

AMIRALI KARMALI (MUKWANO)

- Born in the mid- 1930s
- Legend has it that Mr. Ali Mohamed, Karmali, a pioneer Indian Investor who came to Uganda in 1904 laid the Foundation of the Empire. After working as a shop assistant, he shifted to Mbarara before settling in Bukandula in Mpigi District. He did roaring business in Cotton and Coffee. He was so popular with Locals. They nicknamed him “Mukwano Gwa Bangi” (a friend of many) – Mukwano. The business took off when the family moved to Fortportal, where the young Karmali acquired a Second hand truck and began transporting produce to Kampala.
- Soon after he expanded, to western Uganda and parts of Congo (now DRC).
- Later he opened his first shop in Kampala called Egesa commercial Agencies.
- In 1972, he was also a victim of Idi Amin Expulsion of Asians.
- It is however said, he lied low and never went into exile, he was ‘hidden by a good Somaritan in Uganda.
- Many Asian businesses were looted and others taken over in 1972/73.
- He never despaired.
- He was able to rebuild his business and in early 1980s and established Mukwano Industries (U) Ltd.
- Together with his son Amirali Karmali, they have built a business partnership. “ The Mukwano Group of Companies Employing at least 10,000 people and pay over 40 billion Shs in taxes.
- Other Companies are:
 - » Mukwano Enterprises Ltd
 - » A.K. Transporters Ltd.
 - » A.K. Oils and Fats (u) Ltd.
 - » A.K. Plastics (U) Ltd.
 - » A.K. Detergents (U) Ltd
 - » Rwenzori Commodities LTD.
 - » Mukwano Forex Bureau Ltd.
- He has other Industries in Kenya Tanzania and Rwanda.
- Mzee Mukwano relinquished control of the Group to his son
- Alykhan Karmali.
- He now stays in Fort portal most of the time.