

HONORING THE LIFE OF



HARRISON OGWENO OKECHE

27th July 1966 - 10th October 2020



REQUIEM MASS

CHURCH SERVICE AT HOLY FAMILY MINOR BASILICA WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2020

VENUE: HOLY FAMILY MINOR BASILICA DATE: WEDNESDAY 21ST OCTOBER 2020 TIME: 10. AM

- Presiding Bishop: - Bishop David Kamau
Master of Ceremony: - Mr. Nelson Otieno Alloys
Entrance hymn: - Pokea Moyo Wangu
Introduction Rite: - Bishop David Kamau
Eulogy: - Jude Okeche and Tito
Mass: - Misa Kariobangi - Utuhurumie
Liturgy of the Word: - Lucy Okeche
- 1st Reading: Wisdom 3:1-9.
- Responsorial Psalm: Psalms
- Gospel: - Prayers of the Faithful:
- Offertory: - Nikupe nini Moyo wangu
Holy Communion: - Huniongoza Mwokozi; Chakutumaini Sina
- Tributes:
- Family: - Friends representative
- Special Groups: - Church
- Standard Chartered – - Prayers for the Family
- Kenya Railways Pensioners - Kisii University Council
- Federation of Kenya Employees - Sango Women Group
- JSC/ LSK - Kanjira Dev’p society
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- Vote of Thanks and Announcements: - Sylvester Obong’o/ Seth Gor
- Exit Hymns: Bwana Usehemu Yangu;
- Other Hymns: Mama Maria Muombezi wetu

Aluga village in Kochola sub-location, Kanjira Location, Karachuonyo constituency in Homabay county Thursday Evening 22nd October 2020

- Mass at 3 pm.
Presiding Bishop: - Father Walter Okoth
Master of Ceremony: - Mr. Nelson Otieno Alloys

Aluga village in Kochola sub-location, Kanjira Location, Karachuonyo constituency in Homabay county Friday, 9 am; 22nd October 2020

- Presiding Priest: Father Walter Okoth
- Master of Ceremony:
- Tributes:
- Harrison’s Relatives
- Special Groups:
- Standard Chartered
- Kenya Railways Pensioners
- Federation of Kenya Employees
- JSC/ LSK
- Kisii University Vice Chancellor
- Kisii University Chancellor
- Friends representative
- Kanjira Dev’p society
- Church
- Mass
- Pia and Family
- Vote of Thanks and Announcements:
- Procession to the grave

Early Life

Harrison Ogweno Okeche was born on 27th July 1966. He was the last-born child among the 8 children of the late Charles Okeche and Truphosa Okeche. Harry was baptized, received his Holy Communion and was confirmed as per the Catholic Church. Growing up he was the baby of the house. He was known as wuod Kojwang', nyatogo. He lost his dad after doing Form 4 something that made him sad since he wanted his father to celebrate his academic achievement by attending his university graduation.

Education

He cherished his education more than anything in life and always topped the class. He schooled in Siala Primary School, then Oriwo School and later Kisii Progressive School for his A-Level. After excelling in his high school, he joined University of Nairobi for his bachelor's degree in 1987 and studied Bachelor of Arts. Harry is known as a very easy go person and while on campus was fascinated by rugby. The fact that one could tackle and wrestle somebody down in the name of a sports. This became his favorite sport. He used to joke that rugby was like wrestling, a physical combat sport where one could get revenge on your enemy. The Easter Brook Rock to him was an equivalent of UEFA and Premier League. Harry was a typical scholar fascinated by concepts and writings. He was so keen on political economy – concepts of imperialism, colonization etc. – never skipped his interest. Subsequently, Harry enrolled for a Bachelor of Law degree at the University of Nairobi, and thereafter pursued Diploma in Law before being admitted to the Bar as an Advocate of the High Court. He later on did a Master's of Law Degree programme at University of South Africa (UNISA). His nieces and nephews remember his love for reading. You always found him with a book whenever he was free.

