



GLADYS MUTEMBEI MBOCHI ITELA

15th June 1948 – 16th August 2021

ACTIVITIES

Tuesday 24th August 2021 - Service at CITAM Karen, Nairobi

11:00am

- Funeral Service starts at CITAM Church, Karen
- Processional Hymn
- Opening Prayer - CITAM Pastor Welcome
- Bible Readings:
 - 1st Reading
 - 2nd Reading
- Eulogy
- Tributes:
 - Nieces and Nephews
 - Cousins
 - In-laws
 - Grandchildren
 - Siblings
 - Children
- Hymn
- Offertory
- Sermon
- Prayers for the family
- Hymn
- Announcements and Vote of Thanks
- Closing Prayer/Benediction
- Recessional Hymn

Thursday 26th August 2021

- Transportation to Busia
- The cortege leaves Montezuma Funeral Home for JKIA.
- The cortege arrives at Kisumu International Airport and proceeds to Segero (the family home), Busia County.

Friday 27th August 2021 Funeral Service, Segero Primary School

- Friday 27th August 2021 - Funeral Service, Family Home
- Speeches
- Requiem Mass commences
- Burial ceremony

EULOGY



EARLY LIFE

The late Gladys Mutembei Mbochi was born on Tuesday, 15th June, 1948 to the late Herman Shamia Mulindi and the late Tabitha Isukulu Shilwatso in Imasava Ishivagala Village which at the time was in Shiseso Sub-location of Idakho Location, Ikolomani Division in Kakamega District. She was born in an exclusive Christian community of Quakers, then referred to as "Mulaini", an environment that was to later impact on her values in life. The late Mama Gladys was the first-born child of twelve siblings born to her father and mother, namely Edah Indangasi Wendoh, Festus Shanzira Alubwa, late Andrew "Mayor" Lwangu, Late Sammy Lusava Kubai, Simon Angote, Rose Mutola, late Albert Omari, John Abakala, Wycliffe Sunguti and two others who died in their infancy. Gladys' other siblings are Mary Khamali Katela, Jairus Kiki Alusiola, Alice Alusa, Isabella Musanga, Joshua Khandu, Cyrus Wivaya and Steven Mwabishi. She has a living mama mdogo Grace W. Shamia. She was adored by her parents, siblings and her community of birth. She belonged to the Avamasava clan of Idakho, one of the Luhya sub-tribes.

EDUCATION

The late Gladys attended the Friends Africa Mission (FAM) Schools at Mukhonje and Hambale between 1956 and 1964 for her primary school education. She sat for Kenya African Preliminary Examination (KAPE) at Hambale in 1964 and then proceeded to the prestigious Alliance Girls High School (AGHS) between 1965 and 1968 for her ordinary level studies. She sat for her Cambridge School Certificate Exams at Alliance Girls High School in 1968 which she passed. While at Alliance Girls High School she was a member of the school choir, something she always remembered with fond memories. She thereafter joined another prestigious School, The Highlands School, Eldoret (now Moi Girls High School, Eldoret) for her Advanced Level Exams between 1969 and 1970. She again excelled in her A level studies, something that endeared her to her parents.

FAMILY

The late Gladys married the late John Mayeku Busolo in 1972 and was blessed with two daughters, Enid Nasimiyu and Maureen Nekesa before John passed on in July 1977 following a road accident. She later met and courted Mr. Gabriel Itela who married her in 1979 and the marriage was blessed a daughter, Sharon Josephine Toto and two sons, Hilary Odera and Lawrence Okobo. In addition, she became a mother to Anthony Okello, Steve Okobo, Louis Okodoi, the late Valerian Ikamar and Mary Goretti Ikalung'ure. She leaves behind the following grandchildren: Alyward Likombe, Amanda Shilwatso, Maria Nabwonya, Andrew Lwangu, Gloria Nzavaye, Chelsea Amandla, Shawn Okoth, Neema Mutembei, Nomsa Lindiwe, Liam Odera, Theo Gabriel Itela, Thierry Mwakwe and Austin Itela, among many others. She was mother-in-law to the late Austin Beebe, Jacktone Opande Kweya, Suleiman Odula, Karen Basiye, Jane Okello, Jane Gachiri and Rose Akwang. She was a cherished in-law, senje, cousin, grandaunt to many. She was a great believer in the institution of family and relations – relatives will attest to this. Gladys was a mother-figure to her siblings because she was a look-a-like of her mother- resembled her mother, sang like her mother, talked her like mother and had a commanding personality like her mother. She never took sides in family disputes if any arose. She was a great proponent of education and was an active force in encouraging the academic pursuits of her children and grandchildren, as well as those of members of the extended family and community.



EULOGY

SOCIAL LIFE

The late Gladys loved hymns and gospel music, was a sports enthusiast – a great fan of rugby (greatly supported her son Hilary), supported Abeingo Football Club, Abaluhya Football Club, Manchester United and always religiously watched the Annual Wimbledon Tennis tournament in England. In her youthful life she led church members at the Malimili Friends in Christmas carols and choral verses as a conductor. Every growing girl in the village “wanted to be like Gladys”. She had very high personal standards in dressing, etiquette, hospitality. She was a good cook. She carried the name of the Father’s Princess because of her high social standards and honour that she brought to her parents and siblings. She loved decent clothes, good food, good company of non-gossiping people and always looked forward to annual family gatherings that she religiously attended.

