

*Celebrating the Life of*



**MAAYI ANN**  
**NANYAMA WETANG'ULA**



9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 1930 - 20<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024



# Memorial Service Programme

THURSDAY, 2<sup>ND</sup> JAN, 2025

Service conducted by Bishop Juma  
Catholic Diocese of Kitale

## Order of Service

9:00 am Family and Mourners arrive at the Life Care Hospital Morgue  
10:00am Brief viewing of the body  
10:30am Brief prayer session before procession departs  
11:00am Body leaves LifeCare hospital Morgue  
12 :00pm Body arrives at home, viewing of the body  
12.30pm Holy Mass  
Speeches

- Babutu  
Sisters in law  
Brothers in Law
- Babuya  
Sisters  
Brothers
- Uncles
- Nieces/Nephews
- Daughters in law
- Basakwa
- Neighbour

Catholic Women Association  
Steering Committee  
Education Fraternity  
Grand Children  
Children

- Daughters
- Sons

Mzee Dominico Wetang'ula  
Administration  
Political Wing  
Closing Prayer



# Burial Service Programme

FRIDAY, 3<sup>RD</sup> JAN, 2025

**Service conducted by Bishop Mark Kadima  
Catholic Diocese of Bungoma**

## Order of Service

- 8.00 am      Arrival of the Mourners
- 9.30 am      Service conducted by the Catholic Church
- 11.30am      Eulogy
- 11: 40am      Speeches
- Children (Led by Hon. Tim Wanyonyi)
  - Husband (Mzee Dominico Wetang'ula)
  - County Commissioner
  - MPs Representatives
  - Governor (H.E Kenneth Lusaka)
  - Prime Cabinet Secretary (H.E Musalia Mudavadi)
  - Speaker of the National Assembly (Rt. Hon. Dr. Moses Wetang'ula)
  - Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga
  - Deputy President (H.E Kithure Kindiki)
  - His Excellency The President (H.E Dr. William Ruto)
- 1:40pm      Final Prayer and blessing for the departed
- 2.00pm      Vote of thanks
- 2:10pm      Procession to burial site (family and selected guests)
- 2:40pm      Lunch/Guests depart at their own pleasure





# Eulogy



Late Ndinyo Wanyonyi, Domitilla Ndombi, Maurice Wanjala, Gladys Nasambu, Catherine Nabangala Sumba, Efamia Otunga, Magaret Nafula Kiboi, Kituyi Wanyonyi, Nafuna Wanyonyi, Charles Idi, the Late Juma Wanyonyi, among others.

## Embracing Education

**M**aayi Ann's father, Kuka Wanyonyi, was a well-educated man as per the standards of those days. He attended basic education in Kabula in 1920 and did Common Entrance examinations. He was then taken to Mawego College where he trained as a clerk. He was then posted to serve as a court clerk in Kabuchai in 1942 and was later moved to Bungoma court in 1953.

As an educated and progressive man, Kuka Wanyonyi ensured that his children attended school. This saw him enrol Maayi Ann at Nalondo Roman Catholic (RC) Primary School in 1937. After two years, she was transferred to St. Mary's Girls School in Mumias.

Upon completing her primary education, Ann was posted to teach at Mabanga Primary School within Kabuchai Constituency in Bungoma County, from 1947 to 1954. As a teacher, she displayed dogged determination, keen attention to detail, and a propensity for hard work.

## Early Days

**M**aayi Ann Nanyama Wetang'ula (*Nabakhwana*) was born on 9th March 1930 to the Late Kuka Silvano Wanyonyi Maboko (*omubuya*) and the Late Kukhu Sophia Nabalayo Wanyonyi (*omuala*) of Kabuchai constituency, in Bungoma County.

She was baptized as an infant at the Roman Catholic Church in Mumias, on 13th July, 1930. Thereafter, she remained a steadfast Catholic until her demise.

