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NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT PARTY OF KENYA

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Members of Parliament during a past session. Photo/courtesy

Tribute to George Oduor

When George passed on the April 2, 2025, he was mourned by everyone. Even those who had never met him but saw him on television standing by Odinga's side or just seen him on photos in newspapers and social media, mourned. He was a gentle giant, a man who respected everyone regard of their status in society.

"George was so respectful. He enabled many meet Odinga to just shake his hand and share a word or two with him" said Philip Etale, the Director of Communications of the ODM party during the requiem mass at the House of Grace Church in Nairobi West.

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The late George Oduor with Rtd. Hon. Raila Odinga during a past event. Photo/courtesy.

ODM NEWS

The ODM party held phase two of its grassroots elections on Monday 7 and Wednesday 9 of April 2025 in a bid to solidify its support base across the country .**>> Pg 7**

A Vision for a Democratic and Inclusive Kenya

Kenyan youth demonstrate against the 2024 Finance bill in June 2024. Photo/courtesy

Marginalisation, inequality and exclusion have been and continue to be the biggest challenges facing Kenya. We have to see exclusion and inequality as being a structural phenomenon of unequal capitalist development as well as the deliberate perpetuation of ethnic politics rooted in unresolved colonial legacies. There is need therefore to work for a democratic and inclusive Kenya in which everyone will feel at home instead of one in which ethnic supremacist cabals threaten to capture power and exclude other ethnicities for eternity.

Marginalisation is systematically built into the workings of liberalized market economies and not accidental to them. Inequality and exclusion are a result of internal and external forces that are rooted in the colonial and post-colonial history of the country.
Colonial Roots of Marginalization in Kenya

British colonial conquest and rule involved numerous measures that introduced the structural dynamics of long-term inequality and exclusion that have endured in post-colonial Kenya.

For starters the colonial administration undertook massive alienation and grabbing of fertile lands from indigenous populations and the allocation of the same to European settlers in what became known as the White Highlands. The 1915 Crown Lands Act legalized this dispossession, creating enduring land grievances and landlessness among the dispossessed communities such the Kikuyu, Maasai, and Kalenjin.
This massive alienation of land in Kenya was necessitated by among other factors the need to introduce White settlers to establish large scale farming and agriculture in what became known as the White Highlands. The settlers were granted large tracts of land which gave rise to a massive demand for cheap labour to work in the emerging White estates and plantations.

Because there were no readily available people willing to work for the colonial government and settlers the colonial state introduced forced labor among Africans.

To enforce this scheme of forced extraction of labour the "Kipande" system was introduced in 1919. It was implemented under the Native Registration Ordinance of 1915. . It was worn as a metal container around the neck by African men and served as a tool for controlling and monitoring the employment and movement of African labourers. This forced extraction of labour from African communities laid the foundations of under-development and marginalisation of African communities and their indigenous economies.

The colonial state also introduced hut tax not only to raise revenue for use by the government but also to force Africans to seek for employment in the colonial economy to raise money to pay the taxes. This was another method of extraction of forced labour.

Besides being starved of labour the remaining African peasant farmers (mainly women and children) were also not allowed to participate in the cash-crop economy which was preserved for white farmers only. Furthermore African subsistence farmers were denied modern infrastructure that was only availed to White settlers. Consequently those communities who lived in regions more than 100 kilometres on either side of the Kenya-Uganda Railway that served settler extraction of resources from the country were neglected in the colonial period. This neglect was to continue in the post-colonial period. The colonial period also witnessed exclusion in social development as education and health facilities were initially only established by Missionaries only along the railways. This created a small colonial elite only amongst the ethnic groups favoured by the choices of Missionaries and the colonial state.

The colonial administration also deployed the "divide and rule" tactics to enable them to rule over their colonial subjects. In so doing they invented ethnic stereotypes such as favoring the Maasai as "warriors" and Kikuyu as "laborers," embedding hierarchies and rivalries among their colonial subjects. Clearly these tactics exacerbated ethnic rivalries and tensions that have outlived colonial domination.

