

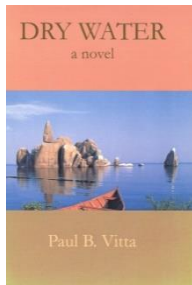
Paul B. Vitta

News of Paul's passing is found in this issue's IN MEMORIAM. Paul was a friend and colleague first met when he was based in Senegal with the African Centre for Technology and we worked together on the IDRC funded Technology Policy Workshops.

I knew Paul had written the novel *Dry Water* and have to think that Paul's innate modesty kept news of later books reaching me. This presentation of his three novels is in remembrance of a man both deeply connected and concerned for Africa.

Ed.

Dry Water. Protea Publishing. ISBN: 1-59344-02-0, 2003.

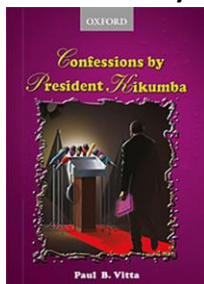


"Two brothers grow up in Africa together and then part to study overseas: Michael in America, Robert in Europe. When they return, Michael goes into politics, Robert into teaching. In the years that follow, Michael will become president. Four years into his presidency, the army will depose him. Robert will rescue him from execution and Michael will recapture the presidency. But this triumph will be marred when desire and opportunity lead to a scandal so vile that all bonds between the two brothers and their wives - Anna and Lisa - are tested to their limits."

"Dry Water" is a hilarious and captivating novel with a beautiful blend of African flavour! Though set in three continents, Paul Vitta has succeeded in vividly depicting the typical simple life of an African child in an African village, that renders one nostalgic of the beautiful carefree childhood within a protective society. This, however, as he shows through his character Mike Misana, does not inhibit the individual's innate desire for power and leadership. A perfect blend of African beauty and politics!"

[Review](#)

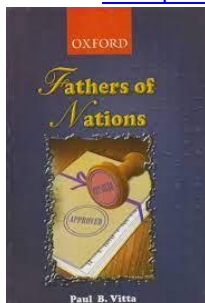
Confessions by President Kikumba. Oxford University Press. SBN: 9780195744095, 2016.



President Kikulé Kikumba, a president of an important African country has written a book to confess all. He intends to set the record straight. He says being president in Africa is no holiday on an island. Dumping allies for wavering, cutting friends at the knees for dissenting, and mowing opponents down for standing in the way, are all in the day's work. Africa's presidents, he confides, are in office not to lead but to crush rivals and accumulate wealth.

"Paul is deep in his second career of writing, after retirement from his United Nations economic development work in Nairobi, Kenya. Hours of wide-ranging chats gave [Ed] a wonderful view of East African life and politics through the eyes of a keen observer. Paul's latest novel, *Confessions by President Kikumba*, was a captivating read on [my] return flight to North America".

Ed Wood (class of 66) on a visit to Paul and Necta in Tanzania 2016 [Harvy Mudd College Magazine, Fall 2017 p.35](#)



Fathers of Nations. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780195737745, 2021.

"Yet Africa is Africa. It comes at you from both directions: from right and from wrong. As if to confound you, it confronts you with both opposites on every issue-good and

evil, Nelson Mandela and Idi Amin, wealth and poverty, peace and war, but especially yes and no."

"The highlight of this book is a summit attended in Gambia by African Heads of State. They are there to discuss Way Omega, a way to develop Africa, but one thing is certain; since when have heads set aside their self-interest for their citizens and this book gives us insight on what ails Africa; the corruption and the impunity that urges it, fanning its flames.

There are 4 people: Professor Kimani from Kenya, Pastor Chiamaka from Nigeria, Melusi from Zimbabwe, and Engineer Tahir from Libya. Each has suffered for speaking up against their states and each holds a grudge, a clear view and understanding of impunity and what it means to be on the losing side when battling a government. They are approached with a new outlook, a proposal that rivals Way Omega and it's called Path Alpha.

The symbolism in this book is enough to make you sit back and marvel at how, as Africans we have accepted the status quo. It's an enjoyable read and above all, it speaks to the frustrations we still experience in Africa under corrupt leadership."

Dora Okeyo [Goodreads](#)