

# The ORANGE

## NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT PARTY OF KENYA

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## ***Taxing to Loot Must Stop!***

The irrational, punitive and disgraceful 2024/2025 Finance Bill that has been imposed by the Kenya Kwanza regime, in spite of popular outrage and widespread rebellion it has elicited in the country, is symptomatic of an illegitimate client regime that answers to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other foreign masters especially the USA and that does not listen to nor care for its own people. *Continues to pg2*

# Taxing to Loot Must Stop!

*Continues from pg1*

President Ruto and the incompetent and thieving Kenya Kwanza regime he leads are shameless neocolonial marionettes of foreign interests that believe that the reason for their existence is to serve themselves and foreign interests. For that reason, the kakistocratic cabal ruining the country believes that their primary duty is to impose taxes, however painful they may be, and repatriate the funds to foreign shylocks while squandering the rest in obscene public display of extravagance and opulence.

There is very little to show for all the taxes they have collected and innumerable debts that have accumulated in just under two years in office yet the regime is ready to kill and maim hundreds of Kenyans innocently and peacefully demonstrating to express their opposition to government taxation proposals.

Why would a government find it necessary to massacre innocent citizens simply because those people are opposed to unjustifiable tax increases?

## Ruto: The Absolutist Monarch

President Ruto is a tyrant with little regards for the Constitution of Kenya 2010 (CoK 2010) and imagines that his word is the law of the land. Besides his numerous

democratic deficits Ruto has an antiquated notion of taxation that is absolutist and monarchical from an era gone by in which Kings and Queens purported to possess divine authority derived from, and exercised on behalf of, God. He lives in a time warp in which he can exercise arbitrary and whimsical powers to impose taxes without reasonable justification and popular consent. He seems to forget that times have changed, and he now exercises

and justify why it needs revenue raised through taxation. It is for that reason that public participation is a central feature of the public policy process in Kenya. It is meant to ensure continuous engagement for transparency, accountability and securing the consent of the governed.

However, President Ruto seems to imagine that God ordained him and the state to raise taxes. He believes that the Kenya



Kwanza manifesto and his wishes for Kenya supersedes the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and the wishes of the people as expressed in public participation sessions. He forgets that the state and its tax imposition authority is a social contract that must continuously be negotiated between citizens and the state.

The taxation and spending powers

very limited and constrained constitutional authority donated by the people of Kenya.

The President and all state and public officers must be reminded that people don't work to pay taxes but for their own sustenance and prosperity. Taxes are just a result of people agreeing to live together in a social arrangement where they delegate some of their own sovereign authority to the state and its organs to be exercised by state and public officers. Citizens can exercise such delegated authority directly and so they retain the right to recall that delegated authority from the delegates if and when they deem it necessary. The government must therefore justify its existence

bestowed upon the state must therefore be justified on an ongoing basis, and governments must quantify what services each and every tax is going to pay for and must provide proof that the promised public works, goods and services were faithfully delivered as agreed before seeking and obtaining another authority to levy taxes anew.

Even though the present crisis has been triggered by the controversial Finance Bill 2024/2025 the question is not just about how to raise taxes to spend from year to year but is generally about the broader question of the management of our public finances. Public Finance Management



concerns the determination of how and where to spend public funds and how and from where to raise the taxes and revenues from other potential sources. This involves identifying, justifying and prioritizing needs to be funded in any financial year and not just how to raise taxes to spend in a financial year.

The root of the crisis in the management of public finances in Kenya is to be found in the neocolonial character of the parasitic ruling cabal recklessly borrowing from predatory international and domestic finance capitalist lenders preying on their insatiable appetite for ill-gotten wealth. The kleptocratic cabals in neocolonial such as Kenya are typically content to enter into inequitable transactions that sink their countries as long as they are enabled to line their pockets from the proceeds. The cabal ruling Kenya is also fond of profligate public spending and cutting corrupt public procurement deals that have left the country with dubious “white elephant” projects huge and spiraling pending bills. The wastage and the corruption scourge are compounded by numerous odious and dubious debts incurred in the name of the country. A good example of such debts is the Eurobond which the KK regime is proud to have cleared recently by borrowing from other sources to pay!

When the debt was incurred in 2014 the then Auditor General and the Controller of Budget publicly complained that the proceeds of this debt was never deposited into the Consolidated Fund as required by the Constitution of Kenya 2010 and consequently, they did not know and could not verify whether and where the funds were spent and if ever it benefited the country. There are many other similar cases that calls for thorough public inquiries and forensic audits to determine whether we should be having them in our debt books and whether and how much we should be paying if at all.

It is clear that over the last decade the ruling cabals in government have been engaging in reckless borrowing and looting sprees in total disregard and violation of the laid down constitutional and legal frameworks for managing public finances. It is commonly known, (and government itself acknowledges), that we lose at least 30% of the budgeted funds every year to

corruption which is just another name for looting. That means that in this year's Ksh. 4 trillion budget about Ksh. 1.3 trillion is destined to be lost. If such wanton wastage exists why would the long-suffering taxpayers be subjected to the ritual of reflexive and mandatory annual increases implied in the Finance Bill?

