



SIAYA COUNTY

***Land of Heroes***



## Production Team

### **Hon. Dr. Elizabeth Odhiambo**

CECM – Tourism, Culture, Sports and Arts

### **Amos Okello**

Chief Officer – Tourism, Culture, Sports and Arts

### **Elizabeth Oduor**

Director Tourism and Culture

### **Acknowledgement**

Directorate of Tourism

### **Editorial Team**

Emily Etyang

John Amimo

Jemima Odongo

Mactilda Atieno

Joyline Apondi

Phillip Abondo

Omondi Nashon

Rodgers Otieno

Angeline Omondi

### **Publishers**

County Government of Siaya

Copyright©2018

Reproduction of this book is NOT PERMITTED except with express permission from the publishers.

### **Acknowledgement**

County Government of Siaya

Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts and Sports

# Table of Contents

## POLITICAL LEADERS

Chief Odera Akang'o .....	4
Jaramogi Oginga Odinga .....	6
Ramogi Achieng' Oneko .....	
Thomas Joseph Mboya (Tom Mboya) .....	
The Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga .....	
Argwings C.M.G. Kodhek .....	
James Aggrey Bob Orengo (Walking Constitution) .....	
Grace Aketch Onyango .....	
Hussein Obama .....	
Barack Hussein Obama .....	
Benaiah Apollo Ohanga .....	
Isaac Edwin Omolo Okero .....	
Meshack Okello Ndisi .....	
Hon. Cornel Rasanga Amoth .....	

## SCHOLARS

Prof. Bethwel Allan Ogot, EBS .....	
Prof. Thomas Odhiambo .....	
Ambassador. Dr. Wenwa Akinyi Odinga Oranga .....	
Prof. Robert William Ochieng .....	

Silvano Melea Otieno (SM Otieno).....	
Grace Emily Akinyi Ogot .....	
Prof. David Peter Simon Wasawo .....	
Hon. Joyce Aluoch .....	
Dr. Margaret Ogola .....	

## RELIGIOUS LEADERS

Archbishop Abednego Ajuoga .....	
Bishop John Henry Okullu .....	

## SPORTS AND ARTS

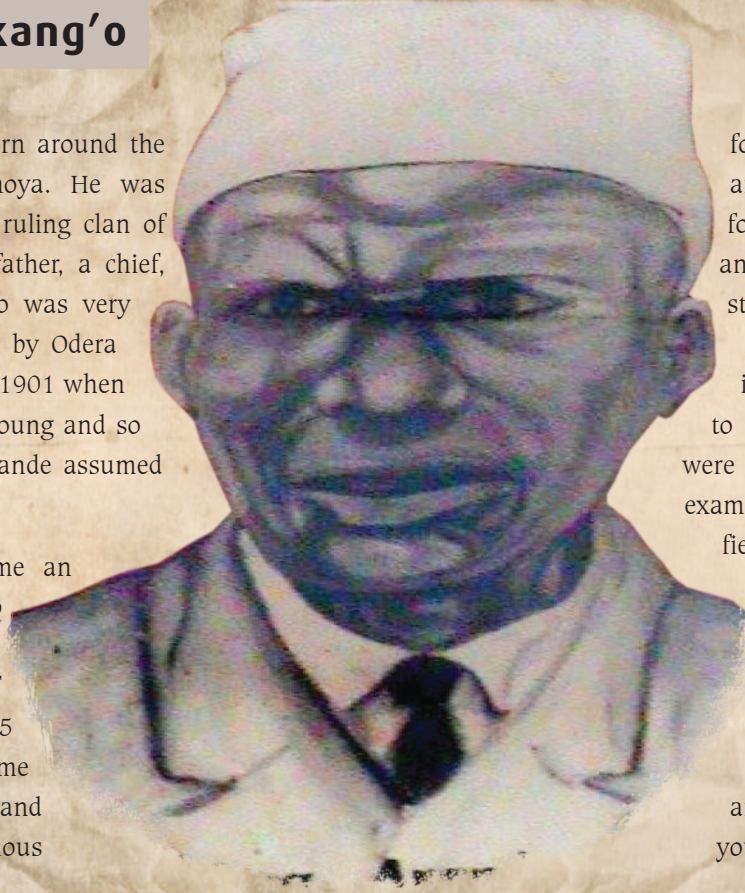
Gabriel Omollo .....	
Musa Juma .....	
Collela Mazee .....	
Ochieng Kabaselleh .....	
Okatch Biggy .....	
Joseph Ogola Olita .....	
Conjestina Achieng .....	
James Aggrey Siang'a .....	
Daniel Odhiambo .....	
Mike Okoth Origi .....	
Peter Ochieng' Dawo .....	
Kevin Owiti .....	
James Oronge .....	

# **POLITICAL ICONS**

## Chief Odera Akang'o

Odera Akang'o was born around the 1880s to Oloo Ramoya. He was of Kagola clan, the then ruling clan of Gem, Siaya County. His father, a chief, died when Odera Akang'o was very young. He was succeeded by Odera Ulalo. Odera Ulalo died in 1901 when Odera Akang'o was still young and so his close relative Odera Sande assumed leadership.

As Odera Akang'o became an adult he was made sub chief but was more able than Odera Sande. Chief Odera Sande died in 1915 and Odera Akang'o became chief. He was powerful and influential. He was famous



for his strength – Wrestling and running. He is famous for bringing prosperity and progress to Gem. He started ambitious plans in Agriculture where he made it law that everyone had to cultivate land and idlers were not tolerated. He led by example and cultivated large fields planting new crops like maize, rice and sugarcane.

In 1915 he visited Uganda where he saw people dressed in kanzus, women and children clean and well-mannered and young people were going to

school to learn how to read and write. On returning to Gem he declared that men had to wear kanzus and all parents must send their children to school. Parents who did not comply, were arrested and caned. He started a school in his area where St. Mary's Yala currently stands.

He forced people to go to school and as a result Gem area has a high concentration of educated people. Chief Odera Akang'o ensured discipline among his people. He ordered them to make and clear roads and planted eucalyptus trees along the roads. Some of these trees still exist. The British Officials send Odera Akang'o to rule over Teso who did not welcome his leadership style. They accused him of taking their property including their wives and he was

later imprisoned in Somalia Kismayu in 1918. His health deteriorated and he was transferred to prison in Nairobi where he died almost at the age of 40 years.

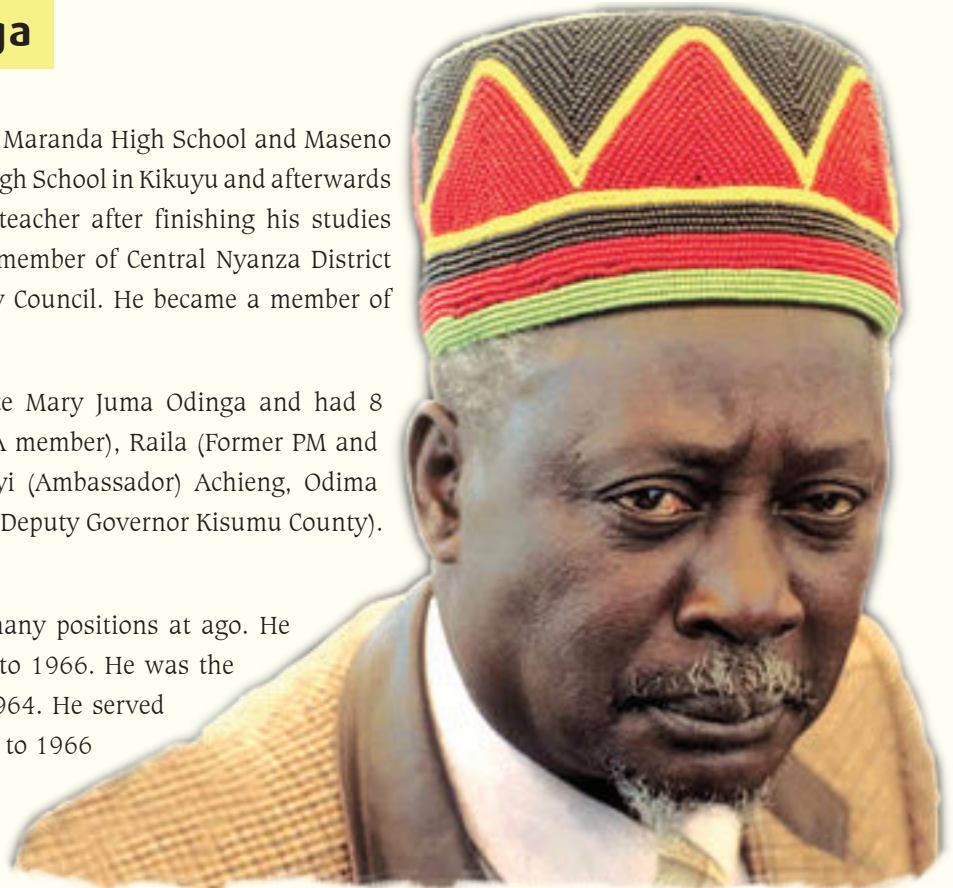
The Odera Akang'o cell is a National Monument. This is where the ambitious and far-sighted chief constructed a private police force which was responsible for inspecting farms and to report any attitude of idleness. He constructed a private police cell and an office where he could arrest and keep the law breakers. This was the first ever cell that was constructed by Kenyan for the law breakers. It is the construction of this cell which led to the coining of the name Yala town from the Luo word Yalo which means to judge.

## Jaramogi Oginga Odinga

Jaramogi was born in 1911. He learnt at Maranda High School and Maseno School before he proceeded to Alliance High School in Kikuyu and afterwards went to Makerere College. He became a teacher after finishing his studies at Makerere. In 1947-1949 he became a member of Central Nyanza District Council and the Sakwa Location Advisory Council. He became a member of LEGCO (MLC) in 1957.

