



LT. GEN. (RTD) JOHN KOECH

MGH, CBS, 'rcds' (UK) 'cgc' (USA)

DOB : 1946 - DOD : 2020

REQUIEM MASS - ST. AUSTIN'S PARISH, NAIROBI

REQUIEM MASS ORDER OF MASS

St. Austin's Church, Nairobi
Friday, 4th December, 2020
12:00 Noon

Main Celebrant: Col Dr. (Msgr) B.K. Maswili
The Apostolic Administrator Military Ordinate of Kenya



ENTRANCE HYMNS **What a friend we have in Jesus, Amazing Grace**

1ST READING **Wisdom 3 : 1 - 9**

RESPONSARIAL PSALM **Psalm 23 : 1 - 3, 4, 5, 6 "The Lord is my shepherd"**

2ND READING **2nd Romans 8 : 31 - 39**

GOSPEL **Luke 12 : 35 - 40**

HOMILY

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

CONSECRATION HYMN **Take Our Bread**

COMMUNION SONG **Anayekula Mwili Wangu**

OFFERTORY PROCESSIONS **Cha Kutumaini Sina**

EULOGY

TRIBUTES

SPEECHES

VOTE OF THANKS

RECESSION HYMN

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSINGS

RECESSIONAL HYMN **Blessed Assurance**

THE MAN CALLED "GENERAL"

The late Lt. Gen. (Rtd) John K Koech was born in 1946 to his late parents Kipteigut Masharubu Arap Bii and Mary C Bii in Sereng Village Fort Tenan, commonly referred to as Botana, in Kipkelion Sub-County, Kericho County. His siblings are Anne Mitei, late David Koech, Juliana Chirchir, late Paul Koech, Peter Koech, late Thomas Koech, Andrew Koech and Joseph Koech. In the year 1972, he met and married his dear wife Mrs. Hilda Koech daughter to late Mzee Stanley Kesusu and late Mama Grace Kesusu (Batiem) of Getarwet, Kericho county. Together they have been blessed with five children, Robert, Sheila, Angela, Chebet and Eric. He was brother in law to Racheal, Nancy, late Elizabeth, late Eva, Beatrice, Hellen, late Ezekia, Julius, Weldon, Benjamin, Caliph, Eunice, Lucy and Jane.

He was a loving father in law to Mrs. Sheilla Too, and Mrs. Angela Too and an adoring grandfather to Mathew, Takisha, Chelangat, Nemali, Georgina, Eli and Ezekiel. He was an uncle to many whom he loved dearly. Gen. Koech was a devoted baptized member of the Catholic Church. He attended and worshiped at the St Austin Catholic Church, St. Mary's School in Nairobi and the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Kericho.

Education

Upon attaining school going age, Gen. Koech started his education at Chepngobob Primary School and later moved to Kipchimchim from where he graduated and joined Kaplong Boys Secondary School in 1965. In all the schools he attended he made friends and established bonds with many of his schoolmates that have lasted to-date.

Working life

Lt Gen (Rtd.) John Koech upon completing his secondary school education, like many young people did then, applied and was recruited into the Kenya Army on 16th January 1968 where served diligently rising through the ranks from a Lieutenant up to the coveted position of Lt. General, Vice Chief of General Staff, a position he held until his retirement.

He was a highly trained and skilled professional military officer. He attended numerous high-level military training and courses including management and strategy. These prepared him well to take on the tasks, responsibilities and duties assigned to him.

As a mark of his diligence, hard and smart approach to duties, he earned numerous honors and awards. He retired honorably from the services of the Kenya Armed Forces on 15 December 2005 after a colorful career spanning 39 years.