A government committed to prudent management of our public finances and resources would have sealed the leakages in the revenue raising and spending chain in government to secure sufficient resources to actually come up with a Finance Bill that reduces taxes and increases the disposable incomes available to both firms and households. This would in turn stimulate growth and generate renewed growth and prosperity to the benefit of the national economy. To the contrary the regime has continued to draft Finance Bills alongside ever rising spending budgets. The retired Auditor General Edward Ouko publicly complained that corruption in Kenya is actually budgeted for deliberately. Clearly these Finance Bills are intended to impoverish the taxpayers by increasing taxes paid by households and firms and thus reducing incomes and spending powers of consumers. This has the impact of smothering economic activities as firms shutdown completely or relocate to friendlier business environments. Such shutdowns lead to layoffs and rising unemployment in the country.

Since it is common knowledge that we could relieve our taxpayers the pain of the annually spiraling taxes and levies by improved financial management one may wonder why remedial measures are not being aggressively pursued unless those running the country are themselves beneficiaries of the mismanagement.

## Must Taxes Be Oppressive?

Governments concerned with the welfare of ordinary people



will use taxation and public spending to good effect for the protection and benefit of vulnerable groups in society, the stimulation and protection of domestic producers, creation of jobs and diversification and integration of the national economy. On the other hand, a neocolonial economy run by a client regime with foreign patrons such as the Kenya Kwanza regime will waste the opportunity to deploy such fiscal policies to stimulate the domestic economy and secure the survival of the poor. Isn't it bizarre that with the adverse economic consequences of the Finance Act 2023/2024 on the economy and welfare of many people President Ruto goes around telling everyone that he has determined that we are under-taxed and is going to turn the screw to squeeze taxes to squander at a time that every imaginable tax has been raised and the minimal and scrappy public services are being scrapped.

The Ruto tax and squander doctrine seems to be: The higher the tax rate, the fewer and poorer the services offered by the regime!

Ruto is busy increasing taxes and levies while cutting down on anything that benefits the poor. He for example is abolishing school feeding programs and reducing doctors' pay while increasing taxes.

This regime seems not to understand that the primary duty of government in managing the economy is to lower the cost of living and improve the quality of life and living standards of everyone, particularly the poor and disadvantaged rather than merely increasing government tax revenues. They ought to realize that people work to improve their lot and not to pay taxes to the government. Taxes should, therefore, be levied only to do those things we agree are best offered collectively by the state and especially those which will enhance the productivity of most people in the economy.

Otherwise, the government should let people make spending, saving, and investment decisions at the household and firms level. The Government has the tendency to squander public funds, thus starving the economy of funds and resources needed for broad-based development that benefits everyone rather than a privileged tiny minority as is presently the case.

Since the KK regime had promised to set up a state capture commission people expected the inquiry would delve into the dubious odious debts and deal decisively with the corruption scourge. However unsurprisingly they declared that they would not be concerned with or prioritize the tackling of corruption. It appears that the corrupt have a comfortable sanctuary in the KK government.

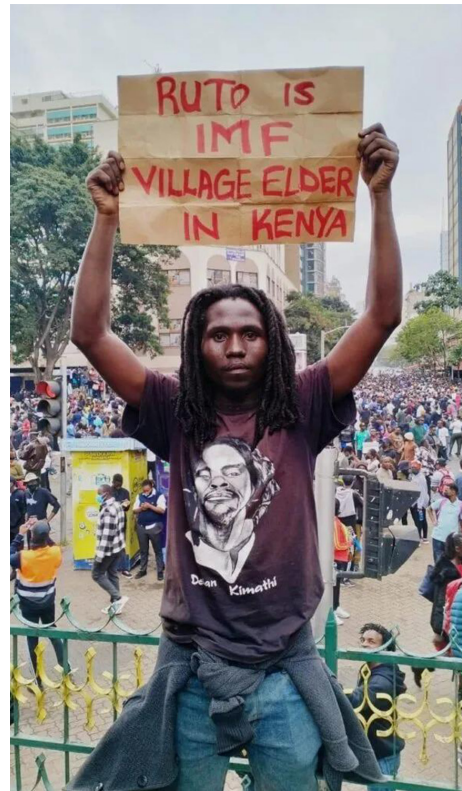
Because for the KK cabal democratic accountability is an unnecessary irritant to be ignored it is difficult

for the public to entrust them with increasing taxes especially when the corruption cases for KK insiders are being withdrawn from the criminal justice system in unusual numbers and inexplicable circumstances. Moreover, they have the outlook of a feudal absolutist monarchy that doesn't care to have a rational basis for the types of taxes they impose nor for the manner in which they spend the public funds.

## The IMF Must Let Our People Go!

This is compounded by the fact of IMF conditionalities which have been imposed on the country and enthusiastically swallowed by the regime. Being undertakers and funeral directors, the

IMF is only keen on extracting their pound of flesh to repay dubious foreign creditors on whose account they are here. All that matters to Ruto and



the IMF is that they want more money out of this dying nation, and they want it fast before it passes out.

In a recent television appearance even, the Principal Secretary at the Nation-

al Treasury came out as having little idea of the rationale behind the tax proposals in the Bill signifying that the proposals are not the product of the Government. Clearly these days the Treasury is given instructions by the IMF from State House where the Presidential Council of Economic Advisors rules the roost. Apparently, those in ministries therefore don't have to apply themselves and think through the proposals.