Marriage and Family Life

Harry met his dear wife Pia Okeche and got married on 7th August 1993 and together they had 3 children Lucy Truphosa Abura born in 1993 whom he named after his mother and would refer to her as Mama. His second son born in 1996, Jude Charles Okeche was named after Harry's dad and finally Titus Paul Obwaka, his third born who was named after Harry's father in law. Harry is a grandfather to Milan, Hera and Hawi. Harry's daughter Lucy is married to Joseph Dimba son to Beatrice and the late Henry Dimba. The late Harry's siblings were, late George, late James, Teresa, late Joyce, Mary and Flora and was a brother-in-law to the late Nicholas, Enoch, Sylvester, Vincent, Derrick, Junior, Sheila, Maryann, Roda Okello, the late Monica Sawo, Margaret Okello and Asbeta Ajimo.

Working Life

Harrison Okeche worked as Registrar Land Adjudication at the Ministry of Land, before joining Kenya Railways Corporation as a Personnel Officer and Employee Relations Manager between 1992 and 2002. His colleagues in Railways found him the person to go to for solutions. He had immense interest in HR Policy Matters. He thus requested to study for his Bachelor Of Laws Degree while he was still in service as from 1998. The CPAM Department facilitated this accordingly as per the prevailing policy guidelines.

Harrison joined Federation of Kenya Employee as Chief Manager, Legal & Industrial Relations as well as Head of Legal Services between 2003 and 2013. He later joined Standard Chartered as Head of Employee Relations, Kenya & East Africa Standard Chartered Bank Nairobi. Harrison was a member of Institute Human Resource Management. Harry was an advocate of the High Court of Kenya and subsequently a member of Law Society of Kenya and Associate Member of Chartered Institute of Arbitrators

In his tribute, Hon. David K Maraga EGH, Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court recognized Harrison as a long-standing legal practitioner who was waiting to join the judiciary through a successful Judicial Services Interview and was recommended for appointment as one of the 10 Employment and Labor Relations Court judges in August 2019.

Appointments and Assignments

As an exemplary performer, Harrison was appointed in various boards, public and private institutions as well as being selected for special assignments. He was appointed Chairman Human Resources committee of the Kisii University Council (2017 to date); Board member of Sports Stadia Management Kenya (2010 – 2013); member of the KIE Curriculum Development Board (2008- 2013); Board Member Kenya Railway Training Institute (2005 – 2013);



Expert Member of ILO Tripartite Committee examining ILO C 158 and R 166 on termination of employment (April 2011), Member Advisory Committee to Law Growth Nexus II Project (2012), Member of the Taskforce on East Africa Community Common Market Legal Reforms (2010); Member of the Taskforce for drawing up of National Social protection policy (2010/2011) and review of NSSF Act; Secretary of the Sisal Employers Association (2006 – 2013); Deputy Executive Secretary of Association of Local Government Employers (2005-2013); Board Member Executive Committee of the Kenya TEA Growers Association (2006-2009); Member of Professional Standards Assurance Committee of National Industrial Training; Chairman Waajiri Sacco Limited; Member of the Inter- Public University Councils Consultative Forum - IPUCCF (2013); Member Committee of Investigation into Strike by Union of Kenya Civil Servants against the Government (2005); Member of the Technical Committee on Restructuring of the Industrial Training Levy (2009- 2011)

Community and Church Service

Harrison upheld the value of giving back to the society both financially and in-kind. He was the patron of Kanjira Development Society (KADESO). He was Member of the Catholic Men’s Association, Bovis (Limuru Farm) of the Arch Diocese of Nairobi (2010 – to date); Member of the Economic Commission of Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops; Vice Chairman of Parish Pastoral Council of Holy Family Minor Basilica; Member of the Management Board of Parochial School, Archdiocese of Nairobi; Chairman Board of Management Ogenya Girls High School (2010); and contributed to several community development initiatives like Auki Mixed Day Secondary School – Maua.

