

MR. NATHAN IMBUGI LUVAI

Nominated as greatest Omulogoli

Mr. Nathan Imbugi Luvai was born in Maragoli, Western Province in 1919. He attended local schools in Vihiga before joining Alliance High School, Kikuyu from 1937 to 1940. He then trained as a teacher at Maseno from 1941 to 1942. He proceeded to Bristol University in 1957 from where he obtained a Diploma in Social Policy and Administration in 1958. He also attended further studies at the university College Swansea – Wales in 1965/66

Mr. Luvai served as a teacher in various schools in Western Kenya and Nyanza Province from 1943 to 1950. He subsequently served as Supervisor of Friends Africa Mission (FAM) schools in Western Kenya from 1951 to 1960. He dedicated his life to the promotion of education in Western Kenya and Nyanza. As supervisor of schools, he covered long distances in Western Kenya by motorbike, a difficult and dangerous mode of travel at the time, considering the bad roads and wild animals.

In 1960, he was appointed Warden of Friends Centre Ofafa in Nairobi. This is a community center offering social services for a community comprising mainly the under privileged and school dropouts. The center offered training in carpentry, needlework, typing, adult literacy and recreational facilities. He later became Warden of the Friends International Centre, Ngong Road Nairobi until 1975. During this period, he also served as Executive Secretary of the Africa Section of the Friends World Committee for Consultation, (FWCC)

Mr. Luvai was a keen scout and scout leader. He led the Kenyan scout contingent to the world jamboree in Great Britain in 1957. He is a very committed Christian, and a member of the Friends Church (Quakers). He has served in various leadership positions in the church.

Mr. Luvai is the author of the book “Miima jo Mulogooli” published in 1986. The book is an important reference on the beliefs and practices of the Maragoli sub tribe. Together with his late wife Phoebe, they founded the Chango Women’s group, one of the earliest self-help groups, which greatly uplifted the social and economic status of the members.

Mr. Luvai has now retired from active service. He lives in Chango, Maragoli where he practices small-scale farming. He still holds weekly bible study in his house with his neighbours. He is an immense resource for counsel and advice on various matters for his community.

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