



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**

**THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT– (THIRD SESSION)  
THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY  
COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**

\_\_\_\_\_ (No. 017 of 2024) \_\_\_\_\_  
**ON**

**THE DEMISE OF GENERAL FRANCIS OMONDI OGOLLA, EGH 'ndc' (K)  
'psc' (FRA), CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCES OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
KENYA**

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**Honourable Members,**

1. As you will recall, last week ended on a very sad note, following the untimely demise of the **General Francis Omondi Ogolla, EGH 'ndc' (K) 'psc' (FRA), Chief of the Defence Forces**. Pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 259D (1), I wish to formally report to the House the demise of the Late General, together with **Brigadier Swale Saidi, Col. Duncan Keittany, Lt. Col. David Sawe, Maj. George Benson Magondu, Capt. Sora Mohamed, Capt. Hillary Litali, Senior Sgt. John Kinyua Mureithi, Sgt. Cliphonce Omondi and Sgt. Rose Nyawira**. They met their death on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024 following a tragic helicopter crash in Elgeyo Marakwet County.
2. **Honourable Members**, the late General Francis Omondi Ogolla was born on 12<sup>th</sup> February 1962 in Siaya County. Following his O-level education, he enlisted into the Kenya Defence Forces and graduated as an Officer Cadet on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1984, following which he proceeded to Moi Air Base and trained as a pilot. The Late General Ogolla was a graduate of Egerton University, the University of Nairobi, *Ecole Militaire de Paris*, France as well as the National Defence College of Kenya.

- 3. Honourable Members,** throughout his career, the Late General Ogolla held various positions in the Forces, including Deputy Commander, Kenya Air Force; Commanding Officer, Tactical Fighter Wing; Base Commander, Laikipia Air Base; Chief Flying Instructor, Kenya Air Force Flying Training School and Operations Desk Officer at the Kenya Air Force Headquarters. On 15<sup>th</sup> July 2018, he was appointed Commander of the Kenya Air Force where he served for three years. Thereafter, on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021, he was promoted to Lieutenant General and appointed the Vice Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces (VCDF).
- 4. Honourable Members,** on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023, His Excellency the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces promoted him to the rank of General and appointed him the Chief of the Defence Forces, a position he diligently served until his untimely demise. He exuded rare dedication to duty, that even at the helm of his career, he died serving this country. During 2023's Jamhuri Day celebrations, in recognition of his dedication to duty and country, the president conferred on him the Order of the Elder of the Golden Heart presidential award, underscoring his exceptional contribution to this country.
- 5. Honourable Members,** General Ogolla's legacy is marked by his pivotal role in developing and implementing various training programmes and operational strategies that enhanced the effectiveness of the Kenya Air Force and the entire Kenya Defence Forces. Indeed, in the death of Gen. Ogolla, the country lost one of its most valiant and decorated soldier. The Late General Ogolla remains an epitome of patriotism and true leadership.

6. **Honourable Members**, on behalf of the National Assembly, the Parliamentary Service Commission, and indeed on my own behalf, I pay tribute to this great fallen servant of the people of Kenya and convey our sincere condolences to his family, the families of the other nine valiant soldiers who perished alongside the General, the Kenya Defence Forces fraternity and the nation at large for this great loss. I also wish quick recovery to the officer who survived the crash.
7. Additionally, **Honourable Members**, the House Business Committee resolved to prioritize the Motion by Hon. (Capt.) Ruweida Obo, M.P. on *establishment of a priority boarding protocol for the Kenya Defence Forces and Kenya Special Forces personnel on local airlines* for debate tomorrow, Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024 (Morning Sitting). This will not only give an opportunity to the Member to move her Motion, but also accord other Members an opportunity to honour the legacy of the Late General Francis Omondi Ogolla, EGH and recognize the contribution of the Kenya Defence Forces in defending Kenya's sovereignty.
8. **Honourable Members**, in honour of the selfless service rendered to the Nation by the Chief of Defence Forces, General Francis Ogolla, EGH, and indeed the other nine fallen soldiers, I request that we all stand and observe a moment of silence in their honour. May their souls rest in eternal peace.

**I thank you!**

  
**THE RT. HON. (DR.) MOSES F.M. WETANG'ULA, EGH, MP**  
**SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024

