

The ORANGE

Volume 3 Number 3 | July 2024

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT PARTY OF KENYA



TOP STORIES

- Liberating Kenya.
- Stolen Elections in Kenya.
- Too Little Too Late - Gen Z's Reject Dissolution of Cabinet
- ODM news

LIBERATING KENYA

Kenya is a nation of boundless potentials yearning for revolutionary change and liberation from the imperialist and neocolonial forces that have held her captive and continue to deny her people and children the socio-economic and political basis for the enjoyment of basic human dignity and rights guaranteed in among other places Article 43 of the CoK 2010.

Kenya is a nation of plenty in which the majority of the people are unemployed, without secure livelihoods and live in abject poverty while imperialism keeps running rings around us and a handful of their clients, puppets and running dogs enjoys obscene wealth siphoned out of public coffers. >> Pg2



ODM NEWS - BUSIA COUNTY

The transformative development agenda for Busia nestled between Uganda, Lake Victoria, which is Africa's largest freshwater lake, Siaya, Bungoma, and Kakamega counties, the border county of Busia is an alluring destination to behold.

Its politics is equally exciting and highly competitive, making Busia one of the most sought-after political brides in the country today. Busia, which covers an area of 1,695

kilometers squared, with seven constituencies, is presently allied to the opposition. In fact, according to Orange Democratic Movement's (ODM) Secretary General, Edwin Sifuna, Busia tops the list with the highest percentage of registered party members countrywide, followed by Homabay and Siaya counties, respectively.

>> Pg 6

Liberating Kenya



GenZ's demonstrating in Kenya's capital Nairobi to protest against the Finance Bill 2024.

Kenya is a nation of boundless potentials yearning for revolutionary change and liberation from the imperialist and neocolonial forces that have held her captive and continue to deny her people and children the socio-economic and political basis for the enjoyment of basic human dignity and rights guaranteed in among other places Article 43 of the CoK 2010.

Kenya is a nation of plenty in which the majority of the people are unemployed, without secure livelihoods and live in abject poverty while imperialism keeps running rings around us and a handful of their clients, puppets and running dogs enjoys obscene wealth siphoned out of public coffers.

We are a nation repeatedly betrayed by a cabal of parasitic and predatory politicians who misuse and abuse the solemn duty and trust bestowed upon them to lead and transform the country for the benefit of everyone. They have privatised the state and seek to dismember the nation to fulfill their own aspirations for personal enrichment and interests of their foreign patrons. For them, Kenya is but a carcass for hounds!

Popular Struggles for a Liberated Kenya

On the other hand, the majority of our people continue to struggle for a prosperous, just, equitable and inclusive Kenya. These popular struggles of our people are as old as the British imperialist colonial occupation of Kenya in the late nineteenth century. As soon as the British set foot here with intentions to conquer, to loot and to pillage our people, and to grab our land and rule over us our ancestors mounted resistance using diverse and changing methods of struggle that were to go on until finally we regained our independence in 1963.

Neocolonialism and Debt Imperialism

Our people soon realised that in spite of the “flag independence” it was not yet “uhuru” as imperialists were conniving with segments of the new local ruling class to retain and intensify their stranglehold and to continue enjoying the benefits of colonial occupation in disguise. This is what has come to be known as neocolonialism and globalisation that we now experience as the debt burden which is really just debt imperialism.

This form of imperialism is under the supervision of the Bretton Woods institutions led by the World Bank who oversee economic and governance policy formulation and the IMF who oversee the fiscal and monetary policies especially in dependent states in the Global South. The Bank makes sure that client states adhere to capitalist neoliberal policies that makes them eternally subservient to the imperialist metropolitan interests while the IMF ensures that they borrow heavily from international shylocks and tax punitively to ascertain that our wealth is transferred to the West to pay for the numerous dubious and odious debts. A casual examination will show that the cost of debt to countries such as Kenya is much higher than those charged to borrowers in the West.

