

The ORANGE

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Party Leader Raila Odinga confronts police officers carrying out demolitions of wananchi residential houses at Portland Cement Mavoko on October 17, 2023. Police were deployed to block the PL and his entourage from accessing the Athi River demolitions site. Photo Courtesy

A Nation Betrayed By Poor Leadership

The toxic Finance Bill 2024/2025 and the mishandling and mistreatment of the poor victims of the recent floods living in informal settlements are some of the latest symptoms of leaders betraying the people who have entrusted them with government to transform

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their lives for the better. The poor and dispossessed will be the greatest victims of the punitive taxes to be levied on bread, cooking oil, and financial transactions as well as the motor vehicle circulation tax amongst many other irrational taxes proposed in the bill. Additionally when they decided that houses in waterways and riparian reserves should be evacuated and be pulled down government swiftly moved to demolish homes of the poor in the informal settlements but spared the high and mighty whose homes are also in such restricted spaces. This is clearly discrimination of the poor, the weak and the vulnerable because they lack financial might and political clout and influence.

As things are presently we are facing one of the most perilous moments in our post colonial history. Everything that could be wrong is going wrong. After over a decade of economic and political mismanagement the economy is on the brink of collapse. The 2024/25 Finance Bill is infinitely worse than the extremely controversial 2023/24 Finance Bill that was ruthlessly shoved down the throats of overburdened and resisting taxpayers. The sweet sounding snake oil promises that were peddled by the Ruto-led Kenya Kwanza (KK) coalition during the campaigns have turned out to be but a pack of cynical lies meant to procure votes by false pretence. In case there were any hopes in some quarters that given time the Ruto-led Kenya Kwanza regime would put its act together and redeem its image it is now obvious that it has no such intentions. They no longer seem to care about what the Kenyan people

think and are only keen to impress the United States of America (USA), Western Powers, the World Bank(WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) whose approval they crave. After almost two years in office it is now clear that with the urging of the IMF and World Bank the regime has elected to escalate the recklessness of the Uhuruto era.

Tax, Borrow and Loot.

The regime has not only excelled in inventing and ruthlessly imposing punitive new taxes on everything and on everyone but have accelerated and surpassed the borrowing craze of the last decade with absolutely nothing tangible to show for the mounting debt. It is widely believed that most of these debts are odious and procured to be squandered just like the tax revenues as routinely reported by Controller of Budget and the Auditor General reports.

Small scale avocado farmers in the Mount Kenya region, for example, have recently been chasing away Kenya Revenue Authority(KRA) personnel who have been roaming up and down the countryside to impose taxes on their insignificant turnover when large businesses actually only pay taxes on profits. The “hustler versus dynasty” narrative and the so-called Bottom Up Transformation Agenda (BETA) which were touted as a pro-poor agenda that would inform a policy platform to uplift the poor from their suffering and misery has turned out to be but a bitter package of IMF-inspired austerity measures and Structural Adjustment Programmes(SAPs) ruthlessly administered from State House under the supervision of the Bretton Woods staffers.

On ascending to power the regime, for example, immediately removed subsidies on maize flour largely consumed by the majority poor people on the grounds that they would rather subsidise the production of affordable food through subsidising fertiliser even though it was said that the affordable fertiliser they were selling was in fact a free donation from Russia. This time round farmers across the country are up in arms complaining that the government through the National Cereals and Produce Board (NCPB) are selling to them packaged dirt and waste as state subsidised fertiliser at a time when they are preparing to plant. Those lucky to be on a payroll have on their part been subjected to ruthless increases on existing levies such as the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and the Social Health Insurance Fund (SHIF) alongside the imposition of newly fangled Housing Tax. These levies and taxes are thoroughly unpopular and have been successfully challenged in courts but the regime relentlessly trudges on as they are cheered by the US and the Bretton Woods brethren.

Generally the cost of living has skyrocketed as prices rise and incomes fall and many people lose their livelihoods. Many investors are closing down and leaving the country in search of more receptive investment destinations thus heightening the unemployment crisis. According to the latest Ethics Anti Corruption Commission (EACC) report on corruption prevalence in the public sector the corruption scourge has intensified since the regime ascended to office with the amounts demanded

doubling over the period. Unsurprisingly the regime does not seem to be bothered at all by such reports. **Whichever way one turns there is a crisis and a scandal!**

The people of Kenya; and especially those “hustlers” who may have fallen for the deception of the hustler narrative and voted for the KK brigade, are despondent and feeling justifiably betrayed. Yet this is but a continuation of our tragic history of betrayal by the elites we entrust with the solemn duty of public service and national leadership. They prefer to collaborate with and serve imperialists against ordinary citizens. Besides serving the foreign interests they seem to believe that their only other mission is to capture and privatise the organs of state for primitive accumulation of wealth for themselves and the ethnic cabals that serve them. The best illustration of this is that even though the government is bending backwards over to repay dubious debts from foreign sources they have stubbornly declined to pay off domestic pending bills that are owed to creditors who have supplied government over the last decade. Meanwhile public education and health services are deliberately being strangled by the regime.

Striking doctors have just resumed work, while clinical officers and medical laboratory professionals in public hospitals are on strike. Junior Secondary School teachers who had been unconstitutionally engaged on temporary terms at salaries below that of their other counterparts are also on strike and yet the regime does not seem to care at all. It seems that the government is deliberately fomenting the chaos

to collapse the public sector so as to privatise both education and health services. The poor are the obvious victims of this callous mismanagement of public affairs. People are wondering why they are required to pay taxes if social services are being collapsed and they have to pay for the same services from declining incomes.

Our post colonial history is fraught with these betrayals, pitfalls and false starts. The present challenges are a reminder of an unnerving continuation of a neocolonial agenda set and perpetuated by imperialists with the connivance of their local collaborators and lackeys. Where and when did this rain begin to beat us.