Maayi Ann was the first born in a family that was quite large. Her siblings include the Late Sifrosa Wanyonyi, the Late Francis Wabuke, Protus Wabuke, the





## Marriage and Family

**M**aayi Ann got married to Dominico Wetang'ula on 21st August 1950 in a colorful wedding at the Kibabii Catholic Church. *Maayi* was not only a welcome addition to the Wetang'ula family, she was the homemaker that *Mzee* Dominico needed. Her enterprising nature saw her help *Mzee* acquire more land, in addition to what he had inherited from his grandfather. She stepped up and kept her family intact when *Mzee* had to be away for work-related travels from time to time. In fact, she cut short her teaching career in 1954, to concentrate on looking after her young family.

*Maayi* Ann had a total of 15 children; four sets of twins and seven single births. They include; the Late Leah, James Mukhwana, Virginia Sikhoya Sifumaw, Regina Khisa, the Rt. Hon. Dr. Moses Masika Wetang'ula, EGH (Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Kenya), Maria Khainja Ong'amo, Dorothy Namarome Watila, Scolastica Naswa Opemo, the Hon. Timothy Wanyonyi, CBS (MP, Westlands Constituency), the Late John Kennedy Wamurwa, Fred Wekesa, the Late Catherine Nekesa, Charles Lwanga, the Late Luminitus and the Late Margaret. *Maayi* Ann was a strong woman who gave birth to all her children at home, except the last two. She could mention each of her child's birthday offhead.

*Maayi* Ann was the glue that held her family together, especially because her husband was

always busy with work. She raised all her children to be upright and God-fearing citizens. She also instilled in them a strong culture of hard work. She taught her children to do all types of jobs regardless of their gender. Milking, cooking, drawing water from the river, washing utensils and even looking for firewood was done by both boys and girls.

Although a strict disciplinarian, she had a big heart and was always ready to accept anyone and everyone, for as long as they were willing to live by her standards. She was a beacon of love, warmth, and generosity. Whenever she cooked food in her home, she never fed her children alone. She always welcomed a neighbour or even a passerby to also partake of that meal.

On several occasions, *Maayi's* children brought her various items whenever they visited her, but she would not enjoy those goodies alone. She shared with her neighbours and friends.

She was a caring and concerned mother who always received her daughters-in-law and grandchildren with open arms. The first question she asked anyone who visited her was 'have you eaten?' Then she would go ahead to prepare food for that person.

*Nabakhwana*, as she was fondly known, leaves behind nine children, 57 grandchildren and 47 great-grandchildren.

## Strong in Faith

**B**orn and raised a Roman Catholic, *Maayi* Ann remained a strong Christian to her last day on earth. Most importantly, she ensured that her children knew God. She raised all of them in the Roman Catholic Church and to date, they firmly hold on to the tenets of the church.

*Maayi* was very prayerful and honored God in her daily life, and taught her children to do the same. She ensured that her children were baptized at birth, and she taught them to value the blessings God had given them and encouraged them to glorify God in their lives. She was an active member of St. Kizito Prayer Group within the Mukhweya Catholic Sub-Parish. She was a member of The Legion of Mary, a Catholic organization of lay people who serve the church and community on voluntary basis. They do this by praying, participating in the sacraments, devoting themselves to The Virgin Mary and the Trinity, and Serving the Church and community through spiritual works of mercy. She was also a good singer in church.

As a Christian, the hallmark of *Maayi* Ann's life was justice and fairness. She spoke openly against anything that she felt was not being done right.

## Love for Education

As a parent, *Maayi* Ann ensured that all her children attended school and she keenly followed their class performances. Whenever her child performed well and led in their class, *Maayi* Ann would slaughter for him or her a chicken to eat alone as others watched. On the other hand, she never hesitated to punish those that were not doing well in school. This was her style of instilling the culture of hard work in her children.

## Social Worker

Between 1960 and 1963, *Maayi* Ann served as a social worker in the then Department of Community Development under the then Ministry of Culture and Social Services. She taught knitting, crotcheting and modern cookery techniques. Hers was also a model home used to teach other mothers in the community on how to plan and manage their homes.

She was a diligent farmer. She developed her farm into a model farm that was used for demonstrations by the agricultural extension officers who were locally known as '*karakacha*.' Despite the rapid expansion of her family, *Maayi* Ann never bought foodstuff. She meticulously sorted and stored her harvests for future family consumption. Her banana plantation, just to mention one, still is an enviable venture in these parts. Besides bananas, her farm was full of other crops such as coffee, pineapples, cassava, sweet potatoes, groundnuts, sim-sim, among others.

