



Celebrating the Life of
KAWIRA MWIRICHIA

1986 - 2020



Programme

Master of Ceremony: Brendah Choge

Time	Activity	Responsibility
10.00 a.m.	Arrival at Montezuma Mortuary	
11.00 a.m.	Leave Mortuary	
11.30 a.m.	Arrival at Langata Cemetery	
	Opening prayers	Pastor John Ngayu
	Praise and worship	
	Speeches	
	- Representative of Kawi's friends	
	- Representative of Kebaara's family	
	- Sibling	
	- Cousin	
	- Representative from Kenya Power	
	- Representative from Lavington Valley	
	- John Mwirichia for Kithinji Mwirichia	
12.00 p.m.	Eulogy	Carol Njeru
	Church Service	
	Praise and worship	
	Introduction of the clergy	
	Reading of the Word	
	Graveside ceremony	
	Vote of Thanks	Arnold Mbaabu
	Final prayers	Pastor John Ngayu
1.00 p.m.	Attendees leave at their own leisure	

Eulogy of Kawira Mwirichia

Sheila Kawira Mwirichia was born in Nairobi on 30 August 1986 to lawyer Gerald Kithinji Mwirichia and the Late Dr. Mercy Kebaara. She was a sister to Michael Mwongera Mwirichia and Carol Ntinyari Njeru, aunt to Bella and Gideon Njeru.

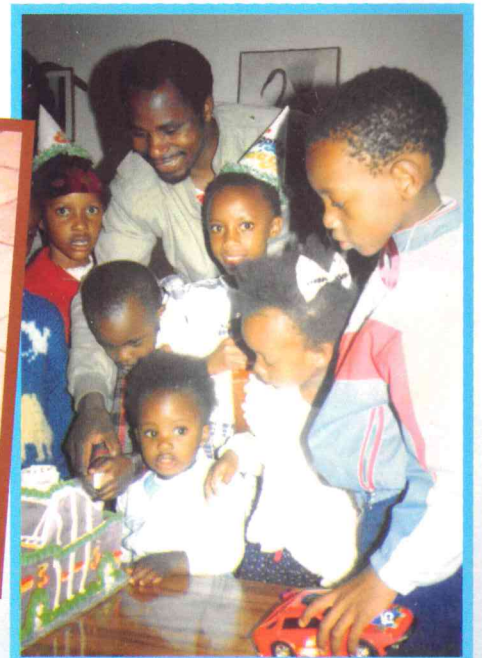
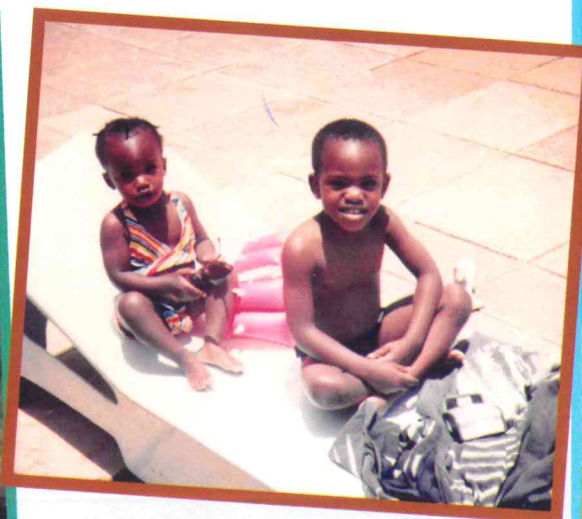
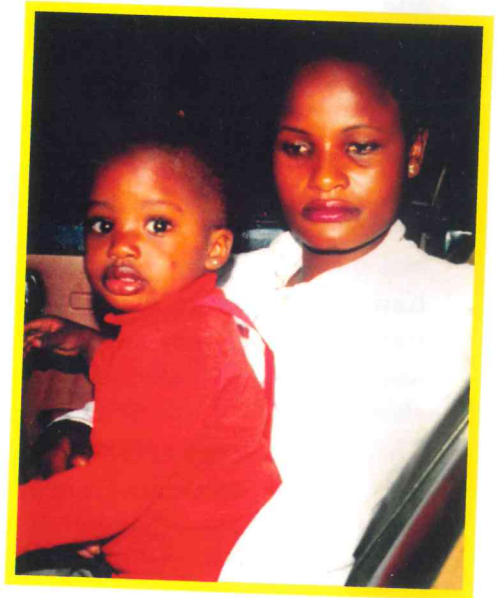
A petite baby, Kawira began walking when she was so tiny she often made people laugh seeing the places she could slip through. She grew up strong and healthy despite having a terrible appetite and hating avocados! She would store her food in her mouth until it turned watery and started dripping down the side of her lips, all the time looking at her caregiver with adorable eyes!