Post-Colonial Continuities
Post-independence leaders have replicated and exercabated colonial exclusion, centralizing power and resources among their ethnic bases in post-colonial Kenya.

Sessional Paper No. 10 of 1965, titled African Socialism and Its Application to Planning in Kenya,

Image/Courtesy

was a foundational post-independence policy document that aimed to guide Kenya's development. However, it perpetuated colonial-era inequities through several mechanisms.

The paper advocated concentrating investments in regions with existing infrastructure and agricultural potential, reinforcing the development gap between historically favored areas such as Central Province and parts of Rift Valley but marginalised the areas that had been marginalised by the colonial state. This mirrored colonial spatial inequities, leaving pastoralist and rural communities underdeveloped.

Colonialism displaced Africans from fertile lands, reserving them for settlers and post-Independence elite instead of redistributing land to the landless, the policy promoted large-scale commercial agriculture and private ownership, enabling political elites to acquire former settler lands. This perpetuated land concentration, sidelining smallholder farmers and pastoralists.

Colonial administrators favored certain ethnic groups for control. Subsequent regimes, dominated by ethnic cabals, channeled resources to regions of those in power,

Exacerbating ethnic tensions and marginalizing other groups.
The paper also encouraged reliance on foreign capital and multinational corporations , allowing former colonial powers and Western firms to retain economic influence. This created a neocolonial dynamic where profits were repatriated, and local industries remained underdeveloped.

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Sessional Paper No. 10 thus preserved colonial structures by prioritizing economic growth in historically advantaged regions, consolidating elite power, and maintaining foreign economic dominance. While framed as a break from colonialism, its implementation reinforced ethnic, regional, and class hierarchies, delaying meaningful equity. This legacy contributed to long-term grievances, fueling political instability and ethnic conflicts in later decades. The introduction and centralisation of the imperial presidency stifled dissent

and marginalized regions seen as being opposed to the regime in power.
Post-colonial regimes have also perpetuated colonial-era inequities, especially by engaging in land grabbing by postcolonial ruling elites rather than resettlement of those who had been dispossessed by colonial authorities. This has fuelled land related conflicts especially in the Rift Valley.

Because political power has been used by ruling ethnic cabals for ethnic patronage elections and electoral politics in Kenya has increasingly become ethnic censuses in which ethnic demagogues openly contrive, fabricate and proclaim "tyranny of numbers" to justify a power grab.

The Constitution of Kenya 2010: Towards A Democratic and Inclusive Kenya

The CoK 2010 provides a transformative framework to address colonial and post-colonial exclusion through devolution, rights-based governance, and institutional reforms. While progress is evident, structural challenges such as ethnic politics and the unwillingness of the national government to cede control over devolved functions limit its potential.

Ethnic politics in Kenya dates back to colonial divide-and-rule tactics that has been perpetuated by the post-colonial state.

ODM has consistently advocated for inclusivity. The 2010 Constitution, a milestone, introduced devolution to address historical imbalances, yet ethnic mobilization persists, undermining these gains. Recently we have seen politicians exploit ethnic loyalties, risking conflict and stalling development. Such tactics fragment our social fabric, diverting focus from pressing issues like unemployment and corruption.

There is compelling need to implement policies that uplift marginalized regions, reducing ethnic competition for resources. Strengthening devolution to ensure equitable resource distribution is one way to ensure equity and inclusion. Upholding the provisions of Articles 130 and 232 in the formation of government will protect all citizens' rights, irrespective of ethnicity.

There is need to work for a democratic and inclusive Kenya in which everyone will feel at home instead of one in which ethnic supremacist cabals threaten to capture power and exclude other ethnicities for eternity. ODM must therefore continue to push for increased county funding and accountability, ensuring all communities benefit from national resources.