Transition

following a tragic road accident that occurred on 4th October 2020 along Bomet-Narok road. On the 4TH October 2020 Harrison who had travelled home was on his way back to Nairobi when the tragic road accident occurred along Bomet-Narok Road. A facebook post on the same day caught the attention of family, friends and relatives who rushed to the scene and found that one occupant a cousin to Harrison had died on the spot while Harrison and the his cousin Boaz had been rushed to a hospital in Narok. The two were later transferred to Aga Khan and later Harrison underwent surgery at the same hospital. While the surgery was successful, his condition deteriorated and later passed on on 10th October 2020. Our loving dad, husband, son, brother, uncle, friend and colleague has departed. We will always cherish you. Nind Gi kwe!

Joshua 1:9 *“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”*

May the Grace of the Lord be with you Harry. **Yours Sincerely Dr. Pia Okeche, Harry's wife.**

I have so much to say but at the same time I have nothing to say. Not even in my wildest dreams would I expect you to leave us so soon. Dad was a charismatic man. A best friend to our mother, a confidant to his grandchild, a loving son to his mother, the best role model to my siblings and a good friend to many. Dad gave me the best 26 years of my life. He was my pillar of strength. Dad was a fighter and that I get from him. He called me "Mama". Always and forever daddy's girl. We love you Dad. May your soul rest in eternal peace. **Lucy, Daughter**

You left suddenly but peacefully. I never would in my wildest dreams think that a day like this would come this soon. My strength to deal and process this is purely your teaching and guidance throughout the years. You were always strong, forthright, intelligent, loving and a light to many. In my younger years I never understood why you were tough on me but I'm happy we had the time to discuss many things and became the best of friends. I shall miss debating with you, fighting over spelling and grammar and sharing our love for engaging texts. I will always love you and honor the legacy you left. May your soul rest in eternal peace. **Jude, Son**

As I reflect back during this past week I realized how much he loved me. He taught me how to treat women, especially mum. He taught me to be patient with her at all times. And to always compliment her and always listen. As much as we had our differences, we always solved them with the help of my able God father, Mr. Nyerere. Thank you Mr. Nyerere. Every time I made a mistake, dad wouldn't talk but left me to think about it. He raised me in such a manner that I realized that I have to be independent and expect no favors from anyone and especially not from him. I realized this during the holidays when I started a small business expecting that he would support me, but he did not. I later realized that he wanted me to do everything by myself and this has surely been cultivated in me. He only bought my juice after mum convinced him to. Through his actions, I have learnt never to give up and to always pray. Even on his death bed he fought till the last minute as I witness all the cardiac arrests that dad suffered, this is why I would say over and over again that Dad was a fighter. To his friends, mummy, Lucy, Jude and family poleni. THANK YOU DAD FOR EVERYTHING. **Tito, Son**

Harrison Ogweno – "Nera" was and remains a special child in my heart. The Lord gave him to us late in life after praying over time for a last-born boy. He brought a lot of joy to our family throughout his life till when the Lord called him. "Nera" was humble, open hearted and handed, generous, and straight forward son who always kept his word. He loved and welcomes everyone as exhibited by crowds here at home whenever he was on holiday. He was obedient and always listened to my counsel. He was a good listener who was never willing to wrong anyone. Education was very close to his heart as he selflessly contributed school fees to both relatives and non-relatives. In addition, he liked and contributed to the general development projects in the region. The Lord gave him to us and has called him. Romans 14:8 - For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. **Mama Truphosa Okeche, Harry's Mum**

Harrison was the most jovial and easy going among my siblings. He was the kind of person that was quite easy to talk to, would always end his conversation with laughter, and was difficult to decipher what his thoughts were on several issues due to his jovial nature; he never refused anything outright. My brother loved education and those who are educated – demonstrated by his generous support for relatives and non-relatives. I still remember how bitterly he mourned our father who passed just when he had sat his A-levels – he did not see how he would complete his education. Only God can fill the gap he has left in our hearts. Psalm 23:4 - Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. **Teresa, Sister to Harry**

