**Mathew Guy Muli (1939–1995): Kenya’s Attorney General (1983–1991)**

**Mathew Guy Muli was a prominent Kenyan legal mind who served as the country’s third Attorney General from 1983 to 1991, following the tenure of James B. Karugu and succeeding Charles Njonjo. His career was marked by professionalism, quiet determination, and dedication to Kenya’s legal system during a politically tense and transformative era.**

### **Early Life and Education**

**Born in 1939 in Kenya, Muli was educated locally before advancing to legal studies abroad. He pursued law in the United Kingdom and was admitted to the Bar at Lincoln’s Inn in London. Upon returning to Kenya, he quickly rose through the ranks in the legal profession.**

### **Legal Career Before Attorney General**

**Mathew Muli joined the Kenyan public service as a magistrate and later served as a judge. He was known for his calm demeanor and legal expertise. By the early 1980s, his reputation as a competent jurist caught the attention of President Daniel arap Moi, who appointed him Attorney General in 1983, during a time of political consolidation following the attempted 1982 coup.**

### **Tenure as Attorney General (1983–1991)**

**Muli's tenure came during a challenging period in Kenya’s political history, when the country was a one-party state under the Kenya African National Union (KANU). He often had to navigate the tension between his legal obligations and the prevailing political climate, which was marked by crackdowns on dissent, suppression of press freedoms, and heightened control of civil liberties.**

**Despite this, Mathew Muli maintained a relatively low profile compared to his predecessor Charles Njonjo, who had a more flamboyant and political approach to the role. Muli was known for being more reserved and for working behind the scenes to ensure legal processes continued smoothly.**

**Some key highlights during his time in office include:**

* **Overseeing legal matters during the post-1982 coup environment.**
* **Supporting state efforts in reinforcing public order and national security.**
* **Managing the legal department during early agitation for multi-party democracy.**

### **Later Career and Legacy**

**In 1991, as political reforms began to sweep across Kenya and multiparty democracy was reintroduced, Muli was succeeded by Amos Wako as Attorney General. He was later appointed as a judge of the Court of Appeal, where he continued to serve the judiciary with distinction until his death.**

**Mathew Guy Muli passed away in 1995. Though not as publicly celebrated as some of his contemporaries, his legacy lives on as a steady hand during one of Kenya’s most complex legal and political eras.**