Why Multi-Party Democracies in Africa Are Embracing Broad-Based Governance System

President William Ruto with Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga formalize the UDA-ODM patnership. Photo/courtesy.

Broad-based governance system is steadily gaining traction in various multi-party democracies in the African continent and other parts of the world where the concept is viewed as the panacea to political stability, inclusivity and national reconciliation.

Kenya has joined the countries that have embraced the system after President William Ruto and opposition leader Raila Odinga recently sealed a pact to the effect between their respective parties, United Democratic Alliance (UDA) and the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM).

The pact came against the backdrop of Ruto's hitherto dwindling popularity epitomised by widespread youth-led protests last year against new taxes outlined in the Finance Bill, occasioning the death of at least 60 people.

Faced with a governance crisis that threatened to boil over, Ruto was compelled to turn to Odinga's Opposition party, ODM, to help steady the nation by leveraging the expertise and experience of a section of the party leaders in the broad-based arrangement to enhance governance and drive economic transformation.

In his own words then, Ruto said he had opted to use the knowledge and expertise of these leaders to move the country forward by working together with them to tackle many challenges the country faced such as ballooning debt and corruption.

"While competition is good, there is a moment when the interest of the nation is greater than the interest of a political formation. It is the reason I have reached out across the aisle to bring onboard the knowledge, expertise and experience of deserving Kenyans though belonging to a different political formation," Ruto told the nation while announcing his bold move.

So, what is a broad-based system of governance? How does it work and what are its benefits and challenges? Are there reforms needed to entrench the system in a country's polity?

A broad-based government is hinged on provisions of the constitution of Kenya 2010 especially articles 130 and 232. It typifies representative inclusiveness and shared decision-making, and is acclaimed for political stability, national unity, and equitable development;

as opposed to the winner-take-all system blamed for stemming political turmoil, ethnic polarisation, and exclusion, by sidelining certain groups from government after elections.

Countries that opt to embrace broad-based governance do so mostly when facing challenges and in times of crisis. They take cognisance of the fact that inclusivity in governance is a fundamental principle of democracy. Hence broad-based governance, in essence ensures the upholding democratic values and the will and interests of the citizenry.

By involving opposition and other stakeholders in a broad-based government in a way helps the country address underlying historical socio-economic and political challenges and creates a platform for dialogue, thus in the long run reducing cases of violence and unrest.

Kenya's political landscape, for example, is replete with intense rivalry and division, often leading to unrest and impeding national development. The scars of the 2007-2008 post-election violence, as well as the contested elections in 2013 and 2017, serve as stark

reminders of the dangers posed by the winner-take-all system. These incidences show how political exclusion, spurred by winner-take-all dogma, can destabilise the country and deepen divisions among communities that feel sidelined in the political process. Thus the concept of a broad-based government seeks to break this cycle by fostering a culture of cooperation and inclusivity which ensures no group or community is marginalised.

Benefits

Studies indicate that broad-based governance helps promote national unity and reconciliation, particularly in politically polarised environments like Kenya. It creates a conducive environment for the formulation and implementation of government policies which has the input of all stakeholders, including the opposition. The participation particularly of the opposition reduces political tensions by forging trust and hence contributing to a more stable and peaceful political climate. In the final analysis, a broad-based government works in a more effective way to address economic and political challenges,

DRC President Felix Tshiseked during his inauguration ceremony in January 2024. Photo/courtesy

which in essence leads to better economic policies and political stability.

The system is equally beneficial in that it incorporates various stakeholders and experts from various sectors who work together to formulate comprehensive policies that address the needs of all citizens and promote growth and stability needed for a country's economic prosperity and political stability. This inclusion of representatives from different political formations equally fosters national unity and reduces dissent, mistrust and unrest among the people.