She was a very intelligent young lady who qualified to study engineering at the University of Nairobi in 2007, after a stint at State House Girls High School. She graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering in 2012.

Fondly known to many as Kawi, she pursued her dream of being a creative artist and was passionate and excelled in her work, gaining global recognition for it. In her free time, Kawi enjoyed traveling and was preparing to travel to China before the COVID-19 pandemic broke out. She was zealous about life and lived it to its fullest. Kawi gave the warmest hugs and would smile so wide, her eyes would shut!

At the time of her passing, Kawi was involved in human rights activism and was working on a kanga project representing all 196 countries on the globe. Important as Kawi was to all who shared really special memories with her, let us allow the memories to inspire us to live passionate and purposeful lives.

Kawira means a female person who works hard, and, sure enough, Kawi worked hard, whether it was at her art, her philanthropy at Christmas time or at her cookery. She made brave choices in her art and in life.



Tributes

Sheila was a sister, a friend, a competitor. She never shyed from a challenge, whether religious, social or a good race to the finish. She competed like she was one of the boys, at a time when many shyed from physical and political awareness, she challenged me to be a better person & I took the challenge, and I quit drinking and smoking thanks to her and my family. I went back to school and am exam away from getting my diploma, if Sheila wasn't there, I wouldn't be where I am. I will miss you Sheila. Farewell my sister.

- Michael

Dearest Kawey – To the rest of the world, you were larger than life, artist extraordinaire and creative genius. To us you were our Kawey, our sweet, kind, gentle cousin. To know that you lived your life surrounded by such beauty and creativity gives us a sense of pride and comfort. They say still waters run deep and this statement totally describes who you are. Your gorgeous smile and laughter, coupled with your great sense of humour, will forever echo in our hearts. Your hugs, oh your hugs, so intimate, so personal, so tight we never wanted to let go.

Kawey was always willing and ready to help whenever we needed her. She was a trendsetter in so many amazing aspects; a true visionary. Kawey was a superb swimmer and won many trophies and medals. She started her love of art early in her life and would paint and sell her art work while still in school.

Through her kanga art she spread revolutionary love, speaking for those who couldn't speak for themselves. Fearless in her beliefs, she boldly ventured into a world many shy away from.

Kawey, you were a bright star that has dimmed too soon. But you'll continue to live in our hearts and through your art. We will miss you. We celebrate you. Until we meet again.

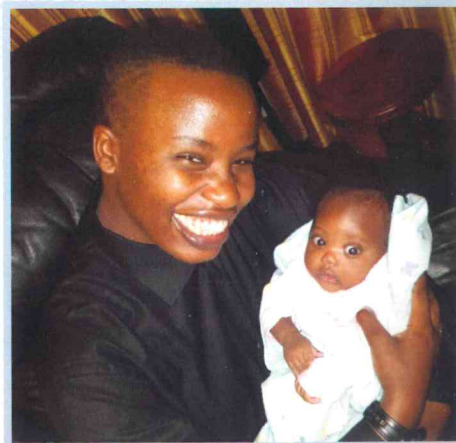
- Wangui & Kinya Ndenderu, Kenneth Kebaara, Kevin & Nimo Kebaara, Tafara & Njeri Muwandi, Christine Munene and Kareen Munene, Eric Njuku

My dear sister Sheila – It's been a while since we last spoke but I still remember your infectious smile, calm and collected demeanor, on top of things. I remember your occasional funny witty remarks. We will miss you. Fare thee well Sheila.