Jaramogi got married in 1941 to the late Mary Juma Odinga and had 8 children namely; Oburu (Nominated EALA member), Raila (Former PM and currently the NASA leader), Agola, Akinyi (Ambassador) Achieng, Odima (late), Osewe (late) and Adhiambo (former Deputy Governor Kisumu County). He later married three other wives.

Jaramogi was a politician who held so many positions at ago. He was the Vice President of KANU in 1960 to 1966. He was the Minister for Home Affairs from 1963 to 1964. He served as the first Kenya's Vice President in 1964 to 1966 in April.





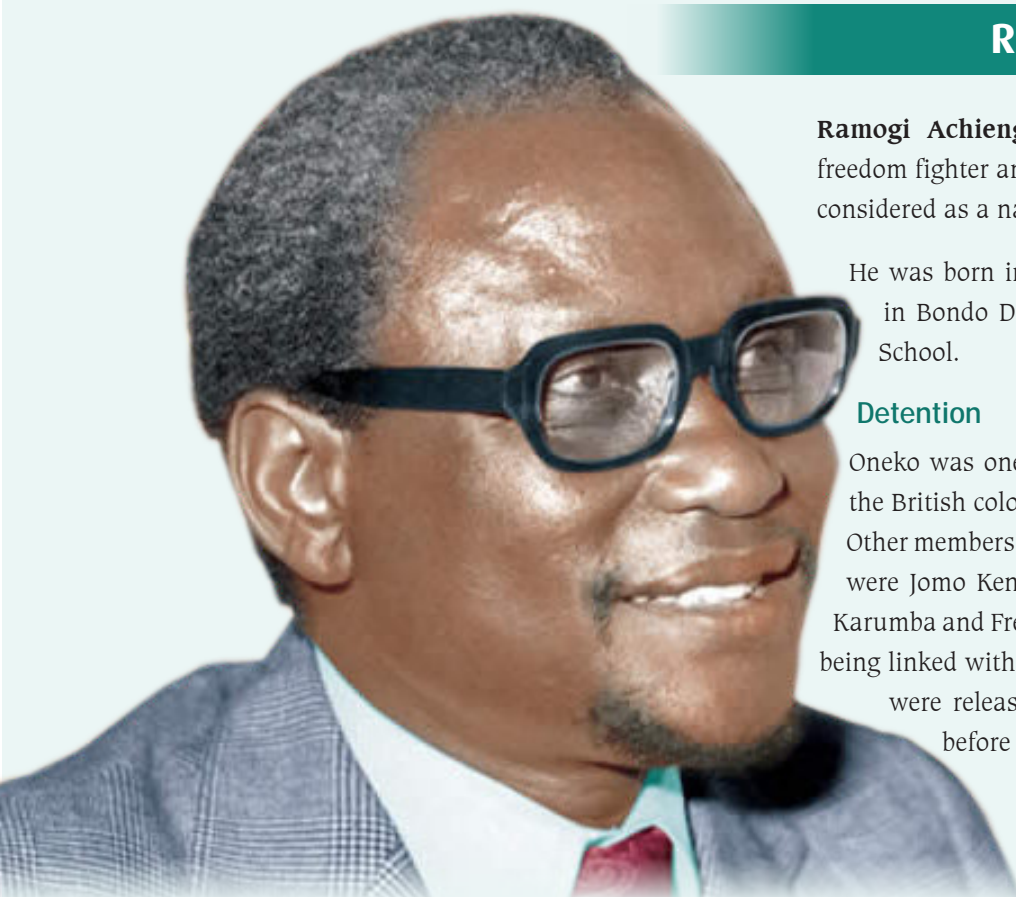
He then moved away from KANU and formed his party Kenya Peoples Union Party (KPU) in 1966 but three years later the party was banned and Jaramogi was arrested in 1969 and was released in 1971.

Jaramogi Oginga Odinga rejoined KANU in September 1971 but he and his former members of KPU were denied certificates to contest for parliamentary seats. This provoked him to start fighting for the return of Kenya into a multiparty democracy.

In 1991 he teamed up with other opposition leaders and formed a Forum for Restoration of Democracy (FORD) and through this party, he was elected to the parliament in 1992 and died in 1994 while serving as the MP for Bondo constituency.

The Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Foundation has developed a one-stop community-based museum, the Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Museum (JOOM) and Jaramogi Mausoleum situated at Jaramogi's homestead in Bondo, Western Kenya. The museum and monument serves as a cultural centre, a historical and national monument. The Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Mausoleum is a one-stop community-based museum and Luo Heroes Exhibition Centre.

Here one will see stuffed animals and other Luo cultural equipment and learn about famous traditional medicine men the community has ever had. Housed in the museum is also rich collection of Jaramogi's regalia i.e. Brief case, Ceremonial hats and clothes he wore at various stages of his political life as well as various Luo artifacts that have become extinct in most parts of Nyanza.



## Ramogi Achieng Oneko

**Ramogi Achieng Oneko** (1920–2007) was a Kenyan freedom fighter and a renowned politician. In Kenya, he is considered as a national hero.

He was born in Tieng'a village in Uyoma sub-location in Bondo District in 1920 and educated at Maseno School.

### Detention

Oneko was one of the six freedom fighters arrested by the British colonial government in Kapenguria in 1952. Other members of the group, known as “Kapenguria Six” were Jomo Kenyatta, Paul Ngei, Bildad Kaggia, Kungu Karumba and Fred Kubai. They were arrested for allegedly being linked with the Mau Mau rebellion movement. They were released nine years later, in 1961, two years before Kenya gained independence.

## Politics

The first parliamentary elections were held on independence in 1963 and Achieng Oneko won the Nakuru Town Constituency seat. Jomo Kenyatta became the first president of Kenya and soon appointed Achieng Oneko Minister for Information, Broadcasting and Tourism. However, in 1966 Oneko quit the government and joined the newly-created Kenya People's Union, a socialist party led by his comrade Oginga Odinga.

In 1969 Oneko was arrested by his former friend Kenyatta following an incident in Kisumu during Kenyatta's visit to the town. Oneko was released in 1975.

Oneko returned to politics in 1992 when he was elected as an MP at the first multiparty elections in Kenya. He represented Ford-Kenya party, led by Oginga Odinga. However, he lost his Rarieda Constituency seat at the next elections held in 1997.

## Legacy

Oneko died of heart attack aged 87 on June 9, 2007 at his home in Kunya village, Rarieda, Bondo Sub County. He left a widow, Loice Anyango. His eldest wife Jedida died in 1992. He has 11 children, seven sons and four daughters.

At the time of his death, Oneko was the only one of the "Kapenguria six" still alive. Mashujaa Day, a national holiday in Kenya, is held in Kenya to commemorate the detention of the six on October 20, 1952.

Achieng' Oneko Mausoleum was constructed by the National government in honour of Hon. Achieng' Oneko, a National hero, Freedom fighter, Journalist and Politician. The mausoleum has displays of his personal effects including his famous typewriter and Detention Order Notice among many other valuable collections.



## Thomas Joseph Mboya (Tom Mboya)

Tom Mboya was born on April 15, 1930 in Kilimambogo on a Sisal Estate near Thika town in what was called the 'White Highlands' of Kenya. His father Leonardus Ndiege was a sisal cutter. His mother, Marcella Awour, named him Odhiambo, a Luo name signifying birth in the evening. He was baptized Thomas and was later called Joseph at his confirmation as a catholic. He was later better known as Tom Mboya.

### Education and Work

Tom Mboya, started school in 1939 at the Kabaa Catholic Mission School in what was then the Ukamba District of Kenya. In 1942 he joined a Catholic Secondary School in Yala, in Nyanza province. In 1946 he went to the Holy Ghost College, Mangu, where he passed well enough to proceed to do his Cambridge School Certificate. In 1948, Mboya joined the Royal Sanitary Institute's Medical Training School for Sanitary Inspectors at Nairobi, qualifying as an inspector in 1950.

Tom Mboya's trade union activities started when he joined the Nairobi City Council in 1951. By 1952, he had been elected President of the African Staff Association, where he developed the association into a trade union. In 1953, Mboya ran into trouble with his employers, who were concerned about his trade union activities and was given notice of dismissal, which subsequently led him to give the City Council his notice of resignation. However, before his notice had expired, the authorities sacked him.

By this time he had helped found and register the Kenya Local Government Workers Union, serving as its Treasurer. Later the Union became affiliated with the Kenya Federation of Labour, and in October 1953, he was elected General

Secretary of the Federation, which was a full time trade union post (Mboya, 1959). While working as a trade union official, Tom Mboya enrolled for a Matriculation Exemption Certificate with the Efficiency Correspondence College of South Africa, majoring in Economics, which was aimed at improving his education (ibid, 1959). In 1955 he went to Ruskin College, Oxford to pursue further studies, returning to Kenya in 1956.

### **Political Life**

Tom Mboya joined active politics in 1957, when he successfully contested and won a seat in the then colonial Legislative Council and later in 1958, founded the Nairobi People's Congress Party, which became one of the strongest parties in Kenya in the late 1950's. He was able to use his trade union links across the country to rally supporters to join the party.

In 1958, during the All-Africa Peoples Conference, convened by Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana, Mboya was elected the Conference Chairman at the early age of 28. While in Ghana he gained greater insights into nationalist and anticolonial organizational struggles that was to prove a vital asset in his struggle for his own Country's independence. He was later instrumental in forming the Kenya African National

Union (KANU), becoming its first Secretary General when it was founded in 1960.