Civilian life Phase

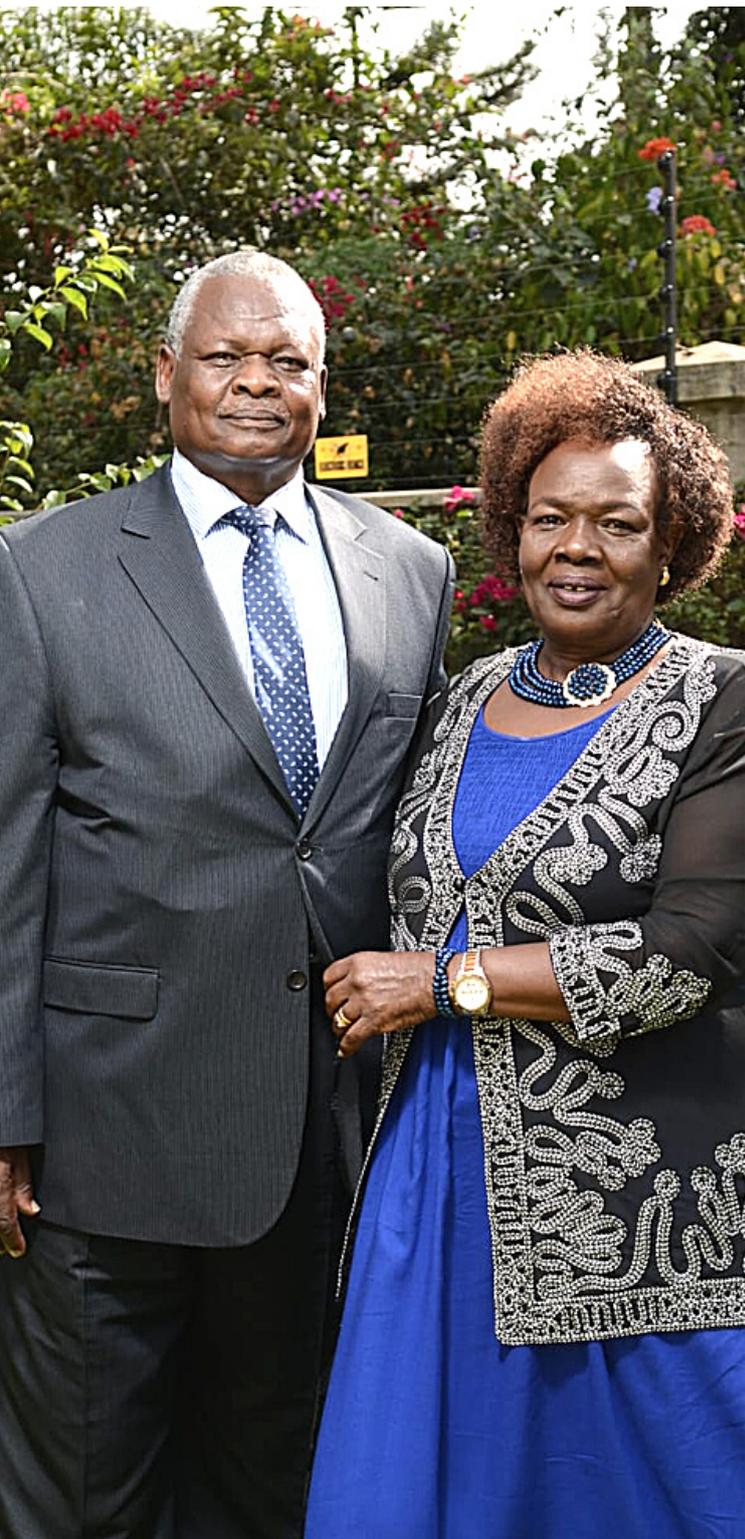
Upon his retirement, he immersed himself into civilian life with zeal and as he was still full of energy. He was appointed by the then Head of State to Chair the Board of KIRDI, and in due course became a member of the Poverty Eradication Program.

Along the way he ventured into active politics first vying for the Ainamoi Parliamentary seat and though he was not successful, he continued participating in shaping the political landscape through the United Democratic Party (UDM) which he headed as its Chairman and leader. He was eager to see positive changes in the lives of people, just and fair distribution of resources, empowerment of people especially the youth, eradication of poverty and, meaningful education that would build an informed society. After several years in the political arena it was time to devote more time to his private business and family, a move that would earn him even greater satisfaction in life. He has been actively engaged in real estate and farming scaling up his portfolios to include dairy farming, processing and manufacture of tea.

Health

Through God's General Koech enjoyed good health throughout all his 74 years until October 2020 when he felt rather uncomfortable within his body system. After a thorough checkup it was established that there was a mass obstructing his system thus causing him discomfort. He underwent surgery to extract the mass at the Nairobi hospital. He was then discharged to continue with recovery from home but was admitted back to hospital due to loss of energy occasioned by very low appetite for food. He remained upbeat and hopeful that he would resume his normal life after being discharged on 19th November. This however was not to be as his condition took a sudden and unexpected turn on Thursday 26 November. He was transferred to ICU on Friday night where and went to be with the Lord on Sunday morning at 4.20 am.

