



TRIBUTE TO
**A VISIONARY, BUILDER,
TRAILBLAZER**

DR. CHRISTOPHER JOHN KIRUBI
1941 - 2021

MEMORIAL PROGRAM

OPENING PRAYER - Abby Mungai	10:00
CENTUM CHOIR- It Is Well & Enda Nasi	10:10
NAIROBI BOTTLERS - Xavier Selga	10:20
ALMASI BEVERAGES - Joyce Macharia	10:30
LONGHORN - Maxwell Wahome	10:35
HYMN - In the Sweet, By & By	10:40
SERMON	10:50
PERFORMANCE - Brian Mwau	11:05
ISUZU- Rita Kavashe	11:10
SIDIAN - Chege Thumbi	11:15
TRIBUS - James Nicholl	11:20
VDL - Kennedy Mbae	11:25
HYMN - Amazing Grace	11:30
NABO - Pius Muchiri	11:35
CCAP - Fred Murimi	11:40
CENTUM RE - Samuel Kariuki	11:45
GROUP CEO - James Mworio	11:50
CENTUM BOARD -	11:55
HYMN/DANCE AFRIQUE	12:00
CLOSING PRAYER- Brian Waswa	12:10



Chairman, as we all knew him, has truly left behind a powerful Legacy



To the family, Mary Ann, Robert, Andrew and all the other family members who are present today

- To the Centum Investment Company Plc family
- To all representatives of the Company's that Dr. Kirubi ably led
- And to all of Dr. Kirubi's friends, colleagues, all gathered here today

On behalf of the Coca-Cola Beverages Africa in Kenya team, we would like to convey our sincere condolences to your family. It was a sad day, for all of us when we learned of the sad news of the passing of your dear father, Dr Christopher Kirubi CBS.

Dr. Kirubi's commitment to the Coca-Cola system, was not in doubt, as it spanned well over twenty years, and it arose from the initial investment in Nairobi Bottlers, and through the years expanded to incorporate Almasi Beverages creating the Bottler operation that we see today.

As Chairman of the Board, we will dearly remember him as a man of vision, great intellect and purpose. We deeply treasured his wise counsel and deep business expertise which he shared unreservedly with us. We achieved many milestones, including the significant investment Hotfill Juice Line at Nairobi Bottlers in 2018, which came to fruition with the strong support of Dr. Kirubi.

I came to Kenya two years ago to take leadership of CCBA Kenya. And I am grateful for the time that I interacted with the Chairman, at the Board and on a personal level. I valued those moments, with the Chairman, discussing matters concerning the business and other topics of great interest. He was a visionary who foresaw trends and had the ability to understand the issues. His knowledge, candor and judgement proved invaluable. He was committed to ensuring that matters that came before the Board were resolved in a fair and equitable manner. He was a true leader.

The Chairman's passing is also a great loss to the Kenyan and wider East Africa business community. With his indomitable spirit and passion, he touched and mentored many people across diverse communities in Kenya and beyond.

Chairman, as we all knew him, has truly left behind a powerful legacy; it is our duty to follow his footsteps and vision for the growth and prosperity of the business and the country Kenya.

We are deeply thankful for Dr Kirubi's service to us and we share our sorrow with you; family, his many friends, colleagues, business partners not only in Kenya but around the world.

Once again, accept our deepest condolences and may the good Lord continue to strengthen you all. Be assured that, as a team, we stand with you in thoughts and prayer during this trying time.

May Dr. Chris Kirubi CBS, Chairman, rest in eternal Peace

- NAIROBI BOTTLERS LIMITED



..there were never dull moments working with him.



We are gathered here today to celebrate an ICON, a person who spared nothing to dream, innovate, create and establish business enterprises. A person who brought about the best in the people he associated with.

Dr. Chris was one of the longest and biggest investors in Almasi Beverages through Centum Investments. To us in Almasi, he was a father, a mentor, a life Coach and a friend. It amazes me up to date how a man of his standing could be so humble to find time for anyone who cared to get a nugget of his immense wisdom despite his status in life.

Dr. Chris had an amazing love for people development. He appreciated every effort that we made in business and there were never dull moments working with him. He went beyond business and embraced us as part of his family. We shared great moments with him outside work and occasionally in his home where we would sit and listen to his invaluable advice. He was a great motivator; influencer and he had a lot of charisma.

One memorable occasion is when he did a Mbuzi for us at Maiyan in Nanyuki to celebrate our great performance. What is more amazing is he would spend the whole day with us, interacting with individual managers to encourage and mentor us. To him, success was not an option but a must, and he made sure we all succeeded in our careers. His last days with us were even more profound, when though looking weak in body, his words of wisdom never grew faint. He always had a smile on his face as he kept reassuring us that he was okay.

