



Book of Condolence

Anthony Mulenga Zimba

1954-2020



WITH
Sympathy



It is with great sadness that IBE learned of the death of its esteemed Treasurer, Anthony Mulenga Zimba. Anthony had a long history of service to IBE, having served on the African Regional Committee from 2005 to 2009 and on its International Executive Committee for the last 11 years, firstly as Vice President for the African Region from 2009 to 2017 and then as Treasurer from 2017 until his passing. During this time, he worked tirelessly on behalf of people with epilepsy and those who care for them. His particular focus was on his beloved Africa and, as a result of his efforts, many IBE chapters in the region were supported through the IBE Promising Strategies Program in a range of projects aimed at improving their quality of life through training, advocacy and employment opportunities. He was also a member of the organising committee of the African Regional Epilepsy Congresses that took place in Nairobi, Cape Town, Dakar and Entebbe.

Anthony was the founder of the Epilepsy Association of Zambia in 2001, which became a chapter of IBE soon thereafter. To improve his knowledge and skills in the epilepsy and allied fields, he undertook a number of professional courses including the Professional Diploma in Epilepsy Care from Leeds Metropolitan University, UK; the Certificate in Clinical Epilepsy from the Foundation for Professional Development, South Africa; and the Certificate in Project Management at the University of Zambia. Previously, in 1982, he had studied for a Diploma in Clinical Medical Sciences at the College of Health Sciences in Lusaka.

He worked as an Epilepsy Specialist at Levy Mwanawasa Hospital in Lusaka and established epilepsy clinics at government health institutions in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. He also had a private practice - the Country Travellers' Health Care Clinic - which specialises in psychiatry and epilepsy. To his colleagues and patients, his death will be a tremendous loss.

On behalf of the IBE International Executive Committee and all his colleagues at IBE, we extend our deepest sympathy at this very sad time to you, his family. We hope that memories you hold of Anthony as a husband and father and deserved pride in his dedication to people living with epilepsy both in Zambia and across the entire African region, will help you at this very difficult time.

May he rest in peace.

Martin Brodie
President

Mary Secco
Secretary General

Ann Little
Executive Director



The following pages contain more than 70 messages of sympathy received by IBE following the announcement of Anthony's death. A testament to the high regard in which he was held by friends, colleagues and the wider epilepsy community.

Scotland

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of Anthony Zimba. My wife Carol and I had the pleasure of knowing him well only since September 2017, when I took over the presidency of IBE, and he became our treasurer. Shortly after, he visited us at our home in Glasgow and we spent some time together getting to know one another at different venues across the world. During his time on the Management Committee, we became aware of his long-standing commitment and contribution to epilepsy care in Africa. He was a valued member of the IBE team and a fine person. He will be sadly missed.

We send our sincere condolences to his grieving family.

Martin (IBE President) and Carol Brodie

Spain

We want to join in condolences for the death of Anthony Zimba.

Those of us who form the association and I, as its president, appreciate the work and dedication that he made for people with epilepsy and their families, thus contributing to change and to improve the lives of those who need us so much.

Our condolences to his family and loved ones. D.E.P.

Isabel Madrid, President

National Association of People with Epilepsy-ANPE, Spain

Mauritius

To our beloved brother Anthony Mulenga Zimba who visited us in October 2012 in Mauritius and supported our organisation all the way. He was indeed a greater fighter for epilepsy and his contribution to the African region is unsurpassed. We were blessed to have him amidst Edycs Epilepsy Group team in Mauritius.

We'll greatly miss you and pray your soul rest in peace.

Youssouf Noormamode CSK

President Edycs Epilepsy Group (Mauritius)

USA

I only got to meet Ba Anthony Zimba in the past few years but quickly realized how dedicated he was to improving the lives of all those living with epilepsy in Africa. He will be greatly missed.

My deepest sympathy to his family during this challenging time. My thoughts and prayers are with them during this challenging time.

Nathalie Jette MD MSc FRCP(C) CSCN (EEG)

Department of Neurology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, USA

Opening Ceremony of the 33rd International Epilepsy Congress, Bangkok, June 2019



Bangladesh

Rest in peace, Mr Anthony Mulenga Zimba.

*Yamin Shahriar Chowdhury
Assistant Professor
National Institute of Neurosciences*

Belgium

No one deserves to die, no one deserves to leave this world before the battle they are fighting is finished.

As a former volunteer for Youth on the Move, I partly know the difficulties of being a person with epilepsy in Africa. Therefore I'm very touched to read that Anthony Zimba focussed on his Africa. That he made a difference in, without a doubt, so many lives.

I wish all of them close to him all the strength to find peace with his loss.

*Leonieke Kalkman
Volunteer, Epilepsie Liga*

Morocco

Toutes mes condoléances à toute sa famille et aux confrères qui l'ont connu personnellement.

(My condolences to all his family and to colleagues who knew him personally).

*Zemrag
Neurologue, LMCE Maroc*

Canada

I was heartbroken to hear the sad news about Anthony . I met him a few times and we corresponded by email. He was so passionate about helping people with epilepsy. He will be dearly missed.

*Deirdre Floyd
President
Canadian Epilepsy Alliance*

India

It is indeed a sad day for our community. I remember Anthony being very dedicated to the cause of epilepsy in his region and worldwide. Was very clear in his presentations and earnest towards helping people with epilepsy. His loss is a loss to the work of epilepsy.

I convey my condolence and that of the Indian Epilepsy Society to his family. May his soul rest in peace.

It is both a personal and professional loss to me.

*Manjari Tripathi
Secretary General
Indian Epilepsy Society*

Italy

Hello my friend,

I will miss our regular meetings.

I will miss our lively discussions, always enriched by your good humor.

I will miss your determination to make your country, your continent and the whole planet a better place for those living with epilepsy.

Your memory and good deeds will remain for us forever, and will continue to inspire our efforts to improve the life of people with epilepsy on a truly global scale.

May your soul rest in peace, dear 'Ba' Anthony.

*Emilio Perucca
Immediate Past President
International League Against Epilepsy*

USA

Anthony Zimba was a dedicated leader and advocate for the cause of eradicating epilepsy and its effects in Africa and around the world. As a member of the IBE International Executive Committee, Anthony had great respect for the global work of IBE and was always driving forward a vision for saving and improving more lives. His work impacted many and his legacy will inspire others to join the cause.

Personally, I will miss his passionate arguments- always made with a disarming smile, and will miss his friendship even more.

*Phil Gattone, M.Ed.
Former President & CEO
Epilepsy Foundation*

Rwanda

On behalf of GECO I may share a good experience we had at the Bangkok congress and in Uganda last year in August. We shared different experiences and we appreciate his good will to improve the well being of people with epilepsy in Africa!

*Chantal Kanyabutembo
GECO Chair*

Congo DR

I am so sorry to hear of Prof. Anthony Zimba's passing and the pain is unbearable. You were a wonderful man, strong, kind, hardworking and overly helpful. I saw you in March 2020, in Lusaka when you invited me and stay for 10 days, to work face to face finally to promote our Epilepsy association in DRC (ASLEK).

Your last message of July 31, 2020 makes me cry every moment, when you were in hospital bed and you told me on Whatsapp "prince pray for me". I will miss you very much. No one can replace such a dear person. In truth, life will never be the same without you.

To the whole family, please rest assured that you are on our minds.

Rest in peace my president as I liked to call you. I will never forget you.

Dr Prince Kazadi

ASLEK EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION IN DRC

Canada

This news is so sad. My heart breaks for his family. He was a very vocal advocate for people with epilepsy in Africa.

Mary Secco

IBE Secretary General

Egypt

Very sad news to hear. He will be greatly missed. My deepest condolences to his family and colleagues.

Best regards

Hassan Hosny

IBE Vice President Eastern Mediterranean Region

South Africa

Zambia has lost a leader and advocate in the fight for better care for people with epilepsy. Anthony did so much for his country, Africa and beyond. I will miss our chats at various airports on-route to the next epilepsy meeting. Anthony was there from the beginning with the launch of the first African Epilepsy Congress and involved in all the subsequent ones.

Jo Wilmshurst

Head of Dept, Paediatric Neurology

University of Cape Town

Kenya

Never met the late epilepsy icon but from what I understand I believe he was a passionate friend to us persons living with epilepsy and worked for our good. I just want to call upon the IBE leadership to look at epilepsy treatment beyond medication. As a person living with epilepsy I know for real that other factors too need to be addressed as well for us to live our lives to the fullest.

Banard Mbuya

Epilepsy Awareness Ambassador

Ethiopia

With sadness I write these lines after learning with shock that Anthony has passed away. He was well known and much appreciated by all of us on his tireless devotion in persuading epilepsy associations to become chapter members of IBE. I was rest assured to leave behind Anthony as my successor as Vice President Africa to return to my busy neurosurgical practice, believing that he would pass on the leadership to younger generations of Africa - and he did!

He was serving as Treasurer of IBE until his last breath. He will be dearly remembered by all of us who were fortunate to meet and discuss with him about the future of people with epilepsy in our continent and beyond. His untimely death is a profound loss for his wife, children, people with epilepsy in Zambia and Africa.

May his soul rest in peace.

Zenebe Gedlie Damtie

Consultant Neurosurgeon

Christmas International Brain and Spine Hospital

Zambia

It's with a heavy heart to hear of the demise of our Chairman for Epilepsy Association of Zambia, Mr Anthony Mulenga Zimba. He will be missed for the passion he had in ensuring the well-being of people living with epilepsy. He was an advocate who stood up for the right cause in our country in uplifting the voice of the underprivileged and side-lined due to the condition.

It's really hard to accept the truth of this loss, but with God Almighty's power and guidance, his works will be appreciated by the higher authority and supported. Farewell our big brother and will definitely miss you. Go well, Go well.

Godfrey Chisenga-

Former Liaison Officer

Zambia

RIP my Dr Zimba. I am who I am because you treated me for epilepsy in 2008. I am free from epilepsy since then. You helped me understand all about epilepsy and thus made me want to teach many about it. You also helped some of my family members and friends. Your death has really left me In shock.

Stuliswiwe

Student nurse

UK/Gambia

I first met Anthony Zimba at the 2003 International Epilepsy Congress in Lisbon, Portugal. He was attending his first congress and I was attending my third but we were both there representing the patient and social point of view which was very under-represented at the time in congresses. I could see the determination in Anthony's eyes right from the start with his aim to improve attitudes towards epilepsy in Africa along with the treatment gaps.

He had already set up his own Epilepsy Association of Zambia in 2001. But after visiting the International congress he became a ongoing board member of the IBE in various roles and studied for numerous epilepsy qualifications.

In 2006 he came to visit the Gambia Epilepsy Association and spoke to member patients, the World Health Organisation, St Theresa's School, Royal Victoria Teaching Hospital (now known as the Edward Francis Teaching Hospital) staff, the

Health Secretary and West Coast Radio Station phone in. He campaigned for a regular IBE/ILAE African Epilepsy Congress by hosting his own trial congress in 2009 in Zambia. I was honoured to be invited by him to be a speaker and was impressed by the number of children he was getting to the event every day before school from 8am to 9pm.

As a result of Anthony's actions and campaigning the African Epilepsy Congress became an official IBE/ILAE event in 2012.

Anthony was always a very close friend and we kept in touch for 17 years by phone, text or social network. Whenever we met in person two or three times a year, he would always introduce me to people as either his girlfriend or his wife!

You will be truly missed Anthony. Although I feel a part of me has died too I hope all the epilepsy work you have achieved will live on in your memory.

Rest in peace Anthony.

Tanya Spensley
Patron of Gambia Epilepsy Association
Founder of Epilepsy Footprint (UK)

Australia

Thank you for your support to the epilepsy world. I am so lucky we had the chance to meet in Bangkok.

May you Rest In Peace and your family find comfort in knowing your hard work will never be forgotten. A true gentleman.

Scarlett Paige
Golden Light Bangkok 2019

China

The entire epilepsy community of the China Association against Epilepsy (CAAE) mourns the great loss of Ba Anthony Zimba. He leaves a great vacuum in the epilepsy community of the globe.

I pass on my thoughts and condolences to you, my colleagues in Africa and may his soul rest in eternal peace.

Kindest regards

Dr Shichuo Li
and on behalf of the CAAE

USA

I was deeply saddened to hear of the departure from this world of Ba Anthony Zimba. My colleagues who worked with him had nothing but high praise for him as a physician and as a person. It is a sad day. Please accept condolences, thoughts, and wishes for his family not only from me, but also from the entire community of the American Epilepsy Society

William D Gaillard
President, American Epilepsy Society

Chile

Anthony: we will remember you always as a great epilepsy leader, particularly in Africa.

Our condolences to his family and friends.

Tomas Mesa MD
President, Chilean League Against Epilepsy
Vice President IBE Latin American Region

Tunisia

Le départ prématuré de notre ami Anthony Zimba nous a beaucoup affecté. Anthony était très passionné par son engagement à améliorer la vie des personnes avec épilepsie. Nos rencontres étaient passionnantes et instructives.

Il laissera un grand espace vide non seulement pour sa famille et ses patients mais aussi pour nous.

A visit to the IBE chapter in Mauritius in 2012. Anthony is pictured centre of back row in a white shirt.



Au nom de tous les épéptologues de la région méditerranéenne orientale (ILAE-EMR), je présente mes sincères condoléances à sa famille, à ses collègues et à tous ceux qui l'ont connu.

The premature departure of our friend Anthony Zimba affected us a lot. Anthony was very passionate about his commitment to improving the lives of people with epilepsy. Our meetings were fascinating and informative.

He will leave a large empty space not only for his family and patients but also for us.

On behalf of all the epileptologists of the Eastern Mediterranean region (ILAE-EMR), I offer my sincere condolences to his family, his colleagues and all those who knew him.

Chahnez Charfi Triki
Chair of ILAE-EMR

Sudan

To Anthony

Effervescing in the car,

On the way to Khartoum Airport,

We sang with joy,

Your name.

Dr Victor Patterson
Visiting Professor
University of Khartoum

Australia

Epilepsy Action Australia was saddened to hear of the death of Anthony Mulenga Zimba on 9 August 2020. We pay tribute to his contribution to people with epilepsy and the IBE.

Carol Ireland
Chief Executive Officer
Epilepsy Action Australia

India

So sorry to learn the sad demise of my very dear friend Anthony Mulenga Zimba. He was a simple soul, God fearing and well meaning person.

His death has caused great loss to the Epilepsy Community and a void in IBE.

We will miss you.

Please keep blessing us from heaven.

God bless everyone

Man Mohan Mehndiratta
IBE Vice President South East Asia

UK

Dear Anthony, while I did not know you well, I was always aware of your reputation as an individual who was dedicated

to improving the quality of life for people with epilepsy.

The Epilepsy community will always be grateful for your contribution.

Prof Gus A Baker
Professor of Clinical Neuropsychology
Liverpool

USA

To the family of Anthony Zimba: Please accept my deepest condolences for your loss.

My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Ana Cris
New York

Zambia

On behalf of Classic Ladies Of Zambia, To Miss Cindy Zimba and the entire family, let me pass our deepest condolences on the recent passing of Mr Anthony Mulenga Zimba. Our condolences on the passing of your father. We are deeply saddened by the loss that you and your family have encountered. We offer you our thoughts, prayers and well-wishes during this dark time in your life.

As the days and weeks pass, and as you return to life's routine, may you continue to feel comforted by the love and support of family and friends.

May your hearts soon be filled with wonderful memories of joyful times together as you celebrate a life well lived.

MHSRIP

Ruth Sakala
Chairperson
Classic Ladies of Zambia

Zambia

My deepest heartfelt condolences to the family...may God give you strength and may He also comfort you during this trying time...

For you I am praying.

Mutumba Lisa Situmbeko
Insurance Broker
Norwich Insurance Brokers

Jamaica

I have fond memories of Anthony. I recall him being a gentle soul who worked diligently and quietly, but was always affable and approachable with quite a sense of humor.

May you rest in everlasting peace, Anthony

Judy Tapper
Paediatrician/Neurologist
University of the West Indies



4th African Regional Epilepsy Congress, Dakar, Senegal 2018 with, from left, Thanos Covanis, Janet Mifsud and Martin Brodie.

USA

An extraordinary advocate for people with epilepsy world wide with a close attachment to Africa. Anthony dealt with a multitude of issues with a smile and with hard work. Working with him was a constant reminder why we have created these international organizations to improve the lives of people with epilepsy. Anthony's work transcends him and his co-workers and students will carry his legacy.

Thank you for showing us the way.

Nico Moshe

Professor of Neurology, Neuroscience & Pediatrics
Past President ILAE (2009-2013)
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

Mexico

Que descanse en Paz Dr. Anthony.

Gracias por su dedicación en el trabajo para las personas con epilepsia.

May you rest in peace Dr Anthony.

Thank you for your dedication in your work for people with epilepsy.

Norma Hernandez-Vanegas

Director

Asociación Mexicana de Epilepsia en Niños y Adultos

Australia

I remember Anthony as a respectful and considered contributor to the IBE. He always gave me a warm and generous welcome whenever we met.

His life was clearly dedicated to improving the lives of people living with epilepsy. I will miss him and send my sincere thoughts to his family and friends.

Kind Regards

Graeme Shears
Chief Executive Officer
Epilepsy Foundation
Melbourne

Georgia

To the medical epilepsy of Zambia:

The Georgian League Against Epilepsy expresses its condolences on the passing on of Ba Anthony Zimba. Such persons represent the loss of not only one particular country and family, but the whole world.

Respectfully

Sofia Kasradze, MD

Associate Professor, Caucasus International University
Director, Institute of Neurology and Neuropsychology (INN)
President, Georgian League Against Epilepsy (GLAE)

India

I and the Indian Epilepsy Community are very sad on learning about the passing of 'Ba' Anthony. Please convey to his family our heartfelt condolences.

We join you in the prayers that his soul rest in peace.

Dr SATISH JAIN, MD; DM; FRCP

Director - Indian Epilepsy Centre

Advisor - Health Care, Family Welfare & Human Services

Government of Ikkim

New Delhi

Malta

This is really very sad news. Anthony worked so hard for the epilepsy community in Zambia and all of Africa and on an international level. He will be really greatly missed.

Please forward, on behalf of the Epilepsy Community in Malta, most sincere condolences and prayers to his family at this time.

Janet Mifsud

Fellow, British Pharmacological Society

Faculty of Medicine and Surgery

Dept of Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics

Msida, Malta

Russia

It is a very sad news, indeed, and a great loss for the epilepsy community. He played a prominent role in the IBE and ILAE, he was an excellent supporter and a very kind friend.

Let's all rise, please, and give Ba Anthony Zimba a moment of silence. We are now in different countries and time zones, but we are united in our grief for Anthony.

We honor his memory and will always remember him. May I express my deepest sympathy to his family and to all the colleagues and friends.

Kind regards

Prof Alla Guekht

*1st Vice President, International League Against Epilepsy
Director Moscow Research and Clinical Center for Neuropsychiatry
Head of Neurology and Epilepsy Clinic, Buyanov City Hospital
Moscow*

UK

This is truly a great loss. He has long been such an advocate for people with epilepsy in Africa.

Our thoughts are with his family at this time.

Professor J Helen Cross OBE

*The Prince of Wales's Chair of Childhood Epilepsy
Treasurer, International League Against Epilepsy
UCL-Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health
30 Guilford Street
London*

Japan

It is so sad to hear today that Prof. Ba Anthony Zimba has passed away due to pandemic COVID19.

It is such a big loss for his family, IBE, ILAE and people with epilepsy.

On behalf of ILAE-AO and JES, please send our sincere condolences to his family, all of you, colleagues and friends.

Akio IKEDA, MD, PhD, FACNS

Kyoto

Japan

Chile

On behalf of the Chilean League Against Epilepsy and the National Association of Chilean Leagues Against Epilepsy ANLICHE, IBE Chilean Chapter, I wish to express our deepest condolences on the recent passing of Doctor Anthony Mulenga Zimba, IBE Treasurer.

He will always be remembered as a great professional and kind person, and his contribution to IBE is largely appreciated.

Many of us who knew him or worked with him will sincerely feel his absence.

Doctor Alejandro de Marinis, Board President

Chilean League Against Epilepsy - LICHE & ANLICHE National Association of Chilean Leagues Against Epilepsy

Canada

The entire epilepsy community and friends around the world mourn the great loss of Ba Anthony Zimba. He leaves a great vacuum in the epilepsy community and in our own lives. I passed on my thoughts and condolences to our IBE colleagues and we will acknowledge as well in the ILAE media.

Samuel Wiebe MD, MSc, FCAHS, FRCPC

President, International League Against Epilepsy

Director, Clinical Research Unit

Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary

Zambia

What a loss! This shall be the overarching cry as the Zambia Non-Communicable Diseases Alliance (ZANOCODA) mourns the departure of Dr Anthony Zimba, a true son of the land. Dr Zimba had great passion for disease control and clinical management of not only epilepsy but all NCDs. He had a big heart for all sufferers and his desire was to see all such enjoying a great measure of good health, well controlled and assured of access to care. At a time when epilepsy became a neglected NCD, Dr Zimba single-handedly hunted for the health workers in that field and push them to get organized and offer service to the sufferers. He was a founding member of the Zambian NCD Alliance, an organization he desired to see grow. He has gone too soon! Farewell Anthony.

MHSRIP

ZAMBIA NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES ALLIANCE - an alliance comprising of

Zambia Heart and Stroke Foundation

Zambian Cancer Society

Tobacco – Free Association of Zambia

Diabetes Association of Zambia

Cardiac Trust of Zambia

Anti-Alcohol and Drug Abuse Zambia

Asthma Association of Zambia

Bwalo Trust Youth Development

Mental Health Users Network of Zambia

Beat Rheumatic Heart Disease Zambia

Epilepsy Association of Zambia to which Late Dr Anthony Zimba was the Vice-General Secretary.

Austria

Dear relatives of Anthony, my deepest condolences go to you. Anthony Mulenga Zimba - a true gentleman has passed away... Far too soon... I don't know when I met Anthony first, but it was a long time ago. He was very active - in Zambia, Africa and throughout the world... He was one of those men who always organized everything (e.g. the working together between Africa and Asia - and luckily I was also invited to join his work for the IBE - the last position he held was the treasurer for the IBE). Unfortunately we couldn't intensify our possible collaboration between Austria and Zambia - but this might be a project for the future. All of us lost a great friend, a supporter for people with epilepsy in Zambia, Africa and all over the world. Anthony Mulenga Zimba, he will be remembered forever - and never forgotten!

*Michael Alexa
President
Austrian Epilepsy Association*

Uganda

Ba Anthony Mulenga Zimba was something else. I remember him as very friendly, always smiling, active man when I first met him in Singapore in July 2007 at the 27th International Epilepsy Congress. I had gone to that meeting with another Ugandan colleague to inaugurate the Epilepsy Society of Uganda as a Chapter in the International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE).

Ba Anthony was very excited that Uganda had become a Chapter of the ILAE since he was aware that it was already a Chapter of the International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE). He expressed to me his desires that his country Zambia would soon follow suit but still had some hurdles to overcome. Over the years Ba Anthony became a good friend, and advisor to me since he had been longer in the African cause for the persons with epilepsy.

We met regularly at several other epilepsy congress meetings and he was one of the members that was instrumental in contributing to the establishment of the first Commission on African Affairs (CAA) of the ILAE held in Dakar, Senegal in November 2010. Ba Anthony had Africa at heart and the people with epilepsy always on his mind. This was obvious even when he was sometimes misunderstood for being obstinate and pompous when he spoke his mind about what he felt was the best approach to handling contentious issues. He often told me "Look Angelina my sister, as Africans we know our issues, and these are best solved by us, Africans".

The epilepsy world has lost a good father for its cause, especially for the African continent. I have felt a deep vacuum overwhelm me since I learned of his passing. But I'm getting through with time by reminding myself of the enthusiasm that Ba Anthony left behind, and the many lives he touched not only in Zambia where he practiced but internationally with whoever he interacted with. This memorial is a time for happiness, a time to celebrate his life, but that doesn't mean it isn't depressing. Ba Anthony could best be described as a

torch, which is a stick with combustible material at one end, that is ignited and used as a light source. In ancient Roman times some torches were made of Sulphur mixed with lime which meant that the fire it emitted would not diminish after being plunged into water. We wish to keep a similar torch that Ba Anthony set aflame for Africa burning, and also ensure that it be a source of hope and enlightenment for the struggle for improved epilepsy care in Africa.

I hope you will join me in remembering and celebrating Ba Anthony today and always. Today is our chance to say thank you for the way he brightened our lives, with his humor, stories and passion for the cause that no person's life is limited by epilepsy.

May you rest in eternal peace, comrade Ba Anthony Mulenga Zimba.

*Dr Angelina Kakooza Mwesige
Chair - ILAE-Africa
Past President Epilepsy Society of Uganda*

Georgia

Writing this message, I tried to remember our first meeting with Anthony and realized, that I cannot, because he inherently belonged to our Epilepsy Community. He was always there, bringing joy, energy and friendship. Since 2019, I have had the privilege of serving with him on the IBE Executive Committee and have witnessed his enthusiasm and passion for improving the lives of people with epilepsy, not only in Africa but around the world. Let me share my heart-felt condolence to whole Epilepsy Community and especially to Africa. Rest in peace dear Anthony, you will forever remain in my loving memory.

*Natela Okujava
Vice President Europe
International Bureau for Epilepsy*

eSwatini

On behalf of Eswatini Epilepsy Organization, I wish to extend my deepest condolences on the loss of our brother, Anthony Zimba. I personally had the honor of meeting and working with him on numerous occasions. We will forever remember him for his passion and dedication on addressing epilepsy challenges in Africa and beyond. He fought long and hard to get African countries to prioritize epilepsy and push the epilepsy agenda and we shall continue to do so. He saw the needs and lack of attention people living with epilepsy were experiencing and worked hard to change the status core. Africa has lost one of its selfless soldiers.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and colleagues during this difficult time.

May he rest in peace

*Mr. Mbusumuni Mahlalela
Executive Director
eSwatini Epilepsy Organization
Kingdom of eSwatini*



IBE Strategic Planning Meeting, London 2019

South Africa

Those we love like Anthony never go away. He will continue to walk next to us as it is hard to forget someone who gave us so much to remember. Those we love can never be more than a thought away, for as long as there's a memory they live in our hearts.

Anthony was one of the true African baobab trees whose shadow will act as our compass.

Hamba kahle, Baba! (Go well, father)

*Marina Clarke
National Director
Epilepsy South Africa*

Zambia

My HERO; a man who challenged myths and brought truth to what epilepsy is in his beloved Africa. He helped me accept my condition and peacefully live with it. What a great blow it is to the family he worked hard for, farewell my HERO and thanks for what you did in my life and others.

I promise to continue to fight like you fought and spread the "PURPLE NEWS". Your "purple kid" LUWI.

Luwi Kalamatila

Kosovo

On behalf of the Kosovo Chapter, I would like to express our sincere condolences to the family of Anthony Mulenga Zimba end to the African Epilepsy Society for your loss. If we can provide you comfort, know our thoughts are with you.

*Valbona Govori
President
Association Against Epilepsy in Kosovo*

Ireland

Over a decade of service is a wonderful achievement and we are all grateful for the fabulous work carried out and your contributions to all of those with epilepsy.

We are forever in your debt for your time and commitment to an international cause.

*Lorraine Lally
Epilepsy Ireland*

Malta

Anthony will be remembered for his enthusiasm and dedication to lobbying and advocating for epilepsy in Africa. He will be greatly missed for his infectious smile and keen sense of humour. However, the fruits of his labour and faith will remain and multiply.

Caritas Malta Epilepsy Association

Thailand

Please forward my condolence message to Anthony's family. I'm sorry to hear about Mr. Zimba's passing. May his soul rest in peace.

*Sue Phancharoen
Epilepsy Association of Thailand*

Cameroon

Thank you for all the services rendered for persons with epilepsy and their caregivers. I am confident You will enjoy a peaceful rest. Thank You. RIP

*Bakah Derick, Communications Associate
Cameroon Football Federation FECAFOOT*

Ireland

While we had learned that Anthony had been diagnosed with Covid-19 and had been hospitalized, his regular communication from his hospital bed, before his condition worsened, led us to believe that it was only a matter of time before he would be discharged and back home. It was a shock then, to hear that he had been moved to ICU where he passed away some days later.

I first met Anthony when he travelled to Portugal to attend the International Epilepsy Congress that took place in Lisbon in 2003. However, it was when he became a member of the African Regional Executive Committee in 2005 and then Vice President Africa on the IBE board in 2009, attending his first board meeting in Ghent, Belgium, that I got to know him a lot better. Communication was even more frequent during his term as IBE Treasurer, a position he still held at the time of his death.

Anthony was always passionate about his beloved African region and worked tirelessly to see funding provided to chapters in the region through the Promising Strategies Program over the past 15 years.

He also supported the plan that saw IBE invest in bursaries that have funded a large number of people in Africa to attend international and regional congresses over the past almost 20 years. More recently, his efforts to make a difference for people with epilepsy across the region saw him involved in the Utetezi project that had just begun its second phase at the time of his death.

Anthony's involvement in the work of IBE at international, regional and local levels will be sorely missed.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis.

May he rest in peace.

Ann Little

Executive Director

International Bureau for Epilepsy



Pictured with Natela Okujava and Ding Ding attending the IBE Board Meeting in London, 2019

Uganda

I first met Anthony in 2012 when he came to Uganda to benchmark our organizational activities (Epilepsy Support Association Uganda). I met him again during the 1st African Epilepsy congress in Nairobi. He pushed many meetings through during the African congress in Nairobi at such a pace that amazed me. My last physical meeting with him was during the 4th African Congress in Entebbe in 2019. I was shocked and saddened to hear of his passing, because his jovial voice from our recent chat was still fresh in me and gave the indication that he was soon to be up and about.

Anthony was a hard working person who believed in nothing for Africa without Africans and worked even on his sick bed to see this achieved. He continued working to make the epilepsy movement stronger. Always ready to give a helping hand at whatever cost, reaching out to you at night, during the weekend if he felt a task was left incomplete.

Anthony was a Pan Africanist, passionate about epilepsy, psychiatry and working in this field to contribute towards making positive changes in the landscape of epilepsy in Africa and the world over. Anthony was a strong advocate for primary health care workers to manage epilepsy in the healthcare system in Africa considering that the ratio of neurologists to people with epilepsy in Africa is quite appalling. Many people with epilepsy can hardly afford quality time for epilepsy diagnosis with neurologists considering the strain on the finances. Anthony, mentored many medical officers, inspired them to take keen interest in epilepsy nationally, regionally and internationally.

He was an assertive, spirited, just person who believed in truth and transparency, a person who fought to the end when he believed in a cause. A true African Father, mentor to many epilepsy associations in Africa and world over. We in the epilepsy movement will continue to hold his virtues strongly and work to support the unmatched legacy he has left behind.

He fought a good fight!

A Luta Continua! (the struggle continues)..... Till we meet again. Rest in perfect peace, our true African Father and soldier of epilepsy.

Sarah Nekesa

*Executive Director, Epilepsy Support Association Uganda
Secretary General Epilepsy Society of Uganda*

Uganda

Although no words can really help to ease the passing of Anthony Zamba, please know that the family and all in the Epilepsy Fraternity are in our thoughts. Anthony will always be remembered for his zeal and all contributions against Epilepsy. We say he fought a good fight. RIP

Anita Mago

Director

PURPLE BENCH INITIATIVE UGANDA

Spain

Es una gran pena que nos haya dejado.

Quedará para siempre su labor, y guardaremos su recuerdo en el corazón.

Mi más sentido pésame a la familia y a la Comunidad IBE.

You have left us in great sadness.

Your work will continue to grow and we will keep your memory in our hearts.

My condolences to the family and the IBE Community.

Inés PICORNELL-DARDER

President 2002-2011

Spanish League Against Epilepsy

Greece

Anthony will be sadly missed. Although for many years I knew him as a colleague it was not until my Presidency of the IBE from 2013-2017 that I got to know him personally and was able to discuss in detail his activities and his dedicated care for people with Epilepsy. He was an active and enthusiastic member of the African region of the IBE and fought hard to improve care and human rights of people with epilepsy in his country and the region.

Hopefully others will continue his legacy.

My sincere condolences to his family and the African community

“Those we love don’t go away they will be in our heart for many years ahead”.

Thanos Covnis

Child Neurologist

Greek IBE/ILAE chapters

Kenya

Rest in Peace Brother Anthony Zumba. Your passion for epilepsy care in Africa will always be felt.

Eddie Chengo

Foundation for People with Epilepsy

Nigeria

On behalf of the Epilepsy Association of Nigeria, I write to commiserate with you and the family of Anthony Zimba who was struck with the cold hands of death recently.

Our prayer is that the Almighty God will grant his soul eternal rest and give IBE, the deceased family and all who are touched by his demise the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss.

Dr NS Nwawkwue

President

Epilepsy Association of Nigeria

Taiwan

Dear family of Anthony

I was shocked and saddened to learn about Anthony’s passing from COVID-19. I imagine your grief must be overwhelming. Please know that I am here for all of you.

Anthony and I worked together in IBE meetings for many years. He always asked me to help him to find and buy the telephone card to call back home, so I know that he cared about all of you very much.

I wish you peace and I am here to support you during this difficult time.

Shunglon Lai

Taiwan Epilepsy Association

Former IBE Board Member

Uganda

I learnt about this sad news yesterday and I am still in great shock. Anthony’s death has left a deep vacuum in all our lives, especially the epilepsy community in Africa. The ILAE Africa community deeply mourns his passing; with you however let us celebrate his life and the legacy he left for people with epilepsy on the continent.

Please offer my deepest condolences to the family and may his soul rest in eternal peace.

Angelina Kakooza M

Chair ILAE-Africa

Child Neurologist,

Makerere University College of Health Sciences

Kampala

Japan

It is so sad to hear that Prof. Ba Anthony Zimba has passed away due to pandemic COVID19.

It is such a big loss for his family, IBE, ILAE and people with epilepsy. When the ex-executive members of JES were exposed by this news, all of them were very shocked by this fact since they have had the very fruitful and active discussion with Prof. Ba Anthony Zimba in the past.

We have had also joint meeting of ILAE executive committee and IBE executive meeting with Prof. Ba Anthony Zimba together every year in January for 2 and a half days. and Prof. Ba Anthony Zimba had the very heart warming expression, and constructive discussion together.

On behalf of ILAE-Asia Oceania and JES, please send our sincere condolences to his family, all of you, colleagues and friends.

Akio IKEDA, MD, PhD, FACNS

President

Japan Epilepsy Society Chair

ILAE- ILAE-Asia Oceania

Indonesia

Anthony Mulenga Zimba, rest in peace. We are deeply saddened by the news that Anthony has passed away due to COVID-19 in Lusaka, Zambia on Sunday, August 9, 2020. He was a pioneering figure in the epilepsy community in his homeland and across the African continent. We extend our condolences to his family, friends and communities who knew him around the world.

I had an interview with Anthony in 2018 at the Asian & Oceanian Epilepsy Congress in Bali about issues facing Zambia's epilepsy community, which can be found at alifeelectric.org. Far Features' Eszter Papp also took his portrait, which he waited patiently for, wanting to be part of the project. He had a book with him and checked his notes before our interview, keen to make sure every point he wanted to communicate was recorded on our cameras and onto the pages of our project. Speaking with Anthony, he struck me as someone deeply connected the welfare of people in his country, and someone who wore the responsibility of his position with diligence and a steady hand.

It's truly tragic to lose someone as accomplished as him to this terrible disease COVID-19. I think this brief passage below is a testament to his character and the essential work he contributed over a lifetime to shape epilepsy education and treatment for thousands of people in his country. The world needs every day heroes, and sadly, it lost another one this week.

The Politics of Epilepsy in Zambia

Words of Anthony Mulenga Zimba (2018 interview excerpt)

“In my country, there is a lot of stigma attached to epilepsy. People think it's bewitchment, or that it's a curse from God. We try our best to demystify epilepsy, and teach people that this is a treatable condition, which about 70 to 80 per cent of people, when diagnosed and treated correctly, can live good lives.

For some people, we can completely remove drugs from their lives, while others continue on taking medication, and

experience improvement in their quality of life. We focus on positive reinforcement, and educate people that they can still go to school and get married.

A lot of employers in Zambia think that people with epilepsy cannot perform certain jobs or do things independently, but they definitely can. Recently, there was a case of a young man who was staying with his mother, sister and brother in a rural village in Zambia. He had focal seizures and the family didn't understand what was happening to him. This led to an argument between the man and his mother. Then the brother joined in, and then an argument escalated. Soon other villagers joined in, too, and descended upon the man, beating him very badly. Luckily, in the neighbourhood there was someone who knew our epilepsy association. She called me in distress, and I drove there to rescue this young man from the mob before things got even worse. This is simply because of a misunderstanding of his epilepsy.

Epilepsy is almost always put at the bottom of the list of health issues in African countries. We are working to change this. Some good news recently, because of the intervention of the World Health Organization on non-communicable diseases, epilepsy has been elevated in priority.

You must come to Zambia to film your documentary. I will take you to the hospitals around our country. You will find out about the availability of drugs. I would also like to take you to visit some of the traditional healers to show you how they conduct their practices. For most people in Zambia, the first point of entry to healthcare, is actually these traditional healers. It is good you understand and see this first-hand.

Also, I will take you to interview our policymakers in Zambia. The Permanent Secretary and the Minister of Health, so that you can ask them questions about their plans are for the future of people with epilepsy in our country.”

We will endeavour to ask those questions, Anthony. Consider it a promise.

Thank you for your service and dedication. Rest in peace.

Fraser Morton and the A Life Electric team.



IBE Board Meeting Dinner- January 2019



OBITUARY

ANTHONY MULENGA ZIMBA

March 17, 1954 – August 9, 2020

Epilepsy Association of Zambia is deeply saddened on the passing of its Chairman and Founder, Dr. Anthony Mulenga Zimba, on Sunday, 9th August, 2020. Anthony was born in Mwense, Kawambwa District in Luapula Province of Zambia, and is survived by a wife - Dr. Meamui Mumbela, four children and four grandchildren. He worked at the Levy Mwanawasa University Teaching Hospital as Epilepsy Specialist.

Having been a member of the Mental Health Association of Zambia, Anthony saw it fit to initiate the formation of the Association in 2001 and incorporated professionals from all walks of life to legally register the Association with the Registrar of Societies. Given the many challenges faced by the epilepsy support group in Zambia, he led and guided the Association through difficult times, suggesting solutions to ensure tremendous progress. Though persistent and forthright, he was a hard worker, approachable, generous and willing to go out of his way for the benefit of others. An Advocate for what is right for people living with epilepsy.

Anthony, held positions as Secretary for International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE) - Africa Regional Executive Committee for four (4) years, Vice Chairperson for four (4) years, Vice President for Africa Region for eight (8) years and concurrently as a member of the Board of Directors for the Africa Disability Alliance for eight (8) years. He was also a member of the Executive Committee of the Zambia Non-Communicable Diseases Alliance and currently held the position of Treasurer for the IBE Executive Committee since 2017 until his passing. The African Epilepsy fraternity regarded him as one of the elders, who guided and counselled the younger leaders.

Anthony had a good sense of humour, and was determined to uplift the spirits of his colleagues. He adopted vulnerable children and adolescents living with epilepsy, paying for their education and caring for other social needs. He surely had a distinguished service rendered to the people with epilepsy in Zambia and Africa as a whole, leaving a legacy we are proud to continue.