Betrayal at Dawn

KANU came to power on the crest of a popular liberation struggle with the promise to fulfill the aspirations of the Kenyan people to be free of foreign domination, to determine their own affairs and to enjoy life in a prosperous country devoid of ignorance, disease and poverty. This meant that KANU would establish an independent state and build an equally independent modern integrated self-reliant industrialising national economy in which the needs of all sectors and all people would be met. Unfortunately the imperialists and the departing colonialists conspired to install an alliance of reactionary forces in KANU with those in KADU to displace the progressive patriotic forces in the ruling party and to betray the promises to fulfill the popular aspirations of the people.

While the people were expectantly awaiting the fulfillment of the KANU promises the Jomo Kenyatta regime soon came out in its true

colours when in 1965 it produced the **Sessional Paper No 10 on African Socialism and its Application to Planning in Kenya**. Instead of charting a bold new path to a modern and egalitarian industrial socialist future serving the needs of the hitherto colonised African people, as suggested by the name, it instead sought to reproduce the parasitic, extractive, skewed and uneven racist colonial patterns to continue serving imperialist rather than national interests. Accordingly public investment was to continue being directed to the so-called high potential areas whose potential was actually a result of the unjust racist colonial development policy. Clearly this sessional paper was neither African nor Socialist. It simply sought to pursue a neocolonial agenda in a dependent capitalist economy that relied on the capturing and repurposing the state for primitive accumulation of urssurous merchant capital and expropriation of land meant for the resettlement of those who had been dispossessed by colonialism.

It was soon evident that the only important difference with colonialism was that the tribe would replace the race as a neocolonial ethnic cabal replaced the white colonial overlords. Under Jomo Kenyatta Kikuyu ethnic hegemony became the order of the day as an ethnic supremacist cabal privatised the state and promoted a brutal and repressive politics of ethnic hate and exclusion.

The publication of this sessional paper saw the contradictions boil over giving rise to a terminal split and separation between the Kenyatta led pro-western imperialist faction (KANU A) and the Jaramo-

gi Oginga Odinga led left-leaning wing, (KANU B) of the party at the KANU Limuru Conference in 1966. Odinga broke off with his wing giving rise to the Kenya People's Union (KPU) with Bildad Kagia as his Deputy. KANU soon imposed a change in the constitution that forced those who had defected to KPU to go back to the voters for a new mandate in the "little General Election" in June 1966. To hang on to power Kenyatta and KANU deployed harassment and strong arm tactics such as detentions and assassinations to isolate the party especially in Central Province so as to portray KPU as a Luo party. This finally led to the banning of KPU in 1969 following the massacre of protesters in Kisumu.

To consolidate their stranglehold on power, land grabbing, abuse of office and corruption in the public service became the order of the day especially after the Ndegwa Commission Report allowed civil servants to engage in running business enterprises while still in office. Consequently even though the economy grew steadily in the first ten years of independence the policies gave rise to **a dependent capitalist economy which produces what it does not consume and consumes what it does not produce thus catering essentially for foreign interests.**

Even as the government pursued a policy of **import substitution industrialisation (ISI)** for consumer goods and encouraged the entry of African peasants into smallholder cash crop farming little or no effort was directed at producing intermediate and producer goods to be the engine of industrialising the country. Agriculture

exported primary unprocessed products and was dependent on imported industrial inputs.

The entry of Africans into occupations in the bureaucracy and in the commercial sector previously held by Europeans and Asians gave rise to a feeling of progress among a small segment of the society even as many grumbled that Kenya was evolving into a "man eat man society" of "ten millionaires and ten million paupers".

The Kenyatta Succession: betrayal Intensified

When Moi succeeded Kenyatta in 1978 he was welcomed with excitement by segments of people in the country who believed that the era of dictatorship and ethnic supremacist domination and exclusion was buried with Kenyatta as he released those who had been detained without trial under Jomo. However Moi soon passed a legislation turning Kenya into a de jure one party state throwing the politics of the country into a spin.

Moi's twenty four years rule was not only more repressive but also an economic disaster. Tribalism also thrived under Moi as he replaced the Kenyatta era Kiambu Mafia with a newly minted Rift Valley Mafia which looted and pillaged the public coffers and resources. By the time he was leaving office the country was on it's knees and was suffering a negative two percentage growth rate! During this period the IMF and the World Bank literally took over the running of the country and superintended over the dismantling of the protective fiscal regime around our our nascent industrial sector leading to massive de-industrialisation of our economy, rising unemployment, escalating

inflation, rising cost of living and declining standards of life. We became a "mitumba" economy and a dumping ground for foreign cast-off and obsolete goods.

Kibaki, Betrayal and Lost Opportunities

Kibaki not only betrayed fellow leaders by trashing the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the National Alliance Party Kenya (NAK) and Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) but he also squandered the golden opportunity offered by the "Rainbow Revolution" that kicked out KANU, to forge a truly united, cohesive, non-ethnic, non-sectarian nation. The departure of Moi and arrival of Kibaki in 2003 was celebrated by Kenyans in a manner only comparable to the coming of independence in 1963. Kibaki rode to office on the crest of an ecstatic and overwhelming popular democratic coalition National Rainbow Coalition (NARC). It was the culmination of years of painful struggles and valiant sacrifices by many Kenyans. Kibaki promised that under him corruption will cease to be a way of life and that the era of roadside declarations was over. Sadly like with his predecessors before the ink dried on his promises he had thrown coalition partners overboard and installed a rapacious ethnic supremacist cabal at the heart of the state.

His promise of a new constitution in 100 days was also discarded with little regards. According to John Githongo, who was the Permanent Secretary in charge of Ethics in the Office of the President, the Mount Kenya Mafia then surrounding Kibaki declared that "it is our time to eat". Their rapacious "eating" and brazen and reckless ethnic bullying of opponents left the country so

badly wounded. Consequently in the 2007 elections, which Kibaki was widely believed to have lost, he unceremoniously swore himself into office at dusk throwing the country into unprecedented post-election violence that left over 1300 Kenyans dead and many more wounded and displaced.

Kenya was pulled from the precipice of a complete breakdown and civil war by concerted mediation efforts of the international community. The resultant coalition government was the the most inclusive and most responsive government in our history. This period saw very commendable economic performance and growth. It is also under this government that the Kenya Vision 2030(KV2030) and the CoK 2010 were launched and promulgated respectively. Additionally under Kibaki, Kenya was able to pay over 90% of her recurrent expenditure from domestic sources thus reducing the stranglehold of the Bretton Woods institutions on the country.