Broad-based governance also helps ensure that diverse voices and concerns are heard and addressed, thus reducing the feeling of marginalisation. In essence, it promotes social cohesion and national integration as it integrates representation from various ethnic, regional, religious, political, and social groups. This mitigates against divisions and hence nurtures a shared identity among the citizenry in addressing

socio-political and economic challenges, thus building a more inclusive and stable government; and fostering inclusive democracy.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), President Felix Tshisekedi, has been trying to embrace the broad-based system by turning to former adversaries to build an inclusive government in the bid to stem the challenges posed by M23 rebels.

This inclusive system has also been practiced in South Africa which provides valuable insights into the potential benefits of broad-based governance. The country's transition from apartheid to a multi-party democracy was underpinned by a broad-based government, which was instrumental in promoting national reconciliation and political stability. The power-sharing arrangement also helped bridge historical divides and fostered a sense of collective ownership over the country's governance which stemmed escalation of violence.

Reforms

Broad-based governance has undoubtedly proved that a more inclusive governance structure can be an enabling factor for cooperation among various political and ethnic groups, such that all citizens feel represented and involved in the decision-making process. And at the same time, that for a country to move toward stability, cohesion, and equity, there is need for all political and ethnic groups to get representation in governance.

To this end, there is need to explore ways for a country to transition from the winner-take-all system to a broad-based system of governance. This calls for policymakers to formulate constitutional and electoral reforms to facilitate this transition to an inclusive political system. The reforms need to address the pertinent issues of political exclusion to ensure a more representative system. It is, however, envisaged that this transition to a broad-based government would not be smooth sailing. It requires among others

political will especially from the ruling elite who may not be willing to lose their grip on power or change the status quo. Its success would also depend on shared understanding and consensus among the key political actors, including opposition parties and other stakeholders. It may also require constitutional amendment or new legislative frameworks to determine its structure.

The transition into a broad-based system still has many other challenges that include resistance by entrenched political elites. This resistance will need to be overcome through strong leadership, and by political parties and leaders putting the interest of the country above partisan interests.

All in all, recent studies reveal that adoption of a broad-based government stands to improve democratic governance and contribute to long-term stability and development of the nation. Its concept of fostering political inclusivity, defusing ethnic tensions, and ensuring balanced representation, portends more effectiveness and fairness in the way the government functions.

The Waning American Hegemony In The World

US President Donald Trump with former vice President Michael Pence . Photo/courtesy

Donald Trump has really shocked the world by his recent bellicose and, in Yemen, belligerent pronouncements and behaviour. Is Trump a mad leader of a crazy American cabal or is there some deeper and more rational explanation to this bizarre statesmanship?

Five days before his Inauguration, Donald Trump had a tense phone call with the Prime Minister of Denmark and made clear that he wanted to take possession of the self-governing Danish island of Greenland.

In his Inauguration speech, Trump declared, "The United States will once again consider itself a growing nation, one that increases our wealth, expands our territory, builds our cities, raises our expectations, and carries our flag into new and beautiful horizons."

Meanwhile, he's said repeatedly that he intends to take back control of the Panama Canal, and that Canada should become a U.S. state. Recently, he announced tariffs and sanctions on Colombia after the close American ally said that it would not accept American planes full of deported migrants.

The Colombian President, Gustavo Petro, backed down on Sunday night, agreeing to accept the planes.

Often considered an inward-looking nationalist or even isolationist in his first term, Trump has been sounding these notes of aggression and expansion quite a bit lately.

The bizarre shouting match between Trump and Zelensky in the Whitehouse is still quite baffling.

Tariffs implemented during the second Trump presidency have marked a sharp escalation in protectionist trade policies in the United States, with the president announcing a series of steep tariffs on nearly all goods imported to the US. From January to April 2025, the US trade-weighted average tariff rose from 2% to an estimated 24%, the highest level in over a century.

