

By John B. Thawite

Today, the ruling National Resistance Movement (NRM) marks yet another Heroes' Day, to commemorate the sacrifices and contributions that different Ugandans have made to national development.

President Yoweri Museveni, who has been leading the country since January 1986, will be awarding medals to different categories of people – military and civilian. The medals include the Rwenzori Star, which symbolises the importance of Mt Rwenzori to the liberation struggle.

In early 1985, the National Resistance Army (NRA), led by then guerrilla leader Yoweri Museveni, decided to open a western Uganda front.

Based in Luwero Triangle then, the NRA opened up bases in Mt Rwenzori areas, marking a turning point in the war against the Uganda National Liberation Army (UNLA).

In a news broadcast on Radio Uganda, the Obote regime informed the country that the "bandits" (as government then referred to NRA), were running away from the Luwero Triangle to Zaire, now DR Congo.

"The war has become hot for the bandits in Luwero and now they are running away to Zaire," the news report said.

It was followed by comments from the then UNLA chief of staff, Brig. Smith Opon Acak.

"We have annihilated them in many battles in the recent weeks and now they cannot stand the heat from the kitchen," Brig Acak added.

He continued: "I thank our gallant soldiers in the war theatre (Luwero Triangle) for this achievement."

At the time, the leader of the 'bandits', Museveni, had also sneaked out of the war zone and gone on a

RWENZORI'S CONTRIBUTION TO NRM VICTORY

diplomatic mission abroad. The government said he had fled.

Acak called on all the 'bandits' to surrender under amnesty or die.

GREAT TREK TO THE RWENZORIS

However, the story in the 'war theatre' was different. Little did the government then know that the 'bandits' were on a tactical withdrawal to the Rwenzoris.

Between January and March, the NRA moved to the Rwenzoris, encountering UNLA at various points.

First was near Fort Portal around May 1985, where the NRA killed one of UNLA's commanders, Brig Obot.

The news of Obot's death devastated president Obote, who was then at the Nile Mansions, his command centre, where he reportedly lamented: "Why are all my good people dying?"

Obote had deployed Obot, one of his former chief bodyguards and a well-known disciplined officer, to stop the NRA from running to Zaire. The NRA had laid a snap ambush and killed him.

The group that moved to the Rwenzoris had several political cadres, including Nuwe Amanyu Mushega, Dr Kizza Besigye and Gregory Mugisha Muntu.

Before the trek, there was a smaller group of fighters that was already stationed up the Rwenzoris.

It was led by Fred Rwigyema (who died in 1990 during the Rwanda

Why the Rwenzoris?

The Rwenzori Mountains enabled the NRA to have a frontline and transit from a guerrilla to a conventional war against the UNLA. There was no threat from the rear because of the hard mountain terrain and the snow-capped ranges that acted as a curtain

against any attacks from the rear. Any force that would wish to attack the NRA from Zaire could only do so via the Kasindi-Beni sector, but risked being detected by the NRA, which was now in full command of the mountain ranges.

war at the rank of major general and Chefe Ali, who had joined the NRA fighters. They were a good link for the NRA.

It reportedly took the group a month to walk from Nakaseke to the Rwenzoris, under a clearly drawn plan which included how to source food.

In an interview a few years ago, one of the commanders, Maj. Gen. Proscovia Nalweyiso, described the trek as one of the most daunting tasks she and others ever took during the war since they were supposed to move during the night and under concealment to avoid being attacked.