I am a testament, a product and a great beneficiary of Dr. Kirubi's wisdom. For over 28 years interacting with him in the business, he made me realize what greatness God has bestowed upon each one of us. Though very strict and forthright in his approach to business, Dr. Chris had a special and God given way of mentoring those who chanced to get to his business circles. Dr Chris was gifted in seeing the big picture of a process where many of us could not see. A good example is when he asked our board to get me the best vehicle that there was to facilitate my movements across our market that spread in 27 Counties. At this moment I had no idea how huge a task was entrusted to me.

It gives me comfort and confidence that chairman has not died as his immense works and great deeds shall continue to impact those he influenced and touched forever. One thing is clear though, that as an organization and friends of Dr. Chris, we will forever miss his kindness, love, wisdom, generosity, humility and gratitude. In our hearts we remain grateful to God for a life well lived and the legacy left behind. Our challenge remains to sustain his great legacy in our areas of influence, to continue living the values he stood for.

Mary Anne, Robert and your family, you allowed us to share your fathers love and kindness, we shall forever be grateful. Please accept our sincere condolences, May the grace of God Almighty encamp around you to give you strength and comfort at this trying moment.

TO MY STAR CHAIRMAN, FARE THEE WELL.

- JOYCE MACHARIA
CEO ALMASI BEVERAGES



**He resonated well
with Longhorn's mission -
To enrich lives through
Knowledge.**



Today, we mourn the loss and celebrate a visionary and a mentor, Dr Christopher J. Kirubi, CBS. Chairman, as he was fondly referred to by many, was passionate in mentoring young great minds. He stood by two principles - focus and hard work.

He resonated well with Longhorn's mission - to enrich lives through knowledge, as he valued education. He firmly believed that education empowers people with the knowledge, skills and values they need to build a better world. He supported the education sector through scholarships and developing schools.

Chairman left a legacy on importance of education and hard work. He inspired the youth as he came from a humble background to be a respected business leader in the world.

Longhorn extends its heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and business fraternity. We will fondly remember him for his support, ambition, wisdom and kindness.

- LONGHORN PUBLISHERS

Some are lucky to live long accomplished lives and in that life journey demonstrate to us what is the true limit of our possibilities through sheer determination and grit. Chris Kirubi, was more like a marathon runner than a sprinter. He kept his eye on the prize having visualised it long before it was clear to many around him. He was generous in many ways not obvious to the public, particularly to the next generation in which he invested so much and opened opportunity for. Out of this desire to draw inspiration from and to inspire the youth I came to know Chris and for a time to work closely with him. A true believer in dreaming big and to never allow your current circumstance to hold you back, Chris inspired many to just give it a shot, a real honest effort in return for a handsome well deserved reward and the satisfaction of living a full life. Chris has shone as a bright light up ahead illuminating a path for many, that light may have now dimmed but the path is lit is firmly etched in our collective minds in celebration of the man he was and what he meant to us all.

**- ROBERT BUNYI
CHAIRMAN, NABO CAPITAL**

In the Sweet By & By

There's a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we can see it afar;
For the Father waits over the way
To prepare us a dwelling place there.

In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;

In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.

We shall sing on that beautiful shore
The melodious songs of the blessed;
And our spirits shall sorrow no more,
Not a sigh for the blessing of rest.

In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;

In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.

To our bountiful Father above,
We will offer our tribute of praise
For the glorious gift of His love
And the blessings that hallow our days.

In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;

In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.

TRIBUTES

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DJ CK. Chris was truly an exceptional business leader who will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

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It was with a great sense of loss that we learnt of the sad demise of Dr Chris KiFUBi on Monday 14th June, 2021. On behalf of Isuzu East Africa, I would like to express our heartfelt condolences to the Board, Management and Staff of Centum Investment Company.

This is indeed a difficult time for many of us who had the privilege of working with Chris for many years. As a non-executive Director of Centum which is a shareholder of Isuzu East Africa, Dr Kirubi demonstrated a great deal of interest and passionate support to our company over the years.

Notably, he participated in significant moments of our company such as during the visit by former Tanzania President Jakaya Kikwete in October 2015. In a memorable and spontaneous gesture of generosity, Dr Kirubi donated a locally assembled mobile clinic to President Kikwete to support the medical requirements of rural Tanzanians. This went a long way to strengthen the company's relations with the Tanzanian government.

Chris was an active participant during our transition from General Motors to Isuzu East Africa, attending the change of shareholding announcement in February 2017. He also attended the official launch of Isuzu East Africa in January 2018. We hosted Chris once more at our Plant in June 2019 during a visit by then Cabinet Secretary for Industry, Trade and Cooperatives Hon Peter Munya. Despite his declining health, Chris surprised many when he accompanied the Cabinet Secretary around the Plant explaining the company's role in growing the country's manufacturing sector through local assembly.