When Kenya attained self-government rule on June 1st 1963, Tom Mboya became the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, a position he was able to utilize in shaping a future independent Kenya. In December 1964, Kenya became a Republic, with Mboya being appointed the Minister of Economic Planning and Development. He was later instrumental in putting together the famous Sessional Paper No.10: "African Socialism and its Application to Planning in Kenya ", which continued to be the 'guiding philosophy of the KANU government decades after Mboya' (Gimode, 1996).

Tom Mboya was gunned down outside a pharmacy on a Nairobi street on 5th July 1969, which to many observers was seen to be the result of ethnic tensions (between the predominant Gikuyu and Luo tribes) that had gripped the nation and become a common phenomenon in post independent Kenya. He was a rising star in the Kenyan political landscape and his contribution to the independence struggle and post independent era was remarkable for a man who truly had a passion for nationalism and development.



## **Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga**

Raila Amolo Odinga was born on 7th January 1945 in Maseno to Mary Juma Odinga and Jaramogi Oginga Odinga.

He is the Father of Devolution and the 2nd Kenyan Prime Minister. He was first elected as the Member of Parliament for Langata in 1992, serving as Minister of Energy from 2001 to 2002 and as Minister of Roads, Public Works, and Housing from 2003 to 2005.

Raila is commonly known by his first name due to coincidence that he was an MP at the same time as his

father between 1992 and 1994. Raila Odinga was a presidential contender in the 1997 elections, coming third after President Daniel arap Moi of KANU and Mwai Kibaki of the Democratic Party.

He also campaigned for the Presidential seat in December 2007 elections on an Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) ticket but he did not win. This election was controversial leading to Post Election Violence hence a coalition government where Mwai Kibaki was the president and Raila became the Prime Minister of Kenya from 2008 to 2013. It's during this period when Raila worked closely with Mwai Kibaki and managed to enact the new constitution of Kenya in 2010. He as well vied for the presidential seat in 2013 on the same ticket of ODM and he did not win thus becoming the opposition leader with his Co-principals of ODM namely; Kalonzo Musyoka and Musalia Mudavadi.

Raila is a famous politician with several nicknames including 'Agwambo' which means 'the mysterious one', 'Jakom' meaning 'Chairman', 'Baba' and 'Tinga'.

Raila is among the politicians who struggled for the second political liberation from 1980s up to 1991 when the restoration of multiparty democracy in Kenya was achieved. Raila has been the definitive political mobiliser, team builder and a peace maker.



## Argwings C.M.G Kodhek

Argwings CMG Kodhek was born in 1923 in Nyawara, Gem Sub-County, Siaya County. He was educated at Yala (now popularly called St. Mary's), Maseno and Makerere University College then, in Uganda. In 1947 he got a further scholarship to the University of South Wales, graduating as a lawyer and social scientist in 1949. From there he went St. Andrews in Scotland. He returned to colonial Kenya at around 1951 and went into legal practice as the first black,

and worse, married to a white, Tate Mavis. That was not done in colonial apartheid societies.

Kodhek took to the defense of Mau Mau freedom fighters and other patriots who ran afoul of colonial law. So he had no shortage of clients, just time and money. With a huge intellect, confrontational personality, solid education, perfect mastery of the colonial language, murderous humor and wit, Kodhek ran rings around colonial courts. One day, having out argued a Chief-Justice who still thought blacks could not practice English law, in exasperation he jabbed:

*Woe and wilt upon Brittainia, that she chooses to export the most stupid and vile of her sons to civilize Africa! Oh mistaken queen, come and evacuate these simpletons who understand nothing of you, neither your jurisprudence nor your language. Their perfect idiocy insults your royal foolishness!*

In 1956 he launched the Nairobi District African Congress. 1961-63 he was in the Legislative council (LEGICO), and after independence he became the KANU representative for Gem constituency.

He died in January 29, 1969 in purported road accident along the road which now bears his name [Argwings Kodhek] in Nairobi.



## **James Aggrey Bob Orengo** ***(Walking Constitution)***

James Orengo was born in Ugenya Sub-County in Siaya County.

### **Reforms and Multiparty democracy**

Orengo became well known for his fight against unjust rule and spent several years in detention as a result. Along with Michael Kijana Wamalwa, Kiraitu Murungi, Raila Odinga, Paul Muite were among the young Turks who along with Jaramogi Oginga Odinga, Masinde Muliro and Martin Shikuku brought about what was termed as Kenya's

second liberation. They formed the formidable Forum for the Restoration of Democracy (FORD), a vehicle that nearly pushed KANU the ruling party out of power in the year 1992 general election.

He is a founding-member of Muungano wa Mageuzi (Movement for Change), a cross party lobby group.

### **Political Career**

Orengo was first elected as the MP for Ugenya Constituency as a KANU candidate in 1980. He became the youngest MP at age 29. He was subsequently elected as an MP in December 1992 on a FORK-Kenya ticket. He was re-elected in December 1997 on a Ford-Kenya ticket but lost his seat in the year 2002 general election when he also contested for the Presidency on a Social Democratic Party ticket. In the year 2007 general election, Orengo won the Ugenya Parliamentary seat on an ODM ticket. He had been out of parliament since the year 2002 elections after losing the seat to the late Archbishop Stephen Ondiek.

During the post-election crisis, Orengo served as one of four spokesmen for the Orange Democratic Movement in its attempts to settle its dispute with the Party of National Unity following the disputed presidential elections in Kenya in 2007. Orengo is the current Senator for Siaya County.



## Grace Aketch Onyango



Grace Aketch Onyango was the first African Iron Lady in Kenyan politics. She was the first woman to defy one of Africa's patriarchal doctrines which stated "Women are to be seen and not heard."

Grace was born in Sakwa- Gobei, Bondo and got married in Gem to a teacher-journalist Onyango Baridi. She became the first woman to be elected mayor of Kisumu Town in 1967 and MP in 1969.

She then capped it all by being elected first woman Secretary-General of Luo Union in East Africa.

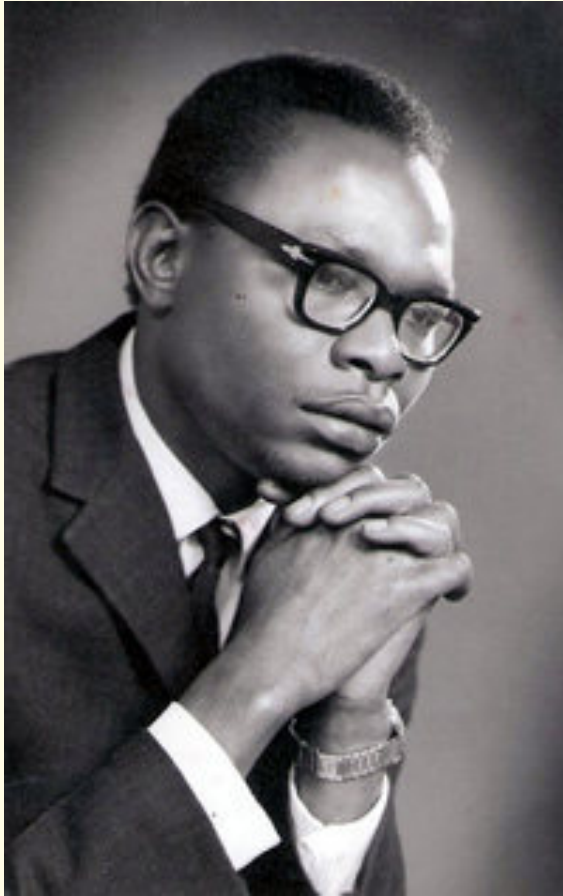
Popularly known as 'Nya Bungu' (a lady from the bush) she played a big role in breaking the glass ceiling and opening the way for women in leadership in Kenya.

Grace Aketch Onyango being an African and the mayor of Kisumu, opted to Africanize the streets of Kisumu by renaming them with African names. Not all people agreed to this as at one point, Mrs. Onyango, who was a member of KANU was accused of being a sycophant of Kenya Peoples Union (KPU) for naming streets after supporters of Odinga's party.

Known for her firm stands, The Iron Lady challenged those who accused her by pointing out that names like Achieng Oneko were those of freedom fighters who even Jesus would have recognized if He was on earth today. She is the first lady to sit in the speaker's chair as a temporary deputy speaker. She also played a pivotal role in the committee than investigated JM Kariuki's murder.

She once dared Tom Mboya by telling him that there was no difference between KANU politicians and those of KPU as all were human beings created by God and therefore no one should question her whether she was still in KANU or had joined KPU.

This led to her becoming the first elected Kisumu Town MP on 6th December, 1969. She was the only female in a Parliament of 158 male MP.



## Hussein Obama

Obama Senior was born in 1936 in Alego, Siaya, Kenya in the village of Nyan'goma Kogelo to Onyango Hussein Obama son of Obama K'Opiyo and Habibah Akumu daughter of Njoga. He started his education at N'giya Primary/Intermediate School from where he proceeded to Maseno School. He later proceeded to Hawaii University, Honolulu from where he was awarded a scholarship to Harvard University where he obtained his Doctorate in Economics. Having completed his education in the U.S.A. he returned to Kenya in 1964 where he ended up working with the Kenya Government as a Senior Economist in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning. He was killed in an automobile accident in 1982 leaving five sons and one daughter, the mothers of whom are four. All but one of his children lives in Britain or the United States.

He is buried in the village of Nyangoma-Kogelo, Siaya District, Kenya.

Hussein Obama is the father of Abon'go Malik Obama, the oldest child and head of the Obama family, President Barack Obama, and David Opiyo Obama among others.