Whoever still doubts that a neo-colony is just a colony by another name, should visit Kenya, and see for themselves how the US ambassador and the IMF literally run the country on day to day basis and dictate to government what must be done and what cannot be done. That is precisely what Mzee Jaramogi Oginga Odinga was saying in his book, Not Yet Uhuru.

We need to be free and independent from all these external forces who routinely dictate what we can do or not do. We have to get rid of these imperialists to regain our independence and restore our dignity. Clearly, we don't need any tax increases and the Bill must be rejected. With the innocent blood of youth in their hands, the bloodthirsty KK brigands are unfit to run Kenya anymore. Besides sucking our lifeblood and transferring our wealth to their Western imperialist masters they are now massacring and shedding the blood of our innocent children. We reject them!. We need a government that will eliminate the criminal waste of public funds, reconstruct the national economy, restore people's lives and livelihoods, and restore our dignity so that the people of Kenya can breathe in freedom.



# Government arrests popular Social Media users in a bid to stop Anti-Finance Bill protests.



Several social media users in Kenya were on Monday night abducted by unknown people in their residences for their stand against the draconian Finance Bill 2024 which the Kenya Kwanza administration is determined to have it passed and implemented.

Despite the spirited opposition by members of the Minority Party in the National Assembly, taating Kenyans to stage street protests.

The social media users seized the occasion to start hashtags that went viral to sensitize Kenyans on the bad things about the Finance Bill 2024. On Saturday last week, popular X users (formerly twitter) led by one Osama Otero started a X Spaces where over 150,000 X users joined in. The discussion was about the Finance Bill and used the it to urge Kenyans to continue opposing the bill.

In a surprise turn of events, senior government officials including the President, Cabinet Secretaries, legislators allied to the Kenya Kwanza administration and communication officers from government joined the spaces as listeners while others chose to contribute to the debate. It was evident that Kenyans are tired and angry with the government.

From that time, arbitrary arrests and abductions have been going on with most social media users being the targets. Officials said this was among the strategies being used by the government to defuse the planned nationwide protests against the proposed taxes.

Among those picked and held incommunicado is Gabriel Oguda who uses his X account to speak about the ills in the government. His home was raided at 2:48 am on Tuesday morning by unknown people. "I can confirm that my brother has been taken by unknown gunmen from his house 5 minutes ago", his brother Zachary Oguda posted on his X account at 2:53am Tuesday.

Osama Otero was also abducted by unknown people who raided his house in Nairobi. Others who were abducted by armed men are Drey Mwangi, Temper-CR7, Harriet, Shadrack Kiprono, Franje, Worldsmith and Hilla254.

In what appeared to be a coordinated roundup, Osama Otero posted about strangers at his home almost the same time as Oguda.

However, the abductions did not deter the angry Gen Zs from pouring in the streets to protest against the Finance Bill on Tuesday. Street protests were reported in major towns of Nairobi, Kisumu, Mombasa, Nakuru, Nyeri, Eldoret, Kiambu among others.

The arrests prompted the Leader of the Minority Party Mr. Opiyo Wandayi to seek guidance from the Speaker of the National Assembly Mr. Moses Wetang'ula on the motive behind the arrest of Mr. Oguda, who is an officer in the Office of the Minority Leader in Parliament and the others also abducted in the wee hours of the night.

He demanded that the arrested Kenyans be produced and taken to court to face the charges under which they had been arrested.

## Mutua, tell Ruto protestors have families too

Stupidity is something Kenyans expect from their politicians particularly this Kenya Kwanza group of politicians but at the end of the day there has to be a limit to stupidity.

Tourism and Wildlife Cabinet Secretary Alfred Mutua obsession with how the protestors against Finance Bill 2024 are responsible for a police officer blowing his own hand with his teargas which he came with to brutalize protestors is one example where someone refuses to accept that being stupid is okay but don't go overboard with it, please.

This is like saying if someone is trying to kill you and end up killing themselves then you are responsible for their death. In which world do people reason like that?

Who gave the injured officers the teargas? What was the teargas intended to be used for in a peaceful demonstration by Kenyans over a Finance Bill that will have a lot of effect on their lives? IG Koome with orders from President William Ruto sent armed police to go brutalize Kenyans doing what is legal in the country.

The way that officer blew his hand was the way the police officers were blowing up peoples heads and hitting them with teargas all over Nairobi. If Ruto is going to be sending cops to go attack Kenyans with teargas at least train them on how to use the damn teargas. In this case, the police officer was trying to throw the teargas at the demonstrators and ended up throwing it at himself. Why is that anybody else's problem?

Speaking on Wednesday in Narok during the launch of the National Wildlife Census, Mutua expressed his frustration with the conduct of youths which has now led to the maiming of the cop identified as Chief Inspector David Karuri Maina. Mutua underscored the gravity of the injury to the officer and the effect it would have on his life and that of his children, saying the blood of the officer is on the protestors' hands.

