



**Pan African Association of
Neurological Sciences**

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OBITUARY. PROF GERISHOM MUDANYA SANDE



Gerishom Mudanya Sande attended Kakamega High School in the early sixties where he did his “A” levels and passed with high grades such that he was selected to join Makerere University College to study Medicine. While at Kakamega High School, he was the School Captain. His contemporaries at Kakamega High School included Prof. Joseph Oliech, and the late Dr. Stefano Maleche, who was much his junior. Gerishom Sande graduated from Makerere University College which was part of the then University of East Africa, in 1969, with the degree of MBChB (EA). He worked at the Kenyatta National Hospital and Coast general Hospital, Mombasa as an intern and Medical Officer. In 1973, he was amongst the 3 pioneer doctors selected by the Ministry of Health to undertake training in General Surgery in the newly established MMed Program of the University of Nairobi at the Kenyatta National Hospital Campus. The others were the late Prof Peter Abila (Paediatric Surgeon) and Prof P A Odhiambo (Cardiothoracic Surgeon). He graduated with the MMed (General Surgery) degree, University of Nairobi, in 1976 after which he joined the Department of Surgery, University of Nairobi, on staff development, for further training in neurosurgery. He undertook his neurosurgical training at the KNH unit, which had been established in 1974 and was headed by Prof J Dar. He received further training in neurosurgery at the Institute of Neurological Sciences, Glasgow, United Kingdom, under Prof Bryan Jennet and Prof Graham Teasdale, after which he returned back to Kenya and rejoined the unit. In 1984, with the departure of Dr. J Dar, who was on secondment to the unit from the Indian Government, Prof Gerishom Sande became head of the neurosurgical unit. Prominent neurosurgeons who were privileged to have worked with him in the unit include Prof Nimrod J M Mwang’ombe, Dr. Mahmood Qureshi, the late Dr. Athanus Maingi, Dr. Gregory Mulunga, and Dr. Patrick Akuku. He retired from the University in 1990 to go into full time private practice in Nairobi where he was based until his retirement from active neurosurgical practice. Prof Sande was Hon. Secretary of the Association Surgeons of East Africa (1979-1983) and Chairman 1985. He was Hon Secretary of Pan African Association of neurological Sciences 1981-1983 and, later, Chairman, Association of Professional Societies of East Africa. Prof Sande retired to a quiet life in his farm in Migori County, Kenya, where he spent the later years of his life. He passed away in his sleep in the early hours of the morning on 30th October 2019. May the Almighty God rest his soul in eternal peace.

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