Curiously those with no debts are given poor credit ratings by the US based global rating agencies to lure the leadership to borrow even if they are no compelling reasons to do so. Unsurprisingly much of the proceeds of such debts end up being stashed in Western banks as the poor “debtor” nations are bullied to extract their pound of flesh in taxes to repay. A good example of this is the controversial Eurobond that

Kenya is said to have borrowed in 2014 and which according to the then Auditor General the Treasury and GoK could not show projects where the funds were spent. This is just an example of the wealth grab presently strangling us and the rest of Africa.

The patriotic and progressive segments of the leadership in KANU recognising that imperialism was putting in place new forms of exploitation arising from the changing character of globalising finance capital and the changing - geopolitical realities continued

“

Our people soon realised that in spite of the “flag independence” it was not yet “uhuru” as imperialists were conniving with segments of the new local ruling class to retain and intensify their stranglehold and to continue enjoying the benefits of colonial occupation in disguise.

the anti-imperialist struggle within KANU. This ultimately led to the breakup of KANU and the formation of Kenya People's Union (KPU) to lead the struggle outside KANU.

These protracted struggles revolving around democracy, the rule of law, the land question, as well as the nature, character and direction of economic policy in postcolonial Kenya continues unabated. The pro-imperialist wing of KANU not only engaged in grabbing land meant for the landless but also engaged in political assassinations, general harassment, arrests, torture and detentions without trial of opponents and activists similar

to what the Ruto regime has unleashed. Above all these they enunciated the discredited neocolonial Sessional Paper No 10 of 1965 on Socialism and its Application to Planning in Kenya which critics dismissed as being neither African nor Socialist.

This policy sanctioned a dependent neocolonial capitalist economy that would perpetuate the colonial economic model that had hitherto favoured white settlers and whose effects on the economy has been blamed for underdevelopment, skewed regional development, marginalisation and exclusion in the country. It was to create

and favour a select privileged minority landed barons to protect imperialist interests as had been postulated by the Swynnerton Plan of 1954 which had put forth an economic strategy around agriculture to protect foreign land holdings and capitalism in postcolonial Kenya.

The imposition of such a dependent neocolonial capitalist economy was thus not accidental but the result of a well thought out decolonisation agenda crafted when Britain realised that the days of colonial occupation were coming to a sudden end due to a convergence of numerous events and forces locally and

around the world.

Whereas imperialism in the era of the industrial revolution was largely focused on resource extraction activities and colonial occupation by Western nations the domination in the post-independence period has combined extraction of resources with shifting emphasis on predatory lending by international shylocks masquerading as development partners whose parasitic and extractive activities are undertaken on their behalf by client regimes underpinned by the Bretton Woods institutions especially the IMF as is being seen in our country today.

The Gen-Z in Liberating Kenya



Fortunately we presently stand on the threshold of momentous changes if the ongoing uprising by our young people popularly referred to as generation Z aka Gen-Z is sustained in directions that will liberate us all. This is yet another opportunity for ordinary

citizens seizing their destiny in their own hands to change the trajectory of the country especially if they recognise the central place of imperialists in our never ending tribulations. It is encouraging that the broader society is with them and that many of them have

seen the naked unholy alliance strutting in town and are keenly aware that the problem we face involves uprooting Ruto and the ruling cabals alongside their patrons the Western imperialist powers and their Bretton Woods brethren.

This uprising offers an opportunity to overthrow the neocolonial shackles that chain us to imperialism and have turned us into chattels eternally serving foreign interests. Consequently we are producing what we don't consume and consuming what we don't produce. We must build a powerful nation with a vibrant integrated self-reliant industrialising national economy. We have a chance to build a prosperous nation in which those born into different circumstances enjoy equality of opportunity and hope and live dignified lives; a nation in which all Kenyans feel at home.

We are hanging on the edge of a cliff facing one of the most perilous moments in our post colonial history. Everything that could be wrong is going wrong. Democracy, the rule of law, the economy, livelihoods, lives and welfare of the majority of the people are imperiled and are in danger of crumbling as the regime seeks to impose on us some of the most painful fiscal measures in living memory as they are cheered on by the IMF. These days Kenya is literally run by the US ambassador and the IMF to the extent that top officials in government can not explain the content of a Finance Bill and yet a foreign ambassador can lecture us on the virtue of the punitive taxes in the bill. Even Moi at his lowest moments never so enthusiastically acquiesced to the rabidly neoliberal anti-people and anti-poor IMF demands.