CHRISTIAN LIFE

The late Gladys was born into the Quaker Faith and was dedicated after birth in 1948. She attended Quaker baptism teachings (book 1 and 2) and was baptized by the later Supt Samuel Mwinamo in 1963. She was an active youth in the church during which time she attended several youth retreats during school holidays – this gave her a great network of friends. It was through these early Christian engagements that Gladys grew her love for hymns which she has sung until her time on earth was done. She later in life joined the Catholic Church through her marriage to Gabriel. She has been involved in the Small Christian Community of Sidelewa Sub-Parish, Amukura Parish- from where she received the sacraments of Baptism and First Holy Communion.

WORK LIFE

The late Gladys was a founder teacher of the current Musoli Girls High School where she taught after her A-Levels in 1971. She later joined Standard Chartered Bank in 1972 and worked in the following stations until her retirement in 1998: Kericho, Nakuru, Mombasa and Nairobi. She worked and served with Standard Chartered Bank for twenty eight years.

In 2006, Gladys retreated to live and support her husband in farming efforts at home, something she was doing until the time of her demise.

HEALTH HISTORY & FINAL DAYS

Gladys enjoyed good health until 1991 when during one of her annual check up’s that she was diagnosed as being hypertensive. However, with proper medical attention, she was able to keep the condition under check for over three decades. On Tuesday August 10th, She experienced severe discomfort and was admitted in the High Dependency Unit at the Nairobi Hospital. Her condition did not improve and was subsequently moved to the Intensive Care Unit on Friday, August 13th 2021. She finally rested and went to be with the Lord at around 5pm on Monday, August 16th 2021.

We will always cherish her warm smile, her generous spirit, her devotion to her faith and family, the spirit of embrace and welcome she always embodied, her unceasing words of wisdom and advice, her prompt reprimand that were given with love whenever needed and her indefatigable ability to socialize with people from all walk of life.

Rest well Mama, you will live forever in our hearts!



TRIBUTES

It is extremely difficult to accept the demise of a close friend, especially when we did not have an opportunity to say goodbye. Death is cruel and knows no boundaries. Yet even though you are no longer present in our lives, we cherish your abundant love which never dies. We loved you but God loved you more. Fly so high like an eagle with the angels in the skies till we meet again. – **Imelda Nabwire**

Siblings and Cousins

Gladys, you were my dear sister and the first born in our family. You were a mentor both in character and education. You loved all your siblings and you were everything to me my sister. You have suffered but our God chose to rest you. Have a blessed peaceful journey to your mentor, till we meet again. – **Edda Wendo**

Mutembei.... mwana wa mama. The shining star, inward and out. As a first born, you shined as a model to all of us. I have never told you this in person, but you held and still will hold a special place in my heart. From the small village of immasava ishivakala, you went to Alliance girls. You made us walk with pride and I always wished that everyone I met would ask me about my big sister. You were a beautiful, brown, intelligent lady that everyone would wish to associate themselves with. You always reassured everyone who seemed to despair. You always said "kosi khulekehele nyasaye, niku?" When my last-born daughter almost gave up on school while in nursery, you asked her to "look people in the eye" if they stare at her. This psyched up my daughter and she always talks about it. Gladys, I lack words to explain the pain within me. Who will ever call to inquire how I am doing? With lots of love. Rest easy Mutembei. – **Festus Shanzira**

My sister, the Princess, you know that you were royalty! You lived honourably, respected and loved people, you celebrated success and empathised with those who were suffering. You upheld & promoted family values, you were my mentor. I will miss our weekly moments of singing vernacular hymns that our mother loved. It was a pleasure and privilege having you as a sister. Rest in eternal peace, beloved. – **Simon Angote**



May I say thank you to our loving Almighty Father, who gave us such a loving sister like Gladys. She has played a big role in my life. If you consider education, Gladys has paid my school fees. She has taken care of me health wise. My sister did not engage in FITINA. She told me that I used to make her days and would call complaining when we hadn't spoken. My sister taught me how to be clean, how to bathe and hold a baby at the age of 14, and up to now, I still maintain my cleanliness. My sister, thank you so much for the motherly role you have played so effortlessly. Go well, my sister. – **Rose Mutola**

Mutembei, it is hard to believe that you are no longer here. You were my best sister, as I used to call you "mundu muhindila". The first born of Herman Shamia Mulindi. My confidant, you were. I will always cherish the good times we shared, your words of encouragement kept me going. You have gone with my request hanging. I will surely miss you my dear sister. Fare thee well. – **John Abakala**

My sister, you were a role model to us as the first born. I am struggling to find the right words to describe the impact that you had in my life. You played such an important role in it and made it your priority to have me established and settled in a good family. You were friendly and welcoming. You loved everyone. You truly had a clean and pure heart. Mutembei, I will never forget the love that you've shown me. Rest well, my sister.