His energy and zest for life was an inspiration for many Kenyans right to the end of his illustrious business career. As Chairman of Capital FM, he endeared himself to many of us when he occasionally hosted radio shows as the popular "DJ CK". Chris was truly an exceptional business leader who will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

- RITA KAVACHE,
MD, ISUZU



**..We mourn a father,
mentor, a true patriot,
a visionary business
leader....**



Today, we mourn a father, a mentor, a true patriot, a visionary business leader, an entrepreneur, an investor and a philanthropist. The bank and the country as a whole have indeed lost a great leader.

We celebrate the life of Dr. Kirubi who has impacted many lives and has left a strong legacy that will remain in our memories for many years. Today we stand with the family and friends in celebrating his life, part of whom have been with the Sidian family for many years now.

Dr. Kirubi has been a part of Sidian Bank for a long time not only as a long-serving Director of Centum Investment Company, which has been the majority shareholder of Sidian Bank Limited since 2014, but also as an invaluable customer of the Bank. As a bank, we have shared a cordial relationship and have received immense support from Dr. Kirubi individually and through his various businesses over the years.

We have all known and admired Dr. Kirubi for his impeccable business acumen, as a seasoned entrepreneur who has over the years been at the fore front in the establishment of some of Kenya's large companies, contributing greatly to the economic development of this country and consequently creating employment opportunities for thousands of Kenyans.

Many of us will attest to Dr. Kirubi's distinct passion for entrepreneurship and selfless mentorship that he has provided either individually through personal interactions as well as through various platforms. We will remember Dr. Kirubi as an iconic Kenyan business figure, an advocate for entrepreneurship, with a zeal that has undeniably inspired many entrepreneurs and businesses over the years, including Sidian Bank, a bank whose core mission has been to support entrepreneurs in Kenya.

I personally met Dr. Kirubi way back in 2012 when he came, in person, to help us launch a digital product, in one of the banks where I was working at the time. When I joined Sidian Bank in 2017, we had lengthy conversations on how we could transform the bank. Later in 2019, I had the privilege of visiting Dr. Kirubi at his home, and we had an opportunity to pray and thank God together. He gave thanks to God for all the years he had lived and for the many great achievements he enjoyed. He was particularly grateful for having a wonderful family around him.

On behalf of Sidian Bank, I pass our sincere condolences to the entire family, Robert and Mary Ann- who has been one of our Directors for over 6 years, as well as to his siblings, grandchildren and friends during this period of grief.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family during this time. May God be your source of comfort, encouragement and healing during this season, days and years ahead.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." | 2 Corinthians 1:3-4"

Thank you. God Bless you

- CHEGE THUMBI
MD SIDIAN

TRIBUTES

Chairman was a pace setter in the business world, while it is the right time to mourn, I choose to celebrate a business giant who brought out the best of his employees, colleagues, and Kenya. Chris was never short of nuggets of wisdom, we learnt so much from him and several generations will continue to learn from his rich and admirable legacy.

Chairman taught us many things about life and business. As I reflect, I believe we can implement lessons from Chairman's life and apply them to sustainably grow his legacy of transforming lives and inspiring millions through business.

Chris had a way of simplifying the most complex business ideas, then explaining them in the most basic form that would be understood by all. A classic example is the simplification of the complex desalination solution to simply find a water technology to extract salt from sea water and pipe that water to homes in Vipingo and the community, Now, we have the largest plant in region providing 3 million litres. He created and shared value with his team and communities where he did business. We now have 250 kids on scholarship who would otherwise not have joined high school. In ten years', time we will have over 1,000 Dr. Kirubi Scholars. Most of us joined the organization walking, now we drive, own homes and businesses. Hopefully in future we will have several versions of Chris, creating enterprises and transforming lives.

Chairman inspired confidence to us all, extended opportunities and listened to our ideas which inspired you to push the limits. "If a billionaire has confidence in you and time to listen to you, why doubt your capabilities".

We will dearly miss Chairman and thinking about it what would chairman have done at this point. I think he would have focused, aimed higher, completed construction of the current cities, built more, and grown tenfold. That is what we will exactly do.

Rest with the Angels Chairman

- KENNEDY MBAE,
MD, VIPINGO

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch; like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

2

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

3

The Lord hath promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

4

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

TRIBUTES



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Working with DR. CK Has been a front row Business and **Life Master Class** experience.

