



Raphael Kamoto

1962–2025

Funeral Speech for Mr. Raphael Kamoto

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We gather here today in deep sorrow, but also in gratitude, as we remember and celebrate the life of our dear IMF colleague, Mr. Raphael Kamoto.

Raphael was, above all, a man of humility and kindness. Those who worked alongside him—whether at the IMF, its AFRITAC South office in Mauritius, ATAF, or in his service to Malawi—remember him as a consummate professional, a true gentleman of the old school, and someone whose warmth and generosity of spirit touched everyone he encountered.

He joined IMF AFRITAC South in 2021, and his sons tell us he was very proud to be working for the Fund. He brought with him a wealth of experience and a clear determination to make a difference for Africa. Raphael believed that efficient, fair, and effective tax systems were essential for governments to meet the development aspirations of their people. This was not just theory for him—it was a mission. He strengthened audit capacity in countries like Eswatini, Namibia, and Zimbabwe, and helped South Africa address complex issues such as transfer pricing. He was equally passionate about nurturing future leaders, developing programs to strengthen capacity in the region.

But beyond his professional accomplishments, Raphael will be remembered for his character. His colleagues admired his deep faith—how, even on work trips, he would prioritize attending mass, and how his Catholic faith gave him the strength to remain positive even as his health declined. He was a private man, but he carried himself with quiet dignity and never lost his optimism, his smile, or his belief in the goodness of people.

Those of us who knew him will also remember his love of life: how he sought out beauty wherever his work took him, how he enjoyed humor and laughter among friends, and even his competitive streak on the golf course! He was always supportive of his colleagues, a mentor to many, and a friend to all.

Raphael's impact extended far beyond the office. He was devoted to his family, and his love for his two sons, Kondwani and Yamikani, was constant and profound. To them, and to all of Raphael's family, we offer our deepest condolences. We hope you find comfort in knowing that Raphael's legacy is not only in the systems he built and the institutions he strengthened, but also in the lives he touched, the colleagues he uplifted, and the faith and hope he inspired in so many.

As we say goodbye, let us remember Raphael as he was: a humble man of principle, a servant of his country and his continent, a loyal friend, and a loving father. He will be greatly missed.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.