

Celebrating THE LIFE OF



HON. JUSTICE RUBBY OPIO AWERI

31st May 1953 - 7th December 2022

Main celebrant: Rt. Rev. Bishop Prof. Alfred Olwa

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

BRIEF LIFE HISTORY OF HON. JUSTICE RUBBY OPIO AWERI

Date of Birth: 31st May 1953

Date of Death: 7th December 2022

Parents: Opio Samwiri (RIP) and Anna Opio (RIP)

Wife: Susan Achen Aweri

Children; H/W Obong George, Eng Dr. Allan Okodi Ray, Ojuka Dennis Emonyu, Mrs. Mary Engor Atim, H/W Okem Solomon Ezra, Mr. Dai Geoffrey, Ms. Naume Amuge, Mrs Zillah Anna Apio Byamukama, Ms. Angela Achopa and Mr. Opio Samuel.

Hon. Justice Rubby Opio Aweri joined the Judiciary as a Magistrate Grade I in 1983 and rose through the ranks to Justice of the Supreme Court (2015) a position he has held until the time of his death. As a career Judicial Officer, Hon. Justice Opio Aweri was appointed Judge of the High Court in 1998 and later elevated to a Justice of the Court of Appeal in 2013. At the time of his demise, he was the Chief Inspector of the Courts of Judicature.

Hon. Justice Rubby Opio Aweri has been described by many as a great towering legal mind who served the bench with boundless dedication, utmost humility and commitment for nearly four decades. No doubt that the Nation at large will miss his noble service.

He had major interest in Law & Practice; Land Law, Civil Litigation, Criminal Law, Environmental Law and Management. Born on May 31, 1953 in Kachung village, Agwata Sub-county, Dokolo County, Lira District. The Justice was espoused to Mrs Susan Acen Aweri, and has left ten children.

Education Background

- 1960 – 1969: Kachung Primary School and Agwata Primary School.
- 1973 – East African Certificate of Education, Lango College Lira.
- 1977 – East African Advanced Certificate of Education at Dr. Obote College, Boroboro, Lira
- October 8, 1981 – Awarded Bachelor's Degree of Laws, Makerere University
- January 31, 1983 – Post-Graduate in Legal Practice, Law Development Centre Masters in Law, Makerere University

Professional Career

- 1982 – 1983: Legal Assistant, Engwau & Co. Advocates, Soroti
- 1983 – Appointed Acting Magistrate Grade One
- October 7, 1990 – Confirmed appointment in service as Magistrate Grade One
- October 7, 1991 – Appointed Acting Senior Principal Magistrate Grade One
- August 13, 1991 – Confirmed as Senior Principal Magistrate One
- February 25, 1992 – Appointed Acting Chief Magistrate
- August 31, 1993 – Confirmed as Chief Magistrate
- October 16, 1998 – Acting Judge High Court
- October 27, 1999 – Appointed Judge of the High Court
- July 4, 2013 – Appointed to the Court of Appeal by the President
- October 13, 2015 – Appointed Supreme Court Justice
- August 3, 2017 – Appointed Chief Inspector of Courts
- September 28, 2020 – Reappointed Chief Inspector of Courts
- March 30, 2021 – Appointed member of the first Judiciary Council
- August 10, 2022 – Wrote Notice of Retirement to the Chief Justice. Expected date of retirement was May 31,

2023 upon clocking 40 years of Service.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF HON. JUSTICE RUBBY OPIO AWERI

PROCESSIONAL

Nearer, my God, to thee

1 Nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!
E'en though it be a cross that raiseth me,
still all my song shall be,
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

2 Though like the wanderer, the sun gone down,
darkness be over me, my rest a stone;
yet in my dreams I'd be
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

3 There let the way appear, steps unto heaven;
all that thou sendest me, in mercy given;
angels to beckon me
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

4 Then, with my waking thoughts bright with thy praise,
out of my stony griefs Bethel I'll raise;
so by my woes to be
nearer, my God, to thee;
nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

5 Or if, on joyful wing cleaving the sky,
sun, moon, and stars forgot, upward I fly,
still all my song shall be,
nearer, my God, to thee;

nearer, my God, to thee, nearer to thee!

