



SEVENTEENTH ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Report of the Director-General*Addendum***I. Obituary****Mr. Joseph Mugalla**

1. The Director-General announces with deep regret the death, on 19 October 2003, of Mr. Joseph Mugalla, former Worker member of the Governing Body.
2. Born in 1935, Mr. Mugalla started work at an early age, and right from the start was active in the fight to defend the rights of the most disadvantaged workers. In 1955, he began to come into his own as a trade unionist when he joined the Timsales Company, where he was elected chief shop steward. With his uncompromising commitment to social justice, Mr. Mugalla rapidly rose to prominence as one of the leading figures in the Kenyan trade union movement. After becoming a branch secretary of the Kenya Federation of Labour, which he would later lead, he was entrusted with high-level responsibilities for organization by one of the principal parties in power. In 1984, he became Deputy General Secretary of the Kenya Union of Commercial Food and Allied Workers, and shortly thereafter assumed similar responsibilities in the Central Organization of Trade Unions (COTU), later becoming a charismatic Secretary-General from 1986 to 2001.
3. Mr. Mugalla's exceptional qualities as a trade union leader led him to membership of the Executive Board of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), the Vice-Presidency of the ICFTU's African Section (AFRO), and to an active role in the work of the Organization of African Trade Union Unity (OATUU). From 1990 to 1996, he was a titular Worker member of the ILO's Governing Body, where his dedication to the causes in which he believed won him universal respect and admiration. He was elected to the Kenyan Parliament in 1997, and appointed Assistant Minister of Education in 2002.
4. Everyone who had the privilege of knowing Joseph Mugalla, or of working with him on the Governing Body and committees such as the Programme, Financial and Administrative Committee, will cherish the memory of his profound humanity and lofty social ideals.

5. The Governing Body will no doubt wish to request the Director-General to convey his sympathy to the family of Mr. Joseph Mugalla, to the Government of Kenya and to the Central Organization of Trade Unions of Kenya.

Geneva, 10 November 2003.

Point for decision: Paragraph 5.