



REPUBLIC OF KENYA
TWELFTH PARLIAMENT- (SIXTH SESSION)
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

(No. 22 of 2022)

**CONVOCATION OF A SPECIAL SITTING OF THE HOUSE
CONVENED TO PAY TRIBUTE TO H.E. HON. EMILIO MWAI
KIBAKI, CGH, THE THIRD PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
KENYA FOLLOWING HIS PASSING ON FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022**

Honourable Members,

We convene today under extremely unique circumstances.

I wish to report to the House that on 23rd April 2022, following the Presidential Proclamation of 22nd April 2022 regarding the demise of the Third President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Hon. Emilio Mwai Kibaki, CGH, I received a request by the Leader of the Majority Party seeking convening of a Special Sitting of the House. The purpose of the Special Sitting is to transact the following business –

- (a) Procedural notification to the assembled House with respect to the Presidential proclamation of 22nd April 2022 regarding the demise of the Third President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Hon. Emilio Mwai Kibaki, CGH; and,
- (b) Consideration of Exceptional Motion on Honour and Tributes of the House to the late Third President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Hon. Emilio Mwai Kibaki, CGH following the Presidential proclamation of 22nd April 2022 regarding his demise.

Hon. Members, having taken cognizance of the urgency of the business so specified in the request by the Leader of the Majority Party, I acceded to the request to convene a Special Sitting of the House **today, Wednesday, 27th April, 2022** commencing at 2.30 pm. Consequently, and in keeping with the requirements of Standing Order 29, I did Gazette this Special Sitting of the House vide Kenya *Gazette Notice No. 4842 of 25th April 2022*. Indeed, this Special Sitting was also notified to the public by way of newspaper notifications published on 25th April, 2022. **In this regard, the Special Sitting of the House today, Wednesday, 27th April, 2022, is properly convened.**

Honourable Members, the business to be transacted by the House during the Special Sitting is as specified in the *Gazette Notice* I have referred to.

Honourable Members, having declared that this Special Sitting is properly convened, allow me to turn to the most important business that necessitated the convening of the Sitting.

Honourable Members, we have gathered here today under sad circumstances. As you are already aware, the National Assembly and indeed the Nation as a whole is mourning the passing on of the Third President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Hon. Emillio Mwai Kibaki, CGH who passed away on Friday, 22nd April, 2022 while undergoing treatment at the Nairobi Hospital.

Hon. Members, His Excellency the retired Third President was born on 15th November 1931 in Gatuyaini village, Othaya Division in the then Nyeri District (now Nyeri County).

He began his early education at Gatuyaini Primary School before proceeding to Karima Mission Primary School in Othaya. Thereafter, he proceeded to Mathari School (now Nyeri High School) between 1944 and 1946 where he completed his elementary education. The late retired Third President joined Mang'u High School where he studied between 1947 and 1950 and attained the highest grade above his peers in his 'O' Level Examinations. The late retired Third President then pursued a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics at the Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, where he graduated with a First Class Honours Degree in Economics. His excellent performance earned him a scholarship to the London School of Economics, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Finance, with distinction. Upon completing his studies in the United Kingdom, he returned to Uganda in 1958 and took up a job as an Assistant Lecturer of Economics at the Makerere University.

Honourable Members, in 1961, a time when the country was gearing up for independence, the late retired President Kibaki returned to Kenya upon a request by the then Secretary General for the Kenya African National Union (KANU), the late Thomas Joseph Mboya and took up a role as an Executive Officer in the party. He is credited for helping to draft Kenya's independence Constitution, a role that he would later replay as the President who shepherded the process that culminated in the promulgation of the 2010 Constitution.

The late retired President Kibaki's long and decorated political career was birthed at independence in 1963, when he vied for and won the parliamentary seat for Donholm Constituency, currently Makadara Constituency.

In 1974, the late retired Third President opted to represent the people of his rural home, Othaya, where he contested for and won the seat of Member of Parliament for Othaya Constituency. His impeccable leadership qualities endeared him to the people of Othaya, who re-elected him to Parliament in all the subsequent elections held in 1979, 1983, 1988, 1992, 1997, 2002, and 2007 when he served his final term and retired in March 2013. The late retired President Mwai Kibaki leaves an indelible imprint in the history of Parliament of Kenya as the longest serving Member of Parliament. He has in his honour a **half a century** of service to the Nation as a Member of Parliament spanning from 1963, when he was first elected, until his retirement in March 2013.

Honourable Members, during his political career as a Member of Parliament, he rose through the political ranks to become an Assistant Minister, Minister, Vice President, Leader of Official Opposition and crowned his exemplary political career by becoming the Third President of the Republic of Kenya, where he served for two terms, which is the constitutional limit. Having reached the highest political pinnacle, H.E. President Mwai Kibaki honourably exited politics upon handing over the reigns of power to the incumbent President, H.E. Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, C.G.H.,. He exuded rare dedication to duty that even after rising to the Presidency, the late retired President Mwai Kibaki would still find time to sit in the National Assembly in his capacity as the Member for Othaya Constituency to articulate issues of concern to his constituents and of mutual benefit to Kenyans at large. In him rests an unmatched fallen hero, who shall forever be remembered for his gentlemanly and non-confrontational leadership style.

Honourable Members, in his First Term as a Member of Parliament, the late retired President Mwai Kibaki's standing as an economist earned him appointment as an Assistant Minister for Finance and Chairman of the Economic Planning Commission in 1963.