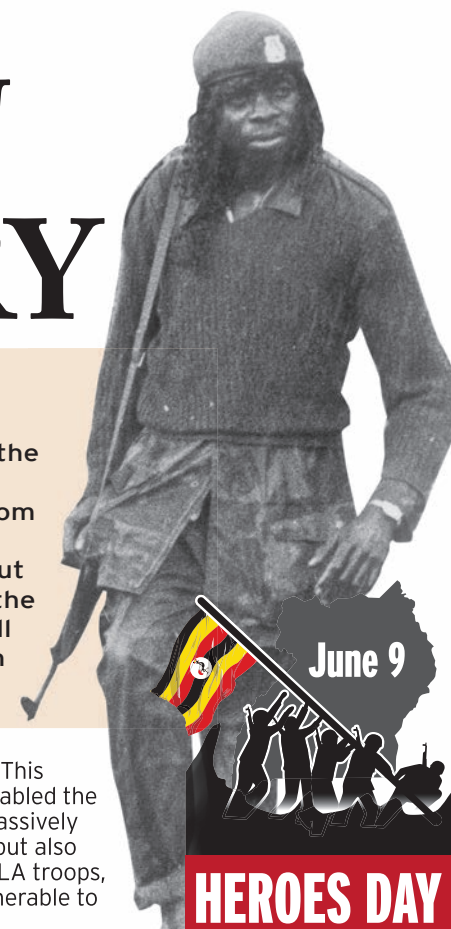
The UNLA had deployed massively to stop the 'fleeing' group.

Equipped with an assortment of guns operated by North Korea mercenaries, the UNLA had strategically positioned at Rubona and Muhoti barracks, which was their main base and in Kasese


and Mbarara.

The UNLA was reinforced by members of the defunct Uganda Army and Karimojong fighters to deter any possible NRA expansion into the other parts of

western Uganda. This move not only enabled the NRA to recruit massively in the Rwenzori, but also stretched the UNLA troops, leaving them vulnerable to NRA fire.



Museveni (second-left) and other soldiers at the Lhubiriha River bridge






Happy Heroes' day

The Board, Management, and Staff of Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited (UEDCL) congratulates **H.E Gen. Y. K Tibuhaburwa Museveni** - President of the **Republic of Uganda**, the legislature, and all citizens of Uganda upon reaching this year's heroes' day.

UEDCL on this special occasion celebrates all individuals who have made sacrifices for the betterment of our Motherland Uganda. As a national utility distributor, our strategic focus is to ensure power is available, reliable, and accessible to spin the social-economic transformation of our country as anchored in the NDP III.

#We Light Up Your World.

 @UEDCL
  @UEDCLTD
  www.uedcl.co.ug



HOW DISCRIMINATION IN RWENZORI

From page 25

AGGRIEVED COMMUNITIES

The NRA also found a community that had long-standing grievances against the sitting Uganda People's Congress (UPC) government under Obote, dating from around Uganda's independence.

Towards independence on October 9, 1962, the Bakonzo, Bamba and other minority communities in the Rwenzori had complained of marginalisation and discrimination under the British-backed Toro kingdom and the UPC-led government headed by prime minister Obote, who wielded strong executive powers under Sir Edward Mutesa, who was the president.

The minorities had demanded equity and equality in the administration of Toro kingdom, including the rotation of the position of the kingdom prime minister.

However, Toro kingdom told the minorities that



Soldiers celebrate after flushing Zairean rebels out of a trading centre at Bwera in Kasese

the position was only a preserve of a "Mutooro *nyakabara*" (true Mutoro).

The minorities also wanted equal access to social services such as education and the freedom of self expression in own languages in

public institutions.

The Bamba and Bakonzo leaders were led by Isaya Mukirania, the father of the current Rwenzururu leader, Omusinga Charles Wesley Mumbere, Kawamara and Mupalya.

On June 13, 1962, about

20 aggrieved Bakonzo and Bamba and representatives of other ethnicities who had been elected to the Toro kingdom council stormed out of the Toro *Rukurato* (parliament). On June 30, the same year, they hoisted their own flag and

THE MINORITIES DEMANDED EQUITY AND EQUALITY IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF TORO KINGDOM AND ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES SUCH AS EDUCATION

sang their own anthem and declared a war of self liberation, which came to be known as the Rwenzururu Movement.

It was led by Isaya Mukirania, a former school teacher in Toro kingdom.