Ogweno Okeche, you were my uncle, but we related as friends. I called you Ogweno Okeche, you called me Obong'o Beta. You were my age mate, my senior by a few days. We shared a room and enjoyed our time together. Fella, Aref it is a sad moment that we are laying you to rest. Di ne inyisa to ne anyalo maki e amodhi ma igoye nyawadu piny! **Silvester, nephew**

Harrison was my immediate follower, we were really close and we shared a strong bond with him. He was the pillar of our family and helped us greatly; his death came as a shock to us. We loved him but God loved him more. "Ratego" rest in peace. **Flora, Sister to Harry**

Tribute to RUOTH: My brother and my friend HARRY, words cannot explain the pain in my heart. Your sudden demise has left a heartache that nothing can heal. I delight in the memories; we have shared for more than two decades of unshaken friendship and I am grateful to God for that. Thank you for the life lessons, the laughter, the selflessness and the undying love for my family and folks. Those memories will always bring a smile. I wish we could sit and talk again one more time like the good old days, just so that I can say a proper goodbye. The fact that you are not here will always cause me pain, but you are forever in my heart. Sleep well my friend. Till we meet again RUOTH. Truly yours, RUOTH Gradus. Harry's Friend

Pictorial



Pictorial



Pictorial



Tributes

Uncle, I remember I had just registered at UON as a first year in 1993, moving to Nairobi for the first time and had no relative to visit over the weekend or even leave my luggage when college closed. I later got to know you and Pia. You became my parents here in Nairobi and even checked on me when I was away... calling me on the Hall 12 booth to know why I did not come home. I will forever be grateful. You taught me that true relations are nurtured and maintained by giving your all with sincerity. Lately you became my inhouse employee relations consultant given what I was handling at work. It was so easy talking with you through the issues that had earlier given me sleepless nights. It pained me when I heard of the accident. I was scared of the outcome. Go well Uncle. **Susan Otieno**

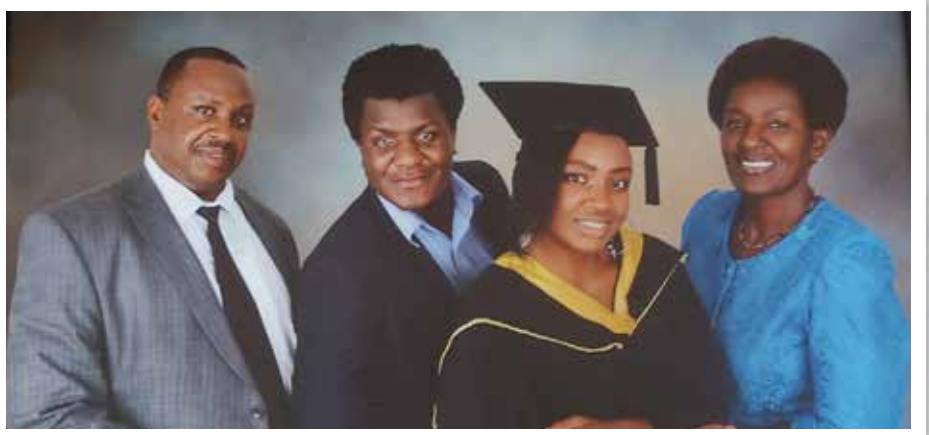
Harrison is described as a team player, and a very knowledgeable personality. Even in challenging and difficult circumstances the organization was going through particularly matters relating to Human Resources Management, Harrison stood out as a person to resort to for solutions. He was very committed in whatever assignment he was given. Many of those who worked with him say he did everything with a smile. Many can testify that they professionally grew up through his mentorship. **Former Colleagues from Kenya Railways Corporation**

Harrison Ogweno Okeche, the man I have literally known since we were literally boys over 30 years ago, was a rare gem in mien and character. He graced and strode the planet earth with great confidence and dignity. A man of immense composure and gentility. A brilliant legal mind and sociable being. Magnificent in character and fun to be with. Never was a man so dedicated and so committed in whatever he did. So loving, so true to the bond of friendship and relations. Tho wang'e tek, tho jajuok. Such piety, such honesty, such integrity. "Whence cometh another?". Nind gi kue silwal! Nind gi kue rabuor! Oriti chuur PIA. **Onyango Oloo, Best friend**