## Maayi's Last Days

*Maayi* Ann enjoyed good health well into her old age. However, she fell sick in 2009 and was treated in Nairobi and discharged. Her health condition worsened when she suffered a stroke in 2022. She was attended to in various hospitals including Eldoret Hospital, Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital, Mediheal Hospital, and Hopkins Hospital.

On the morning of 20th December 2024, she developed breathing complications and was rushed to Hopkins Hospital in Bungoma. She was unfortunately pronounced dead later that day. The family of *Mzee* Dominico Wetang'ula humbly appreciates the efforts of doctors who sustained her health up to her last days.

And as the curtain finally comes down on the life of a truly distinguished matriarch who gave her all in serving God and humanity, her legacy will live forever as the melodies of her works and deeds linger on. Fare thee well, *Maayi* Ann, until we meet again.

2Timothy 4:7 – *"I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race; I have kept the faith."*



# Photo Gallery













# Tributes

FOR MAAYI ANN NANYAMA WETANG'ULA



## FROM JAMES

Dear *Maayi*, I'm so grateful for the way I was raised. You were never afraid to be my mother — to put your foot down, to teach me right from wrong, to make sure I did my best. You always let me know I had a mother who cared

about me, who believed in me, who was there for me no matter what. Growing up with that kind of love and support made such a difference in my life; it made me who I am today.

My mother was never afraid to voice her opinion or be one to mince words, to put it lightly; but she was always pure in her intentions and true in her actions, and I feel so clearly, so humbly loved. As I go forward, I remember her strength and purity, her fierce sense of pride, her generous heart and sensitivity.

My mother was my friend and number one ally. Maybe because I was her eldest son or because I was her first twin child, however, I was not favoured in any unfair way. Growing up, she never failed to advise and caution me on education, the company to keep and choice of marriage partner. When I got employed, she urged me to help our father in educating my brothers and sisters regardless of the fact that some were step brothers and even cousins. *Maayi's* main emphasis was that we her children love each other and work as a team.

*Maayi* always put God first and taught me to hold true the teachings of John 14:16- Jesus proclaimed, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me." She taught me how to live with purpose, appreciate the beauty in life and be a person of virtue. She was my role model, my mentor and friend. I am thankful for the time I had with her. I will always be proud to be her son.

## FROM VIRGINIA



Dear mother, your demise has been very devastating for me. This is very painful and unreal, but I believe that with time I shall accept and heal knowing that God called you home to rest. You were an incomparable mother who loved me and my siblings unconditionally and dedicated your life to us.

I am who I am because of you. From you, I learned the value of hard work and discipline. Following your example as a passionate advocate for education, I became a teacher. Learning from you, I became an excellent cook and wonderful hostess. I remember how you would transform ordinary food into extraordinary dishes. Your mouth-watering *kienyeji* chicken is just one example.

You taught me how to relate peacefully with everyone in the community. You taught me how to be self-sufficient, maintain a thriving kitchen garden all year round. Most importantly, as a staunch Catholic, you taught me to love God and live according to His teachings. You would be proud to learn that I have passed these values and skills onto your grandchildren. I will be forever grateful to God for blessing me and my siblings with such a wonderful, loving mother. Rest in perfect peace *maayi, liua lia* Sylvano, until we meet again.



## FROM MOSES



Our mother Ann is dead. Long live our mother. I fondly remember her as steadfast woman who embraced and wished the best for not only her children but for everybody she interacted with. Growing up in her highly disciplinary environment, our mother was not just a mother to her blood children but to the entire Wetang'ula family and our village. Our father's brothers and sisters and relatives grew up under her care in education and social life. I still remember every school closing day, when I arrived home her first question was 'did you lead in class?' Luckily, I always did. And this not only saved me from her wrath but attracted a reward of being slaughtered for a chicken and the privilege of eating alone, if none of my siblings also achieved the same feat. Our mother will be remembered for her commitment to farming, to church, to social order and, above all, to environmental protection. This is best explained by the exceptional tree cover in her compound. In the words of Gramps Morgan, a Jamaican poet, there is a place in heaven for people like Maayi Ann.