## Barack Hussein Obama

Barack Hussein Obama was born 4th August, 1961 to a white American mother, Ann Dunham and a black Kenyan father, Barack Obama Sr. He is the First African American to hold the office and the first president born outside the continental United States. Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, Obama is a graduate of Columbia University and Harvard Law School, where he was president of the Harvard Law

Review. He was a community organizer in Chicago before earning his law degree. He worked as a civil rights attorney and taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago Law School between 1992 and 2004. While serving three terms representing the 13th District in the Illinois Senate from 1997 to 2004, he ran unsuccessfully in the Democratic primary for the United States House of Representatives in 2000 against incumbent Bobby Rush.

In 2004, Obama received national attention during his campaign to represent Illinois in the United States Senate with his victory in the March Democratic Party primary, his keynote address at the Democratic National Convention in July, and his election to the Senate in November. He began his presidential campaign in 2007 and, after a close primary campaign against Hillary Clinton in 2008, he won sufficient delegates in the Democratic Party primaries to receive the presidential nomination. He then defeated Republican nominee John McCain in the general election, and was inaugurated as president on 20th January, 2009. Nine months after his inauguration, Obama was named the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize laureate.



## **Benaiah Apollo Ohanga**

Apollo Ohanga was the first black Kenyan cabinet minister in the Colonial period. He was born in 1913 at Got Regea, Gem Sub-County in Siaya County. The late Benaiah Apollo Ohanga was the son of the late Ongewe Okelo and Alicia Obura.

Education after passing his Common Entrance Examination in 1927 he joined Maseno School in 1928. At Maseno, the late Carey Francis recognized his unique ability and within two years, Mr. Ohanga had taken his final exams for Secondary and teacher training education.

He then proceeded to Alliance High School in 1931 for Senior Secondary education and qualified for entrance to University in 1933.

However, he was prevailed upon by Carey Francis to join him in training teachers at Maseno Central School. He, therefore, returned to Maseno as a tutor and consequently taught some of his classmates.



## Isaac Edwin Omollo Okero

Isaac was born on July 28th 1929 in Ulumbi village in Gem, near Yala Town. He joined Makerere University College in 1950. In 1952, pursued a degree course at the University of London after he was kicked out of Makerere because of leading students strike. He was a Cabinet Minister and MP for Gem constituency between 1969 – 1979 in Siaya County.

Isaac Edwin Omollo Okero was among the people who courageously walked forward and proposed and seconded Moi for the post of President of KANU when every political heavy weight was scared of the “Ngorokos” who were quick and ruthless in eliminating political opponents therefore, making Omollo an important player in the history of the country.

He then served in the Moi’s government as the Minister for Power and Communications (1978 – 1979). He was an astute and brilliant politician and Lawyer. He is the current president of Law Society of Kenya.

## **Meshack Okello Ndisi**

Meshack Okello Ndisi, from Uyoma was the first Permanent Secretary for labour and the first African Secretary General for the International Labour Organization.

### **Education**

Ruskin College, Oxford University, 1948-1950, Diploma Intl Relations. London School of Economy. Spoken languages: Luo, Swahili, and English.

### **Career**

Regional Director for Africa, International Labour Organisation (Office), Addis Ababa since 1969. Area Director for East, Central & Southern Africa & Indian Ocean Islands, International Labour Organisation (Office), 1967-1969. Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Labor & Social Service, Kenya, 1963-1967.

Assistant Labor Commissioner, Labor Commissioner, 1962. Senior Labor Officer, Kenya, 1960-1962. Labor Officer, 1955-1960.

Assistant Intl Relations Officer, 1950-1955. Founder, Kenya Trade Union Movement, 1946.



## Hon. Cornel Rasanga Amoth

### Early Life

Rasanga was born on 22nd May, 1957 to the late Senior Chief Amoth Owira and the late Yunia Nudi in Segere village, Alego in Siaya County. He attended Segere Primary School between 1963 and 1970 and later proceeded to Maranda High School for his O-level Secondary Education between 1970 and 1974. He proceeded to Kisii High School for his A- level Secondary Education where he completed in 1977. Rasanga later joined University of Nairobi in 1979 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics degree in 1981.

### Career

In 1982, Rasanga joined the public service in Ministry of Agriculture as a supplies officer in-charge of National Agricultural laboratories. To advance his knowledge in procurement, he joined Kenya Institute of Administration (KIA) where he attained a Diploma in Supplies Management in 1985. He proceeded on to work as a supplies officer in different districts and was promoted to senior procurement officer in-charge of procurement and materials management. In 2000, Rasanga went back to University to pursue a Law degree

and graduated in 2003 from University of Nairobi with a Bachelor of Law (LLB). He was admitted as an advocate of the High Court in 2005.

Rasanga has gained over 28 years of experience working in public service. He is an expert advisor in matters of public procurement. Under his direction, many organizations both in public and private sector have benefitted in legal interpretation on public procurement, restructuring and streamlining procurement management. He is reputed for carrying out various reforms in the public procurement particularly giving talks and seminars on public procurement regulations and administration to both the public sector and the private sector audiences.

Rasanga's current strengths lies in public procurement management, legal advice on procurement, public / private

sector consulting and institutional reforms. He is held in high regard on institutional governance and ethics

### **Political Career**

Rasanga entered the political arena in 2013, when he vied for Governor for Siaya County. The Orange Democratic Movement selected him as the party candidate after a disputed party nominations between Oburu Odinga and Mr. Oduol. He won the 4<sup>th</sup>, March general election but his election was nullified by the Court of Appeal in Kisumu on 23rd August. Rasanga clinched the Governor tittle in a subsequent by-election. Rasanga won again the Governorship on 8th August, 2017 general and became the first Govenor to be elected Thrice.





# SCHOLARS





**Professor Bethwell Allan Ogot, EBS**

Prof. Bethwell Allan Ogot was born in August 3, 1929 in Gem Sub-County, Siaya County. He is a distinguished historian, scholar, mentor, and a diligent public servant. He is renowned for numerous contributions to the research of Kenya and East Africa's history as well as his work in Luo oral traditions.

Little known of him was his contribution to Kenya's independence, where as a leader of the Kenya Students Association he assisted the late Oginga Odinga during the 1960 negotiations in London. He is the incumbent Chancellor of Moi University, Eldoret.

Ogot attended both Luanda and Ambira Primary School before joining Maseno Secondary School. He was later admitted to Makerere University College where he studied mathematics and history. After Makerere he returned to Kenya and taught briefly at the Alliance High School, before enrolling for history and philosophy at the University of St Andrews in the United Kingdom.

After studies in England, he returned to Makerere as a history tutor and a few years later, he was back in UK for his post-graduate at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London where he graduated in 1965.

As a Public servant Ogot served as a dean at the University of Nairobi, first director of the Louis Leakey Memorial Institute for African Pre-history, as a professor at Kenyatta University, and director of research at Maseno University College before taking over as the Chancellor at Moi University in 2003.

He was also instrumental as a faculty member and chairperson in making the history department of the University of Nairobi, as well as the founder president of the Historical Association of Kenya.

Other positions held are Secretary-General of East African Institute of Social and Cultural Affairs and the institutes' publishing firm, the East African Publishing House (later Jomo Kenyatta Foundation) Member of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) Member of the executive board of UNESCO Chairman of the Kenya Posts and Telecommunications, Kenya Railways and National Oil Corporation.

As a Scholar Prof. Ogot immensely contributed and helped to promote publication of new research in the Kenya

Historical Review, Hadith and the Trans African Journal of History. He was also part of the creators and publishers of the UNESCO General History of Africa.

Here are a few of his works: 'A place to Feel at Home (A study of two independent churches in western Kenya)' with F.B Welbourn (1966) 'History of the Southern Luo: Volume I, Migration and Settlement, 1500-1900, (Series: People of East Africa)' (1967).

In 2012, the African Studies Association (ASA) established the Bethwell A. Ogot Book Prize, an annual award given at the ASA meeting to the author of the best book on East African Studies. Awards and Honours bestowed on him Distinguished Africanist Award by the African Studies Association in recognition of a lifetime of notable service to African studies (2001).UNESCO's Gold Medal Averos Medal Elder of the Burning Spears (EBS) Hon. Dr. Litt of Kenyatta University

He was married to renowned author the late Prof. Grace Akinyi Ogot



## **Professor Thomas Odhiambo**

Prof. Thomas Risley Odhiambo was a prominent Kenyan scientist who founded an international insect research center called International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE). Prof. Odhiambo was renowned for giving African farmers low-cost solutions for pest control. Prof. Odhiambo, a Cambridge-educated entomologist, founded what became the International Center of Insect Physiology

and Ecology in 1967 at the University of Nairobi, where he taught. The center was started to help African farmer's combat harmful insects.

His research focused on developing sustainable solutions to the pressing need for increased food production and improved health in rural communities. In 1985, Professor Odhiambo's efforts to develop and promote scientific expertise among Africans led to the establishment of the African Academy of Sciences. As its first president until 1999 and became Honorary President, he was working to achieve its objectives, which include: identifying outstanding scientific talent within the continent; promoting the utilization of this talent in national development; and advancing the partnership between scientific and political leaders in building Africa's future. In addition, he served as founding vice president of the Third World Academy of Sciences until 1999, founding president of the Association of African Science Editors until 1995 and founding president of the Kenya National Academy of Sciences until 1994. The author of more than 130 papers and monographs, Professor Odhiambo has also written six children's books designed to educate, inspire and entertain the children of Africa.



## **Ambassador Dr. Wenwa Akinyi Odinga Oranga**

Amb. Dr. Wenwa was born in Sakwa Bondo to Ajuma Odinga and Jaramogi Oginga Odinga. She is in the Kenya Book of records written by Francis Wachira as the first Kenyan woman to obtain a doctorate degree in Chemistry.

She was a lecturer of Organic Chemistry at the Department of Chemistry, University of Nairobi and currently she's the Consul General at the Kenya Consulate, Los Angeles.

