

MINISTRY OF EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

MINISTER'S SPEECH FOR LATE RT HON ERIYA KATEGEYA MEMORIAL LECTURE

ON 29TH MARCH 2023 AT MESTIL HOTEL

His Lordship Chief Justice Emeritus, Benjamin Odoki,

Honorable Kahinda Otafire, Minister of Internal Affairs,

Honorable Ministers, Members of parliament, Past and Present,

Family and Comrades of the late Hon Eriya Kategeya,

Today's Guest Speakers and discussants,

The Media

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A famous Poet once said;

“Wherever Diamond exists, it carries its Worth and Value. Similarly, a Visionary figure carries his worth into Eternity, and always shines like a Diamond “

The moral of the quote is this; Eriya Kategaya died ten years ago, yet today, men and women of integrity, of all faith and creed, distinguished guests of all time, have devoted their time and day here at Mestil Hotel to honour our fallen colleague.

We are gathered here today,

- To give our heartfelt tribute
- To reflect and remember his worth,
- To appreciate his visionary contribution, and
- To celebrate his life and work with honor and dignity.

As we congregate here today, we express our gratitude to him for his selfless service to his Country and appreciate his tireless quest for freedom of others, as well as his dedication to EAC Integration.

Eriya Kategaya was born on 4th July 1945 in Itojo, Ntungamo. He went to Mbarara High school and Ntare School for his secondary Education. He later proceeded to the University of Dar es Salaam where he studied law. Together with Yoweri Museveni they founded the Uganda Patriotic Movement that contested the elections in 1980. He served as the External link to the guerilla struggle that successfully engaged in a liberation war against the regime of Milton Obote.

Most of you who knew the Rt. Hon Eriya Kategaya will recall that from 1981, he was National Political Commissar and later he served in different capacities as Minister and Deputy Prime Minister up to the time of his death in 2013. In all these positions he is remembered as being consistently anti-corruption, served with integrity, humility and dignity. He was humble and never showed his power and influence. By a coincidence when I first joined government in 1986, as a Minister of Regional Corporation, he was the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Again by coincidence, I am now the 1st DPM and Minister of EAC Affairs.

At the time of his death, Hon. Kategaya was 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs. He had been serving in this capacity for six years.

As a family man and longtime Legislator for Rwampara county, and as a government Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, as Champion of EAC integration, we shall continue to cherish his name, and to celebrate his life.

The Ministry of EAC Affairs was established in the year 2007 with the mandate to “Steer Uganda’s regional integration agenda in accordance with the objectives of the Treaty for establishment of East African Community. The first cabinet Minister

to head this Ministry was the Honorable Kategaya with Mrs. Edith Mwanje as Permanent Secretary. Together they started the Ministry with a very humble budget and a staff composed of less than ten people. It was a tough start for them but the steadfastness, the profile, the influence and brilliance of Honorable Kategaya made it possible for the ministry to survive, grow and execute its mandate. At the time of his death in 2013, the EAC had signed two of the four pillars of EAC Integration namely, the Customs Union and the Common Market protocol. He had also spearheaded negotiations for the Monetary Union and other Sectoral Protocols. Today I am honored to continue his work and ensure the establishment of EAMU in Uganda and later the East African Political Confederation.

We thank you unreservedly for honoring the Ministry's invitation to be with us here on this day, when we remember a gallant son of this country who dedicated the whole of his life towards serving his mother land and the EAC.

For God and My Country.