Ruto and The Return of Political Repression

Moreover the KK regime is returning Kenya to the dark past and is turning out to be the most tyrannical, politically disruptive and economically clueless in our post colonial history. It is also the most rabidly right wing cabal to ever seize power and set foot in the State House. Ethnic jingoism and exclusion is at its worst. The KK regime and the imperialist forces it represents are an existential threat to the nation. They are returning Kenya to the dark days of abductions and

forced disappearances forcing a senior Kenyan lawyer to ask the CS and PS for Interior in an post on X (formerly twitter) thus:

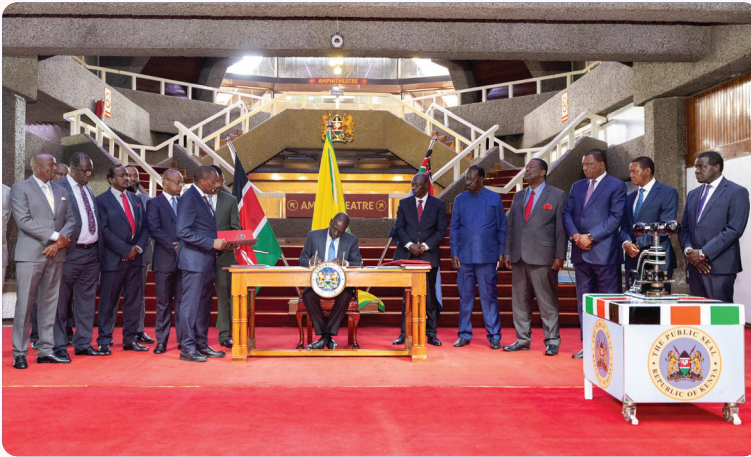
"Is there a Gestapo operating in Kenya, snatching Kenyan citizens and detaining them in secret and incommunicado? Are there gulags in Kenya to which these 'abductees' are being taken?" This regime that has the blood of our innocent children on their hands has lost the credibility to govern and must therefore be restrained

and sent packing. Otherwise this regime will unravel the country as a going concern.

Kenya must be liberated from the venal forces of impunity, official anarchy, reckless borrowing, taxation, looting and plunder As one newspaper columnist has recently said Kenya is ready for a revolution. It is time for the people to invoke Article 1 and 2 of the CoK 2010. After all the delegates have abused their trust.



Anatomy of Election Heist



On Tuesday July 9, 2024 a new bill on a reformed Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) was signed into law. This, it is hoped will cleanse Kenya's electoral ecosystem that is fraught with blatant fraud, irregularities and illegalities. The reform of IEBC is a result of the push of Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Coalition following an electoral heist. The last presidential elections in August 2022 saw the collusion of local and foreign actors to deny Kenya democratic choice of their president.

In spite of attempts at electoral reforms for the last three consecutive presidential elections under the Constitution of Kenya 2010, the electoral body has been accused of invalidating the will of the people and imposing "governors" on the governed. In the last general elections, there appeared to be a fundamental shift from the commission capture to commissioner capture and strategic individual capture within the commission. The single biggest threat to the independence of the commission therefore appears to be the Chair and the CEO of the Commission. The amended legislation also appeared to give unconstitutional powers to the CEO and the Chairperson.

That last election was characterised by inaccuracies and lawlessness in the entire process right from voter registration all the way to the announcement of the winners at all electoral levels. Presidential election was particularly messy. The Supreme Court of Kenya, seen as the final arbiter, did not help matters as it was seen as also being culpable in the perpetuation of electoral autocracy in Kenya.