## Vote out those who supported the Finance Bill, Osotsi urges Vihiga residents

“As we sit here today, Chief Inspector David Karuri Maina has lost both his arms, today he is disabled, this man is a son, a husband and a father... the protesters have disabled him,” he said. “My beautiful young people who are being driven by propaganda, look at the facts, don’t get involved in activism and violence that leads to bloodshed. That officer who lost his hands, his blood is on you who were demonstrating and causing violence.” Inspector Maina lost both of his arms while attempting to lob teargas at demonstrators.

Police reports indicated that Maina detonated a tear gas canister and delayed releasing it, which exploded in his hands, “severely injuring both hands from the wrist down and causing him to lose both forearms”.

“Let it be a lesson to all of us that the things we do in the name of fighting for ourselves, there are consequences to everything we do. Kenya is a good country but we need to be responsible with the powers that are given to us by our constitution,” he stated.

The former Machakos governor pledged to donate Ksh.1 million to help the cop and his family. “I together with Governor Ntutu will give Ksh.1 million to take to the officer so as to try and help him because life has completely changed for him,” he said.

How much money is Mutua contributing to help fund treatment for the many victims of police violence on June 18, 2024. How much money did Mutua donate to the Kenyans including kids killed by the Kenya police during the mass rallies in July 2023 or was Mutua just thankful that some Kenyans were being killed by the police.

Is Mutua going to contribute money to this Kenyan woman being brutalized by a police officer who knocked her down and left yelling “wacha akufie hapo”. And when is this cop being arrested and charged with committing violence against a Kenyan who was just standing doing nothing. In the new world of cell phones every Kenyan is a journalist who can video all police actions against citizens.

*[Courtesy of Maurice Adongo in Canada]*



Senator of Vihiga County Mr. Godfrey Osotsi has urged the residents of Vihiga County show the door Members of the National Assembly who voted for the controversial Finance Bill 2024.

Speaking at Mudete in Sabatia Constituency on Sunday when he met members of various women groups in North Maragoli Ward, Mr. Osotsi said he was perturbed that the legislators never learned anything when Kenyans called them out for supporting last year’s Finance Bill which introduced the Housing tax among other proposals and went ahead to vote for a more draconian one this year.

“These leaders don’t respect you people and the only way to stop them from disrespecting you is by voting them out in 2027”, he said.

He singled out the Woman MP for Vihiga County Ms. Beatrice Adagala and the Member of Parliament for Emuhaya Mr. Omboko Milemba as the most notorious ones. “These two leaders are so notorious, they come to lie to you

here then when they go to parliament, they vote for laws that continue to hurt you”, he added.

He said 2027 will be the year of change and urged the young people to register as voters so as to exercise their democratic right of electing good leaders at the ballot. “I am very happy with what the Gen Zs are doing. They should now use the opportunity to register as voters so that they can vote for the right leaders, not leaders who only care about their families and their stomachs”, added Mr. Osotsi.

He said so far, the ODM party has registers fifteen thousand new members in Vihiga County since the launch of the membership registration exercise in September last year and encouraged more people particularly the young ones to join the party. “ODM is the only party that can make Kenyans realize real change and I am urging you to join this party so that we can make it stronger” he said.

During the event, Mr. Osotsi gave out cheques of Sh. 10,000 each to sixteen



women groups as part of his project of empowering women. "This is just from my salary. As you know, in the Senate, we do not have any fund but I said I will be sharing what I earn with you for your benefit", he said.

## Why the Generation Zs should not be ignored



For the past two weeks, the country has witnessed a new wave of demonstrations with protesters calling for a paradigm shift in how the country is run. This was triggered by introduction of the Finance Bill 2024 in parliament by the Kenya Kwanza administration, a bill Kenyans find punitive and draconian considering the economic difficulties Kenyans are going through.

Normally, when the budget is read, and Parliament approves the estimates as presented by the Cabinet Secretary for Treasury, the Finance Bill is presented before parliament for consideration. This is the Bill that contains the government's tax proposals to raise money through taxes to fund the budget.

The 2024/2025 budget is estimated at Ksh. 4.2 trillion shillings which government must find ways and means of financing it, hence the harsh proposals contained the Finance Bill that Kenyans have rejected in total. Of the Sh. 4.2 trillion budget, the national government's projected allocation is

Sh. 2.5 trillion, a slight improvement from the Sh. 2.46 trillion allocated in the current Financial Year, that ends on the 30th of June 2024, and Sh. 391.12 billion which is an increase from the Sh. 385.42 billion currently allocated in an equitable share to the 47 devolved units.

Counties are also expected to receive an additional Sh. 54.72 billion from the Government of Kenya and development partners in the new financial year. The Executive has the lion's share of Sh. 2.44 trillion, an improvement from the Sh. 2.4 trillion allocated in the 2023/2024 financial

year, Parliament has Sh. 41.62 billion up from Sh. 40.74 billion while the Judiciary has been allocated Sh. 23.7 billion up from the current Sh. 22.8 billion. The Consolidated Fund Services (CFS) has been allocated Sh. 1.24 trillion up from Sh. 1.13 trillion with the Equalization Fund set to receive Sh. 7.87 billion.

All these plus other proposed budgetary allocations in the 2024/2025 budget need financing so as to achieve the objective. However, Kenyans feel the tax proposals in the Finance Bill 2024 are punitive and way above their reach. It is with this background that Kenyans have raised concerns over the bill saying the cost of living will go up prompting the prices of commodities to skyrocket.