Later on in 1966, he was elevated to the position of Minister for Commerce and Industry, a position in which he served until 1969 when he was appointed Minister for Finance and Economic Planning. In 1978, he was appointed Vice-President and served until March 1988.

When Section 2A of the Constitution was repealed in December 1991 following political agitation for multiparty democracy that was inspired by the wind of change from one-party to multiparty democracy that was blowing across the African continent, the late Third President resigned from Government and the ruling Party, Kenya African National Union (KANU) and founded the Democratic Party (DP). This bold decision marked a new trajectory in the political career of the late retired President Kibaki. He joined the presidential race in the first multiparty general elections of 1992 in which he came fourth. He contested for the Presidency in the subsequent general elections in 1997, where he came second to the late President Moi and became the Leader of Official Opposition in the National Assembly. In 2002, the late retired Third President made another stab at the Presidency on the National Alliance Rainbow Coalition (NARC) Party and won with an astounding landslide majority, becoming Kenya's Third President. He was re-elected President for the second Term in 2007 under the Party of National Unity.

Honourable Members, the late retired Third President will be remembered for major milestones that transformed the country's economic, social and political landscape. When he took oath of office as President in 2002, the late retired President Mwai Kibaki committed to turn around the country's economy.

He approached leadership from a people-centric perspective that was aimed at improving the quality of lives of the people. He shall forever be remembered for his famous quote that *"Leadership is a privilege to better the lives of others. It is not an opportunity to satisfy personal greed"*.

Guided by this philosophy, the late retired President Kibaki midwived several reforms in Kenya's governance architecture in order to realign it for accelerated service delivery. He shall be remembered for spearheading the entrenchment of ideals of accountability and transparency that led to the creation of the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission, the precursor to Kenya Anti-corruption Authority (KACA), *(and now the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission)* to enforce transparency and accountability in Government. In terms of economic development, the late retired Third President is credited for formulating an economic recovery strategy that put the country on the pedestal for becoming a middle-income economy. The late retired Third President's economic model led to a sharp rebound in the economy and was characterized by unprecedented economic boom, growth and development. Indeed, you may all remember that within the first term of his Presidency, Kenya's GDP rose from a low of 0.6% in 2003 to about 9% in 2007.

He also embraced self-reliance by increasingly funding the national budget from internally generated resources such as increased tax revenue collection, hence reducing Kenya's dependence on donor aid.

Honourable Members, the late retired President Mwai Kibaki made momentous contribution to infrastructure development. He shall be remembered for ambitiously rebuilding, modernizing and expanding Kenya's infrastructure.

During his tenure, he accomplished flagship infrastructure projects such as the Thika Super Highway and various bypasses around Nairobi City. He also initiated other key projects like the *Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport (LAPSSET)* Corridor Project and the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) later successfully implemented by the current Government. The late retired Third President will also be remembered for his progressive economic policies that led to exponential rise in micro-finance institutions and access to financing, which spurred economic development. It was also during his tenure that the Constituencies Development Fund (CDF) with the full support of the 9th Parliament was introduced and today, as the forerunner devolved fund, the CDF has immensely improved the quality of lives in the country, particularly regions that were previously marginalized.

Honourable Members, the late retired Third President will also be remembered for the boom in the telecommunications sector. During his time, he laid the foundation for growth in mobile telecommunications and internet connectivity that has positioned Kenya as a mobile and ICT innovation hub.

In the education sector, the late retired President Kibaki will forever be celebrated for introducing Free Primary Education (FPE) in 2003, during which year about two million new pupils who would not otherwise have gone to school were enrolled into primary school.

The progressive implementation of FPE immensely contributed to the realization of universal primary education in the country and laid the foundation for the rollout of tuition-free Day Secondary Education, which presently guarantees 100% transition from primary to secondary school. His administration also expanded access to university education by granting charters to several university colleges across the country to become full-fledged universities. The late retired President Kibaki will also be remembered for his role in the constitution making process in Kenya. Despite the failed attempt in 2005, the late retired Third President remained resilient, successfully navigated the divergent constitutional views and bequeathed Kenya a new Constitution on 27th August, 2010.

Honourable Members, in order to consolidate the social, economic and political gains made during his presidency and provide a development roadmap for posterity, the late retired President Kibaki developed the **Kenya Vision 2030**, an economic Blueprint to serve as a vehicle for accelerating the transformation of the country into a newly industrializing, middle-income country by the year 2030. The late retired President Kibaki remains an enigma and a steady people-centric leader who evidently cared most about public good and not personal gain. He was an epitome of gentlemanly and non-confrontational leadership that inspired a sense of duty to serve and not to be served.

Honourable Members, on behalf of the National Assembly, the Parliamentary Service Commission and indeed on my own behalf, I pay tribute to this great fallen Kenyan hero and convey our sincere condolences to the family, friends and the Nation at large for this great loss of a true statesman.

Further, I take this singular opportunity to thank Kenyans of all walks of life, who have managed to come and pay their last respects to the departed former Head of State whose body is Lying in State here in Parliament.

In honour of the selfless service rendered to the community and the Nation by the late retired Third President of the Republic of Kenya, His Excellency Hon. Emilio Mwai Kibaki, CGH, I request that we all stand and observe a moment of silence in his honour.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

I thank you.



THE HON. JUSTIN B.N. MUTURI, E.G.H., MP
SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 27th April 2022

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