estate will be shared

LEAKEY'S WISHES:

- His wife would hold a life interest of their wealth
- Two daughters to get equal share of what would be left after their mother's death
- There should be a Leakey Family Trust
- If any daughter dies and has children, the trust will manage the share until the age of 21
- If there are no grand-children, then the wealth would be passed to the other sibling
- The estate's income should not be used as capital
- The trustees have a green light to sell either part or all moveable assets
- The amount ought to be used to settle debts and any other expenses
- The remainder ought to be used in buying either shares, stocks or properties

HIS WEALTH

109	parcels of land
50,000	shares in Richard Leakey and Associates Limited
1,000	shares in Dodo Limited
2	motor vehicles

Money held in a Kenyan and US banks

worth 100,000 in Dodo Limited be divided equally between the two daughters, while ensuring their mother would be provided for throughout her life, including her residence.

"The parties, in consideration of the natural love and affection within the family, have reached a family agreement regarding the deceased's estate and wish that it be distributed in accordance with the Deed of Family Arrangement," court documents read in part.

The family estimated Leakey's total estate, including assets and liquid cash, at around Sh17 million.

It was further agreed that an acre surrounding Leakey's grave would be allocated to provide a path to the 1,089-acre property, which would then be divided equally between the two daughters

According to the agreement, the one acre would form part of the family's burial plot.

Meanwhile, one vehicle would be sold, with the proceeds going to Meave, while the second vehicle would be allocated to Samira. Meave would also inherit all the money her late husband had banked during his lifetime.

The family further agreed to close and dissolve Richard Leakey and Associates, which held no assets.

"All legal costs, expenses, sub-division fees, stamp duties and registration charges in connection with these transfers and this deed shall be paid out of the deceased's estate," Meave and her daughters consented.

Public service

Samira also agreed to surrender her shares in Dodo Limited in exchange for a share of two plots in Lamu.

During his lifetime, Leakey was appointed by former President Daniel Arap Moi to head the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) in 1989, at a time when Kenya faced a serious problem of elephant tusk poaching.

In a remarkable show of confidence in a man recovering from kidney surgery, the President tasked Leakey with cleaning up the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and protecting the country's elephants.

As Leakey wrote, he welcomed a role that would keep him constantly challenged. He became a formidable opponent of poachers, confiscating ivory and publicly burning it on two occasions, the last time in 2016.

Leakey left KWS in 1994 after the government launched an investigation into alleged graft within the service, which he described as interference.

He then turned to politics, pursuing another long-held ambition: the presidency of Kenya.

In 1995, Leakey co-founded the Safina Party with senior lawyer Paul Muite, envisioning it as a platform to campaign for multi-party democracy and fight corruption.

Three years later, he became the first white Member of Parliament in Kenya's history, winning the Langata Constituency seat, a milestone not achieved since independence.

He was later appointed Secretary to the Cabinet and Head of Public Service, serving for two years from 1999.

Leakey returned to KWS as chair of the board between 2015 and 2018.

Born on December 19, 1944, the renowned human fossils explorer passed away debt-free, leaving behind a lasting legacy in conservation, science and public service.

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girls' inheritance rights

"The time has come for us to fully embrace constitutionalism in promoting inheritance rights, ensuring human dignity and guaranteeing that women and other marginalized groups receive equitable shares in estate distribution," he said.

He added, "If the Succession Law no longer reflects the aspirations of some citizens, it may be time to approach Parliament to enact a Customary Law Act. Such an act could harmonize and codify certain customs for recognition and protection, but it must remain consistent with the values outlined in Article 10 and other constitutional provisions, including the fundamental rights enshrined in Chapter 4, the Bill of Rights."

Nevertheless, Justice Nyakundi dismissed an application by Peris Maiyo to change her lawyers in the case.

He also rejected her request to suspend the judgment requiring her family to share the estate left by the deceased.

[Kamau Muthoni]