STATE OF EMERGENCY

To quell the Rwenzururu rebellion in what was called Toro, Obote declared a state of emergency in 1964. It was the first of its kind instituted by a young independent Uganda titled "State of Emergency over the disturbed areas of Toro". It was instituted by Obote in order to counter

the Rwenzururu, which had declared session from Uganda and had abandoned the course of negotiation and resorted to militancy in June 1962.

The state of emergency is said to have been responsible for the deaths of thousands of Bakonzo and the flight of many others, especially in areas of Kiyombya, in what is now Bunyangabu district.

Following the state of emergency, hundreds of Bakonzo, who had been displaced from their homes in Toro, fled to Kahunge refugee camp from where some later settled in Kagadi and Mubende. Kabaka Mutesa, who was at the same time the president of Uganda, sympathised with them and gave them part of his land in Singo.

During that state of emergency, the young Ugandan army was then commanded by Col William Cchynne, the last commander of what was called the Uganda Rifles. He was the last British



UGANDA ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED (UETCL)

Plot 10 Hannington Road, Nakasero. P. O. Box 7625, Kampala. Tel: +256 417802000, +256 314802000
Website: www.uetcl.go.ug Email: transco@uetcl.com



Erection of gantry towers at Nebbi substation

National Heroes' Day 2022

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Limited (UETCL) congratulate H.E the President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, Parliament, Cabinet, Officers of the Defence Forces and all Ugandans for the social, economic and political transformation in Uganda as we commemorate this National Heroes Day.

UETCL is committed to providing security of power supply, regional trade & interconnection and accelerated grid infrastructure development by undertaking projects to ensure quality and reliable power supply that will propel Uganda to middle income status by meeting national

energy needs in line with the Government's Vision 2040 and National Development Plan.

The company is implementing the following key projects;

- **Grid Expansion and Reinforcement Project (GERP)** comprises of the 132kV Kole-Gulu-Nebbi-Arua transmission line which aims to ensure strategic expansion and upgrade of power transmission infrastructure to meet present and future electricity demand in the West Nile region and Northern Uganda.
- **132kV Gulu-Agago transmission project** which aims to provide

transmission capacity to evacuate power from the Agago Hydro Power Station

- **Karuma Interconnection Project** comprises of the 400kV Karuma-Kawanda, 400kV Karuma-Olwiyo, 132kV Karuma-Lira transmission lines. This project aims at providing adequate transmission capacity to evacuate power generated at 600MW Karuma Hydro Power Station (HPS).
- **132kV Mutundwe-Entebbe transmission project** which aims to ensure stable supply of quality power to Entebbe and surrounding areas

"Transmitting Power for Development",

Our Vision: "Electricity Transmission for Sustainable Regional Development"

Our Mission: "To Buy, Transmit and Sell Quality Bulk Power"

SUB-REGION WAS ADDRESSED

army officer who was the last commander of what was called King's African Rifles that later became East African Rifles, Uganda Rifles that later became Uganda Army.

Col William camped and established what is now Muhoti Barracks in order to co-ordinate military operations against Rwenzururu. Under Muhoti, another barracks was established at Rusese in Kasese (then Busongora county under Toro kingdom).

The second-in-command of the Rusese Barracks was Capt. Idi Amin, who overthrew Obote in 1971 and became Uganda's third president. He stayed at Nyabirongo in what is known as Kisinga sub-county today.

One of the things that later influenced Amin to

Rwenzori community support

The Luwero group was boosted by the large numbers that the Rwenzori gave them. Rwenzori had a lot of food and fresh water and a generally better weather than the Luwero Triangle. The NRA did not buy food, but it was donated by residents through their local leaders.

"The NRA also managed to shift its entire sickbay and the NRA women's wing headed by Nalweyiso from Luwero to Katebwa in Rwenzori on April 25, 1985," Lt (rtd) Maate Magwara, who was then in Senior Four at Kitswamba Secondary School, said.