Amb. Dr. Wenwa has a long experience in the public sector, having worked at the Pyrethrum Board of Kenya, an Industry concerned with processing and marketing pyrethrum based products, a natural insecticide. She joined the Board as Senior Chemist in charge of Research and development, before being promoted to the post of Chief Chemist, thereby becoming the first woman to head a department in the Organization. She also worked with the Commission for Higher Education, a body responsible for coordination of University education in Kenya. She was in the Universities accreditation section, in charge of curriculum development for private Universities in Kenya.

She has also engaged in the following sectors:

- Secretary, Maendeleo Ya Wanawake, A Kenyan national Women's empowerment body, for Rachuonyo District.
- Board Member of several schools including; Maseno School, Nyatindo Mixed Secondary School and Omboga Secondary school.
- Treasurer of the Nyanza Professional Caucus Director, Pan African Petroleum.
- Trustee, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Foundation.
- Chairperson of the Staff Welfare, Agricultural Show and student guidance/counseling committee.



## **Prof. Robert William Ochieng**

Prof. William Robert Ochieng who died in Dec 28 2013 at Aga Khan Hospital in Kisumu was born in Jinja Uganda in 1943. Prof. Ochieng attended Usenge Primary before joining Alliance High School, Kikuyu, between 1959 and 1965.

He obtained an undergraduate degree in 1968 and earned his doctorate from the University of Nairobi in 1971. This was the first to be awarded PhD by the university.

He was a debater in 1980s and he used his wit to get the public to debate issues. He also wrote articles in The East African Standard some of which landed him into great trouble with the ruling government of the former President Moi.

Prof. Ochieng' became principal of Maseno University College in the 1990s before President Daniel arap Moi removed him from academia and appointed him as his Personal Permanent Secretary.

Prof. Ochieng was a prolific and compelling writer and this can be seen from his scholarly publications including; 50 years of Kenya's Indecency, A Modern History of Kenya, and The Moi Presidency in Kenya published in 2007 among other books. He also seemed to be the most controversial writer among his peers and students comparable to him being a scholar who wrote a number of books.

Prof was also a Historian who did research on Kenyan tribes of including a research on the Migration of the Abagusi of Western Kenya.



## Silvano Melea Otieno

Silvano Melea (SM) was born in 1931 at Nyalgunga, Nyamila village, Siaya County. He was from Umira Kager clan, but was married to Kikuyu woman (Virginia

Wambui Waiyaki Otieno), sister of the then Foreign Minister of Kenya. S.M was a leading criminal lawyer in Nairobi whose death gave rise to a significant legal controversy regarding the tension between customary and common law in Kenya.

After his death on 20th December 1986, he became a cause célèbre in Kenya due to an action fought in an appeal court over the disposition of his body. Wamboi claimed that he had wanted to be buried at his farm at Ngong on the outskirts of Nairobi. His family claimed the body themselves asserting longstanding tribal custom.

Both husband and wife had been highly educated Kenyans who had lived their lives largely independent of the old ethnic norms. The case was seen as a test case and exemplar

of the debate between customary (indigenous, ethnic, traditional) law as against the statutory (common) law that had been imposed in Africa during the colonial period and partially retained after independence. It emerged that narrowly ethnic interests still prevailed in Kenyan family and inheritance law and he was finally buried at Nyamila on 23 May 1987.

Judge Frank Shields saw the burial dispute Wambui's way and ruled that the clan's case was "neither strong nor compelling" as he found nothing in Kenyan law granting burial rights from representatives of a dead man's tribe.

Lawyer Kwach contested the ruling as young men surrounded the City Mortuary, stones in hand. A three-judge panel headed by Judges Samuel E.O. Bosire, overturned Mr. Justice Shield's ruling. Lawyer John Khaminwa, an expert in family and criminal law (and married from outside his community) represented Wambui. After the three-week appeal case was over, Mr. Justice Bosire delivered his 32page verdict on Friday, February 13, 1987. He ruled that the justification for judicial interference in tribal burial disputes was "only if they are repugnant to justice and morality." Mr. Justice Bosire found nothing repugnant with Luo burial customs.



## Grace Emily Akinyi Ogot

Grace Emily Akinyi Ogot was born in May 15, 1930 in Butere, near Kisumu, central Nyanza Region, Kenya and died in March 18, 2015 in Nairobi. She is a Kenyan author of widely anthologized short stories and novels who also held a ministerial position in Kenya's government.

One of the few well-known woman writers in Kenya, Ogot was the founder president of the writers association of Kenya and first woman to have fiction published by the East African Publishing House. Her stories which appeared in European and African journals such as *Black Orpheus* and *Transition* and in collections such as *Land Without Thunder* (1968), *The Other Woman* (1976), and *The Island of Tears* (1980) give an inside view of traditional Luo life and society and the conflict of traditional with colonial and modern cultures. Her novel *The Promised Land* (1966) tells of Luo pioneers in Tanzania and western Kenya.

A nurse by profession, she was educated at the Nursing Training Hospital in Uganda from 1949 to 1953. She served at the St. Thomas Hospital for Mothers and Babies in London and from 1958 to 1959 as a midwifery tutor and nursing sister



at Maseno Hospital in Kenya. Her fiction drew upon her experience as a nurse; several of her works focus on the conflict between traditional and Western medicine.

In 1959 she married the historian Prof. Bethwell Ogot. Grace Ogot was appointed to the National Assembly in Kenya in 1983 and elected to a vacant seat in 1985. She subsequently became assistant minister of culture and social services under President Daniel Arap Moi and was the only woman to hold a cabinet-level post at that time. She was a member of the National Assembly until 1992 and held her ministerial post until 1993. She was also awarded the order of grand woman of Kenya.

She was the head of a Kenyan delegation of 29 eminent women at the 5th African regional conference on women held in Dakar Senegal November 1999. Ogot also worked as a scriptwriter and an announcer for the British Broadcasting Corporation, as a headmistress, as a community development officer in Kisumu, and as an Air India public relations officer. She appeared on Voice of Kenya radio and television and was a columnist in View Point in the East African Standard.





## **Prof. David Peter Simon Wasawo**

David Peter Simon Wasawo (May 17, 1923 – February 4, 2014) was born in Gem, Siaya County, to parents Petro (Peter) Onyango Osare and Ana Omondi. He was a zoologist, conservationist, and University Administrator. After studying at Uganda's Makerere University he earned an M.A. at the University of Oxford and a PhD at University of London. He taught at Makerere University, and was professor and Dean of the Faculty of Science at the University of Nairobi, and later Chancellor of Great Lakes University of Kisumu.

He was the first East African to receive a degree in science, and taught several prominent East African academics. His research subjects included the marbled lungfish and oligochaete worms, and he later served as science advisor, director, and consultant to several international development organizations. He was awarded honorary Doctor of Science degrees from Kenyatta University and the University of Nairobi and was commended to Elder of the Order of the Burning Spear.

## Later years

Wasawo retired from the University of Nairobi in 1971, and began several decades of government and administrative work with national and international organizations. He was scientific advisor to UNESCO in Tanzania from 1971 to 1973, where he aided in establishing the Tanzania Scientific Research Council. He served as vice president of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) from 1972 to 1974, and chief of the Natural Resources Division of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa from 1973 to 1979. From 1979 to 1982 he was managing director of the Lake Basin Development Authority, and from 1982 to 1986 was development adviser in the Ministry of Energy and Regional Development.

From 1987 onward he was a development consultant to agencies including United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGADD), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and

the World Bank. He returned to the University of Nairobi in 1998, where he was Chair of the University of Nairobi Council until 2005, and from 2006 to 2013 was chancellor of Great Lakes University of Kisumu (GLUK).

Wasawo died at Aga Khan University Hospital in Nairobi on February 4, 2014, at the age of 90. Upon his death, former Prime Minister Raila Odinga called Wasawo Kenya's first African Professor, "an icon who promoted science-based education and lifted the country's reputation internationally from early days of independence. Senator Peter Anyang' Nyong'o said Wasawo "set the standard of academic excellence which has never been broken". GLUK Professor Dan Kaseje said Wasawo established himself as not only East Africa's "father of science" but also "the father of Professors". Professor Shellemiah O. Keya, chancellor of Dedan Kimathi University of Technology, called Wasawo "a hero in the academia described as a giant among giants, a Professor among Professors, a rare individual distinguished by his great humility and simplicity.

# Hon. Lady Justice Joyce Aluoch

## Early life and education

Lady Justice Aluoch was born on 22nd October, 1947. She attended Butere Girls' School for her Ordinary Level School Certificate and obtained her Higher School Certificate from Limuru Girls' School. She has a Law Degree from the University of Nairobi, a diploma in Legal Studies from the Kenya School of Law and a master's degree in International Affairs from the Fletcher school of Law and Diplomacy.

## Career

In 1974, Lady Justice Aluoch was appointed as a District Magistrate II (Prof.) in the Kenyan Judiciary. In 1993 she became a Judge of the High Court. She was appointed as a Judge of Appeal in December 2007 she was the most Senior Judge of the High Court, handling civil, criminal, commercial and family law cases. She established and served as Inaugural Head of the Family Division of the High Court and simplified litigation in Family Law matters in line with the principles of 'just, quick and cheap'.

She has had a pivotal role in negotiations between the African Union and the Government of Sudan to ratify the African charter and secure the rights of children, pursued a fact-finding mission to war-torn northern Uganda on the effects of the war on children, and chaired a task-force aimed at handling sexual offences in Kenya through the

implementation of the new Sexual Offences Act, 2006. She is the First Chairperson of the Committee of African Union Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and was the Vice-Chairperson of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child from 2003 to 2009.