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If I could describe who Dr. Kirubi was to us in 3 words it would be Father, Mentor & Friend. Dr. CK was a brand to behold. I remember taking pictures with my younger sister in the 1980s at the entrance of International House besides the gigantic concrete flower vessels and my mother, in awe, was explaining to us in Kikuyu “Guku ni kwa Kirubi” meaning this iconic building belongs to Kirubi. That was my introduction to the CK brand that has transcended all generations: from our parents’ oldguards generation to the now youthful tweeter generation. He always used to tell me “you people do not appreciate how big my brand is.”

In the world of business, Dr. CK was the giant on whose shoulders we stood on. He saw the potential in us, he believed in us, he mentored us and proceeded to open doors and platforms that we could only dream about. He had a knack for seeing opportunities where none seemed to exist and when convinced of an idea, he moved into execution mode with obsession. He lived true to the statement “do not do tomorrow what you can do today.” If he caught an idea, and its execution would involve you, he’d call you instantly, even at mid-night. If you worked with CK, you had to be available 24/7/365 days in a year. As he often said “My work is my Holiday,” work gave him a kick.

What we will probably miss most about him is his problem-solving nature. If you ran into a storm, business or personal, one phone call to Dr. CK is all you needed to calm your nerves down knowing that a solution was certainly imminent. I remember many times meeting him in his office and he would be having 5 conversations, all problem solving, at the same time: two on his cell phones, one on his landline, one with his PA standing by his desk and one with me sitting on the visitor’s chair. And he would tell me “Pius, keep talking, I am listening.” He would say “Pius, I have only 24 hours” and is not enough.

To Dr CK, the distinction between Family and Business was a blurred line. His team was simply part of his extended family. Majority of us have gotten our spouses and children while working for Dr CK. He has seen our wives pregnant, children birthed, grow and go to schools. To us and our spouses, he has been a Friend and A Father. To our children, he was a grandpa. When my second born son, Lemuel, heard about his demise, he asked “what will happen to his golden sword and the nice cars?” recalling the last visit we paid him at his house.

He used to call me “My Bishop.” We spoke about God and, whilst he had worked very hard for his success, he always acknowledged that God has been instrumental in his life. He felt there was a divine calling to his life -to help people: from supporting his own siblings to the tens of thousands of people that he impacted. He was always amazed by how many people prayed for him. Even in his illness, he understood it was God who was keeping him.

Genesis 12:3b

...And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

God has surely used Dr CK to bless many families, including mine. We count ourselves blessed that we did not read about him, but we saw him in real life action, every other day. Working with Dr CK has been a front row Business and Life Master Class experience. Fare thee well Daktari. I will miss you dearly.

- PIUS MUCHIRI
MD, NABO CAPITAL

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...I was struck by his resilience

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Like many of us, I knew of Chris Kirubi long before I got the opportunity to meet him. I knew of him as flamboyant, wealthy, industrialist, successful businessman and go-getter. I first got to meet him in 2013, when I joined Centum. I confirm that these things I had known of him were true, but also that he was so much more. While I could speak of many, I will speak of just 5 of his attributes:

Firstly, one of the things that struck me back then in 2013 and continued to strike me in every interaction with him since, was just how incredibly intelligent and smart the man was. As he was Chairman of my investment committee, often times we would take to him investment ideas and proposals that we had analyzed for days and had put the entire team to work on. On presenting to him, in an instant, he would point out one or two areas that we had not considered and this would force us back to the drawing board. We have learnt a lot from him in the many years that we got to work together. He left me with the distinct conviction that while one may come across billions of shillings in their life time, it takes brains to remain a billionaire. Secondly, I was struck by his resilience. The investment world is a business of buying the future. There are “known unknowns” and “unknown unknowns”. The world of investing is fraught with challenges. When things were not going according to plan, as they often would not, Chairman was always there to nudge us on and open doors for us, where necessary. One of the many successes we had was in the privatization of KWAL. To date, KWAL is the only company that has been privatized by the Government of Kenya outside of an IPO. This was largely due to Chairman’s push. Another instance was when we were looking to close an acquisition and required Competition Authority of Kenya approval, one December. It was critical to get the approval that December as our exclusivity period with the seller was going to expire. As fate would have it, the Authority’s board meeting got rescheduled to February of the next year. Rather than give up, Chairman placed one call to someone he had never interacted with before. We got our approval that December. Even at a personal level, his valiant 5 year fight against the cancer in his body would not have lasted that long had it not been for his resilience. He fought and fought hard.

