

# THE DUO PLAYED A KEY ROLE IN FORMATION OF THE DISTRICT

By Julius Luwemba  
and Samuel Mugabi

Kiboga district and town council authorities have officially named a 1km road and a hospital maternity ward in honour of William Wilberforce Kalema and his wife, Rhoda Kalema (RIP), in recognition of their contribution to the area's development.

Following a resolution passed earlier in December, a 1km road in Kiboga town has been named after William Kalema, who was killed during the Idi Amin regime. His remains have never been recovered.

The maternity ward at Kiboga hospital was named after Rhoda Kalema, who died on August 3, 2025, aged 96 years. The decision was made official during a brief ceremony held on Saturday, at Kiboga town council.

The Kiboga chief administrative officer, Nsubuga Zirimenya, said the couple played a pivotal role in the formation of Kiboga district and in advancing key social services, particularly health and education. He highlighted Rhoda Kalema's contribution to the establishment of Kiboga Hospital and several schools.

"The creation of Kiboga district and, 10 years later, the elevation of its trading centre to a township opened the doors to development in the area," Zirimenya said.

He added that the elevation ushered in major benefits, including the tarmacking of the Busunju-Kiboga section of the Kampala-Hoima road, the construction of more health centres and schools, and expanded electricity connectivity.

In her memoir, Rhoda Kalema expressed hope for a lasting impact,

## KIBOGA NAMES ROAD, MATERNITY WARD AFTER KALEMA, RHODA

The family of the late William and Rhoda Kalema was elated by a foundation stone crediting their mother at a maternity ward in Kiboga Hospital



writing: "I hope this history of Kiboga and the revival of its schools and other infrastructure will benefit current and future generations in Kiboga and the rest of Uganda."

Kiboga LCIII chairperson Henry Kagali revealed that funds have already been secured to tarmac part of the newly named William Kalema Road.

Kiboga town council speaker Edith Nakate praised Rhoda Kalema's inclusive leadership, saying she never allowed political differences to obstruct

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service delivery.

"I joined elective politics at a tender age with inspiration from

Rhoda, who encouraged females to aim for higher positions," Nakate said.

Representing the hospital administration, Dr Peter Isagala, on behalf of Dr Asuman Kasujja, the head of Kiboga Hospital, underscored Rhoda's role in establishing the facility and her continued support to patients and health workers.

Veronica Nakibule, one of the Kalemas' children, said the opening of Kiboga's main hospital in July 1973 significantly improved access to

healthcare in the area.

"However, other areas that were far from the hospital lacked health facilities. My mother invited the Safe Motherhood Programme to Kiboga in July 1991, which offered health and maternity relief as well as training and workshops," Nakibule said.

She added that on November 2, 1989, the maternity ward at Bukomero Maternity Centre was officially opened through her mother's efforts.

Another daughter, Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, recalled how Rhoda co-ordinated Uganda Women's Effort to save Orphans in Kiboga to support orphans and spearheaded education initiatives.

"By May 1992, my mother and some of her friends had finished putting up Ssinde Primary School, which focused on vocational training courses," she said, noting that the Kiboga Development Association later helped rebuild several schools between 1989 and 1993.

Councillor Badru Wasswa Kakembo, representing the elderly, recounted Rhoda's political journey, including winning against eight men in the 1994 Constituent Assembly race. In her autobiography, *My Life is But a Weaving*, Rhoda wrote: "I did not consider people to be mere votes. They were citizens I needed to stay close to, serve and enlighten."

William Kalema, born on June 11, 1926, served as minister for commerce and industry under the Obote government. He was kidnapped on January 20, 1972, nearly a year after the 1971 coup, and is believed to have been killed the same day. His remains have never been found.