- John

Sheila – There are no words to describe my love for you. I never knew losing you will cause so much pain and heartache. I have spent days smiling in tears as I remember the moments warmly shared together, your signature smile, the balcony moments with our late mum, the hot Milo moments. I'll always look at you with the same eyes as I did when we had those beautiful memorable moments. I love you for eternity and miss you every second of my life.

- Carol Njeru



Tributes

Auntie Sheila – From the little time we spent together I enjoyed being with you. The lovely artwork always warmed my heart. Your smile brightened up the room and your personality always had a special place in my heart. Whenever we visited home, your countless medals from your swimming competitions made me aspire to be a great sportsman and I am working hard on that. RIP Auntie Sheila.

- Gideon Njeru

Auntie Sheila – I enjoyed every moment we shared together. You had a beautiful smile and you were very happy. You were very hard working and kind. It makes me sad to know you are no longer with us. I fondly remembered you last week without knowing what was ahead. I asked mum if we could visit after COVID. I now have only fond memories of you. I miss you so much, Auntie.

- Bella Ngatha Njeru

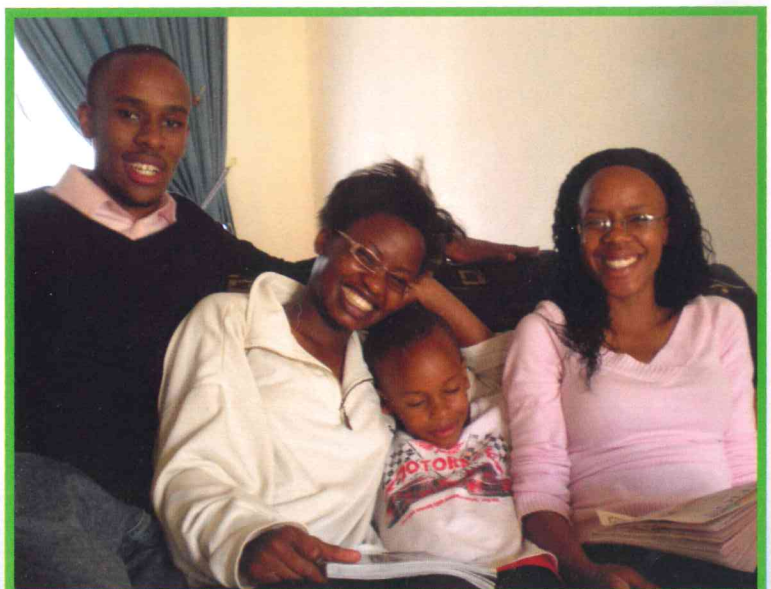
Our Dear Kawira – It's hard to picture a future without you in it, dear friend. As difficult as that may be, it's proof of the amazing journey we shared together.

As friends, your smile, sense of humour and openness to accept others mark most of our first memories. You were fiercely loyal and supportive, always ready to offer honesty when needed, often with a touch of humour. Your unyielding zest for life, was contagious and through this, you unknowingly became the string that brought a lot of us together. For this, we are grateful.

You created, inspired, loved and shared in so many ways and you made it easy for those around you to do the same. Thank you for being you; for being “unapologetically Kawira”. Proud we are to say, it was a life well-lived.

The world is a better place for having you and we are better for knowing you, dear friend. What great luck it was to get the front row seat, to watch it all. Always in our hearts.