The KV2030, launched in 2008, proposes to build an industrialised and prosperous middle income country by the year 2030 while the CoK 2010 was a culmination of the protracted struggles for a democratic Kenya in which all feel at home and leadership is defined by selflessness and integrity. Unfortunately, an examination of our political and economic experience since 2013 shows that there is more to good governance than promulgating a good economic blue print and a good constitution.

Moreover notwithstanding the commendable results of the foreign mediation efforts some of the inter-

national players were known to be biased and partisan interlocutors. The US ambassador to Kenya, for example, openly sided with Kibaki by hurriedly congratulating him and bullying the ODM before the spontaneous violence forced the US to withdraw their message. This is proof that meddling by foreign powers in our politics is a factor that must be confronted in addressing the way forward.

If chapter six of the CoK 2010 was taken seriously the Uhuruto Jubilee duo would never have been allowed to run for the presidency of the new republic. Tragically they were not only allowed to run but rigged into office by a coalition of foreign and domestic forces while facing the most heinous crimes against humanity at the ICC. When they came to office there was little doubt that Kenyans were in for trouble.

Uhuruto”, Assault on Democracy and Economic Meltdown:

Having come to office under a cloud of controversy and with resistance from civil society organizations their first task was to harass and paralyse such organisations alongside independent offices and commissions. They then went on a reckless borrowing spree to squander. When for example they purported to have borrowed two billion USD Eurobond the then Auditor General and the Controller of Budget both publicly complained that they could not tell nor be told where the money had gone and what it had been used for and yet we are now being made to borrow at a higher interest rate yet again to pay for the old dubious debt! Under their watch corruption became a way of life.

They also abandoned the imple-

mentation of the KV2030 and the economy took a thorough beating under them as both domestic and foreign investors began to vote with their feet to other jurisdictions where they were not likely to suffer harrasment by corrupt officials. Unemployment rose to unparalleled heights as graduates of the education sector join the growing army of the unemployed and underemployed.

If the Uhuruto regime was the frying pan the Ruto kakistocracy is the fire itself. We have truly jumped from the frying pan into the fire.

Ruto and Restoration of “Nyayoism” and Moi errors:

Having come to office on the back of suspected stolen elections with the support of Western imperialist powers the Ruto regime appears determined to bend backwards over to please the IMF, other Bretton Woods institutions and the Western powers by dismantling any gains, especially those favorable to the poor, that Kenya has made over the years in every imaginable area. The economic model promoted by the Ruto regime and his imperialist masters are disdainful of any systematic and organized transformation of the economy through industrialisation and they seem determined to take us back to the economic chaos and disorder of the Nyayo era. More ominously, if not resisted, they are to reverse all social and economic gains as well as political liberties and the rule of law that we have earned, over the decades, through sweat and blood.

ODM donates food to flood victims in various parts of the country



Food donations. Photo courtesy

The torrential rain that pounded most parts of the country, if not the whole country last two months came as a blessing to farmers but also as a catastrophe to many. Thousands of households were affected by the rain that caused flash floods, claiming lives, causing destruction to property and crops in the fields as well as displacement of families.

This came in the wake of early warnings by the Kenya Meteorological Department which predicted a long period of rainfall which would also turn catastrophic. Residents of Nairobi, estates near the Nairobi river and those built on riparian areas were badly affected.

In Machakos County, river Athi broke its banks and caused flooding in Athi River, Mavoko and Syokimau areas. In Kisumu County, River Nyando too broke its banks,



causing havoc in surrounding areas like Ahero, Nyamasaria, Nyakach, Rabuor etc.

Effects of the heavy downpour were also felt in Budalangi in Busia County. For over the years, residents of Budalangi have borne the brunt of heavy rains whenever they pound. Residents of areas like Rwambwa, Lugare and Port Victoria have always had to shift from lowland areas to higher places.

The same fate fell on the people of Tana River county in the Delta region who were affected by the heavy rains that caused River Tana to break its banks. In Mai Mahiu area of Naivasha Constituency in Nakuru County, over 60 people lost their lives when water swept away homes in the wee hours of the night. Many households were displaced by the flash floods, the worst to hit the area in many years. Even as the government promised to help in the resettlement of affected families, nothing seems to be happening, a month after President William Ruto made the announcement in Mathare slums in Nairobi. The government promised to give Ksh. 10,000 to every household affected by the flash floods but this pledge is yet to be fulfilled and the families continue live in camps.

As a show of its humanitarian side, the ODM party through its Disaster Response Committee chaired by the Senator of

Migori County Mr. Eddy Oketch, who sits in the National Executive Committee (NEC) as Secretary for Disaster Issues launched the appeal to well-wishers to give donations to the party to be shared with the affected families.

The appeal was well received by well-wishers who came in handy with food and non-food items. Party Leader the Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga led in giving food donations. Others who headed to the appeal included the MP for Westlands Constituency Mr. Tim Wanyonyi, the Woman Representative for Busia, Ms. Catherine Omanyo, her Nairobi counterpart Ms. Esther Passaris, the Governor of Busia Dr. Paul Otuoma, Majority Leader in the County Assembly of Nairobi Mr. Peter Imwatak, the MCA for Nairobi South C Ward Mr. Abbas Osman, Nominated MCA in the County Assembly of Nairobi Ms. Nasra Nanda, Nairobi businessman Alinur Mohamed, Busia politician Albert Kachero among others.

So far, residents of Mathare in Nairobi, Mavoko in Machakos County and Budalangi in Busia County have benefited from the food and non-food stuff, courtesy of the ODM disaster response.

According to the coordinator of the ODM disaster response team Mr. Benson Musungu who also serves as the Director of Special Interest Groups at the ODM Secretariat, the next stop will be Tana River County where Party Leader Hon. Odinga will lead in the distribution of food and other items to the victims in the Delta region.

The party's two Deputy Party Leaders Hon. Wycliffe Oparanya and Hon. Ali Hassan Joho led in the process of distribution of food in Mathare, Mavoko and Budalangi. Ends...