Third, was his hunger. With all his fame and success, one would have thought he would sit back, relax and enjoy life, and go at a slower pace. Not Chairman. He must have read The Parable of the Rich Fool (Luke 12:13-21). Chairman looked for opportunities everywhere and did not want to miss a single opportunity. I remember one Saturday afternoon, him frantically placing calls to people at Haco because a salon in town had not received a delivery of some haircare products. That delivery was probably a few hundred shillings in profit, which shouldn’t have disrupted a billionaire’s weekend. But not Chairman. No shilling was to be lost. Even when we closed billion shilling worth of exits of our portfolio companies, the celebration with Chairman lasted a minute or two before we quickly moved on to what was next. Almost every conversation he and I had begun with the question “So, what’s happening?”

Fourth, and this was at a more personal level, the love for his children, Mary-Anne and Robert. The more I interacted with him, he opened up about his journey of fatherhood and how he always sought to get the best for his children as they grew up. One particular example that struck me was when one of them was in high school, and a very good school for that matter, he had noted that they needed extra tuition and he arranged for a private tutor to come home in the evenings. When the tuition was done, Chairman would personally drive the tutor back to his house, some more than 20 kilometers away every night as he had released his driver by the time the tuition was done. Such stories of his sacrifice, have challenged me in my own journey as a father to be available for and make sacrifices for my children. It is clear the sacrifices he made have paid off. Whenever he speaks of his children, as he often does, he does so with great pride and admiration of his children and their successes.

Lastly, Chairman was passionate about everything he did. He often said that if you were not passionate about something you were doing, then you shouldn’t bother at all! He was passionate about each of his businesses and could speak about each at length. He had minute details on each and every of his businesses. It was a fascinating thing for me watching him and listening in on conversations he had with his different business heads every evening that I would get to spend with him. He would question, prod, make suggestions, and paint the big picture at every opportunity with every of his business heads. But it was not just in business that he was passionate. His taste for the finer things in life and wanting nothing but the best stem from this passion. His exquisite car collection is a perfect example. In closing, I convey my sincere condolences to his children, grandchildren and the rest of the family. In his own words, he said he knows that God answers prayer. I therefore pray that our Almighty God may grant you strength, peace and comfort as you mourn your father. I thank the Almighty God for giving us this great man, as I paraphrase from the play, Julius Ceaser, “Here was a great man, when comes such another?!”

- FRED MURIMI
MD, CCAP

TRIBUTES



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**He was a man
genuinely interested
in People.**

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I am much honoured to pay tribute to a great son of Rwathia, Murang'a County. It is apt that we should hold this event to celebrate Dr Kirubi's life here on CK Square. CK Square is the magnificent and majestic entrance into one of Africa's largest retail centres. It's a place where Kenyans of all walks of life meet to create their dreams, tell their stories and share fun, warmth and love. The square overlooks the entire development that is the Two Rivers City. From this vantage point, one can see the grand dream of a city taking shape, one tower at a time. And more importantly, a reminder that among us walked a man who decided to build cities from scratch. Across the square, to the East, is the majestic Riverbank Tower. Here, Chairman made his last working visit of Two Rivers and gave his mark of approval for the pioneer residential project on the site, whose design he had initiated.

In many ways, CK Square and indeed the entire development immortalises Dr Kirubi. Not just because he renders his name to the Square and the Eye of Kenya but because it is a physical manifestation of who CK was – a bold visionary who saw what was not there and wondered 'why not?' And from this, what was not there became. Notably, this is the story of CK Square – on an inspection visit to the construction site, he wondered why there shouldn't be a square above what was then an open round-about. And so CK square came to exist. I knew Chairman as a gentleman of great fortitude who saw obstacles to his bold dreams as simple hurdles to jump over, side-step, or crawl under but no matter what, to keep pushing on towards their realisation. This square and the towers surrounding it speak to the other Kirubi we in Real Estate knew – Kirubi the Architect. His passion for design and eye for detail have ensured that all our projects bear his mark – from the detail of interior designs to the exterior look & feel and landscape designs. In his last visit to Pearl Marina, he gave us a lengthy and educative discourse on the Benjamina Ficus trees that were dotting the site and why we should uproot them. He had his own recommendations on how we could green the site better or what colours we could adopt for the Mirabella Villas. Such was CK-not the smallest detail could escape him. A good number of us have spent many hours in his house going through the detail of our designs – I used to advise my colleagues to cancel all other plans when planning such visits. The afternoon would definitely turn into an evening. The evening would turn into dinner.

A lot will be said about this Titan in years to come. But behind the larger-than-life persona lay a most humble man who effortlessly mingled with all, regardless of seniority. He was a man genuinely interested in people. Walking him around this mall was an onerous task of sneaking him away from the crowds that tended to gather around him. Most of us have spent many evenings and weekends in his home and farm – and all you needed was just to turn up, without any formalities. For some of us, his staff had come to know how you like your tea done, testament to a home that had become 'ours' in a way and where we were always welcome.

