

# A Tribute to Mburu ISM Gitau 'Phangah

*By Gitau Mburu*

Today, I honor not just a man, but a mentor, a father, a visionary, and a cornerstone of our family and community Mburu ISM Gitau Phangah.

To many, he was Mwalimu. To others, a farmer, a builder, a dreamer. But to me, he was simply Dad and being his son has been one of the greatest privileges of my life.

From the earliest days of my childhood, I remember his firm but gentle hands guiding, correcting, building. He taught us with stories, with wisdom, and with action. Whether through a pinch to the ear for mischief, or a tale of caution layered with love, he was raising not just boys, but responsible men.

He exposed us to the world through books, through travel, and through work. He believed in learning by doing—fixing radios, climbing rooftops to adjust TV signals, tending to animals, planting coffee, and pruning macadamia. He instilled in us a respect for both the soil and the stars.

And he didn't stop at home. Through Aberdare Peaks Academy, he extended that same mentorship to thousands. His vision for education was never just academic—it was moral, spiritual, and practical. He built a school, yes—but more than that, he built character. He built futures.

Even in his later years, Dad remained a guide and a giver. Most recently, he stood with me as we launched the Kahethu Smart Village Project—mentoring young boys and girls the way he always had. That moment, for me, was full circle. The student standing beside his teacher, the son beside his father.

Dad had a love for jazz and Rhumba, for National Geographic documentaries, for innovation, and for discipline. He could dream far into the future and then break it down into steps you could start today. That's a rare gift. That's leadership.

Through all of this—through the livestock, the school, the farm, and the legacy of Big Kuku—he poured himself out fully for us. For our mum. For his children. For the many lives he touched.

His counsel, his laughter, his presence—I will miss them deeply. But I will carry his voice with me for the rest of

my life.

From my siblings, their families, and from Mum thank you, Papa. Thank you for choosing us. Thank you for giving your full self. Your legacy will live in our actions, our service, and in the generations you helped shape.

Rest well, Dad. We will continue to build on the foundation you laid. We will echo the beginning you gave us into eternity.