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Jimmy Spire Ssentongo (PhD) is a free-lance artist, specializing in cartoons. He has drawn editorial cartoons for The Observer newspaper since 2006 under the signature 'Spire'. Many of his cartoons are activist in focus, mostly centering on highlighting social and political injustices. Increasingly, he shares them through his social media accounts where they trigger lots of debates.

Although he is mostly known as a cartoonist, his full-time job is in academia, where he teaches Philosophy. He is an associate Professor of Ethics and Identity Studies at Uganda Martyrs University (UMU) and a Lecturer in the Department of Philosophy, Makerere University. At UMU, he has variously served as Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences; Associate Dean in Charge of Research and Publication at the School of Postgraduate Studies and Research; and founding Chair of the Center for African Studies. At Makerere University, he previously served as Head of Department of Philosophy.

He holds a Diploma in Philosophy and Religious Studies, BA in Philosophy, MA in Ethics and Public Management, MSc. In Education for Sustainability, and a PhD in Humanistic Studies. He has authored and edited books such as: What I Saw When I Died; Quarantined; Uncomfortable Laughter (a cartoon collection); Decolonisation Pathways; Higher Education for African 21st Century Challenges; and Inquiry into a Withering Heritage.

His strong belief that academics should be actively engaged in their communities is what motivates his work with cartoons, regular media appearances, and writing a column in The Observer. He believes that those who have gotten the privilege of acquiring high education in countries like Uganda with huge development challenges have a responsibility of actively taking part in uplifting others through sharing their knowledge and participating in practical initiatives for a better society.

In 2021, he was the first winner of the national Janzi Award for Outstanding Cartoonist and was also nominated for Outstanding Non-Fiction Writer. Early this year, he spearheaded a viral social media campaign (Exhibitions) demanding for better services and accountability from different government entities. It attracted several government interventions and both national and international applause.