Shortly after I joined Centum, I requested CK to be the guest of honour in the 2016 Founders Day and Fundraising event at Starehe Boys Center, which he honoured. A year later, I briefed him on a farming program that I was running in Murang'a and which his Murang'a farm supported through a season's crop. Like many of us, CK was not just our anchor shareholder and Chairman, he had become a friend. To us and to our families.

The book of Ecclesiasticus 44 pays tribute to great men and I quote parts of it: Let us now praise famous men, and our fathers in their generations. The Lord apportioned to them great glory, his majesty from the beginning.

Their posterity will continue for ever, and their glory will not be blotted out. Their bodies were buried in peace, and their names live to all generations. Peoples will declare their wisdom, and the congregation proclaims their praise.

I end with that old English quote on turning back to life:

If I should die and leave you here a while, Be not like others sore undone, Who keep long vigil by the silent dust. For my sake turn again to life and smile, Nerving thy heart and trembling hand to do Something to comfort other hearts than thine. Complete these dear unfinished tasks of mine And I perchance may therein comfort you. This is what Chairman would have required of us. The CK Eye of Kenya and the CK Square overlook this entire development as if to tell us that CK is watching. And it is our duty to complete these dear unfinished tasks of his.

We count it an honour to have worked with this great son of Africa and Kenya. And a great son of Murang'a.

Now your watch has ended, Chairman.

**- SAMUEL KARIUKI
MD, CENTUM REAL ESTATE**



Despite his larger than life self, He always called me **JATELO** To mean (A Leader)



I first met Chris in 2001 at Uchumi Supermarkets, when the board which he chaired then appointed me to head the implementation of IT systems to move the supermarket chain from manual systems to automated systems. One memorable moment with him was when he came personally to congratulate the implementation team one early Saturday morning in 2002, for a very successful implementation that 'would transform the supermarket chain' Chris has always been passionate about Technology from when I first met him!

I then subsequently met him in 2005, when I was in KQ as in charge of IT development when he had come with the Patricia Muriuki the MD and her team from smart applications ostensibly to convince the airline to adopt smart applications for medical, a mission which was success.

I met him many other times whenever we had KQ functions either during receiving of new aircraft, including once taking a ride with him to Mombasa, Kisumu in the new Dreamliner at the time, or during wine tasting etc, I remember him saying he always turns 'left' i.e into first class!, Chris loved fine things in life. The one thing I remember about him especially during the transformation period at the airline, was his intervention with Coca cola whenever they were unable to supply the airline due various reasons and his candid feedback about service and quality of food and wine through customer feedback channel referred to as 'opportunity to improve 'OTIs'

Fast forward to 2018 August, I then joined Centum. When I met Chris in the office during one of the board meetings, he was very excited to see me and asked me what I was doing at centum and when I told him why I was there ,he was very very excited that I had joined the group, he went further to tell me that my biggest task was to take care of his 'people' as I was to be also in charge of Human resources Management function. Despite his larger than life self,he always called me Jatelo to mean(A leader). Whenever there were people issues he would call me to go over his house and we would chat hours on end over Lunch or tea...he always said to me and I quote 'Jatelo,take care of my people,people is all we got'. Chris was passionate about the team that looked at the human resources, finances,legal,risk and IT,he always said that they were his third eye, only in our case we call it Centum Business Solutions(CBS).

ONE personal moment that will forever be edged in my mind was in February 2020,when I met Chris in the parking downstairs of our building and he asked me where I was going, I told him that I was going to Manix men's Shop at the Mall(Two rivers!)to buy some shirts as they had an offer going on,he offered to walk with me to the shop as her Met 'his people' along the way and help me select the shirts, he was very useful in that selection...includingthis one I am putting on...it was a wow moment for me!!

Chris is a good man 'his spirit lives' on. We must honor him by taking care of our 'people', customers and the shareholders who he was very passionate about

-THOMAS OMONDI-ACHOLA
MD, CBS & GROUP COO

“

He did not just speak behind closed doors...

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Chris Kirubi has been eulogised in laudatory terms these last few days. That is as it should be. He was an exceptionally successful businessman, a larger than life presence on Nairobi's social scene, a bon vivant possessed of exquisite and enviable taste in all things, an erudite conversationalist on a wide range of subjects, an ever present mentor, a generous benefactor to and patron of many

That is the Chris Kirubi eulogised by many. I join them in paying tribute to that Chris. But there is another essential but little known Chris Kirubi: a brilliant Chris, an intensely and proudly African Chris, one who played a decisive role in cementing Kenyan Africans' place at the top table of the big corporate world. It is this Chris Kirubi that fascinates me, and to whom I make this tribute

Bear with me as I wind the clock back. It is the 1970s. Kenya is in the midst of establishing and cementing its post colonial economic and business structure. It is an age of established business titans still dominating the landscape, with individual clouts larger than what today's corporate moguls wield, notwithstanding the larger resources available to the latter. Bruce McKenzie. Jack Benzimra. Sir Eboo Pirbhai. Jack and Tubby Block. Col David Dobie. Tiny Rowland. Michael Blundell. Sir Ernest Vasey. And many others. Names largely forgotten today, but who in their day moved and shaped the economy, bent it to their will.

