

KYEYUNE'S FAMILY MEMBERS WERE NOT ARRESTED BECAUSE THEY WERE UNAWARE OF HIS ACTIVITIES

By Henry Nsubuga

At 36, George William Sikubwabo Keyune was a member of the Uganda Patriotic Movement (UPM). He was employed at Makerere University as the chief technician in the department of pathology at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. However, he says he willingly gave up his job, to join the liberation struggle.

Keyune, now 74, however, states that it was a hard decision to make. Married and with four children, Keyune kept his decision to join the rebels a secret from his family.

"I was arrested and detained for two years, nine months and 10 days. My home was raided and most of my property confiscated," he narrates.

However, his family members were not arrested because they were unaware of his activities. In fact, the news of his arrest came as a surprise.

He says a few friends who knew the reason for his arrest gave some financial assistance to his wife during that period.

In the comfort of his retirement home at Kiyunga-Namirembe village in Kyampisi sub-county, Mukono district, Keyune narrates his NRA war experience.

Keyune's story

I credit the Ugandans who acted as our bush. They fed us, dressed us, hid us and spied for us. They always gave us news about the army's location. They are partly the reasons why we celebrate these 33 years of NRM.

We had our headquarters at

My family didn't know about my NRA exploits



Keyune is into farming in his retirement

Matugga for three years, which was not far from the enemy. President Milton Obote and his men were in Kampala. Without people hiding and supporting us, that could not have happened.

From January to October 1981, my role was to recruit Ugandans into the liberation struggle. I also transported the new recruits to the places where they were to be picked from.

I was also a spy. I would

gather information about the government army's plans and movements and alert the team in the bush. By the time Obote's men swung into action, they would find our men ready.

In October 1981, we set up a detach on Masaka Road at Buwuule village, with about 31 fighters.

Unfortunately, Obote's men got to know about it in only three days.

Over 200 government

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soldiers ambushed us and we had a serious scuffle, which lasted about 40

minutes. Because of the good leadership we had, we managed to escape without any fatalities that day.

We then returned to our headquarters in Matugga, to make fresh plans. Unfortunately, the following day, I was arrested and

tortured by Obote's men, but I did not reveal any of our secrets.

On July 24, 1984, I was released when the government granted amnesty to a big number of prisoners of war.

I immediately rejoined the cause. In the last years before the victory, I was a spy in Kampala. I used to deliver information to our units on foot.

After the war, I was appointed a senior intelligence officer in military intelligence for one year. I was later elevated to the senior intelligence officer in charge of counter intelligence in the Internal Security Organisation for a year. Later, I was appointed the Mukono District Administrator for four years. I also served as a Resident District Commissioner for two years in Gulu and four years in Mbarara.

I then joined the External Security Organisation for one year, before I was appointed senior private secretary to the President in charge of welfare, for nine years, until my retirement in 2008. I am now a senior presidential advisor on political matters.

We fought dictatorship and now we have general elections every five years. The power of the vote is magic for Uganda and it is the reason we have had peace for 33 years.

The only problem is that for several years, we had embraced corruption. Many youth want to make quick money, and think that it can only be achieved through stealing. However, the Government has put in place institutions empowered to fight corrupt officials.

Young people should learn to be patient. For example, I have over 16 acres of land, where I built my house, but, up to date, my house is not complete. I am mainly doing poultry farming, among other things.



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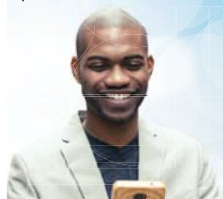
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H.E. YOWERI MUSEVENI
PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

