

Uganda Peoples Congress

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PRESS STATEMENT

WE MOURN A GREAT CONGRESSMAN HON PATRICK J. MWONDHA

1. Uganda Peoples Congress suffered a double tragedy. The Party joins the family and the country in the mourning of a great Congressman, Hon. Patrick J. Mwendha who passed away on Tuesday 19th January, 2016.

Mr. Higenyi Kemba, the Party's Chief Administrator also lost his mother, and the Party wishes to extend condolences to his family.

2. Hon Patrick J. Mwendha has contributed greatly to UPC and Uganda in various political capacities, for instance, he was one of the youngest person ever to serve as a Member of Parliament, and was also appointed to the Cabinet of 1980-1985, in which he served as Deputy Minister of Local Government.
3. From the time after the coup of 1985-2005, the Late was one of the senior UPC Members who gave hope for the future, especially with the relentless struggle to return the country to multiparty politics; this was finally achieved in 2005/06.

4. Hon. Patrick J. Mwendha during those trying moments of the ban of plural politics was of great help in handling all the key preparations for the famous Wednesday Press Conference at the Party Headquarters, Uganda House. His legacy is characterized by extraordinary talent and an ability to excel, for example;

- A firmly committed Congressperson, who never abandoned the Party/Country when the going got tough, he stood firm as a UPC loyalist and cadre.
- As a Minister, he was an effective straightforward person and remained firm even after the UPC Government was overthrown.
- The Party has lost an elder, advisor, a strong pillar whose contribution of educating our citizens, especially the Youth on nationalism, pan-Africanism and internationalism.

5. As regards to the re-building of the Party, Hon Patrick J. Mwendha was a pivotal figure, as he is considered a 'moving Encyclopedia' of the UPC ideology and history. He was a key bridge between the older and the young Congress. UPC has lost a member of great wisdom and courage. He represented the true image of the party of ideas, as he himself was a personality embedded with new ideas. He was a passionate advocate of the Party's struggle to eradicate poverty, ignorance and disease.

6. Hon Patrick J. Mwendha has held other important political offices as summarized below.

- Member of Parliament 1980-85,1989-95, 1996-2001,2001-06
- Member, the Constituent Assembly 1993-1995
- Party Treasurer 2005-2010
- Special Presidential Envoy 2010
- Transition Chairman 2015
- Party Vice President 2015-till his death

7. The tentative funeral and burial arrangements are being arranged by the Party and Government, and the public will be advised as soon as they are complete. Below is the tentative programme;

- Wednesday - There will be a vigil at his Kampala home in Kanyanya .
- Thursday - Requiem Service at All Saints Cathedral, Nakasero at 10:00am, body will leave for the ancestral
- Thursday - Public viewing of the Body at Party Headquarters, Uganda House from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM, and the body leaves for his home village, Ntanda, in Bugiri District.
- Friday - Burial will start at 12:00 noon at Ntanda, Bugiri District.

FOR GOD AND MY COUNTRY

**J. AKENA , MP
PRESIDENT**