## FROM MARIA

My mother was an inspiring soul, always welcoming. Her hospitality made everyone feel important. She was loving, caring, humble, forgiving, c o m p a s s i o n a t e ,

understanding, family-oriented woman and one of the most beautiful souls one could ever meet. I am going to miss you so much. I love you mum always and forever.

## FROM DOROTHY



Mum your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure. You were such a wonderful mother, you never gave up on us, we learned so much from you, you always loved us no matter what happened. But on this day the only word I can say is THANK YOU.

## FROM SCOLASTICA



Maayi you made me who I am today by instilling in me the values of Christianity, trustworthiness and generosity to everyone despite their status. You taught me how to forgive and let go. You always reminded us the value of hardwork through education and life in general. Thank you for always loving me, and guiding me. Even though you are no longer here with us, I will always feel your love and care for me. I will miss you dearly. Go well Maayi, until we meet again.

Psalms 34:18 says *"The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit."*

## FROM TIM



Maayi Ann, you fondly called me *Khoch*a. Uncle. *Khoch*a Mabuku, brother to *Kukhu* Paulina and *Khoch*a Kalamu, brother to *Kukhu* Sophia. I grew up at the time when there was serious competition for everything within the larger



family: food, clothing, going to school, name it. Papa Dominique was the sole breadwinner in the larger family. And there was a time when you had seven of your own children in secondary.

Many times, *Papa* was forced to make the decision that the girls would remain in school and the boys would stay at home, because he felt it was better that the girls finish school in good time. But you would not just sit pretty. You were determined that even your sons would go to school and finish in time. So, you went to the schools to negotiate for us to remain in class, and got uniform from the tailors on credit. You worked hard on the farm and used the produce to settle some of our fees.

And when it was obviously overwhelming, you resorted to brewing traditional beer (*busaa and chang'aa*) for sale. You allowed us to help you sell, but you prohibited us from tasting it. Amongst my siblings, I lived with you the longest. I saw it all.

I learnt to support you just so as to ease your burden. I would go out to plough for neighbours in exchange for their oxen to come and plough for you. I mobilised my friends in the village and so we worked as a team on the farm and in the home. And at all times, you were very clear that I must go to school and finish my studies.

When I got an opportunity to travel to India for further studies, you were worried about my safety. But you encouraged me to remain focused on the ultimate goal. I made a promise to myself that once I was able to, I would ensure that you lead a comfortable life. I have done the best I could.

*Maayi Ann*, when I was shot and disabled, you were terribly affected. You shed tears for me. But you prayed for me and encouraged me and my wife to face life as it came.

As I say goodbye to you, I'm so grateful for the way you raised me. You were never afraid to be my mother — to put your foot down, to teach me right from wrong, to make sure I did my best. You cared about me, you believed in me, you were there for me no matter what.

Your love will always guide me, even though you're no longer here. I will remember all you taught me and make you proud. I will miss sharing that cup of tea with you, but I will continue enjoying it with your grandchildren - *chai ya Kukhu Ann*.

Your smile, your laughter, and your love are etched in my heart. I will miss you so much, *Maayi Ann*. *Khoulukhe Maayi*.

## FROM FRED



My heart is heavy with sadness and immense gratitude as I reflect on the life of my mother, *Maayi*. We grieve the loss of a remarkable woman a mentor, a disciplinarian, and a transformative mother. Her life was a testament to the teachings of our faith; she prayed her rosary daily for each of her children and extended her nurturing spirit to everyone around her, regardless of their background. Mom embodied grace, kindness, and resilience, serving as the heart of our family and the unwavering pillar we leaned on during life's challenges. Her laughter was infectious, her wisdom profound, and her love boundless.

As a mother, she instilled in us the values of hard work, honesty, and compassion. She had a unique ability to transform ordinary moments into cherished memories; gatherings around her table were celebrations of love and connection. Beyond her role as a mother, she was a captivating storyteller whose tales inspired us and a devoted woman of faith whose prayers fortified our spirits. Mom navigated life with grace and determination, even in adversity, leaving an indelible mark on those fortunate enough to know her.

