



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA
THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT – (FOURTH SESSION)**

**THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**

_____ (No. 023 of 2025) _____

**THE DEMISE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS, THE 266TH
POPE OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**


Honourable Members,

1. Pursuant to Standing Order 259D(1), I wish to report to the House the demise of His Holiness Pope Francis, the Supreme Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church.
2. I do so with profound sadness as we all solemnly reflect on the passing on of the Pontiff, which occurred on Easter Monday, 20th April 2025, at his residence in the Casa Santa Marta, at the Vatican. As Members of Parliament, we join the global community in mourning a shepherd of extraordinary humility, compassion, and conviction.
3. Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio on 17th December 1936 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Pope Francis was the son of Italian immigrants and grew up in a modest household. He was initially trained as a chemist, but later answered the call to priesthood and joined the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) in 1958.
4. He was ordained a priest in 1969 and rose through the ranks with distinction, serving as Provincial Superior of the Jesuits in Argentina, and later as Archbishop of Buenos Aires. His pastoral heart, concern for the poor and deep commitment to social justice was evident throughout his ministry.

5. **Honourable Members,** on 13th March 2013, Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected the 266th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, the first Jesuit, the first person from the Americas and the first Pontiff to take the name Francis, in honour of Saint Francis of Assisi. His Papacy was marked by a relentless pursuit of mercy, social justice and global dialogue.
6. Pope Francis stood as a moral compass during times of global uncertainty, championing the causes of the downtrodden, reconciliation and environmental stewardship. He often called upon world leaders to uphold the dignity of all human beings and the sanctity of creation. His landmark encyclicals and tireless pilgrimages touched the lives of millions and inspired generations toward unity, humility and service.
7. **Honourable Members,** the late Pope Francis will also be remembered for his reformatory vision within the Church, his efforts to modernize and humanize Church doctrine and his outreach to youth and future generations. In Kenya, his legacy remains visible through strengthened interfaith relations, charitable missions, and spiritual guidance to millions of faithfuls.
8. The words of his powerful quote, ***"The Church is like a field hospital, heals the wounds and warms the heart, helps build bridges between people and not build walls"***, are not just a metaphor but a mission he lived daily, reaching out across borders, faiths and ideologies to bind wounds and inspire hope. Pope Francis passed away on Easter Monday, a poignant and symbolic day in the Christian calendar, embodying the message of resurrection and peace that he so faithfully preached.

9. **Honourable Members**, to the Catholic faithful around the world and in our own country, we offer our deepest condolences. We honour his legacy, and we pray for the repose of his soul. May his life's message continue to guide leaders, nations and people toward justice, humility and compassion.
10. As the world mourns this colossal loss, **Honourable Members**, let us be reminded by his example of the enduring power of servant leadership and the call to build bridges, not walls. **May His Holiness Pope Francis rest in eternal peace!**

I thank you.


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

Tuesday, 22nd April 2025

