



**HORN OF AFRICA
INSTITUTE**

Ideas Beyond Borders



P.O Box 503, 60300, Isiolo Kenya |Tel: +254 740 540 946
Email: info@hornafricainstitute.co.ke

A Tribute to a Guiding Light: Mama Phoebe Asiyu.

It's a profound honor to stand here and speak about a woman who meant so much to all of us, our dear Mama Phoebe Asiyu. It feels impossible to capture the essence of such a remarkable life in just a few words, because her presence was never just one thing; it was a symphony of strength, kindness, and unwavering grace.

Mama Phoebe was a pillar of our country and a trailblazer who spent her life opening doors for others. Her pioneering spirit was evident from the start of her career, as she became the first African woman Senior Superintendent of Women's Prisons in 1963. She would go on to break barriers in politics, serving as a respected Member of Parliament for the Karachuonyo Constituency. Her leadership was also felt on a national level as the first African woman to head the Maendeleo Ya Wanawake Organisation, a role she used to tirelessly advocate for women's empowerment and education. Her quiet strength was a source of comfort, and her home was a sanctuary, a place where a warm meal and even warmer counsel were always waiting.

Her legacy is etched not in stone, but in the countless lives she touched and the ceilings she shattered. She taught us by example what it means to live with integrity and to love without reservation. She showed us that true leadership comes from a place of compassion and that the most powerful words are often the ones spoken softly. Her work transcended national borders as a Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and she made history again as the first woman to be elevated as a Luo elder, a recognition of her profound influence and wisdom. She lifted us up when we were down and celebrated our triumphs as if they were her own.

Though we feel the immense weight of her absence, we also carry the warmth of her memory. Mama Phoebe's spirit lives on in the kindness we show one another, in the lessons she taught us, and in every life that is better for having known her. We are all her children, and we will honor her by continuing to live with the grace and strength that she embodied every day.

Thank you, Mama Phoebe, for everything. We will miss you, and we will never forget you.

Go well, beloved Mama.

Hon. Tiyah Galgalo, MBS
Chairperson,
Horn of Africa Institute (HAI)