Trump escalated an ongoing trade war with China, raising baseline tariffs on Chinese imports to an effective 145% after April 9, 2025. He also initiated a new trade war with Canada and Mexico by imposing a 25% tariff on most

goods from the countries, though he later granted indefinite exemptions for goods compliant with the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, framed these actions as a way to hold the countries accountable for contraband drug trafficking and illegal migration while supporting domestic manufacturing. He later imposed a 25% tariff on imported steel, aluminum, and automobiles from all countries, with tariffs on auto parts expected to follow.

On April 2- a day he called Liberation Day- Trump signed an executive order imposing a minimum 10% tariff on all U.S. imports effective April 5. Higher tariffs on imports from 57 countries, ranging from 11% to 50%, were scheduled to take effect on April 9 but were almost immediately suspended for 90 days for all countries except China. The 10% tariff remains in effect.

The announcement of these controversially termed "reciprocal tariffs" prompted retaliation from trade partners and triggered stock market crash. According to the Trump administration's reciprocal tariff formula, trade deficits are viewed as inherently harmful and should be eliminated.

US capitalism over the past century has had without question the most powerful, most class-conscious ruling class in the history of the world, straddling both the economy and the state, and projecting its hegemony both domestically and globally.

Central to its rule is an ideological apparatus that insists that the immense economic power of the capitalist class does not translate into political governance, and that no matter how polarized U.S. society becomes in economic terms, its claims to democracy remain intact.

According to the received ideology, the ultra-rich interests that rule the market do not rule the state—a separation crucial to the idea of liberal democracy. This reigning ideology, however, is now breaking down in the face of the structural crisis of U.S. and world capitalism, and the decline of the liberal-democratic state itself, leading to deep splits in the ruling class, and a new right-wing, openly capitalist domination of the state.

In recent years, the failure on the part of American lawmakers to adequately deal with their country's economic decline and the social

crises that have coincided with it has created anti-establishment backlash on the Left and Right. To avoid incurring the high political costs of this failure, American elites have looked for external scapegoats. While trade seems to have emerged as the arena of blame attribution, China has come in handy as a scapegoat for the crisis of social reproduction of the American working class.

After the second world war in 1945 two military superpowers arose. The USA led by capitalists and the USSR led by communists. The USA emerged from the war stronger without any destruction to its land and a very robust economy. The USSR was devastated with half of its cities destroyed and 24 million of its citizens dead in the war. The USA lost about 400,000 citizens in the war. The USA developed nuclear weapons in 1945. The USSR developed the same in 1949.

" *The GDP of China was USD 265 million in 1985, it is now about USD 22 trillion. The GDP of USA was about USD 4 trillion in 1985, it is now about USD 25 trillion.*

Therefore the multilateral world fashioned by the superpowers was largely fashioned by the USA. The United Nations headquarters, the International Monetary Fund headquarters and the World bank headquarters were all in the USA.

The US dollar became the currency of the world. The USA could invade countries as it pleased. With or without UN approval.

The USSR collapsed in 1991 leaving the USA as the sole superpower. Russia inherited the nuclear weapons of the USSR but it was no match for the USA economically or militarily. Russia and former USSR countries were in economic turmoil for a good part of three decades after the collapse of their union. Lately Russia has recovered and is growing.

The past four decades have also witnessed China grow at a phenomenal rate. The GDP of China was USD 265 million in 1985, it is now about USD 22 trillion. The GDP of USA was about USD 4 trillion in 1985, it is now about USD 25 trillion. A multipolar world is also emerging, Brazil, Russia, India and China formed the BRIC group of countries in 2009. It became BRICS in 2010 when South Africa joined the group.

BRICS now has 10 members, Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, United Arab Emirates and Indonesia.The combined GDP of BRICS countries is about USD 31 trillion. This accounts for approximately 30% of the global GDP.

The USA is now faced with economically and rising multipolar competitors. It is losing its hegemony in the world. It is trying to beat competition through erratic bellicose and belligerent behaviour- the personification of which is Donald Trump.