– **Wycliffe Sunguti**

I sincerely pay this tribute to my favorite sister-in-law, my best friend. I have got nothing short of fond memories. The first time I set my eyes on you, was the day you visited my village home in Hamisi, in search of a 'wife' for your brother. Our relationship grew steadily and with time you developed a soft spot for me. I became a trophy, who you always referred to as "Manyanga". You were kind and loving. I'll miss your beautiful smile. Above all, you were a phenomenal teacher and a dedicated mentor. You may be gone but you will never be forgotten. Rest in peace mukhwasi, until we meet at Jesus' feet. – **Rhodah Angote**

TRIBUTES

Gladys, you were our cousin but acted like a mother to us. You stepped in when we lost our parents. You checked on us constantly. You celebrated with us and also grieved with us. You did not miss any of our functions. You had a personal touch with each of us. You went beyond and built relationships with our children and spouses. And most of all, you were a true friend. You are missed, the gap you've left is huge. Rest in peace, till we meet again. – Judie Mbaya

It's sad to have to say bye to my dear cousin who was a pillar in our Mbochi family. We shall truly miss your counsel that made many of us who we are today. As a family, we have really been affected and only wish that the Lord will rest your soul in eternal peace till we meet again. - Dr Cliff Mbaya

To my sister-in-law, words can't express fully who you were to me and my children. No words can correctly describe our friendship. I always think of your intelligence, kindness, humility and generosity. You taught me how to love and embrace everyone. I will truly miss your laughter and funny stories. You've lived a remarkable life. It is with a heavy heart that I say goodbye, fare thee well to the next life. You'll forever be in my heart and prayers. Rest in peace, in-law. – Gertrude Ajilong

Children Tributes



Mama, it has taken every fibre of my being to gather courage and put down this tribute in your honour. I never thought this would be so soon Mama. You were not just my mother, but you were my friend, my confidant, my prayer partner and support system in every way I could ever think of. Mama, you have held me together and you never stopped to be until the last minute when we took you to hospital together with Hilary, Sharon and Jack.



When I look back, you were my greatest cheerleader in literally every milestone I made, including my deliveries. You were always there to receive your grandchildren whom you doted on and loved till your last breathe. When I was going through challenges, you would call and ask, "Mummy, nishi? Your gut feeling was always right when I was not in a good place.

Your death has left me broken and frail. Mama, how I wish I could spend some more years with you? We had agreed that when the young one's graduate, we will go to the U.S for the graduations and thereafter spend some time touring different states before we return here. Even though you have now left, I will do it for you because I know your grandchildren will not let you down.

Thank you Mama for loving us together with our spouses. Thank you for the deep love you had for your grandchildren. Thank you for teaching us to appreciate and honour people. Thank you for teaching us the value of relationships and taking us to visit homes of your relatives so that we get to know them. Thank you for the valuable lessons about being organized, clean, neat, smart, well dressed, working smart at school and the ethics of working diligently. You abhorred laziness and would not stand a dirty person around you. Someone reminded me from our primary school days how you bought us very unique clothes and shoes that they kept borrowing because they were exquisite. You dressed us well and you have rubbed the same on your grandchildren.

CHILDREN TRIBUTES

Thank you for always insisting that all else is vanity if God is not at the centre of it all. I am glad that before they wheeled you to the HDU, I told you that we rededicate ourselves back to God and you followed my prayer prompts and at the end said, kabe kario! Thanks for preparing for eternity where you now rest. I love you Mama. I would pay anything to have you back, but that remains a far-fetched dream. As your first born, I will keep your children together and promise to keep the peace you always cherished in your home. Mama, I will terribly miss you but you remain my love because every part of me has an element of you. Rest well till that Resurrection morning. - **Enid**

Mama, my pillar of strength. I cannot believe that you went so soon. You were a woman filled with love, kindness, and generosity. You had a positive impact on everyone you interacted with, and most importantly on me. As a mother, you were intentional in our up bringing, to ensure that your children were respectful, kind, thoughtful and God-fearing. You did it all. Despite the challenges you faced, you always had a smile on your face, ready to welcome everyone, especially your grandchildren. I have walked closely with you through your sickness, and I have truly enjoyed being your right-hand man for your medicine, doctors' appointments, and anything that you knew my siblings would have disapproved of, especially Hillary and Enid. I will miss our conversations by the fireplace when I would stop by on my way home from work. I will miss your phone calls a week in advance reminding me of the medicine you needed. I will miss the mother that held my hand through life's obstacles, the mother who was committed to being a present figure in my life, the mother that loved me intentionally and unconditionally. There are several lessons that I have learned from you. You instilled in me the value of doing good, for family and for friends. You showed me the importance of being time conscious, to respect other people's time, and you taught me how to dress and present myself well. The latter was certainly passed down through your flawless genes and from watching you carry yourself with grace and confidence. As I look around, I feel the emptiness that your departure has left. I know you lived a life that you were proud of, and I am equally as proud of who you were and the impact you've had on many lives. Simply put, I am proud to be your daughter. Mama, I love you and it pains me to know that our journey together has come to an end. I know you are in a better place now and I will cling on to our memories together, as I begin this new chapter in my life. Rest Mama, you have done your part. - **Maureen**

To the finest lady that I have ever known, the elegant one that can't be compared. Mama, where do I even start? I'm grateful to God for the years He gave us with you. You have taught me much Mama, but the most important lesson was to avoid any negativity in life. That has kept me going. Mama, you stood by me when it felt that the world was against me. You pushed me to keep pressing on even when I didn't feel like it. You would tell me, do the best you can, assist when you can and the rest leave it to God. He will handle it. You were always there for us all, often calling us when we didn't do so. The morning birthday calls.... I will miss them, I missed it this year. You left a day before my birthday, how will I celebrate my other birthdays? But our Lord will never leave us nor forsake us, He is our father, we will push through. I thank God for having a mother like you. Rest my mother, out of the pains and struggles of this world. Even in death you still look beautiful and gorgeous as always. Rest our Queen mother, rest mama. I will always love you. - **Sharon Toto**



Trust and obey for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey Mama would sing this all the time while we were kids, after a punishment or even while celebrating any achievements. I was never an easy child, full of naughty misadventures with a legendary cheeky streak. I vividly recall once when I was in class 4, I had in my wisdom (or lack of) decided not to do homework for an entire term. As a Parent's meeting drew near, I decided to hide the school summon letter but forgot that my younger brother Lawrence had been issued one as well and had already handed it over to Mama. Strike 1.