Last year (2023), the opposition party (Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Coalition) launched street protests across the country to raise concerns over the Finance Bill 2023 as well as the high cost of living. The protests saw the government through the security personnel used excess force that

left tens of people dead and many with life threatening injuries. Kenyans protested at the housing levy, a tax imposed on all salaried Kenyans to fund President William Ruto's ambitious National Housing project. One year down the project remains just an ambition.

Despite the street protests and cries from hungry Kenyans, Legislators allied to the Majority Party in the National Assembly passed the Bill. This year again, a more draconian Finance Bill has been presented in parliament and already, despite the protests by Kenyans majority of them young men and women between 18 and 25 years of age, 204 members of parliament from Kenya Kwanza and their allies voted to pass the bill at stage two, which is the most crucial. 115 members of parliament, majority of them from the minority party, Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Coalition voted to reject the bill.

The decision by Kenya Kwanza administration to push through the Finance Bill at the Second Reading has triggered more anger with Gen Zs insisting on more protests to press parliament to reject it at the Committee stage. The young Kenyans say, unlike their parents who are committed with work and other engagements, they have time to go out in the streets and protest. They argue that since they are unemployed, they will use their energy to fight for their rights.

Unlike in the previous protests where demonstrators engaged police officers in running battles, this year's protests have been different. It is the younger generation that has poured on the streets, unarmed to fight for their rights. And even as they remain unarmed, the overzealous police officers have had to mete violence on protesters ostensibly to try and stop them. In the process, two young Kenyans have been killed sparking more anger from them Gen Zs.

But will President Ruto listen to the cries of Kenyans? Time will tell.

Ends...



## County Mashinani



By Gideon Mung'aro, Governor of Kilifi County

Through the county department of devolution, civic education and public participation, we conducted our county mashinani phase three across all the seven sub counties from 14th -21st of May. During this meaningful Engagement Forum, we made significant commitments to enhance the county's service delivery is up to date in the entire county and that no development sector is left out; Education, health care, water and waste management, roads, youths, women and welfare of the people, tourism and trade among other departments.

Our health is our main priority. We pledged to elevate the status of referral hospitals and dispensaries across the county. We assured the residents that health service delivery would be improve by deploying additional health officers to health centers. The ongoing health facilities will be completed in the next few months. These measures aim to enhance healthcare accessibility and quality for all residents.

To enhance education in our county, we aim to improve the status of TVET colleges by enhancing infrastructure, workshops, and laboratories. This will create a conducive learning environment for students pursuing technical

and vocational skills. Again, we will continue the Early Learners' Feeding Program to support early learners from pre-primary schools, and we plan to increase the feeding program across all counties. Indeed Proper nutrition is crucial for young children's development and learning outcomes. We are also committed to modernizing schools. This could involve upgrading facilities, incorporating technology, and ensuring a contemporary learning experience for students. Water, environment.

To address water scarcity, we aim to enhance clean water availability by repairing water supply pipes and channels. This will improve access to safe drinking water for communities across the county. We also emphasizes making the region cleaner waste reduction, proper disposal, and promoting environmental awareness. A cleaner environment benefits public health. Waste management efforts include implementing the Sustainable Waste Management Act. This law establishes guidelines for waste segregation, land-fill conversion, e-waste management, and more. It also ensures compliance with international conventions.

We have pledged to push for the upgrading of the Malindi International Airport infrastructure. Our vision includes developing an international convention center to boost tourism in the region. The expansion of Malin-

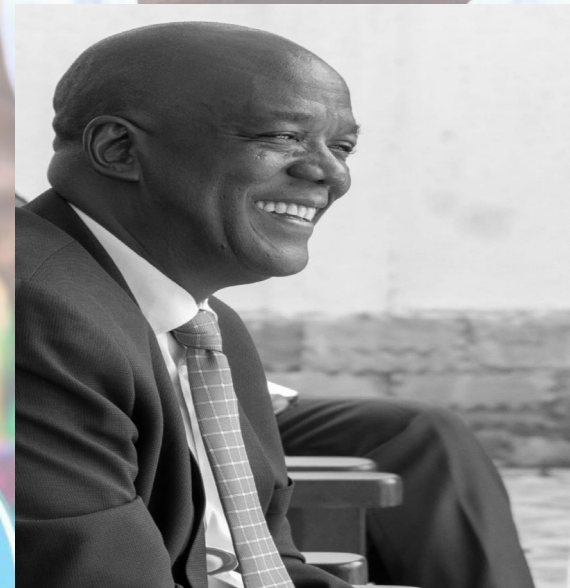
di International Airport has been a long-standing issue, and the government is working on compensation for locals affected by the runway expansion which are in progress.

We are committed to empowering youths through sports and talents by encouraging the youths to participate in the governor's cup. We also promised to at least build a theatre halls in each of the sub counties cross Kilifi County. Through the "Kazi Mtaani" program, we aims to provide employment opportunities for youths. Furthermore, through wezesha fund we plans to create initiatives that specifically benefit women and people with disabilities, fostering inclusivity and economic growth.

