

# Four times the joy: The amazing life of quadruplets

**Quads.** Their life is a masterclass in understanding that the greatest families are not those without challenges, but those who choose to face them together...**P17-18**

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# Four times the joy: The amazing life of quadruplets

Eighteen years after their dramatic arrival as quadruplets, the Rwakiziba children, once tiny bundles of surprise at Nsambya Hospital, recently sat their O-Level exams, marking another milestone in a family story defined by love, resilience, and unshakable faith.

**Community pillar:** "Stories are told of men who abandon their wives after giving birth to multiples. For the support and care he has shown, Rwakiziba deserves applause."

BY ELVIS BASUDDE KYEYUNE

Rwakiziba and Sarah's journey is a profound narrative of love, resilience, and faith, woven through decades of unexpected blessings and formidable challenges. Their story began not with grandeur, but with the simple, steadfast commitment of two teenagers. They started their life together in 1997, with Sarah at 18 having left school.

From these modest beginnings in a Ugandan community, their bond deepened year by year as they built a shared existence. Their first two sons, Regan Mugabi and Rodin Muhumuza, arrived naturally, anchoring their young family in a home filled with affection and laying the crucial groundwork for their future roles as parents.

Today, Regan is 26, a graduate in procurement from Kyambogo University, and Rodin is 22, diligently pursuing a pharmacy degree at Kampala International University in Ishaka. These first children were their training ground, preparing them in ways they could not

yet imagine for the astonishing expansion that awaited them.

## The day everything changed

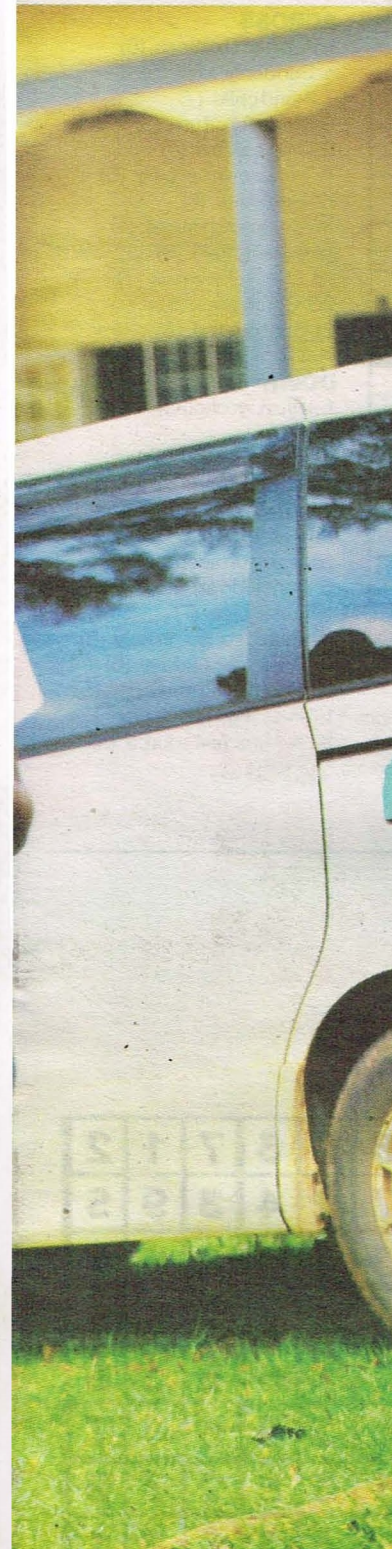
On September 24, 2007, their lives were irrevocably transformed in what became a historic moment for Nsambya Hospital. Sarah delivered quadruplets; two girls and two boys, in a birth that defied all expectations. Every prenatal scan had indicated only twins, lulling the couple into a specific preparation. Rwakiziba's recollection of the day remains vivid with emotion.

"Every scan during her pregnancy had shown only twins," he recalls, his voice still tinged with wonder. "So when the nurse told me my wife had delivered three babies and a fourth was still coming, I was stunned. Twenty minutes later, she announced the fourth had arrived safely. I stood there, mouth open, overwhelmed by fear, joy, and shock."

The girls arrived first at 5:10 and 5:20 a.m., followed swiftly by the boys at 5:30 and 5:40 a.m., each weighing a delicate but healthy 2.2kg and 2.1kg.

Dr Nanyonga Musoke, a paediatrician

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NUMBER OF  
CHILDREN



the quadruplets, now 18 and on the cusp of adulthood, recently sat their O-Level exams at Mulusa Academy in Ewobulenzi. PHOTOS/ELVIS BASUDDE KYEYUNE.



The Rwakiziba's with their then pre-teen quads.

## DREAMERS AND ACHIEVERS

Today, the family stands as a vibrant tapestry of individual dreams and collective achievement.

The quadruplets, now 18 and on the cusp of adulthood, recently sat their O-Level exams at Mulusa Academy in Ewobulenzi. Each is carving a distinct path, fueled by a shared academic prowess, particularly in the sciences.

