

Celebrating the life of



MAMA HELIDA WERE ODUOR



June 1936 - December 2025



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Designed by: **NestLink**
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1936 - 2025



Funeral Programme

Order of Events

FRIDAY 26TH DECEMBER 2025

- 12:00 noon Cortège leaves Same Day Classmate Mortuary, Segat
2:00 pm Church Service at ACK church Ralak Parish
Later Night Virgil Mukhuayo village, Jera Sub Location

SATURDAY 27TH DECEMBER 2025

- 9.00am Church Prayer & Procession to the Venue
9.15am Tributes and speeches
Friends
Representatives-workmates/colleagues/friends
Relatives:
Brothers-in-laws
Co-Sister-in-laws Representative
Nephews and Nieces Representative
Cousins Representatives
Recognition and acknowledgement of various visitors
Family
Government Representatives
Vote of thanks
1:00pm Church Service
2:00 - 3:00 pm Interment Ceremony

Hymns

1. RUOTH me polo, newa ka,
To nyithindi duto wan;
Wan wapaki, wan wawer,
Ka waluwi ndalogi.
2. To wadhiyo ka Nyasaye,
logi duto kachiel;
Jo machon gimer maber,
Ne gichopo thurwa ku.
3. Un nyithind chieng' maradier,
Thurwa ku obiro nen;
Wanadagie nyaka chieng',
Wanane Jakonywa ku.
4. Kik uluor owtewa,
Chungieuru kendo umor,
Yesu Kristo Wuod Nyasaye,
E mochikowa wadhi.
5. Ruoth, wawinji to wadhi,
Ka waweyo duto ka:
In iwuon itelonwa,
Wanaluwi nyaka chieng'

Song 183

1. ARETO kawuotho e yo
Madhi malo ndalo duto;
Kalamo pile mondo Ruoth
Oting'a malo moloyo.
Ruoth ting'a malo mondo achung',
Kayie wecheni duto,
Med ting'a malo moloyo,
Abed kapakoi pile.
2. Chunya ok gomb siko e piny
Ka ma chich gi luoro nitie,
To adwaro loyogi te,
E malami ting'a malo.
3. Adwaro logo gik me piny
Ma satani diwuondago;
Loch mwaloyogo piny en yie,
Genona ni kuomi pile.
4. Adwaro bedo motegno
Nyaka ane mor e polo;
E momiyo pod Alamo,
'Ruoth, ting'a malo moloyo.

Song 177

1. KINDE mokue mar lamo Ruoth
Magola kuom paro me piny,
Kendo ywaya but kom Wuora,
Maga duto anyis Wuora,
Kachandora, kathagora,
Chunya yudo yueyo kuome.
Temruok duto aseloyo,
Walam wakue to gi hombo.
2. Kinde mokue mar lamo Ruoth,
Aywakni A Ruoth iwinja.
An to nyathini winja ka,
Guedha Wuonwa miya hapi.
Adwaro neon wang'l Ruoth,
Wachni maber ema sira.
Gi parona gi tekona,
Aketo kuomi Ruoth mang' won.
3. Kinde mokue mar lamo
Ruoth,
Abed jakinda maradier.
Wi got malo ating' wang'a,
Ane dalawano mokue.
Ringruok mar piny chunya
nowe,
Kadhi yudo osimb locho,
Nadum kail, kawer, kama,
Ngima pinyruodh polo ayudo.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith"

(2 Timothy 4:7)

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Eulogy

Mama Helida Were Oduor was born in June 1936 in Butunyi Village, Busia Sub County. She was the beloved daughter of the late Luka Makokha and the late Ludalo Odinga, and the fourth born in a family of six. Surrounded by her siblings Akoth Kula (the late), Alfred Ongeso (the late), Augustino Olengo (the late), Adhiambo Mukoswa, Ajwang, Barasa Makokha (the late), Pamba, Rajula Makokha (the late), Ombwenya, and Achieng, she grew up in a home filled with love, resilience, and a strong sense of community.

Education

Though she never attended formal schooling, she embodied wisdom, strength, and the values of her heritage. Her early life was marked by simplicity, hard work, and a deep connection to family and tradition.

Marriage & Family

In 1949, she entered into marriage with the late Mzee Joab Oduor Opiyo of Muhuayo Village, Jera Sublocation in Siaya County. Together, they built a strong and enduring family, blessed with ten children: Morris Odamo, Alfred Opiyo, Wilfrida Anyango, Kennedy Olunga, Fredrick Ooko, Meshack Otieno, Nicholas Odero, Beatrice Atieno, David Ochieng and Dorice Anyango. As a wife, mother, and homemaker, she nurtured her household with love, patience, and unwavering dedication.