Governor Orenge Rallies ODM Delegates in Six Sub-Counties for Grassroots Strengthening and Membership Drive

Siaya Governor James Orenge held productive deliberations with delegates from The Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) Party across all six sub-counties: Rarieda, Bondo, Alego Usonga, Gem, Ugenya and Ugunja. These deliberations focused on various strategies to strengthen the party's presence and enhance its membership recruitment efforts at the grassroots level. The discussions aimed to forge a more cohesive and dynamic party structure that resonates deeply with local communities, ensuring that the ODM remains a formidable political force to reckon with. Key points of the dialogue included identifying potential leaders, promoting the party's ideological values, and countering the influence of rival political entities. The ODM Party's Strategy to expand its membership base is multifaceted. It involves engaging directly with grassroots communities to understand their needs and aspirations, thus fostering a sense of inclusion and loyalty. By identifying and nurturing potential leaders within these communities; the party hopes to build a robust leadership pipeline that reflects its core values and vision. The grassroots engagement also aims to align the party's activities with the ideological beliefs of its members, ensuring a united front against competing parties. Additionally; strengthening the party's organizational structures is seen as essential for maintaining its relevance and efficacy in the dynamic political landscape. The recruitment drive is part of a nationwide initiative to solidify ODM's position as the party of choice ahead of the next election. Unlike typical short-term campaigns, this effort is designed as a continuous long-term exercise with no timelines. The goal is to revive and activate existing networks that have been dormant, thereby reinvigorating the party's base and expanding its reach within Siaya County and beyond. By consistently engaging with supporters and potential members; the ODM



Governor James Orenge, Senator Dr. Oburu Oginga, Speaker George Okodee, MPs Opiyo Wandayi, Dr. Otiende Amolo and Samwel Atandi during the Siaya County ODM delegates meeting

aims to build a sustainable foundation that will support its electoral ambitions and policy goals in the coming years. Siaya County ODM Chairperson, George Okanda, emphasizes the importance of a strong ODM party for effective representation, sound policy formulation and good governance. He believes that a well organized and ideologically aligned party can better serve the interests of its constituents, advocate for progressive policies and ensure accountability in governance. The slogan "Tuko Tayari" captures the spirit of readiness and determination, signaling the party's commitment to being prepared for the challenges ahead. Through these efforts, the ODM hopes to not only win elections but also to make a lasting impact on the political and social fabric of Kenya.

Among the leaders present include Siaya Senator Dr. Oburu Oginga, County MP Dr. Christine Ombaka, Ugunja MP Opiyo Wandayi, Rarieda MP Dr. Otiende Amolo, Alego Usonga MP Samuel Atandi and the County Assembly Speaker George Okodee. (As reported by Nyalore Magazine of Siaya County)



Rarieda MP Dr. Otiende Amolo addressing Siaya County ODM delegates



Governor Orenge addressing delegates from the six sub-counties across Siaya



Governor Orenge receives Senator Dr. Oburu Oginga and county MP Dr. Christine Ambaka

History of the ODM Party



The Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) is the largest political party in Kenya born out of a protracted struggle for reforms in Kenya. The clamor for reforms arose out of successive mutilations of the independence constitution that culminated to the enactment of Section 2 (a) which banned multiparty politics.

The subsequent authoritarian style of leadership led to massive human rights violations. However, repression did not dampen Kenyans spirit and desire for a democratic and just society. The agitation for reforms spearheaded by reform agents mainly politicians, a section of the clergy and activists forced the Kenya National African Union (Kanu) regime to repeal Section 2 (a) of the constitution. This brought to an end the single party rule and opened the doors for multiparty politics. This saw the birth of the Forum for Restoration of Democracy (FORD) among others.

The new era heightened the hunger for a new constitutional dispensation with Kenyans from all walks of life embracing mass protests spearheaded by the civil society and reform minded politicians to compel the KANU Government to embrace reforms. The constitution of the National Constitutional Conference (NCC) in 2002 was a direct consequence of this campaign. However, the dissolution of the 8th parliament and subsequent general election in December 2002 interrupted the process.

new constitution in the first 100 days of their rule, the National Rainbow Coalition (NARC) trounced KANU in the 2002 General Election. The Bomas Conference was recalled to conclude the process. However, a section of the government turned out to be retrogressive leading to draft that was not a reflection of people's aspirations and expectations. The birth of the OrangeThe ensuing constitutional referendum pitted the YES team, christened 'Banana' against the NO team dubbed 'Orange'. The proponents of the YES team were for the draft constitution which negated the aspirations of the people, basically anti-reform minded people.

The NO team (Orange) wanted a constitution that stood for equitable development through devolution, respect for human rights and vibrant democracy. The NO (Orange) team that spearheaded the defeat of the retrogressive draft constitution in November 2005, evolved into a popular movement that engaged the new establishment with a view to restarting the constitution making process.

The Orange team comprised of Messrs Raila Odinga, Kalonzo Musyoka, Henry Kosgey, William Ruto, Uhuru Kenyatta, Musalia Mudavadi, Najib Balala, Billow Kerrow, Charity Ngilu, William Ole Ntimama, Omingo Magara, Fred Gumo among others. From the clergy we had Rev. Timothy Njoya, Rev. (Dr) David Gitari, Sheikh Juma Ngao among others. The Orange victory at the referendum transformed the movement into a major political party, the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) which was captained by Raila Odinga and Mudavadi, Ruto, Balala, Joe Nyagah and Ngilu which formed the PENTAGON.

The stolen Orange victoryThe 2007 general election was a re-play of the 2005 referendum pitting the Yes proponents under the Party of National Unity (PNU) led by Mwai Kibaki and the Orange team under the stewardship of Raila Odinga. It is worth noting that the general election was conducted against the background of total rejection of relevant institutional reforms to the electoral process by the incumbent regime.

Having mounted a successful campaign, the Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) won the election but had its victory denied in bungled process that left the country on fire leading to post election violence. These protests and pressure from the international community led to a negotiated power-sharing deal on a 50-50 basis. This led to the signing of the National Accord which was later enacted into law by parliament. The grand coalition government was born with Kibaki retaining the presidency and Raila assuming the Prime Minister's position.