Lady Justice Aluoch is the first Kenyan to sit on the International Criminal Court (ICC) from 2009. She is the first woman from Africa to be elected First Vice President of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2015.

## Guiding career

Lady Joyce Aluoch became a member of the Olave Baden-Powell Society (OB-PS) in 1991. She is also the Kenya Girl Guides Association's National Trustee and a World Association for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) Honorary Associate. In her role in the Kenya Girl Guides Association, Lady Aluoch helped establish the peer prevention programme for young people. This program is aimed at reducing the spread of the HIV virus through the education of girls and women.



## **Dr. Margaret Ogola**

Margaret Atieno Ogola (12 June 1958 - 21 September 2011) was the Kenyan author of the novel *The River and the Source*, and its sequel, *I Swear by Apollo*. *The River and the Source* has been on the KCSE syllabus for many years, and it won the 1995 Commonwealth Writers' Prize for best first book, Africa Region. Dr. Ogola worked on her final book titled "Mandate of the people" a book she completed before her death and is set to be released posthumously.

In addition to her writing career, Dr. Ogola served as a pediatrician and the medical director of Cottolengo Hospice, a hospice for HIV and AIDS orphans.

### **Life and Studies**

She studied at Thompson's Falls High School and was best student overall in school. She also studied at Alliance Girls High School. At the University of Nairobi she earned her First Degree, Bachelor of Medicine & Surgery, in 1984. After graduation, she worked as a medical officer at Kenyatta National Hospital. In 1990, she earned her Master of

Medicine in Pediatrics at the University of Nairobi. She also took a Post Graduate Diploma on Planning & Management of Development Projects at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa in 2004. She was an advisor to the Kenyan Catholic bishops on issues of family and health, and a member of Opus Dei, She was also Vice-President of Family Life Counseling (Kenya) and interested in women's empowerment, she was National Executive Secretary of the Commission for Health & Family Life of the Kenya Episcopal Conference (1998–2002).

She received chemotherapy for cancer. Ogola was married to Dr. George Ogola, with 4 children, and 2 foster children.

From 2002–2004, she was the Country Coordinator of the Hope for African Children Initiative, a partnership of several international NGOs which included Plan, CARE, Save the Children, Society for Women and AIDS, World Conference For Religion and Peace and World Vision. The Initiative's main goal is to strengthen the capacity of African communities, to advocate, care for and support children impacted by HIV/AIDS & prevent further spread of HIV.

She also helped found and manage the SOS HIV/AIDS Clinic (April 2004 –April 2005), which is a clinic for PLWAs. The clinic offers VCT, baseline investigations including CD4s, treatment of OI, provision of ART and nutritional support to 1000 persons from the surrounding slums: women, men and children.

Also she was the National Executive Secretary: KECCS: Commission for Health & Family Life. She is once again Head the Commission of the Catholic Secretariat. The Commission is charged with Coordination of 500 Catholic Health Units & Community Outreaches all over Kenya providing services to over 5 million cases annually.

Dr. Ogola was appointed a member of the National Council for Children Services.

In 1999, she also was the recipient of the Familias Award for Humanitarian Service of the World Congress of Families in Geneva, Switzerland.

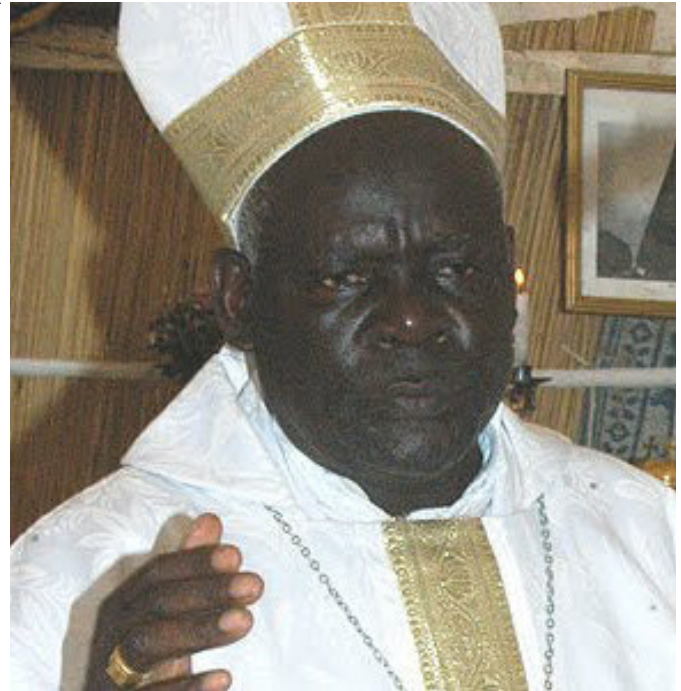
# RELIGIOUS LEADERS



## Archbishop Abednego Matthew Ajuoga

Archbishop Abednego Matthew Ajuoga founded the Church of Christ in Africa, known popularly as “Hera”, a prominent independent African Christian denomination in Kenya. Ajuoga was posted to Luo land in western Kenya, an area that had experienced a number of church schisms in response to the bakalole (“the saved ones”), a charismatic and evangelical church revival movement. It originated in Rwanda in 1927 and in the late 1930s spread to Kenya, where many Christians began leaving mission churches and joining new African independent churches. Many who remained in the mission churches attempted to transform them from European to African institutions.

In western Kenya, the largest renewal group among the Anglicans was known as the Johera (“people of love”). Ajuoga preached unity and opposed separatist tendencies and was at first a force for keeping the Johera within the Anglican Communion. Matters seemed to stabilize when





the first five African bishops - all members of the bakalole - were consecrated. When relations between the separatists and those within the church became strained, the bishop suppressed the Johera and suspended the clergy, calling in the colonial police for enforcement.

Ajuoga led an exodus of 7 priests, 130 congregations, and 16,000 members. The schism was wrenching - there were violent outbreaks, 25 churches were destroyed, and the dreaded police Special Branch was deployed. The Johera movement had a political aspect that was not lost on the government: it considered the settler-controlled Anglican state church as a pillar of colonial society. Fearing a

nationalist movement, the authorities warned the Johera not to identify themselves as a Luo church, thus they registered under the name "Church of Christ in Africa". It was the first in a wave of independent foundations, now numbering over 500 denominations in Kenya, making that country a center of the independent church movement. By the time of Kenyan independence in 1963, Johera had 50,000 members.

Johera spread throughout Kenya and into neighboring countries and has built a group of religious schools. Unlike many other independent churches, Johera remains traditionally Christian in its teachings.



## **Bishop John Henry Okullu**

Bishop John Henry Okullu was an outspoken critic of the Kenyan government in his sermons and publications on issues of human rights and justice, advocating a multiparty system of governance. Okullu was born in 1929 in Ramba Village, Asembo central location, Siaya County. He was the first male child to survive after nine children had died in infancy and childhood. His father, Ong'owo Adero and mother, Ngore Nyar Alaro, daughter of Alaro named him Okullu after a renowned harp player. He was baptized in 1947 and given the names John Henry. His nicknames were Oke K'Ochieng and Wuod Ngore (son of Ngore). He is from the Kokise kinship and is fluent in Dho Luo, Luganda, Swahili, and English.

John Henry started school at the age of 13. He went to Kima for upper primary school education in 1946 but left without a certificate as a protest against the injustice in the school. He worked in the Ramba gold mines to earn money for his tuition and studied at home, receiving the Cambridge School Certificate in 1961.

A year after his father died, he was married to Esther Benta Nyambok in 1951 after selling his father's property for bride price. The Okullus have 6 children and 14 grandchildren.

From 1963 to 1965, he studied at Virginia Theological Seminary in the U.S.A. and received a Bachelor of Divinity degree. In 1973, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree by the same institution for his exemplary service.

Before his ordination in 1957 as a deacon and in 1958 as a priest, Okullu served the Luo community as a lay person at Namirembe Cathedral in Kampala, Uganda. From 1962 to 1971, he was the editor of a Christian Newspaper in Uganda called New Day, known for its fight for justice. He moved to Kenya and worked with other Christian English and Swahili publications such as Target and Lengo involved in the struggle against social and political injustice in Kenya.

He was consecrated as the first black provost of the Nairobi All Saints Cathedral in 1971 and bishop of Maseno South Diocese where he served until his retirement in 1994. He initiated the building of several churches in the diocese which he divided into three, placing bishops in each one of them. In the diocese, he discouraged the excessive feasting during funerals which left the relatives of the deceased poor, even though it went against local African tradition.

During his ministry, Okullu served on many national and international committees as well as numerous local bodies. He started a financial company to provide loans for the poor and initiated development projects including educational institutions, agricultural and health programs and water supply to the rural parts of Kenya. His last project before he died was Friends of Democracy. His dream was the creation of a Kenya which would be democratic and economically viable.



# SPORTS AND ARTS



## Gabriel Omollo

The Luo Benga maestro was Born in 1939, Omollo was raised in the railway quarters of Muthurwa and later, Makongeni, Nairobi. He learnt how to play the guitar while at St. Peters Claver's Primary School where he also sang in the choir. His career took off in the 1960s when he joined the iconic Equator Sound Band along with Fadhili William, Daudi Kabaka, and Nashil Pichen. When the musicians fell out with Equator owner, Charles Worrod in 1968, it did not take long before another deal came through. Politician J.M. Kariuki who set up the African Eagles Recording Limited and made Kabaka, Pichen and Omollo directors of the company. J.M remained as chairman while the musicians were free to run the company and would help them plan their recordings, rehearsals and concerts."

Omollo played with the Blue Shades Band before forming his own outfit, Apollo Komesha 71, and released music under the Apollo record label that was distributed by Phonogram Limited. "Phonogram not only gave me a contract but the company advanced me 10 000 shillings, a princely sum at the time, to buy instruments for the band.