On the appointed day, Mama met my teacher Mrs. Sewe who cried at how I had potential but needed to focus. Seeing another mother shed tears for her son, Mama gave me a legendary reprimand that evening saying, "I must beat this devil of cheekiness out of you for good", followed by her all-time greatest tune in the 90s "Trust and obey". Later that term, I moved from position 9 to number 1, a position that I retained religiously. When I sat for my primary examination and was ranked 4th in Nairobi, in her celebration as we were getting awarded by the Nairobi City Education Department, she continued singing "Trust and obey".

Years later when she became a grandmother, I saw a side of Mama that was truly beautiful and blessed. She loved all her grandchildren unconditionally and would always call to check in on them through examinations, sickness, and celebrations. Always keen to give advice, Mama would often use jibes to pass her message in a comical but effective way. Her sense of humor was truly legendary. Your journey in this world may have been cut short in our view; but the Good Lord saw it fit to call you into glory at his appointed time. Thank you for being there always. I will miss our soccer banter (though I doubt Man Utd will win a title before Arsenal in this decade. I will miss our drives to the village. I will miss our endless chats as you sipped on tea (you drank litres in your lifetime). I will miss your support. We shall miss you but live-in faith that we shall be reunited in the afterlife. Rest well Mama, rest well. Till we meet again. I love you - **Hillary**

PICTORIAL



TRIBUTES

The warm embrace of welcome and farewell on our trips home, singing hymns that you said reminded you of your youth at Alliance, the way you knew how make everyone feel special, your love of cleanliness and neatness, your word of wisdom whenever we needed, your word of encouragement- you believed in me before I knew I ever could, your never-ending well of forgiveness, your warm smile, your beauty that shone inside and out... I do not know what I will miss most Mama. In January I lost my rock, in August I lost my light. Shine bright on your way mama. Rest easy! Your journey on earth has ended. And we are the lucky ones to have been blessed by it. - **Lawrence**

Dear beloved mother, I received news of your eternal departure with great shock and still struggling to get to terms with the reality. You were my mother, and you called me your child. There is no measure to your great counsel. I will surely miss the family values you inculcated with wise counsel, the love and encouragement you gave me in my upbringing to a disciplined, forthright and responsible husband. The family unity you always emphasized is something always to emulate. I will build on this and ensure we have these family ties sustained through generations. I will miss you, Mama, fare the well. - **Anthony**

We feel honoured and privileged to have had the opportunity to call you "Mama" - a name you carried with dignity. If only we could have you back for just a little while, then we could sit and talk again just like we used to do. Even though you are no longer with us, your legacy - devotion to the family will live in all of us. You were incredibly respectful, honest and inspired anyone

who knew you. You loved us unconditionally and will forever cherish those moments in our lives. The fact that you are no more breaks our hearts. We will cherish your brilliant pieces of advice and how you were always beautifully dressed. Football was fun to watch with you around. Man-U vs Arsenal was the mother of all matches, and your loyalty to Manchester United stood out. We did our duty to have you stay with us a little longer, but God's will is something that will always happen no matter what we do. And we have great joy knowing that you are no longer in pain and take delight in the Lord daily, thanking Him for the moments and memories we shared. In the words of Jesus, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world – John 16:33." Rest peacefully with the angels till we meet again, rest in peace. - **Steve, Louis and Mary**

You watched and closely supervised her baby ways before she became someone worth my interest. THANK YOU. I will forever remember the friendly and jovial person that you were. You welcomed me and always called to check on me with your famous phrase "Abanyole nabalamu?". Lonely shall be the home without you but I know rich is heaven to have you. RIP. - **Jack**

My dear Mama, you were the truest, dearest, Mama I could ever have asked for. I called you a friend, adviser and a mother. You stood by me for 10 years plus... You were simply Mama to me and I was kukhu to you. After my mom passed on, I never knew I'd meet another mom who'd embrace me and love me unconditionally until I met you. My first memory of meeting you was sometime in June or July of 2011 when Hila and I came to meet you at Enid's house. You welcomed me so warmly and when I said I came from a Quaker/catholic home I saw your smile and I knew I was inside. When I added I was Luhya like you with ties in Idakho land I saw the approval, Mama you approved of me even before you knew me well, you called me Kukhu. I have so many memories from the many times we met and the times you came home and when my dad handed me over to you. I thank God for you as you and my mom were so similar... happy, loving, authentic and positive people. What you saw in Mama was exactly what you got. In my years in your home, I never saw or heard you shout at anyone, you were one of a kind. Mama you've left me alone in your home where do I even start? You were a precious gift from God. So much beauty, grace, love and patience you possessed. You touched my heart in so many ways, your strength and smile even on dark days made me realize I had an angel beside me. I will never forget 31st July of this year when you and I sat outside Enid's house and talked for 2 hours, you made me laugh so much and gave me all the stories (shitina) about the village. Mama I had missed your stories, little did I know that this would be the last time you and I had such a lovely moment. If only I had known I would have stayed longer and basked in your love.