My brother loved people who loved academics and who excelled, it reminded him of his school life. He was thee for everyone and would always show up even when you . **Mama Nola – Auntie Mary's**

Even though you are physically gone from our midst, your warmth, kindness, vibrant spirit and all values you held dear continue to tell the story of the good person you were. Forever loved and treasured. It is well, Soar with the angels uncle until we meet again, rest well. **Necy, niece**

Harry, I am forever grateful to the Almighty God for making you the Godfather of my son Osii. You took up that role and walked my son through his youthful life and I am forever indebted to you and will forever cherish our friendship. Go well God papa till we meet again. **Regina Ombam**



Harry, of Pia's friends and family I was the first she introduced you to. I was meant to check you out and give my opinion concerning you and your future as a couple. I still remember how you were dressed, as always, neat in your navy-blue blazer and well-polished shoes. You were impressive, you were polite, you were simply charming. What I admired most about you was your sincerity and your love for Pia. You called Pia a wife long before the wedding day. She blushed but that what you wanted and made it happen. To me you were not only Pia's husband, but you were also my friend, then my husband's friend. We loved each other and I was always excited to see you. You brought much joy into every meeting. I have much to say and I have mourned you deeply but I know that before you were your mother's son, Pia's husband, a father to you children, a loving in law, an uncle and a friend to many you were God's servant. I celebrate you today with the great hope of seeing you one day in the Heavenly glory. You were a beautiful soul Harry. Nind gi kwe, wuod kanjira. **Pili, Pia's friend**

I met Harrison Ogweno Okeche in 1987 at the University of Nairobi and we immediately struck a friendship that was characterized by intelligent discussions and laughter. Together with other friends such as the late Ken Rambara, Tom Ogindo, Beta Obong'o, Bena Manwar, we developed a sound friendship that made our university life both enjoyable and fruitful. Ogweno Okeche was an amiable, friendly ever smiling gentleman who was quick to resolve any form of dispute between his friends. Okew gi Giriango was fun loving, intelligent and loved good life. We are laying to rest a man who embraced friends from all walks of life and went out of his way to maintain them even if they were far away as Okowa Apamo would attest or near as Onyango Oloo has demonstrated. Nind gi kwe wuod kanjira, okew gi Giriango.

Cesar Handa, Friend

Ogweno Okeche oke gi Giriango it is sad that I will not be present to say farewell to you but in my heart I say go in peace. Rabuor, you were a gentleman who only saw the good in others and always encouraged others to achieve. I have decided not to cry you but to celebrate you. Will always admire your determination to make your life better, you decided to be a lawyer and reached the epic of legal profession when you became a justice. As for our youth that is a story for another day. Go in peace Jakanjira and imosna Ghana Kabasa. **Okowa Apamo, Friend**

Harrison was endeared in Standard Chartered, a colleague and friend to many who considered him professional par excellence with a great but witty character. He influenced much of the Employee and Industrial relations in the Bank. He was a fairly man in his dealings. **Standard chartered colleagues**

Tribute to Harrison Okeche; A professional who shared his skill generously in Church when he was Vice Chair of the PPC at HFB for two terms. Previously serving as the Chairman of Flora Hostel Outstation Council participated in transition during the merger of Flora Hostel Council & Basilica Council. He also played a role in improving the structure of staff management at HFB. During a trying period for the Choir he offered his leadership acting as the patron of the Choirs together with the late Mrs Nellie Njuguna. He loved the 8:30 am Mass at Basilica which he attended with his family encouraging his son to even serve at Mass. A humble, professional who loved his family and the Church. He will be dearly missed. **Fred Kariuki - former Co Vice Chair HFB and Anthony Mburu - former Chairman HFB**

He was friendly to all, down to earth and always ready to assist colleagues especially in his area of expertise " **Charles Magara, Treasurer, HFB PPC and CMA also former colleague at Standard Chartered**