To my beloved children, she was your greatest supporter. Her pride in your accomplishments shone brightly in her eyes. Although our hearts ache in her absence, we find solace in knowing that her spirit lives on through the values she imparted to us. We will honor her memory by embodying kindness, patience, and love in our lives. Rest well, Mom; you will forever be the heartbeat of our family, carried in our hearts for eternity.





## FROM CHARLES

Mum, you were an epitome of love, strength, and grace. Your unwavering presence in my life has been a source of endless comfort and guidance. You

were my first teacher, my greatest supporter, and my most trusted confidante. Your wisdom shaped my character, and your love nurtured my soul.

Your home was a sanctuary where love was abundant, and everyone felt welcome. You had an incredible ability to make everyone feel special and important, and your generosity knew no bounds.

You taught me the value of hard work, resilience, and integrity. Through your actions, you showed me what it means to live a life of purpose and compassion. Your strength in the face of adversity was nothing short of inspiring, and your ability to find joy in the simplest of moments was a testament to your beautiful spirit.

Your stories, laughter, and wisdom will forever echo in my heart. I am grateful for the countless lessons you taught me, the sacrifices you made, and the endless love you showered upon me. As we say goodbye, I find solace in knowing that you are at peace, reunited with those you loved who have gone before.

Thank you, mum, for being the extraordinary woman you were. I miss you deeply, but I carry your love with me every day.

## TRIBUTES FROM

# Grandchildren

Our beloved grandma, You were the heart and soul of our family, the glue that held us together. Your love knew no bounds. Although the pain of losing you feels unbearable, we find comfort in knowing that your love and light will never fade. You have left behind a legacy of love, strength and

compassion, a legacy that will live on through all of us who were fortunate enough to know you. Rest peacefully dear kukhu. Until we meet again. We love you more than words can say and miss you more than you'll ever know.  
WE LOVE YOU ALWAYS AND FOREVER.

Kukhu Anne was an incredible matriarch to our family. Her strength and values as a family woman were demonstrated in immense ways when we visited. To us her grandchildren, she were a source of love, joy and wisdom. Our visits to the village were welcomed with an infectious smile and brief interrogation of where we've come from, and if we mentioned Nairobi, she proceeded to ask if we were studying or working. She often encouraged those still studying and joyfully prompted those of us who said we were working to gift her whatever we had brought for the visit.

Kukhu was a smart lady. She donned beautiful colorful clothes and always had the most sparkling rubber shoes on her feet. The blue rosary was always the conspicuous accessory on her neck. As such, if you visited dressed in a manner she didn't acknowledge, she would immediately question your choice of dressing. We have so many memories of Kukhu, including her love for singing, particularly one song, that she always sang for us when we visited. Kukhu, we can only imagine how hard your passing is for your family, and especially our uncles and aunts.

Even though you have passed on, we pray, that your memories will live with us. We pray, that your legacy and love will continue to bind our family together. We hope we will continue to share your memories and find joy and comfort in knowing that your love will forever live in our hearts. Rest in heavenly peace Kukhu,

## Great grand children

Khukhu Anne was a great woman who was cherished by everyone around her. From tales of other relatives you could tell she was pivotal in raising most of them into what they are today. It is very sad that she will no longer be with us but we find comfort in knowing that she is in a better place. Rest in peace Khukhu