She became a cherished daughter-in-law to the late Zakayo Opiyo Owondo and the late Penninah Beyo, and a sister-in-law to the Flora Awuor (the late), Mathayo Owondo (the late), Eliakim Obonyo (the late), Philip Ogutu Opiyo (the late), Sefeniah Olunga (the late), Nehemiah Abiero (the late), and Grace Adoka (the late). Her marital journey was also shared with her step co-wives—Philister Anyango (the late), Joyce Anyango, Leonida Akoth (the late), Margaret Apandi, Peres Ogutu, Pamela Olunga, Nelly Abiero (the late), and Alice Abiero (the late)—together forming a wide and interconnected family.

Her greatest joy was found in her children and the generations that followed. She was blessed with 66 grandchildren, 59 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild. This vast lineage is a living testimony to her devotion, her nurturing spirit, and the enduring strength of her family.



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Industry

Beyond her role as a mother and homemaker, she was also a businesswoman of great resilience and vision. She traversed markets across Kenya and Uganda, trading and building connections until the mid-2000s. Her entrepreneurial spirit not only sustained her family but also inspired many around her, showing that determination and hard work could open doors even without formal education.

Sickness & Departure

Mama has lived a healthy and active life. Farming her lands, running her small business and attending her church activities with devotion. Mama's health started to deteriorate around 2017, whereby, she was diagnosed with diabetes, high blood pressure and arthritis. The family has been steadfast in giving her the best health care. Mama has been taking medical trips to Nairobi and has been treated at the Karen Hospital, The Nairobi Hospital, the Mater Hospital among others. In several instances she has been treated at Eldoret Referral and the Real Hospital. In her last days, Mama suffered extreme pain as a result of Arthritis , she was admitted for about 10 days at Nangina Mission Hospital where she succumbed to her pain, amidst reports that her other vitals were all healthy, even in her advanced age!

Legacy

She lived a life that reminds us that true education is not only found in classrooms but in the lessons of kindness, perseverance, and faith. Her memory will remain a guiding light, reminding us of the strength of motherhood, the power of family, and the beauty of a life well lived.

Today, as we celebrate her, we honor not only her journey but also the generations she shaped. Her legacy lives on in the countless lives she touched, and in the family that continues to grow from the seeds she planted.

Reflections

As we reflect on the life of Mama Helida Were Oduor, we are reminded that a life well lived is measured not by years alone, but by love shared, faith upheld, and lives touched. She walked her journey with humility, resilience, and a deep sense of responsibility to her family and community.

Her legacy lives on through her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, who carry forward the values she instilled. Though she has departed from this earthly life, her spirit, teachings, and memories remain alive in our hearts. We take comfort in the assurance that her rest is peaceful, and her life's work complete.

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Tributes



MAURICE ODAMO

Mum, we gather here today to celebrate you and the great memories we shared will remain forever. You taught us love, kindness, industry, humility and responsibility and we promise to perpetuate these virtues even in your absence. Your sense of patience, humour, understanding, peace and wisdom will also remain with us forever. Mum, we might have not said to you that we loved you but our love for you has remained in our minds and hearts. We hope that you have found peace and joy with the Lord.

Rest and fly with the angels, NyaMagokha!



ALFRED OPIYO

Family and friends,
Today we celebrate Mama a woman whose life was a testimony of faith, discipline, and wisdom. Mama was God-fearing, anchoring our family in prayer and devotion. She embraced the denomination of Zakayo, teaching us that faith thrives in fellowship. She was submissive and hardworking, showing strength through respect and love, and her tireless hands built and sustained our home. As a financial manager, she stewarded resources wisely, ensuring every need was met. Mama was a disciplinarian, firm yet loving, shaping our character with values that still guide us. She rejoiced in my salvation, acknowledging it as a victory for the family. Her heart was always forgiving, reminding us that mercy brings freedom. And her wisdom shone in the phrase "anindo ma aparo" teaching us to pause, reflect, and act with clarity. Mama's legacy is etched in our hearts. Her faith, discipline, forgiveness, and wisdom continue to guide us. Mama, your light still shines, your words still guide, and your love still sustains.

Rest well, Mama. Alfred.



WILFRIDA ANYANGO

Mama Nyar gi nera, you have lived a life that many a parent would always cherish. A rare personality of love and hard work, which you possessed ensured that you lived to see all of us live beyond half a decade. You embraced all visitors with love. I learnt the dedication, submission and respect to marriage life from you. For over three decades as a single parent, you nurtured the spirit of togetherness in us and it is my prayer that we propagate this virtue even in your absence.