OPENING PRAYER

Minister: Jesus said, “I am the resurrection, and I am the life; he who believes in me though he dies, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.” (John 11:25-26)

We brought nothing into the world, and we take nothing out. The Lord gives and the Lord takes away; blessed be the name of the Lord*(1Timothy 6:7; Job 1: 21)

God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble (Ps: 46:1)

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies and compassion never come to an end; they are new every morning ;(Lamentations 3:22-23)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,
39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.(Romans 8:38-39)

All: Heavenly Father, in your Son Jesus Christ you have given us a true faith and a sure hope.

Strengthen this faith and hope in us all our days, that we may live as those who believe in the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins and the resurrection to eternal life; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PSALM 23:
(The whole congregation to say together)

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. 2 He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, 3 he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. 4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. 6 Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

LAYING OF WREATHS
(The Clergy shall invite the MC to lead in the laying of the wreath)

Amazing grace

1 Amazing grace (how
sweet the sound)
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am
found,
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught
my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace
appear
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers,
toils and snares
I have already come:

'tis grace has brought me
safe thus far,
and grace will lead me
home.

4 The Lord has promised
good to me,
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and por-
tion be
as long as life endures.

5 Yes, when this flesh and
heart shall fail,
and mortal life shall cease:
I shall possess, within the
veil,

a life of joy and peace.

6 The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
the sun forbear to shine;
but God, who called me here below,
will be forever mine.

All to Jesus I surrender

1 All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.

Refrain:

I surrender all, I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

2 All to Jesus I surrender,
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel Thy Holy Spirit,
Truly know that Thou art mine. [Refrain]

3 All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power,
Let Thy blessing fall on me. [Refrain]

1 My faith has found a resting place,

1 My faith has found a resting place,
from guilt my soul is freed;
I trust the ever-living One,
his wounds for me shall plead.

Refrain:

I need no other argument,
I need no other plea,
it is enough that Jesus died,
and that he died for me.

2 Enough for me that Jesus saves,
this ends my fear and doubt;
a sinful soul, I come to him,
he'll never cast me out. [Refrain]

3 My heart is leaning on the Word,
the written Word of God,
salvation by my Savior's name,
salvation thro' his blood. [Refrain]

4 My great Physician heals the sick,
the lost he came to save;
for me his precious blood he shed,
for me his life he gave. [Refrain]

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING 1 Corinthians 15:42-44

(By Naume Amuge)

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

SECOND READING 2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8

(Angella Achopa)

For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

ALL: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary; he suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead, on the third day He rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON
(By Rt. Rev. Bishop Prof. Alfred Olwa)

OFFERTORY

Because He Lives

God sent His son
They called Him Jesus
He came to love
Heal and forgive
He bled and died
To buy my pardon
An empty grave
Is there to prove
My savior lives

And because He lives
I can face tomorrow

Because He lives
All fear is gone
Because I know
He holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives

And then one day
I'll cross the river
And I'll fight life's final war
with pain
And then
As death gives way to vic-
tory
I'll see the lights of glory
And I'll know He reigns

Because He lives
I can face tomorrow
Because He lives
All fear is gone
Because I know
He holds the future
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives (He
lives) Hallelujah
He lives

Pass me not, O gentle Savior

1 Pass me not, O gentle Savior,
Hear my humble cry,
While on others Thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.

Refrain:
Savior, Savior,
Hear my humble cry;
While on others Thou art calling,
Do not pass me by.