# Songs

*Maayi Annah was grandmother to many children including Ethel Nakhumicha, Emmanuel S. Wetang'ula, the late Edgar Wafula and Dr. Sylvanus Wekesa; Hezron Wanyonyi, the late Jack Wanyonyi, Emmanuel Sifuma, the late Stephen Sitati, Esther Sifuma, Sophia Sifuma, Sylvanus Sifuma and Pauline Sifuma; Emmanuel Wanjala, Sylvia Wetang'ula, Eugene Wetang'ula, Alvin Wetang'ula, Emmanuel Steve, Sean Wetang'ula, Fidel Wetang'ula, Pauline Wetang'ula, Sophia Wetang'ula and Anne Wetang'ula, Pauline Wetang'ula; Innocent Misati, the late Maureen, Barbara Auma, Pauline Miguel and Joe Marshall; the late Emmanuel Watila, Linet Watila, Pauline Watila, Maurice Watila and Moses Watila; Pauline Opemo, Kevin Opemo and Laureen Opemo; Paulyne Wanyonyi, Sophia Wanyonyi and Sylvanus Wanyonyi; Caritas Wekesa, Kelly Wekesa, Pauline Wekesa, Emmanuel Wekesa, Clifford Wekesa, Anne Wekesa, Sylvanus Wekesa, Abigael Wekesa, Stephanie Wekesa and Prince Dominic Khaemba; Judy Wetang'ula, Gilbert Wetang'ula, Clinton Wetang'ula, Laura Nekesa, Dominic Khaemba, Sophia Nekesa, Immaculate Nasambu, Sarah Nasambu, Annah Nekesa, James Wekesa, Tracy Wetang'ula and Junior Charles Atkins, among others.*



## PAMOJA NA MALAIKA

1. Pamoja na malaika, Mariamu mama yetu  
Kuimba sifazo twataka, zipende nyimbo zetu

**Ee Maria zipokee hizo zako heshima  
Twakuimba, twakuomba, utwelekee, Mama**

2. Mazuri ya ulimwengu, si kitu mbele zako  
Hata nyota za uwingu, zavia mbele yako

3. Bikira uso mfano, sifazo kuzitaja  
Sitoshi haba maneno, kubwa yako daraja

4. Uliyejaa neema, na mwingi wa huruma  
Duniani tukikwama, watuopoa mama

## NIMEITIKA WITO

{ Umeniita, nimeitika wito, nakuja kwako leo,  
Najongea mbele zako, Bwana nipokee mimi,  
Niko tayari nimeyaacha yote najikabidhi  
kwako  
Unitume popote nami nitakwenda haraka } \*2

1. Ninaenda mimi naenda, ninaenda  
mwenyewe  
Ninaenda mbele za Bwana, sitarudi nyuma  
Ndugu zangu na marafiki mniache niende,  
Nikafanye kazi ya Bwana, nitakapotumwa.

2. Nilitazama moyo wako, moyo wako  
mwanangu  
Hata kabla hujazaliwa nilikutambua,  
Nilikuteua mapema, kati ya ndugu zako,  
Uwe kuhani wangu mimi, kuhani mkuu.

3. Shamba lake Bwana ni kubwa, na mavuno  
ni mengi,  
Wavunaji ndio wachache, nitakwenda mimi.  
Twakuomba sana ee Bwana, tupeleke  
shambani  
Tukavune mavuno yote, yaliyo tayari.

4. Uwe nami siku kwa siku, Bwana usiniache  
Unikinge na majaribu, nilinde daima,  
Nipeleke habari njema, ulimwenguni  
mwote,  
Watu wote wakutambue, wakugeukie.



## TUPOKEE MAMA MARIA

*Tupokee Mama Maria  
Tupokee Mama Maria,  
tuongoze Mama Maria  
Tufikishe kwa mwanao Mbinguni*

1. Mama yetu mwema Maria  
Sisi wanao twakukimbilia  
Utusaidie kwa kutuongoza  
Tuweze kuona vyema njia
2. Tuonee huruma Maria  
Sisi wanao tunaosumbuka  
Utuondolee hofu Maria  
Ya muovu anayetusumbua
3. Utuelekezee macho yako  
Kwako Yesu Mkombozi Bwana wetu  
Utusamehe dhambi zetu  
Utufikishe Mbinguni kwa Baba
4. Mama wa Mkombozi Yesu Kristu  
Uwe nasi daima siku zote  
Usituache kamwe peke yetu  
Mpaka Mbinguni tuwe sote



## NANI MAMA WA MUNGU

Nani mama wa Mungu,  
Bikira Maria\*2

*Alimkanyaga shetani,  
akamnyang'anya uwezo  
Bikira Maria*

Nani mama wa wagonjwa  
Bikira Maria\*2

Nani mama wa wanyonge  
Bikira Maria\*2

Nani mama wa yatima  
Bikira Maria\*2

Nani mama wa wajane  
Bikira Maria\*2

Nani mwenye Huruma  
Bikira Maria\*2







1930  
2024