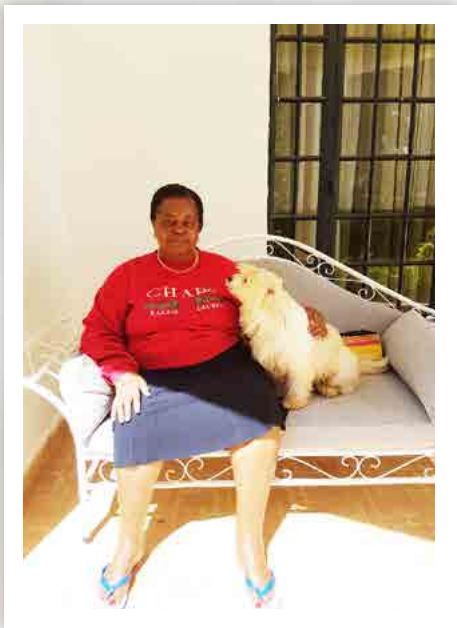
God, who will update me on the goings in the village? Who will I report Hila to when he has annoyed me? I always knew I could report Hila to Mama because that was a safe space. She loved Hila so much that she'd find a way to manage him for me. On 1st August, you called Theo to wish him a happy birthday and sang for him, Mama who will sing for us when it's our birthday. God, you gave me a new Mama and you have taken her. I will forever salute you. You were all I ever needed. God gave me the best mother-in-law in the world. I miss you my dearest Mama. Sleep well Mama till we meet again! You are now amongst the angels, flying high above the sky. With your love still watching over us. Fare thee well mama, we loved you but God loved you so much more! - **Karen**



PICTORIAL



PICTORIAL



NIECES AND NEPHEWS TRIBUTES

My dear, beautiful senje, you are the best thing that ever happened to me. Growing up, I used to marvel at the thought of having a beautiful aunt like you. I referred to you as "senje wa marashi/senje musungu" because of your perfumes that smelled delightful, and your very light complexion. Your sense of fashion was nothing short of impeccable. In the village, when you would visit my grandmother, my time was spent around you, up until the day of your departure which were sad moments. That is where our friendship began. During my high school days, I used to look forward to opening day, for I knew Enid and Maureen would come with an extra shopping carton for me, always accompanied with a letter urging me to work hard in school. Maush thank you for faithfully delivering my shopping in full for the three years that Enid left us behind in Mukumu. Senje you loved me and I loved you back equally.

The highlight of it all was staying with you once I completed high school. You instilled discipline in me, and many other great values to help me relate well with people within our family and the outside world. We shared a lot. I confided in you just as much as you did in me. Enid always says "hawa wawili hata usiingilie mambo yao." My aunt did not like controversy, she loved peace and valued unity. Consistently encouraging anyone she closely interacted with to stand with others, both in the good and bad times. She radiated positive energy and insisted on discussing success stories. When someone did something commendable, she would always compliment them, then say "senje ka fulani akholi yaka shikali malai? Niku?" ("Don't you think what so and so has done is good? Isn't?"). Senje always discouraged gossip, she would say, "senje bumonyi ni bitina nibileyi taa, biononya lwikho" (Gossip is not good as it destroys relationships). She was never malicious. She had a clean, pure heart, one identical to that of a child. It was in her nature to caution us when it came to revenge and bitterness, always advising that some things should be left to God, to allow Him to deal with the people who have wronged us and ask Him for the grace to move on.



She loved to sing Tsinyimbu Tsya Nyasaye (Luhya Christian Hymns) when she was alone. Then she'd say, nakhimba khu tsinyimbu tsia mama yali niyayanza (I have been singing the songs my mother loved). We would watch and analyze football matches together accompanied with lots and lots of tea. We basically knew all the players in Europe's top leagues, our favorite being the EPL. Manchester United has lost a HUGE fan of many years, or like the British would say a MASSIVE fan. We would then cross over to the UK to discuss our favorite family, the Royal family, and the events happening there. Even after she moved upcountry she would still call to find out if I was able to follow an upcoming event especially ones that occurred during weekdays, due to my work schedule.

Eventually, we ended up almost knowing all the MPs in the House of Commons because we used to closely follow their house proceedings and we did not miss the PMQs (Prime Ministers Questions) sessions. Some people here, they know themselves, started referring to us "Wa British waliobaki Kenya". They were upset, because you and I were in control of the TV remote lest someone change our favorite channel, Sky News. After your retirement, we spent part of our time going on evening walks and afterwards, complete home workouts guided by our treasured workout book written by Jane Fonda. When you were somewhere and noticed me arrive, you'd smile and say "senje urio khutukha" (Thank you for coming), because you knew mtu wako wa kutuma, without complaining, has arrived. I would do anything for you, whether it was getting your sweater and helping you wear it, putting your necklace back in position, straightening your hat, bringing you a glass of water, or bringing your blood pressure medicine bag, name it, I would gladly do it all. Senje, thank you for giving me FIVE great friends in my cousins, with whom I have always related with as brothers and sisters. To these friends of mine, a big thank you too, for taking good care of senje in the best way possible. The love you all had for her equals the love she had for her mother. God bless you all for the job well done over the years. Rest well my friend, my loving senje, rest well mwana wa kukhu, until we meet again at the feet of Jesus. - **Mukoshi**