The law requires that the register be availed to the public for audit at least 60 days before polling day. However, the register was availed only 5 days to polling day. Audit firm KPMG, which had audited the register, stated that the register had more than two million people not qualified to vote (under age, criminals and dead voters) but IEBC did nothing about it. In other words, the register was never cleaned. Presidential candidate William Ruto claimed that most of the voters to be expunged from the register were his supporters, a claim that was interesting given that nobody outside IEBC and KPMG knew or was expected to know the identities of any registered voter. The register was not used to cancel out voters' names in the 2022 elections so an audit trail was not created

Ballot papers usually arrive in the country on a date pre-known to all key stakeholders and well publicised in the media. However, in 2022, the first batch of ballot papers arrived secretly and unknown to most Kenyans and surprised most of the key players, including the commissioners of the IEBC

IEBC printed two sets of Form 34A (Book 1 of 2 and Book 2 of 2) for each polling station. When confronted, the Chairman claimed he would keep away the extra Forms 34A (Book 2 of 2) and so he would not use them. On polling day, each polling station ended up with two sets of F34A for reasons best known to the IEBC Chairman. This was established when the courts ordered some sample polling stations to be examined. It is important to note that each polling station is meant to have only one Form 34A with enough copies to give to each agent of a presidential candidate, pin one up at the door of the polling station, put one in the polling station's presidential ballot box and for the presiding officer to carry the original to be delivered to the National Tallying Centre.

It was noted that a good number of agents were never given copies

of the polling station results; a good number of polling stations didn't have results pinned up on their doors; of the 45 polling stations that were sampled out by the SCOK for examination; some 27 polling stations had a second Form 34A (Book 2 of 2) used, yet Chebukati had promised to lock up the Book 2 of 2. Unfortunately, they had been used in more than half of the sampled polling stations and the first Form 34As were missing. Only the first Form 34A was meant to have been used to record the presidential results at polling stations.

Some of the sampled station ballot boxes were missing counterfoils. Each counterfoil was meant to have been kept in the ballot box because it possesses numbers matching the ballot papers cast, in this case for the presidential election

A significant number of Forms 34A were filled in identical handwritings despite the polling stations being many kilometres apart. Form 34A is unique to a polling station and can only be completed by a presiding officer for the particular polling station. Even within a polling centre, no two Forms 34A can be filled by the same person. A document examiner was able to certify that the forms originated from the same source as evidenced in his affidavit to Supreme Court of Kenya and report.

In July 2022, barely two weeks to polling day, two Venezuelan nationals were apprehended at Arrivals terminal of the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) Nairobi. According to media reports, the scanning machines revealed that they were privately carrying election materials in their personal baggage while protocol required that the electoral materials imported into the coun-

try should be declared before shipment and arrive packaged separately. The police were to be informed in advance. Curiously, the police claimed that one of them was travelling on an expired passport. Other Venezuelan nationals were already in the country, and they too had arrived with electoral materials. The IEBC chairman Wafula Chebukati claimed that the two foreigners were IEBC employees but he could not support that claim with any form of documentation. Four IEBC commissioners refuted their chairman's claims and said they knew nothing about the Venezuelans being IEBC employees

“

The law requires that the register be availed to the public for audit at least 60 days before polling day. However, the register was availed only 5 days to polling day

In February 2023, a source claiming to be an IEBC insider released what it claimed to be the genuine polling station results of the presidential candidates. Forms 34B posted by the whistle blower revealed how results of polling stations in Form 34A were doctored mainly through deducting votes from one candidate and adding corresponding number of votes to the favoured one; swapping of votes to favour one candidate; and simply substituting the original Form 34A with a replica one from what was known as Book 2 of 2.

In spite of a huge body of evidence being adduced before it, the Supreme

Court of Kenya casually dismissed it as “hot air” and characterised the petitions as “fishing expedition.” Since the return to multi-parties politics in 1992, Kenya’s courts of law have been increasingly adjudicating political issues. This judicialization of politics has led courts to behaving as policy-making institutions and resolving political controversies. This phenomenon has now extended to the realm of electoral politics. Political players and parties have used courts to challenge electoral results and shape how voters perceive the legitimacy of the election. This is not confined only to Kenya or Africa. For instance, in the 2000, 2008 and 2020 American presidential elections, defeated candidates challenged the results before courts of law.