The year 1974 was special in the career of Kenyan composer, singer, and guitarist, Gabriel Omollo.

- In September that year, he became the first Kenyan musician to be awarded an International Golden Disc for the sales of his single, Lunchtime.
- Phonogram Records certified a total of 150,000 copies of the single, sold in East and West Africa by that time. The company's vice-president, Joop Buinink, flew to Nairobi to be present when the permanent secretary for Information and Broadcasting, John Ithau, officially handed over the plaque to Omollo at the Panafric Hotel in Nairobi.
- As a result of this achievement, he was selected as the first musician in the country to be awarded the Guinness Stout Effort Award in September 1974.
- Omollo and his band, Apollo Komesha, had recorded 20 singles for Phonogram with total sales of 300,000

copies, more than the 80 bands contracted to the company together.

- In his social commentary that still resonates 40 years after its release, Omollo captured the plight of the urban worker who struggled to make ends meet and could only afford a little luxury at the end of the month popularly known as Lunchtime hit and other songs including Mr. Agoya, Maro Oketho Ugunja were also popular. He is also known of introducing sweko dance a favorite move by his surviving peers and fans.
- Many Kenyans, however, did not notice his accomplishments. He performed at the Mashujaa Day celebrations in 2010. He was also given a head of state commendation

'Omollo Gabby' died at Busia County Referral Hospital in January 2018 after a long illness.



## Musa Juma

Musa Juma was born on 6th December 1970 in Siaya County and died on 15th March 2011. He was a rumba and benga musician. He was the bandleader, guitarist and composer for Orchestra Limpopo International. Most of his music were sung in Dholuo language.

### Background

Musa Juma grew up in Homa Bay County where he also attended school, both primary and secondary level.

He was born to a poor family, he says. The son of a policeman, Musa Juma's childhood was one characterized by struggle and ridicule by the society. "My father had three wives and I was born of the second wife. We were 18 children ". Their Father had to cater for them with his meager income.

Musa Juma's love for music began while still at Homa Bay School, where he was a student. "My first instruments were tins," he recalled. Shortly after completing his education, he decided to become a musician. "The society laughed

because musicians were not highly regarded”, he said. Determined, he made his first guitar from a fine wood. To make matters worse, after the death of his father and elder brother, the mantle of the family rested upon his shoulders hence many saw his venture into music as a curse of sorts.

In 1990, Musa, together with his Younger brother Tony Omondi (also a musician, composer and vocalist), launched Limpopo International. They recorded their first album in 1992, but could not get airplay on the local radio stations for more than 15 years.

Today a strict disciplinarian, Musa has regained some glory for his family. The homestead that was once shunned has become the pride of many.

### **Musa Juma Music Career**

Musa Juma started out on the road of music aged 10 at the inspiration of Franco Luambo Makiadi the Congo legend. Despite his tender age, he started playing guitar, his favorite pastime, with the belief that he would one day be a musician.

Upon completing high school in 1990, he ventured in to the business field, dealing in general merchandise, this was temporary. He later realized this was not his field and decided to join Solar Africa band to do what he knew best; play music. He was the lead guitarist-singer-cum-composer until 1992 when he broke up to form Orchestra Limpopo International band.

Some of most popular songs by Musa Juma are “Hera Mudho”, “Ufisadi”, “Merzelina”, and “Freddy”. He released eight albums, the last of them being titled Lake Victoria.

### **Musa Juma Trust Fund**

Musa Juma has established a Trust Fund to aid in Educating and nurturing music talent. It is also helping the Widows and Widowers through income generating projects. Through the Trust Fund he had also set up feeding programmes that would be a granary especially orphans. This fund will be open to Donors who may specify what programme their contribution goes to.





## Collela Maze

Collela Maze whose real name is Richard Owino was born in 1954 in Gem, Siaya County and died on 7th March 2000 in Nairobi. He was a musician, who was a leading member of the Victoria Jazz Band alongside Dr. Nelson Ochieng

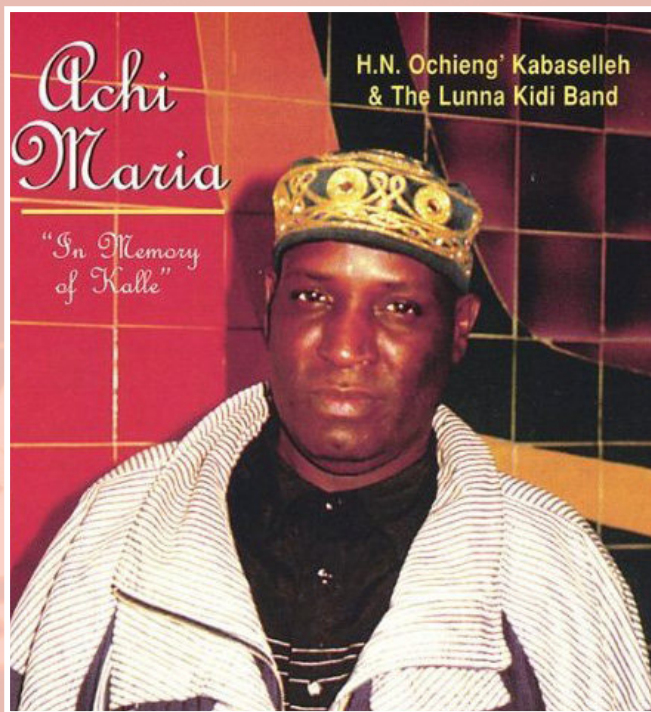
Mengo. They were among the originators of the benga music, a music genre with origins in Kenya's Luoland.

### Music Career

He was educated at Ngere High school, but quit midway to begin his career in music. In 1972 he joined Victoria jazz under the leadership of Achieng' Nelly, another veteran of Luo Benga music.

Nelly introduced Collela to the rigours of benga music but the pair soon split up in 1973. Collela Maze took over the leadership of Victoria jazz hence forth. The band released such famous hits as jack-jack (1974), Nyaduse (1976) and others. Victoria jazz split again in 1979 into the various Victoria groups which ruled benga music in the 80s and 90s. Collela remained the leader of Victoria A.

Collela Maze together with D.O Misiani defined benga as a musical genre. His style was melodious and fused the various melodies from the Luo traditional musical instruments such as orutu and nyatiti into a modernised version. He sang mainly about love but also ventured into politics occasionally. He became a house hold name in Kenya and beyond.



## Ochieng Kabaselleh

Hadjoullas Nyapanji Ochieng Ogolla, known to most as Ochieng kabaselleh or Kalle wuod Ogola, was for at least two decades, one of Kenya's most reknown and successful musicians. For two decades He thrilled music fans from all over the country with excellent compositions and superb arrangements mirroring those of the Late Franco Luambo Makiadi. In fact His arrangements were so excellent that one would argue that If He were a Zairean, he would have ranked among the best on the continent. . His songs are a unique version of benga with smooth guitars, ringing horns and swinging percussion, augmented by Kabaselleh's voice which varies between baritone and bass.

Also known as Mohammed Khalil, Kabaselleh popularised the Aids awareness campaign through live musical shows which culminated in the song Condom Ndiyo Best.

He recorded his first hit at age fifteen while a secondary school student at Pumwani secondary. It was one of the pioneers of Kenyan music, Daudi kabaka, who gave Kabasselleh his first chance. Kabaka was at one time Kabaselleh's neighbour and was intrigued by his musical ability. He arranged for kabaselleh to record with the Equator sound band.

He later founded his own band which he named Lunna Kidi. It was then that his popularity skyrocketed as He released hit after hit, among them Zainabu, Achi Maria, Sije, Millicento, Sikul agulu and Piny Dunia Mokili, among others.

Most of his songs were in Dholuo. Although most of them were love songs, his songs touched on a myriad of other topics. In Sije he talks about descent human relations that transcend hard times. In Hommage, Owino Ger, he eulogizes a lawyer friend of his. Some of his songs covered

politics. Together with the Luna Kidi Band, Kabaselleh played an original blend of Kenyan and Zairean music. The harmonies were pure benga, while the instrumentation was more Swahili in influence. Kabaselleh, who sung in native Luo, as well as in English and Swahili, was something of a thorn in the side of the government and spent years in jail on charges of subversion.

Sadly, He passed away in December of 1998 due to complications resulting from diabetes



# Okatch Biggy

## Life and times of Okatch Biggy

Born Elekia Mathayo Okach in 1954 at Gem Ujimbe in Siaya County, the fourth child in a family of 10. He first tried his hands in boxing as a career, earning the name 'Biggy' due to his huge body size. His music career started in 1977 when he joined Kiwiro Jazz band as a drummer. He later moved to D.O. Misiani's Shirati Boys Band.

He would leave Shirati in a huff in the late 1980s, and together with his younger brother Ochieng' Viva and a few others, they formed Heka Heka band in 1991, performing in Kisii before relocating to Kisumu the same year.

He released four albums — Helena Wang'e Dongo (Helena the marble eyed) (1992), Dorina (1992), Nyathi Nyakach (the daughter of Nyakach) (1996) and Okelo Jabondo (1996). Biggy gripped benga fans with his signature raucously enchanting voice conjugated with the electric guitar. The benga maestro breathed his last on December 18, 1997.

## Basic Observations

Probably what stood out about Okatch were his graphic compositions. Was he intentionally vulgar?

"No!" is the categorical response from former band member Oginga Wuod Awasi. "Okatch wanted to connect with benga fans that were getting bored with the never-ending storytelling and sorrowful attributes of benga music then. To do so, he designed a more direct approach to talk to the people. Parables can only entertain so much."

That unswerving manner of composition seemed to have endeared him to the fans while fellow musicians would accuse him of being vulgar to gain popularity.