Linda Mulungi aspires to be an engineer, building the future; Roda Muyinza dreams of commerce and entrepreneurship; Roy Musinguzi hopes to don a doctor's coat and heal; and Roland Mujuni plans to follow his older brother in to the world of pharmacy. Their older siblings have blazed the trail in higher education, demonstrating that the family's core values hinge on knowledge, aspiration, and mutual support. The twins, too, are discovering their own worlds in primary school, adding their youthful energy to the family dynamic.

at the hospital, described the event as extraordinarily rare and completely unexpected, the first such quadruplet delivery at the facility.

"If we had known Sarah was carrying four babies, we would have prepared differently and recommended a caesarean section. But all were born healthy," she stated. This medical surprise underscored the family's unique path, one where nature and destiny seemed to collaborate.

## Confronting fear with fortitude

In the wake of the delivery, Rwakiziba was engulfed by a tsunami of anxiety. The practical fears were immediate and overwhelming.

"Questions flooded my mind: What if they fall sick? How will we feed and clothe them? How will we carry all four for immunisations?" he remembers.

The financial implications alone were enough to daunt the bravest soul. Yet, amidst this tempest of doubt, his commitment to Sarah never flickered.

"We had come a long way together," he asserts, his tone firm with conviction. "There was no way I would leave



The Rwakizibas with their twins and quads. The couple has been blessed with eight children.

Sarah to face it alone."

This decision, made in a moment of profound shock, defined the character of their marriage and set the tone for the difficult, rewarding years to come.

## A family history of multiples

This remarkable event was not entirely without familial precedent. Their resilience seems woven into their very lineage, as both families possess a striking history of multiple births.

Rwakiziba's younger and elder brothers each had twins, his niece has triplets, and Sarah's aunt had two sets of twins. This genetic tapestry made the quadruplets less a random anomaly and more a spectacular expression of their heritage.

Sarah herself views the quadruplets with a smile of grace and humor: "I wanted a baby girl, but God doubled the gift." The divine gifts did not cease there. As if to reaffirm their blessed path, a decade later in 2017, Sarah gave birth to twins, Nakato and Babirye, further expanding their joyful family.

Today, these twins are eight years old, vibrant and curious, learning in Primary Four at Kyayazi Primary School in Kanyanya.

## Raising a tribe

Raising a family of eight children has been a monumental undertaking, a daily exercise in logistics, sacrifice, and unwavering determination. Rwakiziba runs a small retail business at Kalerwe Market, the modest proceeds from which fuel the family's engine. With foresight and immense effort, he built their family home in Kanyanya, providing not just shelter but a vital sense of stability and rootedness for their growing tribe.

His most persistent and daunting challenge, however, has been the Herculean task of financing education for all.

"God works in His own way. We have been able to raise them and pay their school fees," he says, a statement of faith that belies the immense struggle behind it. The strain is constant, a weight carried with love.

He voices a particular pain regarding his eldest: "I feel pain," Rwakiziba confesses, speaking of Regan's unemployment two years post-graduation. "He would be helping me pay school fees for his siblings if he had a job."

This admission highlights the intergenerational pressure and hope that characterises large, close-knit families striving for upward mobility.

## Defying stereotypes

In a societal context where stories of men abandoning their families after multiple births are, tragically, a familiar narrative, Rwakiziba's steadfastness has drawn profound admiration and respect from his community. He became a local symbol of responsible fatherhood.

Seventy-eight-year-old neighbour William Semakula observes: "Stories are told of men who abandon their wives after giving birth to multiples. For the support and care he has shown, Rwakiziba deserves applause."

This community recognition underscores the quiet, daily heroism in his dedication, a choice to stay, provide, and persevere when an easier path of escape might have tempted others.

## Faith and dedication

Throughout every twist and turn of their journey, faith has been the unwavering cornerstone, the wellspring of their strength. After each birth, the initial sons, the astonishing quadruplets, and the later twins, the couple diligently dedicated their children to

God at Pastor Kasirye's Friends Fellowship Church in Kalerwe. This sacred tradition was not merely ritual; it was an act of surrender and trust that fortified their spirits for the challenges ahead.

"Stories of couples walking away from multiples are common," Rwakiziba reflects, his hand resting on a well-worn Bible. "But we believed in love, faith, and hard work." This powerful triad of principles has been their compass, guiding them through financial droughts, societal pressures, and the sheer exhaustion of raising a large family.

## A testament to love's surprises

From the seismic shock of a quadruple birth to the joyful addition of twins, the Rwakizibas' journey is a powerful testament to embracing life's surprises with courage, unity, and grace.

Their story transcends the simple account of raising many children; it is a deep exploration of nurturing big dreams against formidable odds, upholding sacred vows through waves of uncertainty, and building a legacy of love that consciously transforms fear into fortitude.

As the quadruplets stand on the brink of their future, as Rodin and Regan navigate their post-graduate paths, and as the twins grow with gusto, the family's inspiring saga continues to unfold. It is a living testament to the resilience of the human spirit and the boundless capacity of a heart anchored in faith, hardened by hard work, and expansive enough to hold a small village within its walls.

Their life is a masterclass in understanding that the greatest families are not those without challenges, but those who choose to face them together, with love as their eternal guide and grace as their daily sustenance.