

Let Robert Gituhu's Death Not be in Vain

Robert Gituhu did everything right - he went to school, focused on his studies, and passed with flying colours.

A brilliant and disciplined student, he attended Kijabe High School in Kiambu county, where he was appointed school captain.

Mum of Jobless Engineering Graduate Who Set Himself Ablaze in Mombasa Says He Was Bright: "Scored A Minus"

🕒 Updated Saturday, August 19, 2023 at 7:18 PM • by [William Osoro](#)

- Robert Gituhu, a jobless engineering graduate from Kiambu, lost his life after setting himself ablaze in Mombasa
- The 27-year-old was protesting against the high living cost, and his mother, Rose Mineh, recounted his last moments
- She also shared the aspirations of the bright young man who excelled throughout his schooling years



After obtaining an excellent grade of A- at KCSE, he was admitted to the University of Eldoret, where he graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering.

Then society let him down.

He was jobless.

But that is not what killed him.

He was killed by hopelessness - lack of hope that tomorrow would be better.

Hopelessness breeds depression.

Acute depression - caused by extreme hopelessness - led to him taking his own life, in public.

Mr Gituhu's final words: "If maize flour prices are not reduced, I better die!"

Was he also inspired by Mohamed Bouazizi - who set himself on fire on 17 December 2010, leading to Tunisian revolution?

Mr Gituhu set himself ablaze on 17th August, 2023 (note - 17th).

Did Mr Gituhu decide to sacrifice his life to save his country?

Did he conclude, "I have no future here...but maybe my sacrifice will wake people up"?

How could Robert Gituhu have hope that the future would be better, when none other than the head of state has stated publicly that the people he has appointed to prominent positions are incompetent?



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President Ruto to Cabinet Secretaries: The moment I know more than you know about your ministry, there is a problem. Explain to me how you will advise me if you have less information than I do. I call many PSs and ask them what is going on here and they have no clue.

How do you run a department if you don't have knowledge? That is the highest level of incompetence.



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How could he have hope that the future would be better, when the chief government economic advisor has said publicly that he is merely pursuing his own personal interests (i.e. he is in government to eat)?

How could he have hope that the future would be better, when he has seen on TV semi-literate top government officials being reprimanded in parliament for not knowing what is going on in their own ministries/departments?



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'The cost of living is not high here,' Nyeri resident says after State lodge meal

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How could Robert Gituhu have hope that the future would be better, when, despite all the evidence that the regime in power is destroying the economy, people around him in Kiambu always contradicted him, when he told them the truth about what was going on?



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Two dead, seven hospitalised after consuming maize flour they picked at a dumpsite in Thika



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How could he not get depressed, when people around him had become brainwashed and zombified, and therefore praised the KK regime, despite even them having serious economic problems?



If he did not have any problems with the tugeges, why did he go all the way to Mombasa to set himself ablaze?

May Robert Gituhu rest in peace.

Mother of man who set himself ablaze in Mombasa speaks! He wanted to be an MP

By [Nyaboga Kiage](#)
August 19th, 2023 • 3 min read

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Rose Mineh Gituhu mother of the late, Robert Gituhu, alias Kirobotoo. PHOTO COURTESY

In a heart-wrenching revelation, the story of the late Robert Gituhu, a 28-year-old who tragically set himself ablaze in Mombasa County, has unveiled the layers of potential that his life held.

His dedication shone through as he completed a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical and Production Engineering at the University of Eldoret.

Known as a brilliant scholar who achieved an A- in his 2012 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) exams, Gituhu's aspirations and accomplishments paint a poignant picture of what might have been.

Gituhu, alias Kirobotoo, on Thursday, August 17, 2023, set himself ablaze within Mombasa's Central Business District (CBD). His act was a harrowing protest against the escalating cost of living, rallying scores of concerned residents to his side. Tragically, he succumbed to his injuries at the Coast General Teaching and Referral Hospital later that same day.

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