We thank God for the time He allowed us to share with our son, brother, father, friend leader and comrade. May his soul find everlasting solace in the presence of God, our Heavenly Father.



MUM'S BEAUTIFUL TRIBUTE

First of all, I thank God for standing with me and my family. God has been in charge of my life ever since I was a little girl in the village. My parents were wonderful. My Mum was God loving and that she spared nothing in loving him. My Dad loved me so much, never shouted at me, rebuked me, or beat me. My prayer in my adult life was for God to give me a husband who would love me the way my Dad had loved me.

Then God gave me John. When I met John, there was this powerful feeling telling me this is him.

A man full of love, flowing endlessly like a river. He gave us everything and would put us first before himself. He worked hard for us and showed us the way of life, the philosophy of hard work and putting our trust in God.

We were blessed with five children who he made sure went to the best universities without looking at the cost. I am grateful to the Military for showing us that they appreciated his service. He loved this country with all his heart, and he wanted everyone to be better.

For you John; you were my beloved husband, but first and foremost, you were my best friend. We shared a lot and there was never a dull moment in our lives. I will miss your wit and your hearty laughter. Though we were married for all these years, to me, it feels like yesterday. I loved you, but God loved you most and he did not want you to suffer any longer.

I know He has taken you to a better place because you loved and served God in different ways without reservation. I will miss your protection, your genuine love. Till we meet again.

Rest in Peace and I will love you always.

TRIBUTES

FROM THE CHILDREN



ROBERT KOECH

Dad,

I can already see you pointing your finger and still issuing strict instructions. "No! No!! How?" Dad you always said, "the only thing I can give you is a Good name. Good Values. And fear of God!". And those are the most important things in life that I do hold dear.

When we were kids, you taught us how to swim, ride bikes and in the mid 80s encouraged me by buying me my first programmable computer. I become a great mathematician because of you. Every evening despite being a Kahawa Commander, you never missed a step to sit down and teach me some math. For My 4th form Math exam, you came downstairs, asked me which exam I was having that day. I told you, "Math!" Dad put on his official hat as he was leaving for work and said, "I got a Distinction in Math!". And walked out. I swallowed my breakfast hard. A few months later the results came out, I was in the top 5 in maths with my distinction.

When I was appointed the Head of School, dad sat me down and said, a leader must have compassion, understanding and you must look ahead of everyone. Dad loved reading. A good habit that I picked. Dad would always say, "you must know where we come from in order to learn how to shape the future."

When dad wanted to say something he always used a few words. A few sentences. He didn't give you a chance to respond but it made you think and take your role seriously. Dad had an interesting trait, he gave you a bag of trust, it was your choice to erase the trust or build on it. Losing that Trust had its ramifications.

Dad you were fair and firm, and most of all loving. Dad was a great teacher. He loved to teach. Family Board meetings, he made it very strict and orderly. You had to prepare properly, your facts had to be correct. Notices were issued as per the law. You had no room to play even if you wanted.

It is impossible to write everything today. Its a day to celebrate. From Sheila, Matt, Eli, Ezekiel - We shall miss you dearly dad. What you gave us, we shall also make sure your grand kids also get the best; a good name, Good values and Fear of God.

Till we meet again.

Love you dad.



SHEILA KOECH - A MOVING TRIBUTE

Dear daddy,

I miss you so much already and the time we spent together. I remember the big smile you always had for us. And the Hello Sweetie which made my heart skip. You are the most amazing man I have ever known and I felt so proud when people would tell me we look alike. I have often thought we are so similar, but boy am I so wrong. Having heard the tributes that have made me reflect on who you were to many, I can only hope to be even a fraction of the great man you were.

You were larger than life and sometimes could not help it. I remember this one time when you came for sports day at Kenya High School, mum was at Consolata attending a function with Eric and Chebet. The school settled into their respective places and to my surprise there you were marching in with Mrs Wanjohi and the real Guest of Honour, somehow you became the second guest of honour. I picked up love of reading from you. Your knowledge was always 100% you were always on point with the facts of history. You were a walking encyclopedia.