In his most popular tune, Helena Wang'e Dongo, that is supposed to portray him as a changed man with his constant shouts of alemo (I'm now reformed), he churns out volumes of naked wire lines describing the lifestyle he has abandoned.

Sianda madongo (voluminous behinds) as well as chode (adultery), he claims, are some of the traits that are now no longer part of him.

The other song, Adhiambo Nyakobura, released in 1998, is equally vulgar. In this post-humorous production, Biggy gives a profane description of his subject so vivid that the audience is forced to mentally undress Adhiambo.

### **Fame and Fortune**

“At no time did Okatch write down his songs,” says Oginga. “We would ride in the same van after a performance and therein we would heartily chat about the event. Our topics ranged from how so-and-so was dancing, how a beautiful woman was in the audience, how that rich man stayed all night dancing to our music... and that is how the next song would come up!”

When every emerging musician who wanted to amass fame and fortune started singing praises to politicians, Okatch chose to veer off the norm and instead themed his songs around businessmen, band members, women and close friends.

Heka Heka band, therefore, gave fans a breath of fresh air while maintaining the benga fashion of starting a song on a slow beat, climbing to a danceable climax before it fades off smoothly.

John Owiti's solo guitar as well as Ouma Jasuba's rhythm guitar were the trademarks in this while Adwera Okelo's bass guitar was an ever present identity of Heka Heka band.

Here is the full list of the men who made the core team of the band;

- Elekia Mathayo (Okatch Biggy) - Vocalist and team leader
- Oginga wuod Awasi - Vocalist
- George Jambita - Vocalist
- John Olang'o - Vocalist
- Paul Jalamo - Solo
- Owiti John - Solo
- Ouma Jasuba - Rhythm
- Adwera Okelo - Bass
- Bingwa Machaa - Drums

According to his long-time confidant and vocalist Oginga Wuod Awasi, Biggy composed his songs from basic observations of day-to-day life.



## Joseph Ogola Olita

### Early Life and Education

Joseph Ogola Olita was born on March 31, 1944. In 1951, Olita attended Pap Oriang Primary School. In 1961, he enrolled at St. Mary's Yala where he went for his O level and was an active drama club member. After completing his secondary education, Olita was an employee of the Brooke Bond Company in Kericho and later the Union Carbide in Nakuru. He was a deeply spiritual man having attended Barding Secondary School, between 1956 and 1960, and later proceeded to Yala Seminary School. Olita was working for USAID when the opportunity to act in 1981's Rise and

Fall of Idi Amin presented itself. He was a Kenyan actor who was best known for portraying Idi Amin in Rise and Fall of Idi Amin (1981) and Mississippi Masala (1991). Olita remains one of the most celebrated and accomplished actors that Africa has ever produced.

In 1984, Olita portrayed the minor role of the First Policeman in Sheena. He also portrayed an army general in The Black Forest Clinic. His final screen appearance was in the 2011 romantic comedy, The Captain of Nakara, in which he portrayed Muntu's father-law.

### Life after acting

- Olita was also an activist and a humanitarian. In 1998, he founded the Galamoro Network, a non-government organization that focused on raising awareness on HIV/AIDS.
- Following the election of Barack Obama as the first African-American to be President of the United States in 2008, Olita founded a tour company named "Kogelo gallamoro tours" which took opportunity of the foreign visitors who kept pouring into Obama's ancestral home town, Kogelo
- Olita was also the author of two books. One of them is a book on nutrition titled Health is Wealth.
- Before his death, Olita was staying in Uganda where he was selling electrical appliances.



## Conjestina Achieng'

Born on 20th October, 1977 in Umiru village, Yala division, Gem Sub County. Conjestina is the fifth born in a family of ten. Her father Clement Adalo is a retired medical officer and her mother is Gertrude Auma. Her elder brother, Joseph Kusimba is an ex-boxer who runs a boxing club in Mathare, Nairobi. She is a female boxer who has been nicknamed "Hands of Stone" and is ranked number five in the world. She became the first African woman to hold an international title when she beat Ugandan Fiona Tugume to take the vacant WIBF Middleweight title. She also lost out in controversial title fight circumstances to then WBC, and WBA Super middleweight Natascha Ragosina Achieng, a single mother, plays in the middleweight division.



## **James Aggrey Siang'a**

James Aggrey Siang'a was born in Ugenya sub County, Siaya County. He was a Kenyan footballer, also active as a football manager. He coached throughout Africa at both the club and national level. He managed Kenya national football; Harambee Stars, Tanzanian national football team, Simba FC, Express FC, Moro United, Mtibwa Sugar and Gor Mahia.





## **Daniel Odhiambo “Nicodemus Arudhi”**

Born in 1944, Arudhi was the last born child of Nicodemus Owidhi Were Arudhi played for both Gor Mahia and the Kenya national team. He started playing for the national team when he was barely 20 years old. In the league, He was a prolific player on the pitch who score several key

goals in his decade as an international player. From FIFA records, he played three international matches for Kenya in 1972, against Togo, Mali and Cameroon. He scored Kenya's lone goal against Mali in their 26th February 1972 Africa Cup of Nations match. In the league, he played for Luo Union and tyhen Gor Mahia after his team joined with Luo Stars on February 17th, 1968. To spectators, he was a thrill to watch. He was Gor Mahia's version of Joe Kadenge. They both played football with a fluidity that made it seem like a performance, and they were successful goal scorers. To his teammates, he was a tormentor of opponents and the man who always found a way out when it seemed all hope was lost. A slender, powerful man, Arudhi often left defenders confused and breathless. He was simply too fast and too agile and at the front with Chege Ouma, seemingly unstoppable.



## Mike Okoth Origi

Born on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 1967, Mike Okoth is the first Kenya ever to play professional football in Europe. He was a true trailblazer. Okoth comes from a family with immense football pedigree. His brother Austin Oduor was the skipper of the Kenya national team in the mid to late 1980s and captained Gor Mahia FC during the same period. Another brother Antony Origi also played in the Kenya National league for Mumias Sugar and Kenya breweries in the 1980s. His younger brother Gerald Origi was also a national team stalwart during the early to mid 1990s.

His son, Divork Origi is poised to become the first person of Kenya descent to play the world cup.

The second generation Origis include current Kenya National team goalkeeper Arnold Origi who is currently playing in Norwegian top league, Divork Origi the Belgium international skipper.



## PETER OCHIENG DAWO

Peter Ochieng Dawo was born in 1964 from Rarieda Sub County. He is a legendary football player who began his football career in the local league for MTI. It's from here that he was noticed by Gor Mahia FC and was signed by the club in 1987.

Dawo played for Gor Mahia between 1987 and 1991 and was a prolific striker. His legacy for heading goals past goalkeepers has never been matched by any other player in Kenya since he left active football. His supernatural heading gift was influential in helping K'ogalo win the Mandela Cup in 1987, the first and only continental trophy to be won by an East African Club. Dawo was named the seventh best African player in 1987 ahead of Ghana's Abedi Pele and Cameroon's Roger Milla and proceeded to play for Arab Contractors, an Egyptian Division One side. A year earlier in 1986, K'ogalo had won the Moi Golden Cup after beating Bandari FC 1-0. It is this win that qualified Gor to take part in the 1987 African Cup Winners. Dawo had just joined the team in 1987 and his energy and ability to score endeared him to K'Ogalo's legion of fans. The fans



nicknamed him “Omuga” (Rhino) for his toughness and speed.

To qualify for the Winners Cup final against Esperence of Tunisia, K’ogalo won against Somali’s Marine, home and away 3-0 and 2-0 in the first round and second round. The team shared spoils with Sudan’s El Merreikh after coming out 1-1 in the first leg and 0-0 in the second leg in Kisumu’s Moi stadium. jubilant Kisumu fans stormed the streets in songs and dance in a game that saw Gor advance on goal difference. Gor then met Togo’s Entente Deux in the quarter-finals where they shattered them 4-1 in the first leg and held the team to a 0-0 draw in the return leg. In the

semis, they came out with a goalless draw against Benin’s Dragons L’Oueme. In the second leg, then Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi along with his cabinet were among the fans who thronged the Nyayo National Stadium to watch the game that Gor Mahia won 3-2. It is Dawo who headed in the last goal two minutes to the whistle.

In 1990, Dawo signed for an Egyptian side for a one-year contract with Arab Contractors in the top league. The following year, he moved to Al Seeb in Oman and then returned home when a lot more of him was expected.

Dawo retired from active football in mid-1992.

## Kevin Owiti

Kevin Owiti was born in 1995 from Gem Sub County. He attained the Mr. World Africa 2016 title.

He is the first African to ever scooped third runners up positioned in a competition that attracted participants from 46 Countries all over the world.

Some of his achievements include; Mr World Africa 2016, Mr World Kenya 2016, Mr World Kenya Siaya County 2016, Mr. Catholic University of Eastern Africa 2014.





## James Oronge

A legendary player for Harambee Stars in the early 1960s and later became player coach of the national team. He was a captain for Luo Union FC and the First African Coach for Harambee Stars and founder member of Kisumu Hot Stars.

Other legendary footballers are:

- Goro Oronge
- Charles Omondi “Korea”
- Mathew Owino “Hottamax”
- Jerry Onyango
- John Wambundo
- Peter Wasiembo
- Albert Okech
- John Salim Oduor
- Fred Siranga
- Francis Ooko
- Apollo Obota
- Bob Oyugi
- Mike Adede





SIAYA COUNTY

**SIAYA COUNTY HEADQUARTERS**  
P.O. Box 803 - 40600 SIAYA, KENYA  
Tel: 057-21741  
Email: [tourism@siaya.go.ke](mailto:tourism@siaya.go.ke)  
Website: [www.siaya.go.ke](http://www.siaya.go.ke)