ODM News

ODM Holds Successful Party Elections, Focus Now on County Elections

ODM delegates participate in the party elections in Rangwe Branch

The ODM party held phase two of its grassroots elections on Monday 7 and Wednesday 9 of April 2025 in a bid to solidify its support base across the country.

The exercise whose phase one on the 27th of November 2024 saw party members elect their officials at the polling unit level, resumed on the 7th of April this year at the Sub-Branch level (Ward) across the country.

The exercise was conducted in all the 1,450 Wards with party members electing officials and delegates to steer party activities and programs at that that level.

The delegates at the Sub-Branch level proceeded to the Branch level (Constituency) and elected officials and delegates who will run party activities at the constituency level.

The exercise was held in all the 290 branches (constituencies). The elected officials have the mandate to run party affairs and activities as well as continuing with the membership recruitment process to increase the numbers which currently stand at 6.8 million members.

The election was supervised by the National Elections Coordination Committee (NECC) which is chaired by Nominated MCA in the County Assembly of Siaya Ms. Emily Awita.

Focus is now on the elections to elect officials at the County Coordination Committee (CCC) which is the top tier of the party leadership at the grassroots level.

The NECC will set the date for the exercise. It is also expected that after the County elections, the party shall hold a national delegates conference where national officials shall be elected to steer the party at the national level for the next five years.

ODM Criticizes Government Over its Handling of the Butere Girls' Play

ODM Secretary General Edwin Sifuna and other leaders addressing the press at a past event Photo/courtesy.

The Orange Democratic Movement, has criticised the government over the handling of the Butere Girls High School play, Echoes of War.

In a statement on Thursday, April 10, ODM Secretary General Edwin Sifuna said the events that unfolded at Kirobon Girls High School were regrettable.

Sifuna wondered why the Kenya Kwanza government was scared of the Echoes of War, yet the students were merely expressing their talent.

"The country has watched with disbelief, the unfolding drama at the National Drama Festival in Nakuru where the government has seemingly run scared of a play by Butere Girls, titled 'Echoes of War.

Of all the evidence we already have of the lack of focus of this regime, it has shot itself in the footby harassing and attempting to dim the voices of young girls in school uniform," Sifuna said.

The Orange Party condemned the action taken by police to use tear gas to disperse the Butere Girls High students, journalists and other Kenyans who had turned up to watch the controversial play.

We wish to condemn in the strongest terms possible the mistreatment of Butere Girls High School, journalists and other festival goers and join other Kenyans in demanding that authorities allow the young artists to stage their play like all else. We reiterate that the freedom of expression guaranteed by our constitution allows people of all ages to express themselves freely even if we do not particularly like what they have to say," ODM party added.

Butere Girls students perform "Echoes of War " during the western region drama festivals. Photo/courtesy

George Oduor, the Gentle Giant

George Nyang'ira Oduor has been a common figure around the ODM Leader Raila Odinga. Arguablythe longest serving security aide to one of Kenya's greatest political figures.

Georgie as he was fondly referred to by those who knew him was a man of few words but one who meant business. A hawk-eyed Israeli trained security officer, dedicated almost his entire youth and part of adult life serving the Odinga's and was ever present during both turbulent and happy times.

Born in 1968 in Nairobi, George grew up in Kaloleni estate, one of Nairobi's popular neighborhoods where he was born and raised. Anyone who has been to Nairobi's Eastlands region will tell you, men and women born in Kaloleni estate popularly known as Ololo are tough and hard working people. And so was Georgie.

George served the ODM Leader wholeheartedly and with loyalty and dedication. "If there's anyone who would bite a bullet for me, it is this young man lying in there". This is how Odinga eulogized George on Saturday 12, April 2025 during his funeral service at Ramba School in Rarieda Constituency.

"He stood by me at all times. George would pick anything I may have forgotten somewhere and return it to me intact", he added as he fought back tears.