This judicialization of elections has increasingly been observed in electoral autocracies. For instance, Kenya’s highest courts have adjudicated 224 electoral disputes in the past thirty years. Because incumbents have often weaponized formal institutions to remain in power, it has long been assumed that courts in reluctantly democratic regimes were too weak to resist the executive

branch’s interference. Scholarship has rebutted this assumption by identifying conditions under which judicial resilience can occur.

In countries that subscribe to democratic pretence such as Kenya, elections are a political moment that can destabilize the existing political equilibrium. To ensure their survival, incumbents have strong incentives to manipulate the electoral process but also pressure courts which have been increasingly asked to assess the validity of elections. Because these electoral cases can put the future of the ruling regime in jeopardy, incumbents do not hesitate to rely on formal and informal strategies to coerce courts into favouring the ruling regime. As a result, denouncing electoral fraud and annulling electoral results are costly for courts. However, there are instances where courts refuse to close their eyes on electoral malpractices and side with the opposition as an act of resistance against the ruling regime.

These episodes of judicial resistance are more frequent than one would assume. Despite the tight grip of Uganda’s President Yoweri Museveni on the judiciary, courts have

been able to nullify the results of some parliamentary elections. In Malawi, the Supreme Court declared the 2020 presidential election fraudulent and ordered a rerun, which led to an alternation in power. Here in Kenya, the Supreme Court annulled the fraudulent election of Uhuru Kenyatta in 2017 and other courts have overturned more than overturned 66 electoral results since 1992. These cases deserve our attention as they have the potential to prevent electoral backsliding from occurring and, in some cases, trigger the democratization process. Hence, this article seeks to identify the conditions under which cases of judicial resistance can emerge. In other words, when – and why – do courts in autocratic regimes take the risk of



In spite of a huge body of evidence being adduced before it, the Supreme Court of Kenya casually dismissed it as “hot air” and characterised the petitions as “fishing expedition.”

siding with the opposition during electoral disputes?

To answer this research question, we identify a mechanism through which institutional reforms affect courts’ behaviour during electoral disputes in autocratic regimes. Institutional reforms can create incentives for courts to engage in judicial resistance under two conditions. First, institutional reforms must create legal mechanisms that shield the judiciary from the executive branch’s attempts to undermine its independence. Second, effective institutional reforms must mobilize judicial support networks. When institutional reforms introduce legal guarantees that bolster de jure independence, judicial support networks are more likely to go to courts to challenge electoral results. By adjudicating an increasing number of cases, courts gain experience and confidence in electoral dispute resolutions. Institutional reforms also enable judicial support networks to create a cottage industry around judicial professionalization and training in electoral disputes. Finally, the mobilization of judicial support networks puts the judiciary under

intense scrutiny, thus shifting the costs and benefits of siding with the ruling party.

Like many African states, Kenya liberalized its regime during the wave of democratization in the early 1990s popularly referred to as the Second Liberation. Despite the introduction of multiparty elections in 1992 and the first transfer of power in 2002, Kenya never managed to democratize fully, and the judiciary remained under the executive branch’s control. In 2010, a new constitution was enacted and promulgated following the violent that rocked the country in the aftermath of general elections of 2007 which almost plunged the country into a civil war. Designed by a commission of constitutional experts and building on an extensively participatory national delegates conference (the Bomas Conference), the 2010 constitution reformed the judiciary, which was seen as a cornerstone for peace-building and democracy.

We do hope that with the reform of IEBC and the impending audit of the last presidential election, Kenya will move to an electoral regime where votes are counted and the same votes count.



Busia County in Perspective, the Transformative Agenda for the County.

By Our Correspondent



The transformative development agenda for Busia nestled between Uganda, Lake Victoria, which is Africa's largest freshwater lake, Siaya, Bungoma, and Kakamega counties, the border county of Busia is an alluring destination to behold.

