

A tribute to mama Phoebe Asiyo.

I am an ardent reader of News papers and follow closely all Kenyan News. So I knew of Mama before I met her.

I got to know Mama intimately when her daughter Juni and I worked at AMREF and became best of friends. I had numerous memorable visits and conversations with Mama. Being with Mama was a unique opportunity to learn and to be mentored. Mama had done it all ,and yet appeared to value interactions with us younger women. To see Mama engaging with women across Kenya and around the world was a a learning opportunity like no other, and such a treat. You learnt valuable lessons by being around Mama. Her style,approach,and demeanor were part of what made Mama such an outstanding advocate for women in Kenya,and around

the world. Mama was never the loudest in the room, and yet was the most listened to. Mama's legacy is that she remained faithful to the women's cause to the end, and never stopped reaching out to other women, even in the most challenging political environment. Mama appreciated that the most important denominator for women advocating for women's rights was that they were women first and foremost. No political party, No religion, No tribe, No social status should take precedence over the gender identity.

As Mama's mentees, we have our work cut out for us. We can follow in Mama's footsteps. In Kenya, Let's keep our eyes on the prize. Mama's Affirmative Action and the 2/3 gender proposition HAVE NOT BEEN REALIZED. How do we organize to achieve these? What's our roadmap to gender equality and gender parity? Do we

have what it takes?

I especially remember (and valued ) monthly get togethers (duol ) sessions with mama before and after the Beijing conference of 1995. She would invite a group of us to her home, cook for us traditional Luo foods, and tutor us the importance of harmonious living with our families. She also encouraged respect among ourselves.

Yes. Mama lived, conquered and achieved beyond expectations of her time. Looking to the future, those of us left behind, it is our time and turn. Each one of us 'Do You'.

As for me I will do me to elevate young girls, young women and Kenya in general. I am entrepreneur and successful farmer.

Thank so much Mama Juni. Thank you for

the gift of Love , guidance and comfort.  
Rest mama. Rest.