Harrison Okeche imparted a lot of advice on legal matters touching on the Church employees as a member of the pastoral development committee at both floral hostel and Basilica parish. We shall miss his invaluable advice and friendly manner to everyone he met. **Tribute from Francis Chege Maina, PDC Chair and CMA member.**

"Harrison Ogweno Okeche, You were one of the best, if not the best, judge that Kenya never had. It is sad to see you go. We shall meet the other side of life. Go in peace." **Julius L.Onyango.**

Cannot believe we are preparing and organizing a grave for you wuod nyokelo... I can sing a dirge for you, but the gap is immeasurable uncle,.... Safiri salama babawa. **Nevile, Nephew**

Uncle Harrison did a lot for me and our family at large. I remember right after school you he took me to work at Kenya Railways as a casual labourer and soon after when an opportunity arose in Railway training institute for training as station master, I joined out of your assistance. Uncle you have gone to be with the Lord when am still at Railways. Uncle Harrison you struggled with my late dad when he was sick and he passed on when you and I were by his bedside. You listened to me whenever I came to you. Uncle you taught many people on how to fish for you never believed in giving fish. We were respected as kokeche because of you, we will forever and truly miss you, Go in peace uncle. **Jack Okello, Nephew.**

BWANA U SEHEMU YANGU

Bwana u sehemu yangu, rafiki yangu wewe

Katika safari yangu, natembea na wewe
Pamoja na wewe, pamoja na Wewe
Katika safari yangu, tatembea na wewe.

Mahali hapa sikutaka, ili niheshimiwe,
Na yanikute mashaka, sawasawa na wewe
Pamoja na wewe, pamoja na wewe
Heri nikute mashaka sawasawa na wewe.

Niongoze safarini Mbele unichukue
Mlangoni mwa Mbinguni, niingie na wewe

Pamoja na wewe, pamoja na wewe
Mlangoni mwa Mbinguni, niingie na wewe

NIMEVIPIGA VITA VILIVYO VIZURI

Nimevipiga vita, nimevipiga vita vilivyo vizuri x2
Mwendo – mwendo nimeumaliza mwendo
Imani nimeilinda mwendo nimeumaliza, Imani
nimeilinda) x2

Baada ya hayo nimewekewa taji, Nimewekewa taji,
taji ya ahadi
Sasa namiminiwa, nao wakati wangu, Wa kufariki
kwangu, nao umefika

Ataniokoa na kila neno baya, Hadi niufikie ufalme
wa mbingu

Nami nitaishi kwake Baba milele, Tena nikimwim-
bia Mungu Aleluya

CHA KUTUMAINI SINA

Cha kutumaini sina, ila damu yake Bwana
Sina wema wa kutosha, dhambi zangu kuziusha

Kwake Yesu nasimama, ndiye Mwamba ni salama
Ndiye Mwamba ni salama, ndiye Mwamba ni
salama

Damu yake na sadaka, nategemea daima
Yote chini yakiisha, Mwokozi atanitoshia.

Njia yangu iwe ndefu, Yeye hunipa wokovu
Mawimbi yakinipiga, nguvu zake ndiyo nanga
Nikiitwa hukumuni, rohoni nina amani
Nikivikwa haki yake, sina hofu mbele yake

POKEA MOYO WANGU

Pokea moyo wangu ee Mungu wangu
Niweze kukupenda kwa pendo lako
Unipe moyo wako, ewe Yesu Mkombozi wangu
Shinda kwangu, nami daima kwako

1. Onjeni muone kwamba Bwana yu mwema
2. Na heri yule mtu anayetumaini Yesu Kristu

3. Katika nguvu za giza katutoa
Na kutukaribisha katika ufalme wa pendo lake

4. Habari njema alituhubiria na kutufungulia
Akatangaza mwaka wa neema

5. Mchungaji wangu mkuu ndiye Bwana Yesu,
Sikosi kitu kamwe kuniongoza kwenye njia nyofu