But, where are the Africans in this corporate mosaic? To be sure there were Africans holding key economic and business positions. But these weren't capitalists, they didn't dominate the commanding heights of the economy as entrepreneurs and businessmen. Instead they were largely agents and in a real sense creations of the new Kenya State. They ran the big state enterprises, the behemoths that dominated key sectors. East African Power & Lighting. East African Posts & Telecommunications. East African Railways & Harbours. East African Airways. ICDC. Younger readers familiar with the troubles of some of the successor companies to these entities will find it hard to believe that heading these institutions was once the apex of young Africans' corporate ambitions. From these perches they would find their way gradually to private sector corporate Kenya, and along the way hope to build up capital to become modest corporate players in their own right. Likewise ambitious young civil servants served their apprenticeships in government before going off to corporate Kenya. And there were also young Africans getting to the top of private sector corporate giants without being apprenticed in government. Among these Africans then starting to make a mark in corporate Kenya were Joe Wanjui. Udi Gecaga. Ken Matiba. Ngengi Muigai. But they were few, underscoring the painful fact that black Africans were still largely absent from this world. This is the scene that greeted young Chris as he emerged into the business and corporate world, one where Africans, while increasing in number, were still relatively few, and certainly were not yet corporate titans in the sense understood then and now.

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- JOHN NGUMI
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, ICDC

CONDOLENCES LETTERS

Dear James and Colleagues

It was with profound shock that I received the message of the passing of a great icon. Those who have interacted with Dr CK (as we occasionally fondly referred to him), know the deep seated passion he held for this nation and its people. The need to do positive things that had great impact on the social economic fabric of our beloved country. Never afraid to voice his thoughts and aspirations that added value to business. A great mentor to many.

His positive ideas in the Centum Boards have been impactful and real. His zeal for value addition to the land cartilage at TRD was indeed touching and infectious. His contributions to the development agenda for the Vipingo Project, in particular, are memorable, turning what was hitherto an expansive agricultural enterprise to a futuristic metropolitan center, complete with a rich mix of agribusiness, commercial/industrial concerns and modern residences. What a loss! Just when the various subsidiaries are flexing their “muscles” and creating real positive effects in the social economic fabric; when the brand names are becoming appreciably visible. I believe, as a Board, we could think of a way of keeping his name burning within the project scopes.

We shall miss him. But then is this not our collective and individual destiny? May God of Life accord him eternal rest. Fare thee well Chair.

Condolences to the family and friends of all walks of life.

**- JAMES RUTHA
MD, ADVENT VALUERS LIMITED**

I first met Chris while working at CMC when one day he walked into my office wanting to buy tractors for his farm. On that day he sat at my desk for over an hour and regaled me with the history of CMC where he had worked many years back as a Sales Manager and also on my prompting, his story on how he had started with nothing to how he became Chairman as he was fondly referred to. The time spent with him was shocking as prior to this first meeting he had been in my mind this larger than life successful business mogul who only mingled with the high and mighty, but on this day I met Chris the person that I came to admire and respect.

Several years later after I left CMC I joined the Centum board where he and I served until his demise. On joining the board I asked him how Centum came to be and he said it was driven by his dream of Africans owning shares in blue chip companies through Centum. At Centum what struck me most was not only his passion for the company's success but also his extremely sharp mind, his amazing business acumen and the fact that he cared for those who worked for him and the company's shareholders.

One of my usual comments to him was that when I grew up I wanted to be a Chris and hence needed to stay close to him and learn from him and he would laugh and sometimes ask....when he would be joining my company's board so as to help me grow the business. My regret is that he left us before my husband and I took up his offer for a cup of tea at his house where I would got to know him more as well as learn. I guess we shall have that tea when we meet again.

We prayed for you and believed you would be back with your usual zest and energy, but God had other plans. We will miss you Chris. Go well.

- MARY NGIGE

CONDOLENCES LETTERS

It is with complete shock that we received the news of the sudden passing of long-serving director of Centum Investment PLC and Chairman of the Company's Board Finance and Investment Committee, Dr. Christopher J. Kirubi, EBS.

On behalf of Majid Al Futtaim Retail Kenya and on my own behalf, allow me to offer most profound condolences to the family, friends and the entire Centum Investment Company PLC for the passing on of Dr. Chris Kirubi.

