

Rest in perfect peace, Anthony Mulenga Zimba.

I first met Anthony in 2012 when he came to Uganda to benchmark our organizational activities (Epilepsy Support Association Uganda). I met him again during the 1st African Epilepsy congress in Nairobi. He pushed many meetings through during the African congress in Nairobi at such a pace that amazed me. My last physical meeting with him was during the 4th African Congress in Entebbe in 2019. Since then I kept in touch and discussed several issues on epilepsy up till last week on Friday. I was shocked and saddened to hear of his passing, because his jovial voice from our recent chat was still fresh in me and gave the indication that he was soon to be up and about.



Anthony(1st left) during his visit to ESAU office in 2012 together with the late Augustine Mugarura and members of staff

Anthony was a hard working person who believed in nothing for Africa without Africans and worked even on his sick bed to see this achieved. He continued working to make the epilepsy movement stronger. Always ready to give a helping hand at whatever cost, reaching out to you at night, during the weekend if he felt a task was left incomplete.

Anthony was a Pan Africanist, passionate about epilepsy, psychiatry and working in this field to contribute towards making positive changes in the landscape of epilepsy in Africa and the world over. Anthony was a strong advocate for primary health care workers to manage epilepsy in the healthcare system in Africa considering that the ratio of neurologists to people with epilepsy in Africa is quite appalling. Many people with epilepsy can hardly afford quality time for epilepsy diagnosis with neurologists considering the strain on the finances. Anthony, mentored many medical officers, inspired them to take keen interest in epilepsy nationally, regionally and internationally.



Anthony(3rd right) at the 4th African Epilepsy Congress in Kampala During the IBE symposium

He was an assertive, spirited, just person who believed in truth and transparency, a person who fought to the end when he believed in a cause. A true African Father, mentor to many epilepsy associations in Africa and world over. We in the epilepsy movement will continue to hold his virtues strongly and work to support the unmatched legacy he has left behind.

He fought a good fight!

A Luta Continua! (the struggle continues)..... Till we meet again. Rest in perfect peace, our true African Father and soldier of epilepsy.

Sarah Nekesa

Executive Director

Epilepsy Support Association Uganda,

Secretary General Epilepsy Society of Uganda