

Introduction

This is a tribute to an iconic figure, a seasoned academic, and a caring human being.

Education and Research Interests

Professor Kamwendo obtained a Diploma in Education and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Malawi. He went on to obtain an MA from Lancaster University, UK and a PhD from the University of Helsinki, in Finland.

He was known for his research interests and contribution in Language Education, Sociolinguistics, Language Policy and Planning. He published extensively in reputable journals such as the Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development; International Journal of the Sociology of Language; Language Policy; Language Problems and Language Planning; English Today; Language Matters; Alternations; and others.

Publications

Professor Kamwendo was a prolific author in Sociolinguistics Studies and Education and he contributed to the field significantly in research projects, supervision and publications. In addition, he was a Guest Editor of the journal Language Matters in 2009 and Alternation in 2014, both of which are prestigious interdisciplinary Journals for the Study of the Arts and Humanities in Southern Africa. He was also the Guest Editor of the Nordic Journal of African Studies in 2016. He was also one of the members of the editorial advisory board of the journal Inkanyiso, the University of Zululand Journal of Humanities and Social Sciences. He is one of three editors of the book Multilingualism in Education and Communities in Southern Africa with Dudu Jankie and Andy Chebanne. Professor Kamwendo published 4 books, 28 book chapters, edited 3 special journal issues as a guest editor, more than fifty journal articles and presented numerous conference papers. He supervised numerous Master's and Doctoral candidates.

Positions of Responsibility

Professor Kamwendo was a Deputy Director for the Centre for Language Studies in Malawi before moving to the University of Botswana, where he was appointed Head of the Department of Languages and Social Sciences Education. He was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in 2007, and in 2010 he was promoted to the rank of Full Professor in Language Education.

He was an Associate and a key contributor to the agenda of the Center for Advanced Studies of African Society (CASAS), and a former Dean and Head of School of Education at the University of KwaZulu-Natal, Professor Kamwendo was the Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Zululand at the time of his passing. The passing of Professor Kamwendo has left this Community of Practice and

indeed the Academia as a whole with a deep sense of devastation, in particular with reference to the manner in which his life was ended.

As the Dean and Head of School of Education at UKZN, Professor Kamwendo led the School of Education with dedication and grace. He spearheaded numerous programmes that would profit not only students from UKZN but students across the SADC region through a colossal PhD cohort programme. He led a panel of experts to review the UKZN Language Policy and Plan to be one of the most clear and unambiguous policies that I know. He led this panel with humility, humor and clarity of purpose, attributes that were the hallmark of this character. He was very generous with his time and provided advice and mentorship to many of his colleagues. I am very proud to say I profited from his mentorship.

During his tenure as the Dean of Arts at UniZulu, and through his involvement as Treasurer of the South African Humanities Dean's Association (SAHUDA), he brought extensive experience to these professional positions. He also had extensive engagement through previous work experience at various universities such as in Malawi (where he worked at the University of Malawi), Botswana (University of Botswana) and South Africa (University of KwaZulu-Natal and the University of Zululand).

After joining UniZulu, Professor Kamwendo became the principal driver of the development of the Language Policy of the University of Zululand and also the principal resource in the contextual revival of Humanities and Social Sciences at the university and nationally. One of the projects that were his passion is the establishment of a community media radio and television station at the University of Zululand.

Professor Kamwendo was dedicated to his work, vocation and profession. He was a quintessential professional who was passionate about the growth and development of the next generation of academics.

Family man

Professor Kamwendo was a staunch Catholic Christian who loved everyone he knew. He was an accessible, loving, humble and happy father, grandfather, colleague, and friend to his family and to all of us. I knew him personally. He always called me "my brother from another mother", as he indeed called many that knew him. For he always treated everybody equally, with love. Everyone around him was family. He was a family man.

A seasoned academic and a loving soul. We are indeed, poorer without this man. Rest in Peace Professor Gregory Kamwendo.