On the 16th of August 2021, without any notice you left for a life beyond. But what an in print your legacy has left in our hearts. I pay a tribute of love and respect accompanied by humor to a woman who was family, an aunty, a mother, a mentor and above all, a true friend. Queen Mother, you used your matchless power to unite the family. You exuded a Christ like character of goodness, love, kindness, hard work and many more. A woman, well learned with a sense of style and fashion - we shall really miss that trait. I mourn a woman whose idea was not for self, but to create an impact in people's lives. I will miss her integrity, which flowed through and through, never settling for anything but the best at all times. I admired how you never judged or forced an opinion on anyone but offered valuable and truthful advice, that I will surely miss. I will always remember all the good times we shared together. Farewell into the light of Gods glory Queen Mother Gladys Mutembei Itela.

On behalf of my family and the entire house of the Late Obbah Nkabahita and Joy Nkabahita, we pass our deepest condolences to the entire family of Mama Gladys Itela and pray that you find comfort in the Lord God. - **Chadwick Wendo and Adellah Akaturira**

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PICTORIAL



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Things are not the same without you Mama Gladys. Everything has become so boring. I miss you in every moment, your memories are what occupy my mind. I miss seeing your beautiful face. You guided me, taught me how to be a clean person. Your advice, you always wanted the best for my life. No matter how many years pass by, I will still love you Mama. No one can take your place. You were a wonderful mother to many, and you will be missed by many. May your soul rest in perfect peace Mama Gladys. - **Judith**

My sweet Senje Gladys was the ultimate definition of a mother. Making everyone feel relevant, important and loved in their own way. The way you'd proudly talk about being a Mbochi and kukhu Shilwatso's daughter made me start appreciating where I come from even more. I'm proud of my family. Proud of my roots. This one has really pierced my heart. Senje you selflessly showed everyone around you love and never hesitated to correct mistakes on the spot. You were truly our mother. You're the sweetest person I've ever met with such a genuine heart. You were literally a human rose. I'll really miss you. This one right here has hurt me in a way I can't even explain. Till we meet again. Rest In Peace. - **Iris**

Mama, you have left us with no words. You were my personal person Mama. Your personal assistant I was to you, your confidant. Mama, I can't ask God why. You called me the First Lady of Taita Taveta County – the name many call me to date especially Uncle Angote among many. You took it upon yourself to help me walk through this tough journey of widowhood and all you wanted was to see me smile each day. Mama, you were a precious gift from God, so much beauty, grace, love, and patience you possessed. You touched my heart in so many ways, your strength and smile even on my darkest day made me realize I had an angel beside me. I have no words really. I will miss your famous remarks "Niku", "Kavekario", "Khusale vutswa". Mama, I know well you loved me genuinely. Mama, you know how I loved you as well. No words. Fare thee well Mama. All you have left us with is your wisdom that I shall treasure forever. You will be missed dearly by all. I release you. - **Jacque Basiye-Mwakima**



To the world, you were a person, but to us you were the world. No words can describe the feeling we had when we heard that you had passed on. We wish we had the chance to say goodbye and share one last hug. We will miss your wise counsel, words of encouragement and the memories we shared. Mama, you were a superhero to us, you valued education, hard work and Christian values. You would welcome everybody to your home, your generosity can never be compared. Indeed, you were a hero, but you have rested. Your legacy will live on in our hearts. Rest in peace, Mama.

- **Violet and Angela**

Dear mum, I lack words to say. You were always a role model and mentor to me. You always gave me good advice on how to live a meaningful life with purpose. We shared a lot. Whenever we would meet, you always assured me that nothing in life is hard with God. You embraced everyone.

I will forever miss you. May your soul rest in peace. - **Jane Okello**



GRANDCHILDREN TRIBUTES

God saw you getting tired and a cure was not to be, So, He put His arms around you and whispered, "Come with Me." With tearful eyes we watched you slowly fade away. Although we loved you dearly, we would not make you stay. A golden heart stopped beating, your hard-working hands put to rest, God broke our hearts to prove to us He only takes the best. I missed you today, I will miss you tomorrow, Tears in my eyes and a heart full of sorrow. I'll hold on to the memories of the great times we had, I grieve for what I lost but am grateful for what I had. I'll remember that endings are also beginnings. For you are with me in my future winnings. Rest in Peace Koko - **Aylward**



Words cannot describe the pain that I feel knowing that you're gone. A woman who was my role model in every way. My grandmother was someone who never wavered in her principles and character regardless of who she was with. She loved everyone wholeheartedly, just as much as she loved herself.