Nyasaye oket chunyi kama okwe nyaka chieng' wanarom kendo!



KENNEDY OLUNGA

Dear beloved mum let's thank God the Almighty through whom all things exist, so you and I. Through His Power and glory you managed to sail over great turbulence of life like; it is not easy to bear 10 children safely at home without midwives and get 100% survival – surely "Were" meaning God in a certain community (osebedo kodwa). Your mother Ludalo named you ("Obwoba"/Owuowa) – the mushroom, a plant with very short life. You disclosed to me this because of our closeness through which I learnt that you grew as an orphan who suffered immensely during your childhood life. For the success of your family Mother, you did not get the comfort of sleeping, sitting, relaxing, gossiping, enjoying, but faced the roughside of life like a donkey (beast if burden); I know you can't forge Uganda jail (a blessing in disguise) to us. "sirkal" you have left a legacy that should be your biography. Thanks for your mentorship – I'm fully baked and ready to face the world. It is sad sad sad sad..... that; For 12 years that I had been waking up to you has come to an end

Olunga: Mum ichiew?

Mama (Ans): Dacha achiew

Olunga : Erokamano mama adhi e skul/Nyamsenda

Mama : Otelnimimos gi dana

"Tofesa" the wise lady, let God be with you and us.

Amen!

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FREDRICK OOKO ODUOR

Mama! I will miss your great teachings, your foresight, wisdom, intelligence, I have no words to describe your qualities. You never loved idlers; hand-to-mouth life you encouraged diversification and now even as you lie lifeless your wisdom prevails. When things got tough you defended us as a hen defends her chicks. It is just difficult for me to describe in writing, but I believe God Almighty has the right place for you in heaven.

Nind gikwe mamana nyaka Chieng aneni kendo. Oriti okew ka rech.



MESHACK OTIENO ODUOR

Mama was a firm disciplinarian who believed deeply in order, responsibility, and consequences. Her strict guidance, especially during my early years, shaped my character and instilled in me lifelong respect for discipline and accountability. She was also a woman of faith in signs and fortune. As an itinerant trader, she believed my presence brought her good luck, often asking me to meet her on her way to the market because her goods sold quickly whenever I did. This belief followed me through life, recognized by many I later encountered. Among her ten children, I carry a unique inheritance—her strength, resilience, and enduring maternal spirit, which I strive to uphold.



NICHOLUS ODERO

Mum was principled, caring and straight forward.

Rest in peace Mum.



BEATRICE ATIENO

Mum was always hopefull, loving a teacher courageous and God fearing. Nind gi kue DADA NYAR GOWETE.

(Rest in Peace sister to all)



DAVID OCHIENG'

There is no more need for grief, instead there is joy and a smile because it finally ended well.

My mum, a friend, a confidant, and a mentor; unlike a lioness who taught her cubs to ferociously attack and harm prey, you constantly preached discernment. Your judgement was based absolutely on tangible evidence. You particularly kept on reminding me to consider forgiveness as the first line of self-defence. Nya joka Ongeso/Nya Makokha/ Nafoyo/ Osembo/Mareba/Ja blek entertained no nonsense at the same time maintaining an everlasting sense of humour. May these attributes follow you in eternity.

Fare thee well Nyakwar Auma. "Anindo ma aparo".

Psalm 34:18



DORIS ANYANGO ODUOR

Tribute to Mama by Chogo.

Today, we gather with deep gratitude, to celebrate the life of an awesome woman. Mama was a beautiful woman, a devoted grandmother, a guiding light, and the glue of our large family. I remember Mama as the epitome of resilience. Orphaned at the tender age of two, she endured the loss of her mother, grew to nurture her siblings, and became a great role model in her community.

Mama was a great speaker whose words carried guidance and wisdom. She spoke with a calm smile and gentle humor. She was a woman of strength and a good entrepreneur, with a quiet vision for her family and community. In moments of difficulty, Mama always found a way forward, and in moments of joy, she celebrated fully and sincerely. I remember family graduations when Mama would sing and dance to motivate her children.

We celebrate her life today and give thanks for the years we were blessed to share with her. Her legacy is not found in material possessions, but in the values she lived by, the values she planted in our hearts, and the family she nurtured with such commitment. In her later days, Mama had a special place where she sat beneath the mango tree. Though she no longer sits with us around the table of laughter, jokes, and shared meals, she lives on in our bonds and the Christian values she instilled in us. We honor her best by carrying forward her kindness, strength, and commitment to family unity.

Rest peacefully, Mama. You were deeply loved. May we find strength to live and instill your values.

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Memories



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FAMILY TREE

"I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith."

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