The New ConstitutionUnder the National Accord, the grand coalition government was obligated to undertake institutional reforms, national reconciliation and most importantly, complete the constitutional process. On 4th August 2010, a referendum was held on a draft constitution that captured the Orange constitutional aspirations and expectations. On the 28th of the same month, the Orange Democratic Movement registered a landmark victory when the new constitution was promulgated. Democracy on Trial.

Riding on an undertaking to give Kenyans a

Man of the Moment :

Who is Governor Abdulswamad Shariff Nassir?

Mombasa Governor Abdulswamad Shariff Nassir is man on a mission. “Two months after I was sworn in, I sat down with Muguka traders in Mombasa and warned them to stop exposing underage children and young people in Mombasa to the harmful product. They dismissed the concerns as “story za jaba” (phoney tales),” he said at a recent interview.

Then he took decisive leadership action. The Health of the young people of Mombasa is concern the the Governor says he is willing to stake out his entire career for. He has banned the sale and transportation and distribution of the product in Mombasa citing grave health effects on the youth of Mombasa. But who is Governor Abdulswamad Shariff Nassir?

He was born in Majengo, Mombasa to the late Sherrif Nassir and Mama Nassim Sheriff Nassir. As a young boy, he schooled at Coast Academy before moving to Nairobi for his secondary education at the prestigious Lenana School. Thereafter, he pursued his higher education at Inoorero University where he graduated with a Bachelors’ degree in Commerce. He is currently pursuing a Masters’ degree in the same field at the Mt. Kenya University. Always keen and passionate about media and communications, he founded and successfully operated Radio Rahma and served as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) until the year 2013 when he was elected to serve as the Member of Parliament for Mvita Constituency on an Orange Democratic Movement



(ODM) Party ticket and rising to the seat previously held by his late father.

During his decade-long tour of duty as MP, he worked faithfully and dutifully to represent the people of Mvita, legislate in their interests, defend Devolution and support the full implementation of the Constitution. Most importantly, he has been at the heart of efforts to unite the diverse communities residing in Mombasa county by creating a sense of communal belonging where everybody feels welcome regardless of religious or ethnic background.

The pinnacle of his Parliamentary service was his election as the Chairman of the Public Investments Committee which is the statutory committee mandated with the accounting oversight of state corporations. It was widely reported that he excelled in this role and

saved the Kenyan taxpayer billions of shillings through his diligence and attention to detail.

Recently he has taken health problems facing young people of Mombasa head-on, but the Governor also has very clear understanding of all challenges facing the Coastal Town. He has confronted many of them as a Member of Parliament for the past ten years and is now boldly addressing them as the County Chief Executive.

“Two months after I was sworn in, I sat down with Muguka traders in Mombasa and warned them to stop exposing underage children and young people in Mombasa to the harmful product. They dismissed the concerns as “story za jaba” (phoney tales),”

ODM News Round-UP



Governor Wanga

Receives Homa Bay Healthcare Partners

Homa Governor Gladys Wanga received a courtesy call from representatives of partners of the County including Dr. Ruth Masha (NSDCC), Sharon Dimanche (IOM), Dr. Shaheen Nilofer (UNICEF), Mr. Paul Mkwinja (UNFPA), Dr. Medhin Tsehau (UNAIDS) and other stakeholders ahead of a high-level experiential visit on Ending the Triple Threat of new HIV infections, teenage pregnancies and SGBV. The Governor is leading Homa Bay County's efforts towards #KomeshaMimbazaUtoton i #EndTripleThreat #UnlockingEndlessPotential

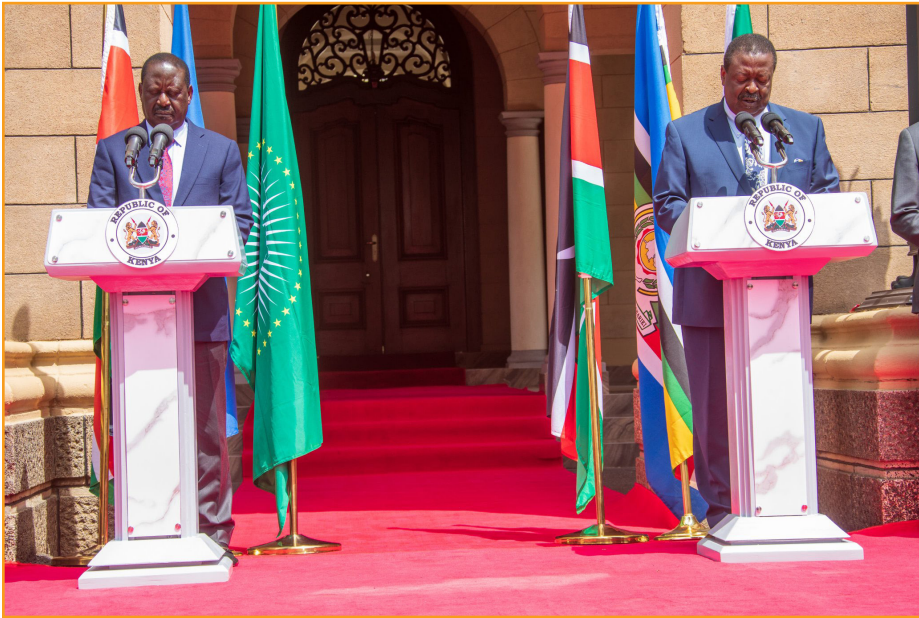
Kisii County Partners with ILO Accel Project

Kisii County and the ILO Accel Project have formed a partnership to address key challenges. They will:

- Enhance child protection policies and combat child labor in sugarcane and soapstone sectors.
 - Strengthen gender and youth policies for greater equality and opportunities.
 - Develop infrastructure to improve access to services and stimulate growth.
 - Increase access to sanitary towels and promote sustainable menstrual hygiene.
- This collaboration aims to foster social, economic, and environmental improvements in Kisii County.



