

MUK's longest serving VC dies

By Martin Kitubi

There are several stories about Makerere University that Prof. Asavia Wandira would tell better. But such stories will no longer be heard.

The former vice-chancellor (VC) passed away yesterday at his home in Ntinda, Kampala. He was a two-time VC, from 1973 to 1975 and 1979 to 1986.

Wandira is Makerere's first and longest serving Ugandan VC and the second longest of them all, after Sir Bernard de Bunsen, who served as a principal for 13 years.

MUK VC Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe said: "We will remember him as a person of high integrity, one who kept the university intact in the most difficult period of its history."

Fact file

- Wandira was a professor of education.
- Makerere University website indicates that he served his first tenure as VC from 1973 to 1975, amidst political turmoil. He left Uganda for studies in Swaziland.
- He served as professor of education at the University of Swaziland for about four years.
- In 1979, just after President Idi Amin had been overthrown, Wandira returned to Uganda and was appointed education minister.
- He was then appointed VC, to 1985.

Dr Patrick Ibembe, the Mwiri Old Boys' Association president, said: "Wandira served at Mwiri in all categories, as a student, a teacher and a parent. At Mwiri, he excelled in academics, a record that took long to be broken."