Indeed these words described who George was. Humble, obedient, caring, loving, man of the people, a professional security officer and a dedicated person who always wished the best for his boss. And everyone who eulogized George told of how he was welcoming and respectful.
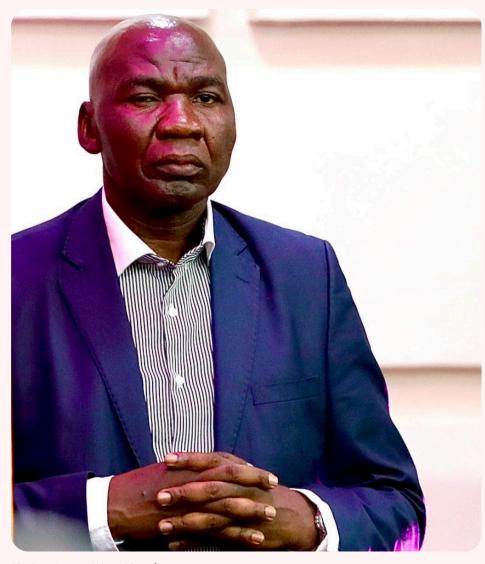
"A few weeks ago, in early March, I saw George walking in town around Ambassador area minding his own business. He was a hat and you could not even tell he was a man who takes care of Hon. Raila Odinga's security" said a social media user in a Facebook post.

George was never overbearing like other VIP security officers are, but was tough enough to stop anyone from harming his boss. He at one time while at the Coast in the 1990's blocked a GSU officer's charges on Odinga with his arm and had to live with the injury for several months.

In the late 1990's, he spent several months at the Kamiti Maximum Prison alongside other young men after crowds attacked police officers at an opposition rally in Nairobi's Central Park.

George has been there for Odinga through his ups and downs. He has endured the worst of the violence meted out against his boss by the state, in the second, third, fourth and even fifth regimes.

"George has see it all. If it is teargas, he has inhaled it not once, not twice but uncountable times. He is a comrade who has been through both tough and good times with Jakom" said the Governor of Siaya County Jam es Orengo.

The late George Oduor. Photo/courtesy

When George passed on the April 2, 2025, he was mourned by everyone.

Even those who had never met him but saw him on television standing by Odinga's side or just seen him on photos in newspapers and social media, mourned. He was a gentle giant, a man who respected everyone regard of their status in society.

"George was so respectful. He enabled many meet Odinga to just shake his hand and share a word or two with him" said Philip Etale, the Director of Communications of the ODM party during the requiem mass at the House of Grace Church in Nairobi West.

The thousands of mourners who attended his final journey at Ramba School in Rarieda Constituency in Siaya County was a clear testimony of how George was loved. "George was a good man. He showed respect to everyone and I am glad I benefited from his services during my time in ODM", said President William Ruto in his tribute at the funeral in Rarieda.

In George's death, a part of many people died. He has left an indelible mark in the hearts of many. "If I begin to talk about Georgie, the story will take the whole day,

all I can say, my husband was the best man I ever had in life", said his widow, Carren.

"George loved his work and that is why everyone is saying all the good things about him. He never shut the door on anyone and made us feel comfortable every time he was on duty" said Junet Mohammed, the Minority Leader in the National Assembly.

George was the closest aides to my brother Jakom. He walked with him throughout and would even shield him from any object hurled at him", said Sen. Oburu Odinga.

George introduced me to Jakom (Odinga). Ever since I first met and introduced myself to him at the University of Nairobi where I was a Law Student and be had accompanied Odinga to an event at the University, we became close friends. His death has really devastated me", said M Silas Jakakimba, a former Personal Assistant to Hon. Raila Odinga.

As the soil swallows the man whom many described as a man who had a big heart, the Odinga's know they have lost a gem, a man who has been with them for over three decades and who dedicated his life and time ensuring their safety. He will be missed by many.

Rest in Peace George Nyang'ira Oduor.