My government has promised to address land conflicts by ensuring the issuance of title deeds. This move will provide clarity and security for landowners hence solving the land conflicts and also promoting investment and development in Kilifi County.

County engagement forums have proven to be a dynamic catalyst for community driven development, fostering a collaborative spirit that transcends traditional boundaries. The success stories emerging from these forums underscores the potential of grassroots involvement in driving sustainable and meaningful change.

Pamoja tujenge kilifi.





## ODM Women league, leading from the front.

The ODM Women's League has been a driving force in promoting gender equality and inclusivity within Kenyan politics. The unwavering commitment by the Women League President Hon. Beth Syengo to empowering women has yielded significant successes and paved the way for ambitious future plans.

### Activities:

The Women's League actively engages in various activities to empower women at all levels of the political landscape. These include:

\* **Capacity Building:** Organizing training programs and workshops to equip women with leadership skills, political knowledge, and advocacy tools. This was done in Machakos for the League National Executive Council (NEC) in May 2024.

\* **Mentorship:** Providing mentorship opportunities for aspiring young female politicians, (Young Captains) fostering a supportive network for growth and development. Thus far, the Young Captains have worked on their charter that gives them a road map to their activities and implementation.

\* **Grassroots Mobilization:** Engaging with women at the grassroots level to raise awareness about their political rights and encourage participation in decision-making processes. The league strives to go to the grassroots and meet



women, The grassroots' mobilization was done in Kakamega, Kisumu and Kitui in the months of February, March and June of 2024.

\* **Policy Advocacy:** Advocating for policies that promote gender equality, women's empowerment, and the inclusion of marginalized groups. There are:  
▶ Representation and influence of women in local politics (2-year program with Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD)

o **Objective:** Develop strategies to increase women's participation, representation, and influence in the party and at local levels.

o **Activities:** Two meetings held with 30 women participants.

o **Outcome:** Increased awareness and discussion on strategies for women's political empowerment. The League through the President, Hon. Beth Syengo sent Cecilia Ayot, a former Member of the county Assembly of Nairobi to Denmark for a learning exposure.

▶ Regulation of social media in the electoral context (program by CMD Kenya and UN Women)

o **Objective:** Train and build capacity on digital technologies and safe social media use.

o **Activities:** Training session with 10

league members and 20 Young Captains participating.

o **Outcome:** Enhanced knowledge and skills for responsible social media engagement during elections.

▶ Gender Assessment on Political Parties in Kenya (program by CMD Kenya)

o **Objective:** Strengthen women's participation within ODM's internal governance.

o **Activities:** Assessment conducted, full report to be shared with party organs.

o **Outcome:** Data-driven insights to inform strategies for advancing women's participation within the party.

\* **Sharing of best practices in the region:** Organized by the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy (NIMD), 30 women leaders from Somaliland came to learn from the ODM Women League's best practices in promoting democracy and increasing women's political participation. The Kenyan delegation was led by Senator Beth K. Syengo (President), Hon. Beatrice Elachi (Dagoretti MP), Dr. Eve Obara (Rangwe MP), Senator Betty Montet (Nominated), Hon. Fatuma Ibrahim (former EALA MP), and Senator Beatrice Ogolla (Nominated).



STATEMENT BY RT. HON. RAILA ODINGA  
MURDER OF KENYA'S CHILDREN OVER FINANCE BILL MUST STOP IMMEDIATELY

Today, our country is paying a steep price for obstinacy of the government. Matters that should have been resolved through dialogue and humility have degenerated into developments that have never been witnessed in the 61-year history of our country since independence.

I am deeply troubled by the violent and deadly crackdown on young, peaceful protesters exercising their right to peaceful assembly and freedom of expression. I am disturbed at the murders, arrests, detentions and surveillance being perpetrated by police on boys and girls who are only seeking to be heard over taxation policies that are stealing both their present and future.

We had hoped that government would show goodwill and humility and at least listen to the country's children. Instead, every dissenting opinion has been dismissed and ridiculed by government officials and ruling party politicians and such dissenting voices are now being silenced by brutality and murder.

The constitution seems to have been suspended. We cannot allow that. The government has unleashed brute force on our country's children and more seems to be on the way. We cannot allow that. We can't and won't tolerate any extra minute of this murder spree and violence that could have been and can still be avoided.

Kenya cannot afford to kill its children just because the children are asking for food, jobs and a listening ear. Police must therefore immediately stop shooting innocent, peaceful and unarmed protesting children who are asking for guarantees of a better tomorrow from the State.

The grievances and frustrations of the protesting boys and girls run extremely deep and wide. The immediate trigger however is the Finance Bill. This Bill is neither an emergency nor a life and death matter for the government and Kenyans. Kenyans will recall that when there was a standoff in the last Parliament over calls for the reduction of tax on petroleum products from 16 per cent to 8 per cent, the then Jubilee government agreed to suspend that provision and fell back on the old Finance Act, until a consensus was reached. The same can happen today, with the government suspending the current Finance Bill and continuing with the Finance Act of last year.

The starting point to ending this impasse and cruel bloodletting is for the government to immediately and unconditionally withdraw the Finance Bill and make way for a fresh start and dialogue.