2 Let me at a throne of mercy
Find a sweet relief;
Kneeling there in deep contrition,
Help my unbelief. [Refrain]

3 Trusting only in Thy merit,
Would I seek Thy face;
Heal my wounded, broken spirit,
Save me by Thy grace. [Refrain]

4 Thou the Spring of all my comfort,
More than life to me,
Whom have I on earth beside Thee?
Whom in heav'n but Thee? [Refrain]

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain:
This is my story, this is my song,

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praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect communion, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight.
Angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. [Refrain]

Perfect submission, all is at rest.
I in my Savior am happy and bless'd,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. [Refrain]

(All stand and say)

You Christ are the King of glory; the eternal Son of the Father. When you became man to set us free; you did not abhor the Virgin's womb. You overcame the sting of death, and opened

The kingdom of heaven to all believers. You are seated at the Right hand of God in glory; We believe that you will come and be our judge. Come then Lord and help your people; bought with the price of Your own blood and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.

Clergy: Let us pray; Lord have mercy upon us

All: Christ have mercy upon us

Clergy: Lord have mercy upon us

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INTERCESSION

(The Clergy may pray as the Holy Spirit shall lead him, or using the following order of intercession)

Grant us Lord, the wisdom and the grace to use aright the time that is left to us here on earth. Lead us to repent of our sins, the evil we have done and the good we have not done, and strengthen us to follow the steps of your Son, in the way that leads to the fullness of eternal life through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Merciful Father and Lord of all life, we praise you that all people are made in your image and reflect your truth and light. We thank you for the life of your servant **Hon. Justice Rubby Opio Awer** for the love and mercy he received from you and showed among us: Above all we rejoice at your gracious promise to all your servants, living and departed, that we shall rise again at the coming of Christ, and ask that in due time we may share with our brother that clearer vision, when we shall see your face in the Christ our Lord. Amen

EULOGY: SPEECHES

(The presiding Clergy invites the MC to lead in the eulogy)

Rock of Ages

1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
save from wrath and make me pure.

2 Not the labors of my hands

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can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.

3 Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.

4 While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

BENEDICTION

Clergy: The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds to the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen!

RECESSIONAL HYMN

It is well with my soul

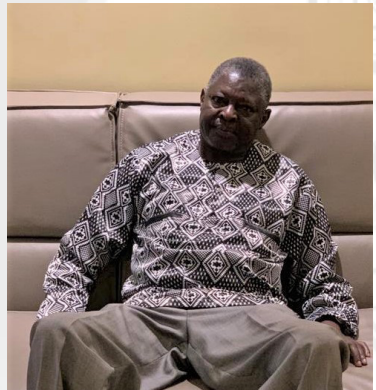
1 When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll;
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
“It is well, it is well with my soul.”

Refrain (may be sung after final stanza only):
It is well with my soul;
it is well, it is well with my soul.

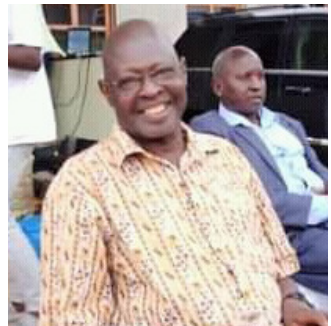
2 Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
let this blest assurance control:
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed his own blood for my soul. Refrain

3 My sin oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
my sin, not in part, but the whole,
is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more;
praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! Refrain

4 O Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend;
even so, it is well with my soul. Refrain









MESSAGE OF THANKS

The family of the Late Hon. Justice Rubby Opio Aweri wish to express our profound thanks, appreciation and gratitude to H.E. The President of the Republic of Uganda, The Vice President, The Speaker of Parliament, The Chief Justice of the Republic of Uganda, Hon. Deputy Speaker, Hon. Deputy Chief Justice of the Republic of Uganda, The Prime Minister, All Ministers, The Principal Judge, The Chief Registrar and The Permanent secretary/ Secretary to The Judiciary, The Judiciary Family, Justice, Law and Order Institution, The Clergy both in Kampala and Lira, Dokolo, Ministry of Health, MEGWA family, Relatives, friends and In-laws.

The seemingly insurmountable challenges ahead of us would be overwhelming if it were not for you. Your presence has made the journey light and bearable. May the good Lord bless you abundantly.



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