For us at Majid Al Futtaim Retail, we do not only recognize Dr. Kirubi as a successful business personality, but also as a thorough gentleman and an instrumental business partner who was always there to support Carrefour Kenya when we were setting up our operations. I have had the honor of meeting Dr. Kirubi personally several times and have always learnt something inspiring every time.

We pay our respects to Dr. Kirubi for his contribution to the betterment of the lives of many Kenyans particularly through the creation of businesses which employ thousands of people and play a major role in the economic development of the country. We will remain enriched and continue to draw inspiration from his legacy as a recognized and respected businessman.

Please convey our heartfelt condolences to the whole of Centum Investment Company PLC. We take this opportunity to wish you and the team strength during this painful period. May His Soul Rest in Peace.

**- FRANCK MOREAU
COUNTRY MANAGER EA, CARREFOUR**

It is with great sadness that we have learnt of the unfortunate demise of Dr. Christopher J. Kirubi, who was a corporate giant and visionary.

On behalf of Ashleys Kenya Limited, I would like to pass my heart felt commiserations and condolences on the passing of a great man.

This is an immense loss as he was big part of us choosing the Two Rivers as a preferred location for an Ashleys Coiffure & Spa, as his vision was so persuasive and compelling.

On a personal level his loss is all the more painful as he was a friend of the family. We pray that God comforts and guides the family and the entire Centum fraternity as you navigate this great loss.

**- TERRY MUNGAI
FOUNDER & CEO, ASHLEYS LIMITED**

Dear James,

I was deeply saddened to hear of the loss of your chairman, Mr Chris Kirubi Yesterday. Our Firm and many of our partners had known Mr. Kirubi for several years. He was a legendary businessman and an inspiration to many Kenyans, especially the Youth. Our dealings with him had always been enjoyable and we had tremendous respect for him as a friend and client of the firm.

Please accept our firm's sincere condolences. Whilst Mr. Kirubi's presence will be sorely missed, his lessons will be with all of us forever. Please also convey our condolences to the Whole Centum Family.

May his soul rest in peace.

**- PARAS V SHAH
MANAGING PARTNER, BOWMANS**



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The story of Chris is one of resilience, hope, positivity, hard work, big dreams, possibilities and impact.

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“ One felt that you were in the presence of greatness when you met Christopher John Kirubi po. I have had the blessing and privilege of working with him for 20 years. In that period our relationship transitioned from a boss relationship to that of a mentor, a dear friend and a leader.

Chris was a great man and the words John F Kennedy used in describing Daniel Webster the great mid 19th Century American statesman are extremely accurate in describing Chris. When you met Chris there was no mistaking, he was a great man- he looked like one, talked like one, was treated like one and insisted he was one. Chris had taken the unusual route of business to ascend to the hallowed levels of an elder African statesman. A man who was consulted by the great and humble alike ranging from Presidents, owners of business, moguls, CEO's, managers and even the youth. I recall on his visit to Ghana he received a reception equivalent to that of a visiting head of state. The same treatment was accorded in his business trips to Mauritius where he served as their Honorary Counsel and many other countries.

For those who knew Chris well he was a force of nature who bent reality to his will. A man who looked as if he had never been born and never could be extinguished. His passing was therefore shocking to many of us who despite being with him for a long period as he battled ill health still clung to hope that he would bend reality once again. Any lesser man would have given in four years ago. But not Chris who to end fought valiantly

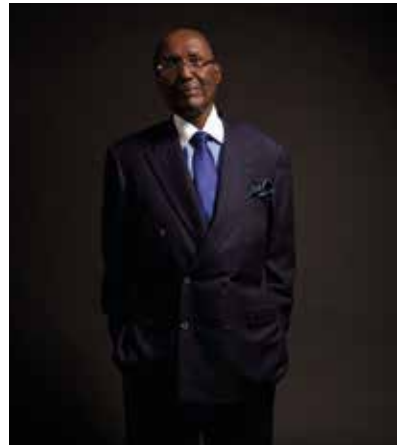
The story of Chris is one of resilience, hope, positivity, hard work, big dreams, possibilities and impact. This is a man who rose from a very underprivileged background to achieve the highest pinnacle of success and achievement.

We thank God for the long and wonderful life that Chris had and for the opportunity he granted him to be of service. We are also grateful for the opportunity God gave us to work alongside Chris. While he will be solely missed his impact will be felt for many many generations.

Fare thee well Christopher John Kirubi, fare thee well Chairman. A leader, a friend a mentor to many ”

- JAMES MWORIA,
GROUP CEO

CK
MEMORIES



C.K
MEMORIES



“

Chairman: Visionary, builder, Trailblazer

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