- Friends of Kawira



About Kawi ... from Kawi

Now, my eyes may not be sapphire beads dipped in a marble sea
nor my nose fixed spot-on in a cute pose and yes,
My face may not have been crafted with perfection in mind
nor my body shaped flawlessly by experience and time so that,
while my smile spends a while trapped behind a "correctional facility", luckily,
I'm adequately compensated with the cutest little dimples you ever did see...
though on the wrong set of cheeks, if you know what I mean?
And, I could go on and on:
tell you about the wars I wage on my skin daily, but, at the end of the day
when I kick off my shoes just shy of a size eight
and wriggle free from my oppressively possessive blue jeans:
when it's just me standing before my reflection, studying my "imperfections", I learn.
See, I understand that loving me physically is about loving me ENTIRELY.
For, you see these full lips? These really full lips are a mark of sensuality
And these eyes: my father's eyes, match the rest of my mother's features so perfectly
And the wideness of my smile only testifies to my generosity,
while the smallness of my ears seems to say that I'm kinda ... self-involved
And, on and on ... I could give you little definitions of me in everything you see.
For everything you see, is just a manifestation of the person that is within me ..."



Hymns

1. Cha Kutumaini Sina

1. Cha kutumaini sina, ila damu yake Bwana,
Sina wema wa kutosha, dhambi zangu kuziosha

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

2. Damu yake na sadaka, nategemea daima
Yote chini yakiisha, Mwokozi atanitosha.
3. Njia yangu iwe ndefu, Yeye hunipa wokovu
Mawimbi yakinipiga, nguvu zake ndiyo nanga
4. Nikiitwa hukumuni, rohoni nina amani
Nikivikwa haki yake, sina hofu mbele yake

2. It Is Well With My Soul

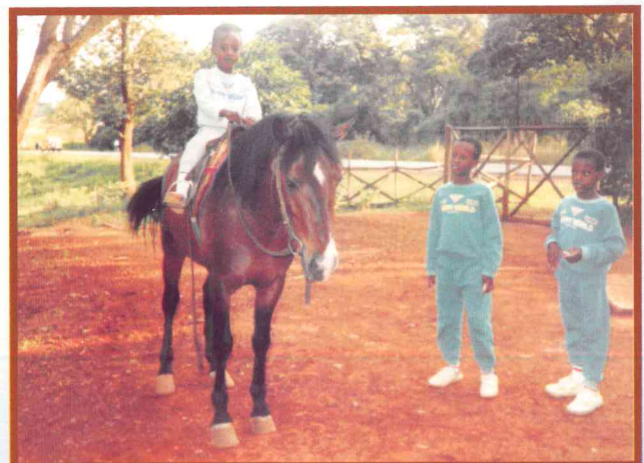
1. When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

*It is well, it is well,
With my soul, with my soul,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.*

2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials
should come,
Let this blessed assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
3. My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
4. And Lord, haste the day when my faith
shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trumpet shall sound, and the Lord
shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul.

3. Amazing Grace

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.
3. Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.
5. Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.
6. The world shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun refuse to shine;
But God, who called me here below,
Shall be forever mine.
7. When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.



APPRECIATION:

We, Kawira's close and extended family, express our profound gratitude to you for being with us today as we remember, celebrate and say goodbye to Kawi, who we will miss deeply. The kind of love you have given us and your support over the last week show us how much you loved Kawi and value us.

Kawi's friends from her human rights groups and other associations have shown us selfless generosity of the kind that you don't hear about in our times. They have worked behind the scenes with efficiency, commitment and love to ensure that Kawi's send-off is a reflection of the life she lived, giving herself unreservedly to the people and causes she valued.

Our friends have been calling us on the phone and visiting us to pray and to encourage us. We are extremely grateful for their generous giving towards the plans for this day.

We thank the staff of Montezuma Monalisa Funeral Home for their understanding and patience and for going out of their way to respond to our requests.

We greatly appreciate the church leading our ceremonies today, and specifically Pastor John Ngayu. They have been a source of support and have worked with us as to ensure that this celebration of Kawi's life proceeds smoothly. God bless you all.

