies affecting the entire family.

5.5 The Kiyingi Family

Paulo Kikwanguyira Kiyingi (PK), the third born to Samwiri Lwasi Buzaabo sired the following children:

1. Kiyingi Moses Semyano - born in 1926, died in 1992
2. Namitala Mary - born in 1928, died in 1977
3. Luggya Nassani - born 29/02/1929, died in 1930
4. Nalugwa Efulansi Miriam Lwalamukwano - born 16/03/1931
5. Mpiima Henry James - born 1933, died 25/03/1966
6. Kaggulire Damasiko Erieza Kikwanguyira - born 28/02/1935
7. Kulumba David Buzaabo - born 09/11/1936
8. Bbosa Asanath Lule - born 01/02/1939
9. Nakiyingi Elizabeth Rosette Banzigya - born 27/12/1940, died 1995
10. Nabbosa Esta Lillian - born 08/05/1942
11. Kibuuka Balubuuliza - born 10/10/1944
12. Lutalo Samuel Kigwira - born 03/09/1946
13. Nalumu Kasalina Nakibuuka Ziribaggwa - born in 1950, died in 1953
14. Sekkadde Kikuttabudde - born 08/08/1951
15. Naluggya Margaret Kuumekyoto - born 31/12/1955