

To Mama Ida Odinga and Family

My Dear Sister Ida Odinga,

It is with deep shock and profound sadness that I have received the news of the passing of your dear husband, father, friend, and great leader - Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga.

Please accept my heartfelt condolences, and those of many who stand with you, your family, the people of Kenya, our continent of Africa, and indeed humanity at large.

Raila's illustrious career, spanning decades, towers like a colossus across Kenya and the African continent. His life was a testament to courage, endurance, and an unwavering commitment to the liberation and transformation of our nation. Few lives have been so fully devoted to the cause of justice and democracy.

He bore immense personal sacrifice, spending years behind bars and away from his loved ones in pursuit of freedom for all Kenyans. That was his burden to carry. But with it came yours, Ida, and that of your entire family. The weight you have carried as his partner in both life and struggle is beyond what most can imagine, and for that, Kenya owes you and your family an unpayable debt of gratitude.

I will remember Raila as a fearless defender of the people, a voice for the voiceless, and a steadfast comrade in the fight for the second liberation. For over three decades, I had the honour of working alongside him, sometimes as an ally, sometimes as an opponent, but always united by a shared vision of a freer, fairer Kenya.

The nation and the world have lost a monumental figure, one of Africa's most consequential sons. May the Almighty God grant you and your family strength, peace, and comfort in this hour of grief, and may He grant our brother eternal rest.

Rest in Peace, Jakom. Rest in Peace, Kinara Wangu.

With deepest sympathy,

Martha Karua