Because of the enabling situation, the NRA relocated its overall tactical headquarters from Kanyamiygha to Rukoki, near the Kasese airfield, in the now Kasese municipality, serving as the base of western axis which had Moses Kigongo as its political leader based at Katebwa and Rwigyema as military commander.

This was after the overthrow of the Kampala UPC government.

Energised and whole-heartedly embraced by the community in Rwenzori, the NRA used the support as a springboard to attack Kampala and eventually take it over.

That is why even when the Omusinga, who was then in the Mt Rwenzori jungles, ordered the Bakonzo to vote UPC in 1980, the survivors from Kiyombya (who had fled and settled in what was then called Kasese North – now Busongora North constituency), defied his orders and voted the Uganda Patriotic Movement candidate, Dr Chrispus Kiyonga.

"So that old grudge helped in recruiting for NRA that came targeting former Rwenzururu combatants that led them into the NRA using Sirasi Basambya, who later became one of the commanders in Katebwa (Bunyangabu) and based at Kanyamiygha when the NRA crossed to Kasese. Even chairpersons and other UPC leaders peacefully handed themselves to Basambya. Officers such as Paul



Kagame, Geoffrey Muhesi, and Ssejusa knew Basambya very well. That is why there were not more than five UPC people when the NRA moved to the Rwenzoris.

To date, several former Rwenzururu fighters hold senior positions in the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF). Their guerrilla skills and experience helped in energising the NRA and building the 11th Battalion, which was then under Chefe Ali.

grant Kasese a district status in 1974, was because he had a fairly deep understanding of the conflict in the Rwenzoris, having personally climbed the mountains. He was the

first president to recruit the Bakonzo into Uganda's army, who had been segregated on account of their height. He established a training wing in Mbarara in 1971, mainly targeting

the Bakonzo. From the 1960s, the Bakonzo harboured ill feelings against Obote, despite one of his ministers, Amon Bazira's efforts to reconcile UPC with Bakonzo.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND VETERAN AFFAIRS (MODVA)

Happy 33rd Heroes Day



H.E. GEN YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI
President of the Republic of Uganda
and Commander In Chief



HON VINCENT BAMULANGAKI SSEMPIJJA
Minister of Defence and Veteran Affairs



HON OBOTH MARKSONS JACOB
Minister Of State for Defence
(General Duties)



HON OLERU HUDA
Minister Of State for
Veteran Affairs



MRS. ROSETTIE BYENGOMA
Permanent Secretary



GEN. WILSON MBADDI
Chief Of Defence Forces

Today, Thursday, 9th June 2022 Uganda is celebrating her 33rd Heroes Day Anniversary to collectively remember our heroes and heroines who have sacrificed their lives for this country.

Ministry of Defence and Veterans Affairs (MODVA) joins the rest of the country to celebrate **Heroes' Day** and use the occasion to reassure those gallant sons and daughters of Uganda; that their labours, their sweat, sacrifices and extraordinary efforts, will remain a cherished memory.

The day gives us an opportunity to Look back to their efforts and be able to reflect upon the spirited journey this country has made over the last three decades to realize meaningful peace and dignity of all Ugandans. It is the time for all Ugandans to celebrate the success and achievements registered towards transforming our motherland into modern and prosperous Nation.

HONOURING UGANDAN HEROES



By Ricks Kayizzi

Some gave up their lives and others sacrificed a lot to improve the lives of Ugandans. For that reason, we remember and celebration our heroes on June 9, every year.

According to the state minister for economic monitoring, Peter Ogwang, about 81 people will be awarded medals today for their distinguished service to the country. The day was initially supposed to commemorate those who lost their lives in the Ugandan Bush War (1981 - 1986). But the

heroic recognition has now been expanded to other gallant Ugandans who strive day by day to make this country a better place.

GENESIS OF THE DAY

Following the overthrow of Idi Amin in 1979, subsequently leading to Milton Obote being elected president of Uganda, the opposition, led by Yoweri Museveni's National Resistance Army (NRA) believed the election was rigged. This led to the February 1981 meeting at the house of Matthew Rukikaire in Makindye, Kampala, where they hatched a plan to launch the first attack.

