



## EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

### Press Release

#### **EALA DEDICATES A SPECIAL SITTING IN HONOUR OF THE LATE RT. HON. RAILA ODINGA**

**Arusha, Tanzania — October 14, 2025** – The East African Legislative Assembly today dedicated a Special sitting in honour of the life and public service of the late **Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga**, former Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya. The Special sitting comes in the wake of his passing while undergoing treatment in India—This was a moment of collective reflection on a career that spanned decades of public service, civic activism, and regional leadership.

The motion was moved by **Hon. Shahbal Suleiman Said**, a close friend of the late Prime minister Raila, The Assembly recognized Odinga’s enduring contributions to democracy, constitutional reform, and inclusive governance within Kenya and across the East African Community. His leadership—characterised by courage, persistence, and an unwavering commitment to the rule of law—helped expand political space, champion civil liberties, and strengthen institutions that serve the people. His work in Kenya’s constitutional reforms and devolution provided a framework for participatory governance that resonated beyond national borders.

One after another, the honourable members of the Assembly showered praises on the late Raila Odinga on his role in advancing democracy even during the darkest days in the region. The Assembly acknowledged Odinga’s influence that extended across the region and the continent. His advocacy for peaceful dialogue, regional integration, and the protection of fundamental rights affirmed a shared vision for a more united and resilient Africa. His dedication to democratic principles—rooted in accountability, transparency, and interethnic dialogue—offered a blueprint for neighboring states navigating governance challenges and transitions.

A recurring theme in Odinga’s legacy is the belief that democracy is a collective endeavour, requiring solidarity among nations and vigilance against the erosion of civil liberties. His regional engagements—crystalizing the link between democratic gains and durable peace—continue to guide partners as they confront contemporary questions about the state of democracy today.

Within this Parliament, personal connections underscored a broader narrative of continuity and intergenerational leadership, with many members having had a longstanding working relationships with the Odinga family. His elder brother Hon. Dr. Oburu Odinga, was a member of EALA 4, and

now Hon. Winnie Odinga, his elder daughter serves in EALA 5. These ties reflect the shared dedication to democratic governance and public service that binds our regional mission.

“As we remember Raila Odinga, we honour a life devoted to democracy’s advancement not only in Kenya but across our region and beyond. His legacy invites renewed resolve to protect democratic gains, nurture inclusive political processes, and strengthen regional unity”, remarked Hon. Kim Gai.

After the Special Session, the Rt. Hon. Joseph Ntakirutimana, the Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly declared the House adjourned Sine Die.

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