You were always supportive of all my endeavours, even when you did not agree with my decisions – Navy career. You called me Marco Polo and often get exasperated with my travels. You also gave us amazing experiences and expanded our horizons, and took us to such lovely places where we made great memories. You made us love swimming, teaching us how to swim by throwing us into the pool at Nairobi Club to mum's shock and horror.

You introduced us to exotic foods, it is no secret that our favourite food is Japanese food, and Misono one of our favourite restaurants. The Misono family were also heartbroken at the news that you have left us. You seemed to know everyone. Once you met someone you connected and they were known to you, people from all walks of life, you made a point to remember them forever. Their heartbreak is audible; I have cried with some of your friends on the phone in total disbelief.

Your love for us and for mum, was solid. We can never replace you and I am not really sure how she will get through without you but we will stand strong for her and support her the best way we can. I was often perplexed how after so many years you would still be telling each other new stories. How now? You still made each other laugh and were so comfortable with each other's company. Daddy you gave us the best of the best. We are eternal grateful. We love you forever and miss you so much. We will keep your legacy and memory alive. Fare thee well daddy! Vaya con dios! Ruu komiye! Till we meet again.



TRIBUTES

FROM THE CHILDREN

ANGELA BETTY KOECH

Dearest Daddy,

The last few days have been like a dream I want to desperately wake up from, but I know now with every day that passes, you are no longer here and have gone to the Lord. They say death is a natural thing in life and as Christians we accept the Lord's will, but Daddy, I wasn't ready to be without you in this world. I wanted more time with you, but grateful for what we had.

My heart is broken that the best man and daddy has closed his eyes for the final time. Your life was always about: family first, even as children, you lived this lesson because I remember you would come home to have lunch with us all the time. Family. There is no greater joy in this world than to be loved and respected by your wife and children. You loved us all with that big heart of yours - mummy, Robert, Sheila, Chebet and Eric. You gave us the greatest childhood any child could ever dream of and when you became a grandfather, there was a light in your eyes watching the next generation of Koechs and you loved your grandchildren with a fierceness they will carry with them for the rest of their lives.

The lessons you have instilled in us: to be disciplined; respect your time and that of others; you walked this life with a confidence which was bigger than life to me; but one of the best things about you - and others have said so too - you were a humble man. Through all your accomplishments in the army, government and later on, agriculture, you always remembered to respect others and to lend a helping hand. The true legacy of a man is how others will remember him and you will always be one of Kenya's favorite sons because your life was always about service to others and not yourself.

Daddy, as I stand here today, my heart is broken. My tears have flowed like the river, but the strength you gave us remains strong and the family will forge an even stronger bond to continue your legacy. You are my heart and soul, I don't know how life will be without hearing your voice or you calling, saying, "hello sweetie." Those words were always filled with so much love to make me feel special. I will miss your hugs, our conversations about everything. Kenya has lost a son, but I have lost my beautiful daddy.

I will miss and love you forever, Daddy. I will spend the rest of my days trying to make you proud. When that day comes, I will give you the biggest hug in heaven. I love you, Daddy, and will carry your memory and love with me all the days of my life.



TRIBUTES

FROM THE CHILDREN



CHEBET KOECH

Daddy,

There are truly no words to express how heartbroken I am. You were the most amazing man I have ever had the privilege to call my father. You selflessly gave mummy, my siblings and I the world and for that I am forever grateful.

You had a smile that could light a million candles, a heart that knew no hatred, no envy but had so much love for everyone from all works of life.

As we say goodbye, we thank God for all the years you were here with us and how much you loved mummy. We will continue to support and love mummy and be her five strong pillars and continue to honor you till our last breath.

Thank you so much for loving and supporting me and your babu Georgie unconditionally, thank for all the memories that we have shared.

I will miss talking to you, hearing your voice, I will miss your smile, will miss your laugh, will miss your kisses, and will miss you calling me sweetie.

You and I had talked about having tea date at my house when you got better, but I will look forward to having that cup of tea when we meet again.

To everyone you were a great General but to me you were just my daddy. Sleep well daddy, continue to watch over us.

You fought a good fight, like the mighty and great General you are, but now daddy it is time to rest and enjoy the spoils of heaven.

Heaven has gained an amazing Angel.

Kongoi baba, Asante sana, thank you.

