



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

Citation on

Professor Gerald Munene Mugeru

on his conferment of

The Honorary Doctor of Science (D.Sc.)

of the

University of Nairobi

on

27th November, 2000

Afr
Pamph
LG
2000/2
C.2



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

Citation on

Professor Gerald Munene Mugeru

on his conferment of

The Honorary Doctor of Science (D.Sc.)

of the

University of Nairobi

on

AFRICANA COLLECTION

27th November, 2000

**PROFESSOR G.M. MUGERA. Dip. Vet. Sc. (E.A.) M.Sc., Ph.D.
(Michigan State). Hon. D.Sc. (Egerton University), FKA.**

The University of Nairobi is pleased to honour a man who has played a crucial role in the development of the oldest faculty of this University; the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. He is the man who developed the curriculum for Veterinary Medicine suitable for the East African Region which was accepted by the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations for International Registration as a Veterinary Teaching Institution. He also developed a postgraduate programme in the Department of Veterinary Pathology, which for a long time was the only centre for higher education in Veterinary Medicine for East, West and Southern Africa.

We wish to honour a man who has supervised a total of fifty (50) prominent scholars in the area of Veterinary Medicine from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Botswana and Malawi for doctoral and master's degrees, and has had a direct hand in the training of all the academic staff manning our Faculty of Veterinary Medicine today. He has served as Faculty Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, for twelve (12) years, and as Chairman, Department of Veterinary Pathology and Microbiology, for fifteen (15) years. This man is Professor Gerald Munene Mugeru.

The young Munene Mugeru chose to study Veterinary Medicine out of a strong love for cattle that he developed early in his life as he herded his father's cattle from the age of four (4). Gerald Munene Mugeru was born to Mutithi Waruthitu Mugeru and his first wife Wanjiru Muguti on September 21, 1934, at Karaini Village, Kirinyaga District of Kenya's Central province. He was the last born in a household of two brothers and two sisters. He was named Munene (which means chief) after his grandfather - Chief Mugeru.

EAST AFRICANA COLLECTION

Munene Mugeru first attended Karaini Anglican Church School from 1942 to 1944 where he learnt to read and write on the dust floor of

a grass thatched shed. Then he proceeded to Mutira Anglican Church School from 1945 to 1946. He wrote his first National Examination, the “ Common Entrance Examination” in 1946. In the same year he was baptized into the Anglican faith. He obtained excellent grades in Kikuyu Grammar, General Knowledge and Mathematics and proceeded to the Government Boarding School at Kagumo in Nyeri, where he sat for his Kenya African Preliminary Examination (KAPE) in 1949. He joined Machakos Junior Secondary School where he passed the Kenya African Secondary Examination (KASE) and joined the famous Alliance High School in 1952. At Alliance High School, Mugeru passed the Cambridge School Certificate with a first Division. His success took him to Makerere University where he studied Chemistry, Physics and Biology at intermediate level. He performed so well in his studies that he joined the Faculty of Veterinary Science at Makerere. He graduated in April, 1960 with a Diploma in Veterinary Science. His performance in these studies was so good that he was appointed Assistant Lecturer in Makerere, teaching large Animal Medicine and Surgery.

Mugeru was awarded a Fullbright Scholarship in 1961 for further studies in Veterinary Medicine. He had a choice to go either to Michigan State University in the United States or to Edinburgh University in Scotland. He chose Michigan. Here he earned his Master’s Degree in Veterinary Pathology and Microbiology, performing so well that he was awarded an American International Development Agency Scholarship to proceed directly into doctoral studies. He studied for another three years at Michigan, earning his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in 1965 at the age of thirty one (31).

Professor Mugeru’s doctoral thesis was entitled “Cycad Toxicosis and Carcinogenesis in Animals”. His research work has been of interest to veterinary scientists as well as medical professionals because it deals with cancer inducing properties of plants eaten by cattle and human beings in East Africa. Liver and kidney cancers are common human diseases in East Africa and Professor Mugeru’ research work has indicated that the diseases could come about partly due to substances

from some plants which form part of the diet. His research has expanded knowledge with respect to certain plants, their properties, their medicinal, toxic and carcinogenic properties. He has also carried out research on various diseases. Professor Mugeru has published seventy five (75) papers in international journals and two text books.

Professor Mugeru's research work is acclaimed internationally. He has attended many international conferences in all continents of the world presenting his research findings and has been entered into the *Who is Who in the world* book as a result. Professor Mugeru was the first black African to be awarded a Ph.D. in the area of Veterinary Medicine in Africa. He transferred from Makerere to the University of Nairobi in 1965.

He is well known across and outside the country for his scholarly work. He is a member of the East African Veterinary Council and one of the editors of the *Bulletin of Animal Health and Production in Africa* (IBAR). He joined hands with other scholars in founding and promoting the Kenya National Academy of Sciences and the African Academy of Sciences. He has acted as External Examiner for veterinary students for universities in a number of other African countries. Professor Mugeru rose through the administrative structures of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at a time when the teaching staff was predominately expatriate. He recruited qualified Kenyan scientists into the academic staff of the Faculty, and in so doing proved himself a nationalist. He recruited men like Prof. Geoffrey Ole Maloiy, Prof. Richard Musangi, Prof. Christopher Karue and the late Prof. Geoffrey Wandera.

Among Professor Mugeru's personal strong points is his ability to listen to even the most junior member of staff. His demeanour betrays his belief that the other person has something important to say. Those who have done higher degree work under him will attest to his benevolence. Without saying much, he will nevertheless leave you in no doubt that he wants you to do well. All in all, he has contributed immensely to scholarship in Africa and the world at large.

Professor Mugeru is married with four (4) children, two of whom are medical doctors. His hobbies include reading inspirational books and farming.

In August, 1999, Egerton University honoured Professor Mugeru with an honorary degree of Doctor of Science, in recognition of his contributions, nationally and internationally, in the areas of education, veterinary science, agriculture and university administration.

We in the University of Nairobi take pride in honouring one of our own; a scholar; a humble yet highly effective professional veterinarian and academic.

We are proud to present the first black Ph.D. holder in Veterinary Medicine in Africa, for the conferment of the degree of Doctor of Science (D.SC.), *Honoris Causa*.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Professor Gerald Munene Mugeru.