Party Leader Raila Odinga & Musalia Mudavadi kick off Kenya's Campaign for top seat



Party Leader Raila Odinga and Prime Cabinet Secretary and Foreign and Diaspora Affairs CS Musalia Mudavadi this past week unveiled the government's campaign roadmap for Africa Union Commission chairperson Kenya bid.

The Prime CS revealed that the government of Kenya has set up an elaborate secretariat made of government bureaucrats and strategists to spearhead Raila's bid.

The Secretariat includes officials from the government and Raila's team that will work around the clock to facilitate the Party Leader's campaign.

"Today I want to update the nation on Kenyan candidacy for the AUC, let me thank Raila for the fruitful meeting and discussions we have had this morning," he said.

Mudavadi termed Raila a visionary leader who has the chance of winning the seat and taking the African Union to the next level. "We have a visionary leader to fire up the African Union to greater levels," Mudavadi said. He said Raila espouses the principles which the continent pursues in high regard including the spirit of Panafrikanism. "We have no doubt that the can-

didate will pursue the vision," Mudavadi said. Mudavadi lauded President William Ruto for fully endorsing Raila and for continuing to extensively engage with his counterparts. "So far our candidature has been positively received," he said. He said that as the CS for Foreign Affairs, he will continue to amplify the candidature with his counter-

parts for Kenya's objectives. Mudavadi said that as per the schedule of the election calendar, the deadline for submission of Raila's candidature is on August 6.

"This is Kenya's candidate. The state has established a campaign secretariat which includes the candidate's strategy team," Mudavadi said. He said the submission of the resume of the candidate will take place six months to the election set for February 2025.

"This is not a localized issue or a village interest but a national interest, we see an embodiment of those interests in Raila," he said.

Mudavadi said the secretariat team will be preparing campaign materials and translating Raila's resume into six languages for submission by June.

"An empirical campaign will be developed which will look at the weakness and challenges of the candidate," he said. Mudavadi said Raila has the credentials and the passion to advocate for Kenya's interests globally.



Behind Kenya's Misadventure In Haiti



Street Gangs in Haiti. Photo courtesy

Last month, the Kenya government dispatched the first contingent of 100 police officers to Haiti, with another 900 due to follow as Kenya takes up the leadership of a United Nations-sanctioned multiple foreign forces to help restore law and order in the Caribbean country.

Deputy Inspector General of Administration Police Noor Gabow is leading the delegation that visited Port au Prince last year for planning and reconnaissance. Gabow, who will serve as the Force Commander of the Multinational Security Support Mission, is already in the gang violence-hit country.

But the involvement of Kenya raises

a number of fundamental questions. Number one, why Kenya, an African country situated some 12,000 kilometres away, and not other Caribbean or Latin American countries? Number two, does Kenya's police that has been unable to deal with security challenges in large parts of the country's northern territory and part of the coast competent enough to give a helping hand to others facing security breakdown?

Number three, Haitians speak French while Kenya speaks Kiswahili and English yet effective policing is dependent on effective communication – unless our boys and girls in blue are going to let teargas and bullets speak for them.

Number four, looking at the level of sophistication in equipment and tools of our police against what the gangs in Haiti are reputed to possess, does our officers able to match them? Are we sending sittings ducks to Haiti? Number five – and perhaps most fundamental – why has Kenya agreed to be outsourced by the United States government to clean up the mess it has created and sustained for 100 years? On May 23, US President Joe Biden on expressed deep appreciation to Kenyan President William Ruto for the coming deployment of Kenyan police forces to help quell gang violence in Haiti. He went on to defend his decision to withhold American forces from the mission in that beleaguered nation.

The US has agreed to contribute \$300 million to a multinational force that will include the 1,000 Kenyan police officers, but Biden argued that an American troop presence in Haiti would raise “all kinds of questions that can easily be misrepresented... Haiti is in an area of the Caribbean that is very volatile,” Biden said at a joint news conference with Ruto. “There’s a lot going on in this hemisphere. So we’re in a situation where we want to do all we can without us looking like America once again is stepping over and deciding this is what must be done.”

The history of Haiti is a history of nation and a people that has hardly known the taste of freedom, peace and prosperity. We are scandalised by the action of Ruto regime to enlist Kenya in the roll of Haiti’s oppressors. It should be appreciated that Haiti is the first black-free state in the West rising from slavery and has been an independent country for 220 years from 1804 to 2024 and most of that time the USA has controlled and ruined Haiti. In terms of these fake peacekeeping activities the US is always there and ended up running away in the last 20 years.

They don’t want to go there anymore because they know the consequences.

Over those two hundred years, the US has played a destabilising role in the economic and political activity of Haiti, its close neighbour to the south. Following its declaration of independence, the US refused to recognize Haiti as a country for sixty years. Haiti declared its independence from France on January 1st, 1804. From 1791 to 1804, the slaves of Haiti, then known as the French colony Saint-Domingue, fought off their French slave owners. France fought to hold on to Haiti, as it was their wealthiest colony, exporting sugar, indigo, and coffee. In 1804, under the leadership of Toussaint L’Ouverture, they succeeded in throwing off their colonial power. The Haitian Revolution marked a significant event in history. Haiti became the first modern state to abolish slavery, the first state in the world to be

formed from a successful revolt of the lower classes (in this case slaves), and the second republic in the Western Hemisphere, only twenty-eight years behind the United States of America.

Despite this historic happening, the US did little to positively respond to the Haitian Revolution. Southern plantation owners, fearful of revolts from their own slaves, worked to prevent their slaves from learning of the Haitian Revolution. They also pressured the US government to refuse to recognize Haitian independence, which it did until 1862, after Southern states seceded from the Union.

It has been argued that beyond economic



Battle fo control amid unrest, Photo Courtesy

motives, Americans did not acknowledge the Haitian Revolution because they simply could not understand or feared it. The concept of slaves overthrowing their French masters and ruling themselves in a nation was not only threatening, it was unthinkable, “ a revolution by Blacks definitely was something that could not be”

While the US government refused to diplomatically recognize Haiti, it continued trade relations with the new nation. Prior to the revolution, the United States was a large trade partner with Haiti, second only to its colonial power, France. Throughout the 19th century, the US continued to import Haitian agricultural products and export its own goods to Haiti, with unfavorable trade policies for Haitians. In

fact, by the mid-19th century the United States exported more goods to Haiti than to any other country in Latin America. During the 19th century, its first century as a nation, Haiti was heavily burdened and its development stuck; it was forced to repay France in order to receive diplomatic recognition, and was diplomatically isolated from all other major powers.