I miss you terribly daddy, Loving you always and forever,

Your Sweetie Chebet.



TRIBUTES

FROM THE CHILDREN



ERIC KOECH TOO

Dear loving Dad, My forever soldier, My superhero, My true friend. Thank you for your life, one that you lived fully and intentionally. Your goal in life was always clear; to live a life of service. Wherever this true calling of service took you, you were always willing to go. And here we are now, understanding only a fraction of the absolute force of spirit that you were in this world.

In as much as you understood the laws of the Country, the laws of the Armed Forces and the laws of business, I realize now that you understood so well, this grand law; "What you focus on expands, what you appreciate, appreciates".

You knew how to focus:

To pay attention to lessening the suffering of others

To love deeply, openly and without fear.

To nourish the lives of other people.

Through my eyes, I saw that your life experience was defined by your contribution, by your service. It is for this reason that here is where you will live forever, here on earth and in your heavenly life, in real prosperity. Rest in Peace Bamong'o.

SHEILA MUTHONI

Dear Dad,

I will remember you for the honorable life that you lived, worthy of emulation by all. You lead with strength, wisdom, love and always made me feel welcome to your home. Thank you!

You will forever be missed and never forgotten. "When great trees fall, rocks on distant hills shudder and lions hunker down in tall grasses," Love your daughter, Sheila Muthoni.

ANGELA TOO

It is said that people may not always remember what you did or what you said, but they always remember how you made them feel. I want to thank you Dad, from the sincerest part of my being, for making me feel truly heard, completely appreciated, deeply loved and for always raising me to believe in the goodness of the opportunities in this land. From you I learned what it means to have a vision, greater and grander than yourself. How to make persons from every level of life feel important, even more, respected. Your name is a strong shoulder upon which we now stand so that we can see further. We are truly blessed and grateful for this irreplaceable gift. I will truly miss our lengthy outdoor lunches by the verandah, our walks around the garden and our banana bread tea times. I speak upon your generation the word of God in Isaiah 58:11

The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones;

You shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail. Those from among you shall build the old waste places; You shall raise up the foundations of many generations; And you shall be called the Repairer of the Breach, The Restorer of Streets to Dwell In. Rest in Peace Babanyun

TRIBUTES

FROM THE GRANDCHILDREN



MATTHEW KIPCHIRCHIR LANGAT

Babu,

I want to start by saying I miss you already, this is the hardest pill I have to swallow and I love you so much, but God loves you more. You were my role model, I always looked up to you, and I would always enjoy riding with you and Batiem.

Batiem would say I'm her walking stick and her body guard, and it was amazing riding with you even going to town for your different errands that I had no idea what was going on, but as long as I was with you I was happy. You'd always push me to be a better man, a stronger man, and I am proud to say that the life lessons you have taught me have built me. I remember some time ago when there was athletics and we were watching it with you and the rest of the family, Ezekiel Kemboi jumped on someone and Batiem, Uncle Eric and I couldn't stop laughing and you didn't see as if it was that funny but you still laughed anyway and seeing your smile would brighten up every dark place I felt I had in me.

My fondest and best memory I had with you was when we were in the office and you decided to take me for lunch at Java Yaya Centre where ordered a dish, you had no expectation that it would be chilli and when you tasted it you immediately called a waitress and asked for a tropical milkshake. Oh how you loved milkshakes, I will dearly miss you Babu and I promise as your first grandchild your legacy will live on and stronger than ever. Till we meet again Babu, I love you so much. Your Grandson.



TRIBUTES

FROM THE GRANDCHILDREN

Hi Babu, we are all shocked that you have gone so suddenly but.... we all have to understand that it was God's will and we cannot change God's Choices.

I would like to thank you for all the fun trips, holidays and birthdays that you have made possible because without you we wouldn't have been able to celebrate them.

Thank you for all the good advice that you have given me through these years, when I grow old enough I will take your advice with me into the real world.

I know that you are in Heaven watching over us so please may you keep watching over us and guide us through this tough time.

I hope that you are happy wherever you are.... I can only hope to ever see you again.