She only ever wanted to be dressed well, in well-coordinated colors, quality make up, elegant scents and eye-catching jewelry. I would like to think of myself as her go to grandchild whenever it came to beauty products, shoes, and jewelry. She would call me and after 10 seconds of small talk she would say "Now my mother, you know the lotion you bought me has finished" and I would immediately feel the pressure to get her a better smelling one within a week, or else I'd be called every morning to be questioned about my progress on the matter she considered quite urgent. On 15th June 2021, I told you that you were the most amazing grandmother ever, and I will forever stand by that. We surprised you with a cake and I'm glad I insisted on doing so because it was your last. I know the things I wanted to do with you will never happen, and in some way, you knew that and when you'd tell me I always disagreed and discouraged you from having what I believed was a pessimistic view on life. Yet here we are. I have peace in my heart knowing that you had unwavering faith in God and knowing that you indeed have rested. I'm glad I told you I love you, I'm glad I spent time with you, I'm glad that you confided in me when you knew your harsh children would give you lengthy lectures. I'm glad that we were friends.



It breaks my heart to know that there'll be one less person to call me "Shilwatso, my mother". You're the person I enjoyed taking to the salon, the first person I'd think of when I'm buying gifts, the one who'd reassure me of how proud they were of the person I had become. You were my first secret santa, my one and only Koko. You were never a burden to me, and now, I enter the guest room and realize it will never be our room, our place to sit and discuss how I would convince mummy to buy you more lotion, what we shared between the two of us. I know you loved me, but I hope you know that I loved you just as much if not more. I will miss your calls at 6am to sing to me happy birthday. I will miss your lectures on what I should be doing as a first-born daughter, as an elder sister, as a cousin, as a niece and most importantly, as your first granddaughter. I will miss your wisdom, I will miss sitting by the fireplace with you every day, I will miss your protection from my mother's wrath. Koko, I truly just miss you. I hope you're happy and rejoicing, that is exactly how you deserve to feel. We loved you but God loved you more. Just as He loved Kuka and Daddy. Rest Koko, you have fought a good fight, and you did it with grace. I have lost another pillar in my life, and I don't know who I'll be buying oil for, but I will treasure the moments I had with you. I love you. - **Amanda**



GRANDCHILDREN TRIBUTES

This past year, I've written well over fifty essays for college applications and yet I am struggling to find the right words to start this tribute. From the onset, Koko always supported my love for learning. I remember how excited she would be to find me reading a book under some tree somewhere in Teso; during my IGCSE's and A-levels, she was my personal alarm, calling me every week to make sure I had studied. She showed genuine interest in everything I did- even though I knew she couldn't care less about whatever mole equation I was struggling with in chemistry or gravitational theorem was stumping me in physics. Koko cared so much about my educational (and general) well-being and I don't know if anyone will ever be able to match her impeccable energy. Even the thought of going to university now feels so foreign. There was no one, not even my mother, who was more excited for me to go to Yale than my grandmother. Before I had even accepted the offer, Koko had called me with an extensive list of all the hoodies, sweatshirts, t-shirts and merchandize she wanted from the school shop. Koko was a second mother to me; she was someone I could always count on to be excited for me- she made sure everyone knew how proud she was of her grandchildren and I don't know where I'll ever find a love like that again. I feel like only half of me is going off to school and I am devastated. But I am so grateful that she spent her final moments here with us. She filled me with so much love, joy and aspiration and though I am struggling on the 'how' aspect of moving forward, I know that I have no choice but to move forward. Rest easy Koko, you will forever be in my heart. - **Maria**

Dear Koko, I have not known you for so long but I'm so happy that I knew you for the time that I did. I remember the first time I met you I was so nervous but you were so welcoming. I loved your persona was, very calm and relaxed. I'll miss bringing you firewood when you were feeling cold. I hope wherever you are, you are at peace. - **Joe**

My darling grandmother, it truly hurts me that you're gone. I will miss the times we would spend our evenings watching and discussing soccer. Thank you for the advice you always gave me before I left for school. I promise to heed the advice because as you would say, it's for my own good. It brings me joy being affirmed that you are with the angels. Till we meet again. Rest easy, Queen. - **Andrew**

Koko you were my number one fan. Supporting me through my studies and always encouraging me through difficult seasons of life. You had a way of making everyone around you feel special in their own way. I am grateful for all the principles and values that you instilled in my life and I will set them as foundations in all that I do. The joint love that we shared for Manchester United elated me so dearly. You were truly my champion. There was magic in your touch and abundant grace in all that you did. Recalling the laughter, smiles and conversations that we shared, rekindles in me a hope that we will meet once again. As my conscience battles to accept that you are gone, I shall keep you in my heart, as I continue to cherish the memories that we shared.. - **Chelsea**



PICTORIAL



Grandchildren Tributes

Koko the matriarch of our family, and perpetually the queen of my heart. You emulated all what love is, and never chose who did or did not deserve it. Compassionate, beautiful, amiable, empathetic, humorous, intuitive, and abundant in wisdom; few words that scantily encapsulate the wonderful woman you were. I will miss your presence and the uplifting aura that came with it, your harmonic accompaniment during my music lessons (never hesitating to make me restart each time I fumbled up my notes), the prompt happy birthday calls as well as so many moments I will no longer anticipate, but instead treasure and hold on to as memories. You fueled my drive to excel in all that I do; always encouraging me and renewing a strength within me that I cannot explain. You were not only my Koko, but you were also my best friend. I shall strive to continue making you proud in all that I do and ensure to live up to the high standards you've left for me. I am lost and simply cannot put together why you had to leave so soon, but in my heart, I know that you are happy. The void you've left in me...I will always and eternally love you. **Rest in Gods perfect peace my beloved Koko. - Gloria**