In 1915, the US Marine Corps invaded Haiti, and remained in the country for almost twenty years. Ostensibly there to keep peace within the country, the military played an important role in re-shaping Haiti’s government and in forming their national army. That national army is infamous today for its undemocratic coups and violations of human rights.

The military occupation also provided an opportunity for the US to strengthen its economic ties with the country. In the late 19th century and early 20th century, the US attempted to revitalize mercantilism in the Caribbean, with a large focus on Haiti. This trade had devastating effects on country, as Haiti models how “foreign trade” can foster socioeconomic decline.

For fifty-five years since the withdrawal of US troops, Haiti had to do with the father and son complete thugs Papa Doc Duvalier and Baby Doc Duvalier ruining the country to its knees until the Lavalas revolution led by Jean Bertrand Aristide brought democracy to Haiti in 1991, which was 190 years since Haiti slaves defeated French Colonialists in 1801.

In between, Haiti had to deal with the Duvalier thugs in government. Papa Doc was so hideous that he actually made up the Lord’s prayer for himself that kids had to sing in school before classes and Haitians had to recite that every day.

“Our Doc, who art in the National Palace for life, Hallowed be Thy name

by present and future generations. They will be done at Port-au-Prince and in the provinces. Give us this day our new Haiti and never forgive the trespasses of the anti-patriots who spit every day on our country; let them succumb to temptation, and under the weight of their venom, deliver them not from any evil . . .”

Many attempts at democratic elections in Haiti were aborted through the US-sponsored violence. Eventually, in December 1990, Haiti completed its first democratic elections. Jean-Bertrand Aristide, a Catholic priest with tremendous support from the black poor of the country, was elected with 67% of the vote, and took office on February 7, 1991. On September 29, 1991, the Haitian military removed him from office and forced him to sign a resignation. He spent the next three years in exile, returning in 1994 and serving out his term until February 1996. During the time of his exile, the country was in chaos, and its next political elections were not approved by international election commissions. The U.S. military occupied Haiti from 1994-1997 in order to “establish peace” and “restore democracy.”

In 2000, Aristide won another presidential election, garnering over 92% of the votes. The US was not pleased by the outcome. The next several years saw violence and political agitation in Haiti. On February 28th, 2004, Aristide was taken from the country by the Haitian and American militaries and flown to South Africa, where he is still in exile. The hand of the US government in this could not be concealed. The Haitian military and the Haitian National Intelligence Service, set up and funded by the CIA in the 1980s, were both key players in the coups against Aristide.

Haiti has endured poverty, political instability and natural disasters for decades. International intervention in Haiti has a complicated history. A U.N.- approved stabilization mission to Haiti that started in June 2004 was marred by a sexual abuse

scandal and the introduction of cholera, which killed nearly 10,000 people. The mission ended in October 2017.

Now, for some pocket change, the Ruto regime sends Kenya’s police officers in harm’s way to try and accomplish a mission the US has been unable to accomplish in 100 years. The US government announced a \$7 million (approximately Ksh.930 million) partnership to advance and strengthen the modernization and professionalization of Kenya’s National Police Service.

At the same time, the US government has pledged \$4.9 million (approximately



Haiti declares state of emergency after mass prison escape. Photo Courtesy

Ksh.650 million) to help Kenya combat transnational organized crime. “Funding also supports capacity building and reform efforts within the Kenyan police and justice sectors,” the White House said in a fact sheet to Newsrooms during Ruto’s visit.

“Recognizing the regional role Kenya plays in combating transnational organized crime, the United States intends to provide \$4.9 million in new funding for Kenya and other East African countries to improve cooperation and coordination in combating criminal networks and holding criminals accountable.”

Other security sectors that will benefit from President Ruto’s visit to Washington include the Defence Ministry, which is set to receive

a 16-helicopter and 150-armoured vehicle fleet. According to a White House statement, the 16 helicopters include eight Hueys to support regional peace and security and eight MD-500s to increase Kenya’s participation in peacekeeping missions. According to the White House, the aircraft are scheduled to arrive in Nairobi between late 2024 and 2025.

As part of deepening a legacy of military training and capacity building between the two countries, in the summer of 2024, for the first time, the Kenya Defence Forces will have candidates starting courses at the

U.S. Military Academy, the U.S. Naval Academy, and the U.S. Air Force Academy. This, according to the White House, will go a long way in building on a long tradition of the majority of Kenyan general officers benefiting from U.S. International Military Education Training courses.

“The U.S. military currently has seven advisors

in Kenya supporting Kenyan aviators and for the first time, the United States is providing a Strategic Logistics Advisor to Kenya’s Ministry of Defense,” said the White House.

The last sweetener thrown Ruto’s way was to be designated a “non-NATO ally” – whatever that means if not putting Kenyans in the harm’s way. Now America’s enemies automatically become ours too.

The last attempt by the US government to “bring law and order” in Haiti was from 1994 to 1997. This is the last US mission that failed in Haiti and they had more weapons than the Haitian army and police combined. Now they want to throw Kenya in there. With What?

Sudan, The Forgotten African Crisis



Solders patrolling streets in Sudan. Photo Courtesy

Sudan, Africa's third largest country is now today the world's largest displacement crisis: Almost 9 million people – 9 million people – have been forced to flee to other parts of Sudan or neighbouring countries. Horrific atrocities are being committed with reckless abandon. Reports of rape, torture and ethnically motivated violence are streaming in. Indiscriminate attacks are killing civilians, including young children.

Most of the population lacks access to health care. An entire generation of children is missing out on education. Famine is on the horizon, threatening millions of lives. And the window to act is closing fast: We have just six weeks before the lean season sets in – when food becomes less available and more expensive. This coincides with two other deadlines: the start of the rainy season, when reaching people in need becomes even more difficult, and the end of the planting season, which could fail if we aren't able to procure and deliver seeds for farmers.

Over the past year, thousands of lives have been lost. Communities and families have been torn apart. Homes and civilian infrastructure have been destroyed. Khartoum – the beating heart of Sudan – has been decimated. No one – and nothing – has been spared. In short – the people of Sudan are in the path of a perfect storm that

is growing more lethal by the day.

In the wake of current urban displacement, some displaced populations have sought shelter in schools, while most have taken refuge within host communities. With the prolonged war depleting the resources of and limited humanitarian assistance, the number of "gathering sites"—mainly schools used as shelters—is increasing. Currently, 2,579 schools (13 per cent of all schools) are being used as shelters for internally displaced people (IDPs) affected by the conflict, affecting the learning of nearly 2 million children. Schools should be the last resort for shelter, but those with water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) facilities and walled fences, typically girls' schools, are often used. However, the longer a school is used as a shelter, the longer it takes to resume its educational function.

Damage to buildings and the complexities of resettling displaced people further complicate the situation. Over the past year, there have been reports of eviction threats. In some states, authorities have carried out forced evictions without consulting on alternative solutions, often to resume the school year.

This crisis follows years of struggle by the Sudanese people to have a voice of their own. The revolution was led by the wom-

en, and many of them find themselves in dire conditions.

Sudanese people are asking why the world turns a blind eye as the third-largest country in Africa is laid to waste. African states are commenting with justified passion and empathy about the Israeli genocide in Gaza. They are taking opposing sides about the war in Ukraine. But they are paying scant attention on one of their own.

There is no extensive media coverage, and nobody cares about what's happening to the people of Sudan. The little attention we attract fades away immediately. It's the opposite of what is happening in Gaza. All the media channels are about is Gaza, Ukraine and Gaza. Yet the situation in Sudan is more dire. Is it because crises in Africa are no longer news?

"The crisis in Sudan, including the ongoing genocide in Darfur, is a human catastrophe," Sen. James Risch of Idaho, ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told Fox News Digital. "President Biden has the power to highlight and influence this tragedy, but he remains silent."

"Despite Congress and the Sudanese people's desperate pleas for more action, the Biden Administration offers only empty statements and commitments and no real accountability," Risch continued.

In February, the State Department announced the appointment of Tom Perriello as special envoy to Sudan. But Risch is dismissive.

"Even the U.S. envoy, who has an opportunity to offer greater U.S. leadership on Sudan, suffers from the same ineptitude and political indifference that has characterized this administration since the war's outset," he said.

African states and people cannot simply stand by as this crisis spirals out of control – as the noose of this conflict tightens its stranglehold on the civilian population. It is time for increased attention, increased intervention, increased advocacy, and increased resources. Another failed state is in the offing in Africa. We must nip it in the bud.

Lamu's Mama Chungwa Hon. Zahara Shee Passes On



Hon. Zahara Shee passes on. Photo courtesy

One of the founding members of the party in Coastal region Mama Zahara Shee died last month after a short illness.

Mama Zahara popularly known as Mama Chungwa wa Pwani spent her life and time championing for the rights of the people of the Coast and in particular, Lamu County where she also served in the local County Assembly.

Party Leader Mr. Raila Odinga mourned Mama Zahara as a dedicated and loyal member of the party who tirelessly and almost single handedly made sure the party remained visible in the county.

“She was a loyal member of our movement. She fought for the party, championed for the rights of the people of Lamu and Coastal region in general. She was a darling of the people in the party”, he said.

Deputy Party Leader Mr. Ali Hassan Joho who led the ODM brigade at the funeral of Mama Zahara described her as an enthusiastic member of the party who worked tirelessly to popularize the party in Lamu.

“Mama Zahara Shee was a dedicated life member of the party. She embodied the spirit and values of the party and defended everywhere she went. We shall miss her a

lot”, said Mr. Joho.

Mama Zahara was aid to rest at her home in Shela Ward in Lamu East constituency of Lamu County.

Ends...



Uganda Party Officials Visit Chungwa House On A Learning Tour

Members of the Justice Forum (JEE-MA) Party in Uganda on Tuesday visited Chungwa House as part of their learning experience in Kenya.

The JEEMA party officials shared their experiences in the murky waters of politics in Uganda and described their visit to the ODM party as a milestone.

Led by the party's Secretary for External Affairs Mr. Ssentogo Abdulnoor Kyamundu, the delegation recounted their party's participation in the struggle for liberation in Uganda saying it hasn't been an easy journey. However they remained optimistic that the wind of change “will soon visit our country”.

During their study tour of Chungwa House, the party headquarters, the JEEMA party officials received by the Director of Communications Mr. Philip Etale and the Party's Legal Affairs and Parliamentary Liaison Officer Mr. Tony Moturi who took them through the journey of the ODM since it's inception, the ideology and mission.

They were also taken through the process of membership registration and recruitment of new members through digital platforms. ODM was the first political party to go paper free in the registration of members. “We have fully established offices in 43 out of 47 Counties even when the law says that a party must have offices in 24 counties for it to be recognized. We are leading from the front” said Mr. Etale.

Mr. Moturi said despite the challenges brought by the delay in disbursement of money meant for political parties through the political parties fund (PPF), ODM continues to carry out its activities with the aim of keeping its support base intact. During the meeting, the Ugandan delegation had the opportunity to speak to the ODM Leader Mr. Raila Odinga on the phone. Mr. Odinga welcomed the team to Chungwa House and wished them fruitful deliberations.

Other officials in the Ugandan delegation were Mr. Musanje Harunah Chwa (Youth Leader), Mr. Kasozi Abdulwahab (Organizing Secretary - Youth League), Mr. Namakanjo Deric Fredrick (Legal Affairs Officer), Mr. Kyagera Yasin (Party Leader - Kisoro District), Mr. Kato Vincent (Chairman - Kagadi District), Mr. Omaali Charles (Party Vice President - Eastern Region), Mr. Muhindi Kennedy (Chairman - Rukungiri District) and Dr. Omar Dawood Kalinge (Learning Coordinator).

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