The main resolution out of this meeting was that a war should be launched to dislodge Obote's government. This essentially launched the war that brought President Yoweri Museveni to power in 1986.

On June 9, 1981, at the advent of the bush war, Edidian Mukibi Luttaguzi was killed by the Uganda National Liberation Army for refusing to reveal the hiding place of Museveni and the other NRA soldiers.

MEDALLISTS

Ogwang said 34 medallists will receive the 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee Medal, 17 will receive the Nalubaale Medal, 18 will receive the Luwero Triangle Medal and five, the Damu Medal.

The minister said four people will also be awarded with Long Service Gold Police medals, two Long Serving Police medals and two honorary medals.

Over 17,026 medals have been awarded to exemplary nationals and non-nationals who, according to the awarding committee, deserved honour and recognition.

If Luttaguzi had not made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the soldiers, the ensuing guerrilla war that brought the National Resistance Movement to power in 1985 could have ended in defeat.

This is because they would have lost some of their leaders, throwing the struggle into chaos. Such sacrifice made by individuals who put the country before self is

the reason we are celebrating this day today.

In 2001, the Parliament, through an Act, chose to gazette June 9 as Heroes' Day in remembrance of those who contributed to the liberation struggle that ushered the ruling government into power on January 26, 1986.

Ugandans are henceforth afforded a chance to celebrate the courageous heroes that brought the peace and prosperity we are all enjoying. The celebrations rejuvenate the country's collective commitment in consolidating the values laid down by heroes past and present and the achievements registered in the political, social and economic realm.

THE AWARDEES

Since the beginning of Heroes' Day celebrations 22 years ago, thousands of deserving Ugandans have been awarded medals.

During the press conference held at the Uganda Media Centre on Monday, Ogwang announced that the Uganda Police spokesperson, Fred Enanga, would be one of the awardees, and will, therefore, walk home with a Golden Jubilee medal

in recognition of his exemplary service.

"The medal is in recognition of his distinguished service to this country. This comes out of great sacrifice," he said.

Ogwang pointed out that Enanga headed the economic crimes department and also worked as Criminal Investigations Department (CID) commander in the Kampala Metropolitan Police. He also worked as commandant of the land protection Police unit, and as a commissioner CID administration and training, among other posts.

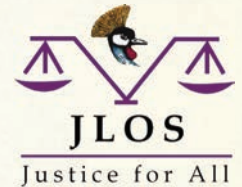
Others to be awarded include Joel Kakira, who donated land to the Government in 2018 for the construction of Mabere Health Centre III in Sheema district.

Judy Adoko, the executive secretary of the Lango Cultural Foundation, as well as Tom O' Lalobo, a retired pilot, are lined up to receive the prestigious Golden Jubilee medals.

The event will be celebrated under the theme; *Commemorating our Heroes and Heroines: An opportunity to consolidate our efforts in securing Uganda.*



MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIRECTORATE OF CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION CONTROL



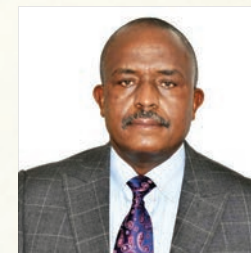
H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Tibuhaburwa Museveni
President of the Republic of Uganda



Major Gen. (Rtd) Kahinda Otafire
(Minister of Internal Affairs)



Gen. David Rubakuba Muhoozi
(Minister of State for Internal Affairs)



Lt. Gen. Joseph Butamanya Musanyufu
(Permanent Secretary)

HAPPY HEROES' DAY

The Minister, Minister of State, the Permanent Secretary, Management and Staff of Ministry of Internal Affairs Congratulate H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Tibuhaburwa Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, Cabinet, Parliament, the Judiciary and the people of the Republic of Uganda as we celebrate **Heroes' Day** and remember the contributions our gallant sons and daughters made to our nation.