Koko, my grandmother, sad that you have left us so soon. What I hold on to are the memories Kuka and you left. Staying with Kuka and you for some months last year were the best that I have ever had. Though it hurts that you are here no more, I thank God that I had the greatest grandmother in the world. Teso will never be the same now that you are gone. I promise to work hard in my studies as you always told me. Rest in peace my smart and lovely grandmother. **Till we meet again. - Shawn**

Koko, I wish I understood why you left us. I will never understand why. I wish you could see me graduating, going to the US, and coming back. I thank you for pushing me to be the best. I promise to make you and Kuka proud. I will carry on your name with glory and honor. The love you showed to us grandchildren will never be explained. I hope you are in a happier place. I will see you when my time will come. May the Spirit of the Lord be with you. **Amen and amen. - Neema**

Grandchildren Tributes

Wow Koko, you have really gone. I never imagined that this would happen so soon. You were my support, you were my pillar, and my grandmother. It is a shame to hear that you have passed away. I shall cherish all the memories we made in my heart. I loved you and always will, death may have taken you away, but it will never take away my hope of seeing you one more time. **Rest in eternal peace Koko, rest well. - Nomsa**

Dear Koko, I miss you so much. When Kuka died, I thought that we lost only one grandparent. When I heard the news that you passed away, I really cried. I will miss seeing that smile on your face when we came to visit you. Last Christmas, I did not know that it would be my last Christmas with you. I will miss our little football rival, with me supporting Manchester City and you, Manchester United. Watching football will never be the same. I thank God that you are in a better place and that you will meet Kuka. I thank God for giving me a grandmother like you. I will cherish the moments that I had with you. **Rest in peace Koko. - Samora**

Dear Grandma, where do I start... On 1st August you called and sang for me happy birthday, you wished me a lovely year ahead. Little did I know that that would be the last day I heard your voice. I would have stopped and listened more. Koko you were an amazing person, you were my friend. My mama says you were there when Thierry and I were born. You received us at hospital and cut our hair, you have always been in our life. Your death brings many tears to our eyes. Your spirit will still be with us. This does not mean that it's end, for we will be here for you until our time will end. We will never forget you. You meant so much to us. We will speak to you in heaven every evening as we pray. Pass our greetings to Kuka Gabriel, Koko Elishibah and Uncle Austin, Brian and Vale. I love you my Koko! **- Love Theo**

Dear Koko, I loved you and Kuka, but you left us. You and Kuka were the best grandparents to me. I will cherish the moments I had with you and Kuka. I will tell Austin about you and Kuka. **- Liam**

My Koko, you were in my life for the longest time and now your gone all in a blink of an eye. I am so confused, I have no idea why this had to happen to you. Every evening, I prayed for you to get well, but I guess God takes some of the best and we all must die someday. I just wish it wasn't so soon I need to know that you're okay and you're up there with God, Kuka, Koko and Uncle watching over me still witnessing me grow. I need some sort of sign; I need to know. I miss you Koko, I just need one more day with you so I can tell you how much I love and miss you. Koko I love you with all my heart and I know that you're up there watching over me. I remember everything you told me, no matter what happens, we will be okay. I love you Koko rest in peace. I'll be seeing you again one day. **- Love Thierry**

Dear grandma, it is hard to believe that you're no longer here. Your advice, words of encouragement and mentorship will forever be missed. You always gave me hope whenever I was low. I will cherish my last moments and words with you. Every time, we would meet you always smiled cheerfully, with words of encouragement that I will really miss. You have left a gap that can't be replaced. You always reminded me to be a responsible and happy man. Shine on your way. **May your soul rest in eternal life. - Edmund**



HYMNS

TRUST AND OBEY

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word,
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will, He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

*Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.
Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt or a fear, not a sigh or a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.*

Not a burden we bear, not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not a grief or a loss, not a frown or a cross,
But is blessed if we trust and obey.

But we never can prove the delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows, for the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet we will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do, where He sends we will go;
Never fear, only trust and obey.

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever will be.

Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see.
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

IN THE SWEET BY AND BY

There's a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we can see it afar;
For the Father waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there.

*In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.*

We shall sing on that beautiful shore
The melodious songs of the blessed;
And our spirits shall sorrow no more,
Not a sigh for the blessing of rest.

To our bountiful Father above,
We will offer our tribute of praise
For the glorious gift of His love
And the blessings that hallow our days.

WHEN WE ALL GET TO HEAVEN

Sing the wondrous love of Jesus,
Sing His mercy and His grace;
In the mansions, bright and blessed,
He'll prepare for us a place.

When we all get to Heaven,
What a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
We'll sing and shout the victory

While we walk the pilgrim pathway
Clouds will overspread the sky;
But when travelling days are over
Not a shadow, not a sigh.

Let us, then, be true and faithful,
Trusting, serving every day;
Just one glimpse of Him in glory
Will the toils of life repay.

Onward to the prize before us!
Soon His beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open,
We shall tread the streets of gold.

BWANA U SEHEMU YANGU

Bwana u sehemu yangu,
Rafiki yangu, wewe,
Katika safari yangu,
Tatembea na wewe.

Pamoja na wewe,
Pamoja na wewe,
Katika safari yangu,
Tatembea na wewe.

Mali 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.



May the Almighty rest her soul in eternal peace