Love: Chelangat

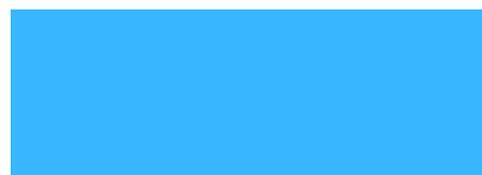
Dear Babu,
Thank you for everything you have done for us and I am sad that you died but I am happy that the cancer didn't hurt you. I am sorry I couldn't visit you in hospital, or never visited you as much at your house. Please forgive me for all the bad things I have done to everyone.
Rest in peace.... From Nemo
I love you ♥

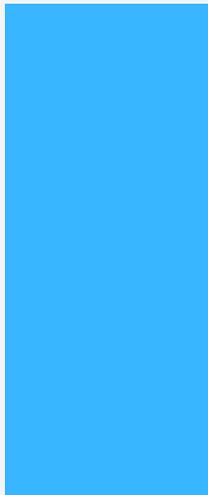
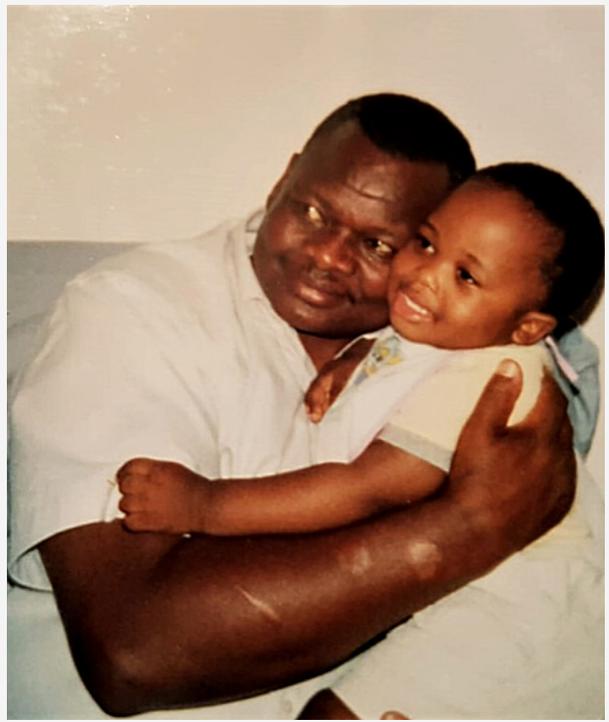