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The government must also immediately stop the violence its agencies are meting out on citizens and arrest all the police officers who have shot and killed protesters. Without these first steps, nobody should imagine that the current situation is going away any time soon and nobody must imagine that Kenyans will sit back and watch police butcher their children in defense of policies whose consequences are a pervasive chilling effect on citizens, particularly the youth.

I am calling on the East African Community, the African Union and the United Nations to immediately be seized of the unfolding situation in Kenya to save lives and the country. I mourn with the families that have lost loved ones and stand with them in the ongoing struggle for justice and economic liberation.

RT. HON. RAILA ODINGA, EGH  
JUNE 25, 2024.

**Successes:**

The ODM Women's League has achieved remarkable milestones in its pursuit of gender equality:

- \* **Increased Representation:** The League has significantly increased the number of women holding leadership positions within the ODM Party and in elected offices.
- \* **Policy Influence:** Their advocacy efforts have led to the adoption of policies that promote women's rights and protect vulnerable groups.
- \* **Grassroots Empowerment:** The League's grassroots mobilization initiatives have empowered countless

women to become active participants in the political process

- \* **Senator Beth K. Syengo, our League President, was elected as the Chairperson of the Centre for Multiparty Democracy (CMD).**
  - \* **Our President received an honorary doctorate (Doctor of Humanities) from Dominion Mission University, Ghana, in recognition of her societal contributions.**
  - \* **Five members participated in a two-week "Gender Responsive Governance" training in India: Hon. Jael Omunyangoli (MCA, Kakamega), Hon. Nancy Matara (MCA, Kisumu), Prisca Nchoe (Chair, Women League, Narok), Michelle Otieno (Young Captain, Nairobi), and Michelle Valentine (SG's office).**
  - \* **Elizabeth A. Yogo, attended a "Women in Politics: Leadership Workout" training in Gummersbach, Germany.**
- Future Plans:**  
The ODM Women's League is committed to building on its successes and expanding its impact in the future. Key priorities include:
- \* **Expanding Leadership Pipeline:** Strengthening mentorship programs and creating pathways for women to ascend to higher leadership positions.
  - \* **Amplifying Policy Advocacy:** Continuing to advocate for progressive policies that address gender-based violence, economic empowerment, and political participation.
  - \* **Strengthening Grassroots Networks:** Expanding grassroots outreach to reach more women in marginalized communities and mobilize them for political action.
  - \* **Building Strategic Partnerships:** Collaborating with civil society organizations, international partners, and other stakeholders to advance gender equality in Kenya.
- Hon. Beth Syengo, the President of the ODM Women's League remains dedicated to her mission of empowering women and building a more inclusive and equitable political landscape in Kenya. Through its ongoing activities, the League envisions a future where

women are equal partners in decision-making and leadership at all levels of society.

# The Magic of ODM Life. From far and wide to ODM we struggle.

To lead our country away from underdevelopment and corruption; we chill together in every weather of electoral cycle and share our vision and dreams of our nation we meet in comradeship through the years we join and fight against the electoral injustice we talk about our ideology, our policies programs in our manifesto and future of our people we practice street democracy whenever format democracy has failed but with each other we soon discover a sense of national cohesion and sustainable development

In spite of tribe, class, religion and creed, we are ODMers all in thoughts and deed: The joy, of sharing, the love of caring brings harmony as reformers' wonders soon we know. Then very close to people and God we grow among our pleasures are cherished treasures as memories of our fallen heroes and heroines.

## TUKO TAYARI





# How Climate Imperialism is Consuming Africa

**Africa** stands as the continent most susceptible to the ramifications of climate change. Currently experiencing temperature increases of approximately 0.7°C across much of its landmass, and with forecasts predicting further rises, Africa faces numerous challenges. These include an uptick in droughts and floods, decreased food production, inundation of coastal zones and deltas, a rise in waterborne diseases and malaria risk, and changes to natural ecosystems resulting in biodiversity loss.

Available information indicates that droughts in parts of Africa have become more frequent and severe. The water availability in major basins such as the Niger, Lake Chad, and Senegal has plummeted by 40-60%, with climate models predicting further declines in mean precipitation, especially in already arid southern Africa. This worsening water scarcity threatens agriculture, drinking water supplies, and overall ecosystem health.

This in spite of Africa not being a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions. The continent contributes only 3.9 per cent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions from energy and industrial sources, yet it feels the disproportionate impacts of climate change. In 2000, Africa's per capita emissions were a mere 0.8 metric tons per person compared to the global average of 3.9 tons. Nonetheless, African nations are implementing policies that both curb emissions and tackle urban pollution, which has high health costs. These policies include adopting solar energy and other cost-effective technologies that promise a dual benefit of reducing greenhouse gases and improving public health.

Meanwhile, more than 60% of the people living in Africa lack adequate energy access. Now, when those countries are industrially coming of age and building up their infrastructure, the developed countries are telling them not to pollute any further. Technically these latter countries have a point but morally, certainly not. You cannot deny a better lifestyle to those at whose cost you have improved yours!

