

NEWS GENERAL

SENTENCING SEPTEMBER 9

Sharon family reveals Sh4.7m cost of case

In their impact report, it seeks compensation from ex-governor Obado and co-accused

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THE High Court in Milimani, Nairobi, has set September 16, as the earliest possible date for the sentencing hearing of former Migori Governor Okoth Obado and his two co-accused, Michael Oyamo and Caspal Obiero, who were convicted of the murder of Sharon Otieno.

The victim's family, in their impact statement, detailed the profound and enduring suffering they have endured since the brutal killing of their daughter on September 3, 2018.

The victim's family prayed for compensation, adding that they have no means to meet their immediate and future obligations of taking care of the victim's children, her siblings and the parents themselves who are growing old.

They further beseeched the offender to reflect on the impact and disruptions of the alleged deeds and crime to the family and prayed to the honourable court to accord them orders for relief.

The family said they had spent about Sh1.2 million attending court proceedings and Sh3.5 million on funeral expenses.

They have gone to the extent of selling the family's one-acre piece of land and a cow to supplement the huge deficit they were operating on.

The 26-year-old university student, who was seven months pregnant at the time of her death, was a second-year student at Rongo University pursuing a diploma in medical records. She left behind three children, now aged between nine and twelve, who have been rendered orphans.

The court heard that the family, of low socioeconomic means, has been devastated by the loss, with the victim's father having taken to alcoholism and frequently holding her photo for memories.

The family reported that the manner in which the victim met her death has left them permanent memories, adding that the level of violence and anger unleashed by perpetrators was unreasonable and of monumental proportions.



Sharon Otieno's parents Melinda Auma and Douglas Otieno during the delivery of judgment against former governor Okoth Obado, his aide Michael Oyamo and former Migori clerk Caspal Obiero in Nairobi on July 23 /LEAH MUKANGAI

The victim's mother, when approached by the second accused's family for reconciliation, asked why now after the offender had been convicted.

Sharon's family said that they have forgiven the offender but would want him to get punished for the offence

he committed. In contrast, the former governor, now 64 years old and remanded at GK Kamiti Maximum Prison, maintained his innocence. In the pre-sentence report, he said that he did not murder or participate in the killing in any way.

He attributed his predicament to

political woes and machinations to soil his character.

While he did not take responsibility for the offence, he acknowledged the tragic outcome and has expressed a desire for reconciliation with the victim's family.

He prayed for leniency from the court, particularly considering the duration the matter has taken to its conclusion, his health status as well as age, and has requested a non-custodial sentence.

The second accused, Oyamo, served as the governor's personal assistant.

The pre-sentence report says he regrets what has befallen him after being found guilty for the offence of murder, his misplaced sense of loyalty to his immediate boss and being out of touch with the realities of his actions so as to be seen as a diligent servant all dawned on him when he took plea for murder.

He added that he was saddened by the death of the victim, adding that if he knew that the end was going to be macabre as it was, he would have advised the victim otherwise so as to save her life and that of the unborn child.

LACKS JURISDICTION

Court dismisses bid to halt health staff redeployment

CATHY WAMAITHA

THE Employment and Labour Relations Court has dismissed a petition challenging staff redeployments at the State Department for Public Health and Professional Standards.

In her ruling, Justice Monica Mbaru found the court lacks jurisdiction to hear public interest litigation brought by individuals who are not employees.

Philip Mallah, who described himself as "an adult male championing for the constitutional rights of Kenyans to fair labour practices," had sought to quash a redeployment letter dated September 9 last year.

The application deadline for the deployment was September 15 last year. Mallah argued that junior public health officers were elevated at the detriment of senior ones, negatively impacting public health service delivery. "The redeployment of staff was carried out contrary to the Public Service Commission Act, the public service regulations, and the public service human resource manual and it did not take into account the seniority of serving officers," the court heard.

"The petition is that there is evidence of extreme injustice to the detriment of directors that initially held these positions, indicating a malicious scheme orchestrated by the respondents against aggrieved persons."

Mallah said that the decision disregarded criteria and amounted to unfair labour practices, violating the constitution. He thus sought to have

the letter declared unconstitutional and have it quashed.

The first respondent, the PSC, opposed the petition through Paul Famba, the secretary/chief executive officer, who said that there was no evidence of injustice against the affected directors.

He also challenged the petition, saying the case was brought on behalf of directors "who are not unable to act in their own names".

"The said directors, if any, could be employees; it has not been demonstrated that they have authorised the petitioner to advance their case on their behalf. The petitioner thus falls within the private law realm and not in the public interest."

He said that the redeployment was a usual human resource function and no prejudice was demonstrated.

"The officers in the challenged memo have been posted to head units rather than to directorates; therefore, the petitioner's allegations that directors have been prejudiced lack supporting evidence."

Famba also challenged the admissibility of evidence, stating that the petitioner relied on "confidential evidence without showing in his petition how he obtained them".

"Without justification that he formally requested the documents and that the makers of the said confidential documents consented and furnished him with copies, the same records were obtained illegally, contrary to Articles 35 and 50 of the constitution."

COUNTY GOVERNMENT OF KITUI

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KITUI

MINISTRY OF FINANCE, ECONOMIC PLANNING AND REVENUE MANAGEMENT

CALL FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS AND MEMORANDA ON THE KITUI COUNTY ANNUAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, FY 2027/2028

The Kenya Constitution 2010 calls for openness, accountability and public participation in financial matters. Further, section 126 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012 requires the County Governments to prepare County Annual Development Plan (ADP). The ADP lays the foundation and sets the agenda for priority projects and programmes to address the development challenges that face the county. The ADP draws programmes and projects from the County Integrated Development Plan 2023 - 2027.

The County Government of Kitui invites members of the public, civil society groups, private sector, state agencies and all interested persons or groups to submit their comments, views, inputs, memoranda or proposals to any of the following offices:

- Economic Planning and Budgeting Chief Officer's office.
- Any of our Sub County and Ward offices.

The members of the public can access the draft ADP document on Kitui County website via link www.kitui.go.ke; You may also submit your views online via the email munuvemp@gmail.com/ planning@kitui.go.ke so as to be received on or before, Tuesday, 25th August, 2026.

County Executive Committee Member
Ministry of Finance, Economic Planning and Revenue Management