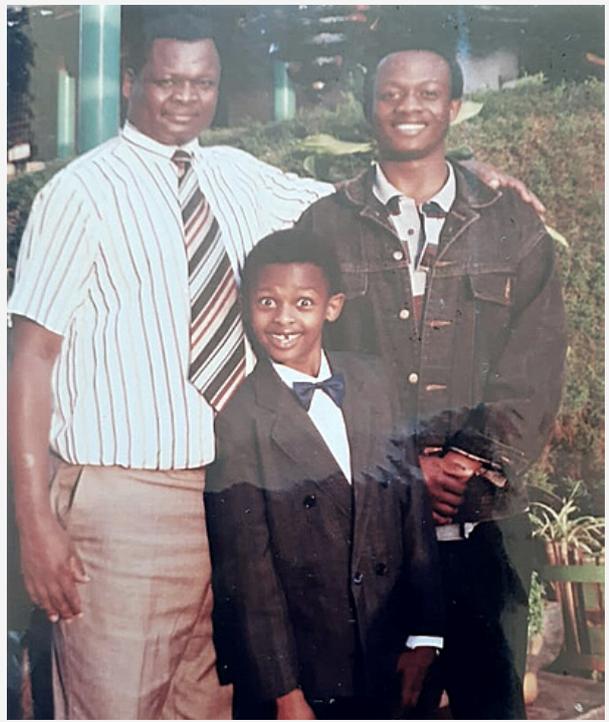
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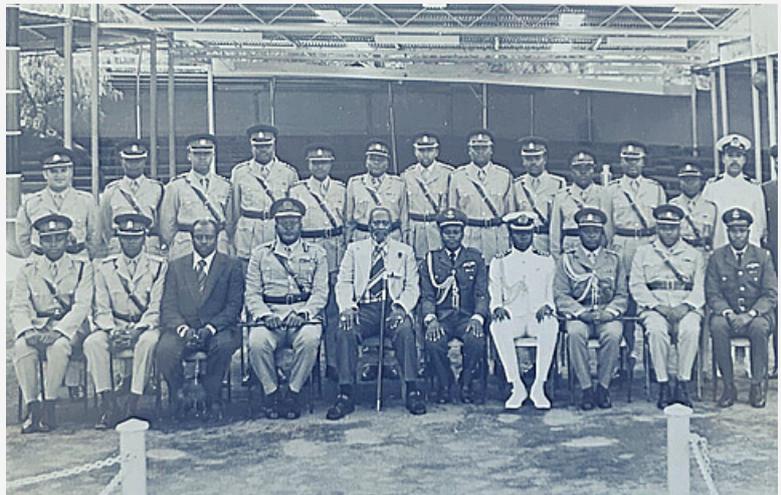
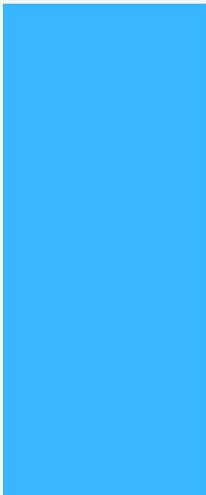
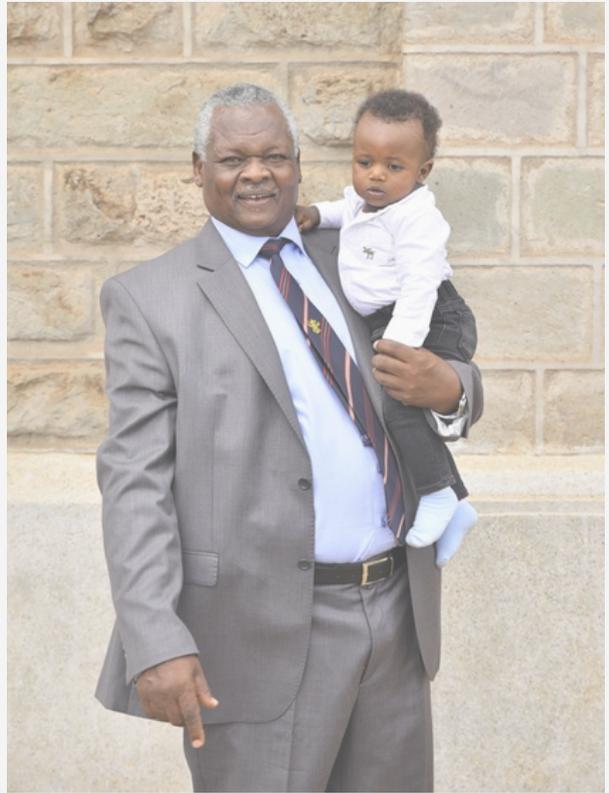
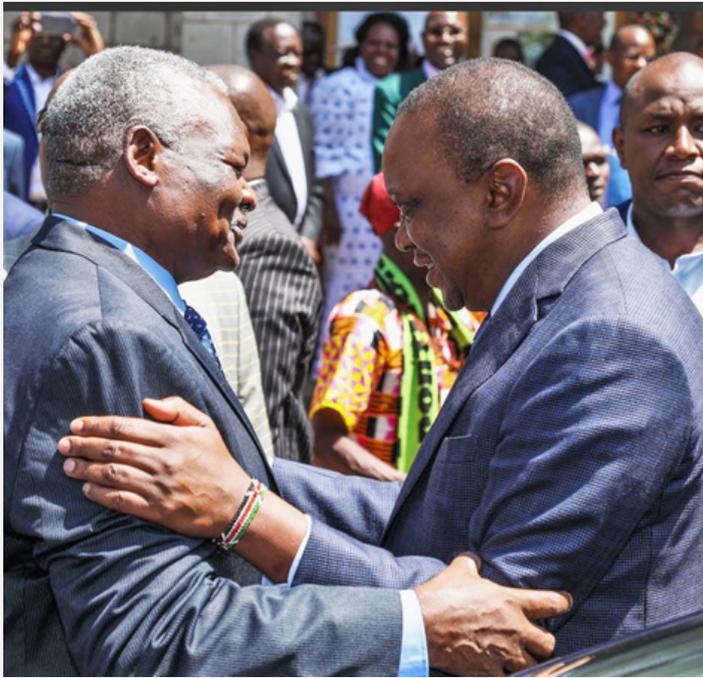


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1946 - 2020











KWAHERI

Fare Thee Well