In 2021, global carbon dioxide emissions reached approximately 37.12 billion



tonnes. It is documented that the wealthiest 10 percent of the world's population is responsible for over half of these emissions. At less than 1.45 billion tons, Africa's contribution to global carbon emissions is minimal compared to other continents. China, emitting 11.47 billion tonnes, stands as the largest polluter worldwide, followed by the United States with 5 billion tonnes, India with 2.7 billion tonnes, Russia with 1.75 billion tonnes, and Japan with 1.07 billion tonnes.

On a per capita basis, Africa has the lowest emissions of all continents, with each individual emitting an average of 1 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> annually. In contrast, the average emissions per person are 2.5 tonnes in South America, 4.6 tonnes in Asia, 7.1 tonnes in Europe, 10 tonnes in Oceania, and 10.3 tonnes in North America. To illustrate this disparity, the average American or Australian emits as much CO<sub>2</sub> in one month as an individual in Africa does in an entire year.

Climate change poses a significant threat to sustainable development in Africa. Regions already suffering from water deficiencies, such as much of North Africa, are expected to face increased water demands as temperatures rise. Coupled with existing challenges such as poverty and AIDS, African countries might struggle to muster the resources needed to combat these emerging climate impacts.

Historically, today's industrialised countries are responsible for nearly 80 percent of cumulative global carbon emissions from 1850 to 2011. This historical process of the concentration of greenhouse gas emissions is the major contributor to the climate change impacts that the world

is facing today. They are fundamentally a result of overexploitation and abuse of the planet by a small group of now-rich countries, which today account for around 14 percent of the global population. Meanwhile, the effects of those climate change impacts are being felt disproportionately by developing countries, which are less able to deal with the consequences because of lower per capita incomes, less fiscal space, and reduced access to international capital markets.

In international negotiations on addressing climate change, the advanced economies have succeeded in shifting the terms away from any notions of historical responsibility and climate debt, instead focusing only on current emissions levels. There is also no recognition of the need to compensate those countries most impacted by climate change already (predominantly African and other low-income countries), which have suffered extensive loss and damage due to rising sea levels, more extreme climate events, and worsening possibilities for cultivation. This is not just about ethics; it is counterproductive, because it reduces or even destroys the minimal international solidarity and cooperation that is essential to ensure that humanity can cope with the climate crisis. There can be no transition to a sustainable economy in a healthy planet—"just" or otherwise—if these legitimate concerns of developing countries are not taken into account.

By forcing such terms as "shared but differentiated responsibility," industrialised countries have once again managed to turn the attention away from their imperial environmental footprints leaving Africa with the short end of the stick.

# **TO THE DEFENCE FORCES**

We, the concerned citizens of Kenya, write to you during these critical times to seek your intervention and support. Our nation is facing severe challenges under the current administration led by President William Ruto. We are confronted with exorbitant taxes, pervasive corruption, oppressive laws, and an overall environment of impunity. The recent enactment of punitive finance bills has further exacerbated our plight, leaving Kenyans in a state of economic despair and disillusionment.

Despite our peaceful protests and appeals for justice, our voices have been dismissed, and we have been labeled as criminals and traitors. The deployment of the Kenya Defence Forces onto our streets is a further attempt to silence us through intimidation and force. We write to you not as adversaries but as fellow Kenyans, appealing to your sense of duty, justice, and patriotism.

The Constitution of Kenya, under Chapter Four (the Bill of Rights), guarantees every citizen the right to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly, and association. Article 37 specifically states that every person has the right to assemble, demonstrate, picket, and present petitions to public authorities peaceably and unarmed. We are exercising these rights in our quest for a better Kenya, free from corruption and tyranny.

Furthermore, Article 238(2)(a) of the Constitution mandates the national security organs, including the KDF, to respect the rule of law, democracy, human rights, and fundamental freedoms. We urge you to honor these constitutional obligations and stand with the people in protecting our democracy and human rights.

History has shown us that when military forces align with the will of the people, positive change is possible. For example, the Egyptian military's decision to side with the people during the Arab Spring played a crucial role in ending the oppressive regime. Similarly, in Tunisia, the military's refusal to fire on protesters was instrumental in the success of their revolution, leading to democratic reforms.

We believe that Kenya, too, can emerge stronger and more democratic if the KDF chooses to support the citizens in this critical juncture. By doing so, you will not only be upholding the Constitution but also contributing to the creation of a just and equitable society. As we prepare to take to the streets once again, we implore you to protect, not harm, your fellow citizens. We ask you to refrain from using force against peaceful protesters, who include our children and elderly parents. Our struggle is driven by our unwavering love for Kenya and our commitment to ensuring a better future for all.

We hold the Kenya Defence Forces in the highest regard and trust that you will act in the best interests of the nation. Your primary duty is to safeguard the people and uphold democratic principles. Should the situation demand, we even ask you to consider taking decisive action to end the current regime's hold on power, ensuring the preservation of our democracy and human rights.

Kenya belongs to all of us. It is a land rich in diversity and potential, and its destiny should be shaped by the collective will of its people. We believe in democracy and the fundamental rights of every Kenyan. We trust in your integrity and commitment to the welfare of our nation.

Stand with us, protect us, and help us reclaim our country from the clutches of dictatorship. Together, we can build a Kenya that is just, democratic, and prosperous for all.

*Yours Sincerely,*

**CITIZEN OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA**