

OBITUARY

HENRY B. MASAUKO CHIPEMBERE

Ufahamu announces with a deep sense of loss the sudden death of an Africanist politician, Henry B. M. Chipembere. Mr. Chipembere died at the age of 45 on September 24 in Los Angeles after a brief illness. We remember him as a progressive African politician whose refusal to tow Dr. Kamuzu Banda's egotistical and pro-South African political steps resulted in his fleeing his country, Malawi (formerly Nyasaland) in 1964. We also recall with pride that Chipembere's first public account of the crisis in Dr. Banda's government was carried in *Ufahamu* Vol. 1, Number 2, Fall 1970, under the title *Malawi in Crisis: 1964*. This article, which constitutes an indictment of a renegade African "government which has been turning to places like South Africa and [the then] Portuguese controlled Mozambique for protection," remains one of Chipembere's finest and a bedrock of his political ideology.

Mr. Chipembere was educated in Malawi, at Rhodesia's Goromonzi School, and at Fort Hare University, South Africa where he received his B.A. in politics and history. After his graduation from Fort Hare in 1954, he entered the Malawi political scene where his roles included being a member of the Legislative Council, representative of the Nyasaland African Congress, General Treasurer of the Malawi Congress party, Minister of Local Government and later, Minister of Education.

In 1964, Mr. Chipembere fled into exile following his disagreement with Dr. Banda over government policy. He came to the United States and received an M.A. degree at UCLA in 1966. Then he returned to Tanzania to teach at Kivukoni College.

Until his death, Mr. Chipembere was a history candidate in philosophy at UCLA and professor of African history at California State University, Los Angeles.

Ufahamu laments the untimely death of this illustrious African whose guiding light, bright and intense, burned out rather too quickly. We extend our sympathies to his wife, Catherine, his eight children and other members of his family.