Its politics is equally exciting and highly competitive, making Busia one of the most sought-after political brides in the country today. Busia, which covers an area of 1,695 kilometers squared, with seven constituencies, is presently allied to the opposition. In fact, according to Orange Democratic Movement's (ODM) Secretary General, Edwin Sifuna, Busia tops the list with the highest percentage of registered party members countrywide, followed by Homabay and Siaya counties, respectively.

Dr. Paul Nyongesa Otuoma, the Governor, a former Member of Parliament for Funyula constituency, and Cabinet Minister, is at the helm of this western Kenya county, which is central to the political heart of the giant party led by former Prime Minister, Mr. Raila Odinga.

Dr Otuoma, a former National Vice-Chairman of the party, is just one of the politicians from the county who have served as national officials of ODM. Sports and Youth Affairs Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Ababu Namwamba, held the powerful position of Secretary General, with former Busia County MP, Florence Mutua, occupying the position of Deputy Secretary General thereafter. Today, Nairobi Senator Mr Sifuna, is deputized by the current County MP, Ms. Catherine Omanyo.

This partly demonstrates why the ODM leadership enjoys solid political ties with Busia. However, owing to his governance responsibility, the County boss has embraced a collaborative approach in realizing his development agenda for the people of Busia. Admittedly, this trajectory has put him at cross hairs with some colleagues within the Orange party. But Dr. Otuoma dismisses critics questioning his close working relationship with the government, pointing out that this partnership has catapulted some mega development projects in the county.

"I am working hard in Busia and when I engage with the President, some people insinuate that I have been compromised.

Why can't they judge me by the fruits of my actions?" he poses. Incidentally, his sentiments have the backing of party leader, Mr Odinga, who has consistently urged ODM-allied governors to work closely with the government for development.

Primed as the gateway to the Great Lakes region, Busia is yet to reach its full potential despite the presence of numerous socio-economic opportunities abound in sectors such as agriculture, blue economy, manufacturing and industrialization, and tourism. For decades, lack of informed leadership, mismanagement of resources and decline of impacting sectors namely sugarcane, the collapse of regional textile industries and fishing, left a void in the rural economic matrix further compounding the challenges the county is facing today.

Since assuming office in August 2022, Dr. Otuoma has embarked on a transformative agenda to turn around the fortunes of the region towards prosperity, with the view of encouraging investments through the Ward-Based Economic Revitalization Programme, which aims at empowering rural communities economically. In his development blue print, the Governor is banking on strengthening the provision of health care services, food security, clean and safe water, development of transport infrastructure, urban centres and the education sector. In the health sector, for instance, the County boss has taken steadfast measures to improve delivery of healthcare services and infrastructure that were initially in a deplorable condition.

“

I am working hard in Busia and when I engage with the President, some people insinuate that I have been compromised. Why can't they judge me by the fruits of my actions?

Most facilities lacked essential drugs and non-pharmaceuticals occasioned by a huge pending bill at the Kenya Medical Supplies Authority (KEMSA) that had accrued since the fiscal year 2020/2021. "During the Financial Year 2023/2024 my government procured drugs and other medical supplies worth Ksh 153 million after agreeing with KEMSA to settle Ksh105 million at the beginning of the year," says Dr Otuoma, adding that the colossal amount was reduced to Ksh 28 million in April 2024.

To ensure Busia is food secure, the former Cabinet Minister reveals that his administration has embarked on

strengthening producer groups in the agricultural sector and link them to markets as a way of promoting agribusiness and exploit of local market opportunities. "My administration intends to contribute to poverty reduction by 50 percent and ensure food and nutrition security for over 142,000 farming households by the year 2027. Under this plan, we have established multipurpose cooperative societies at the ward level aimed at streamlining the delivery of services to farmers," he says.

This effort has been firmed up by the procurement and deployment of five new tractors to support land preparation to expand the production of food and cash crops. Through subsidized mechanization services rated at 2,500 per acre against commercial rate of 3,500, the devolved unit targets to till 20,000 acres of land to cover close to 150,000 registered farming households.

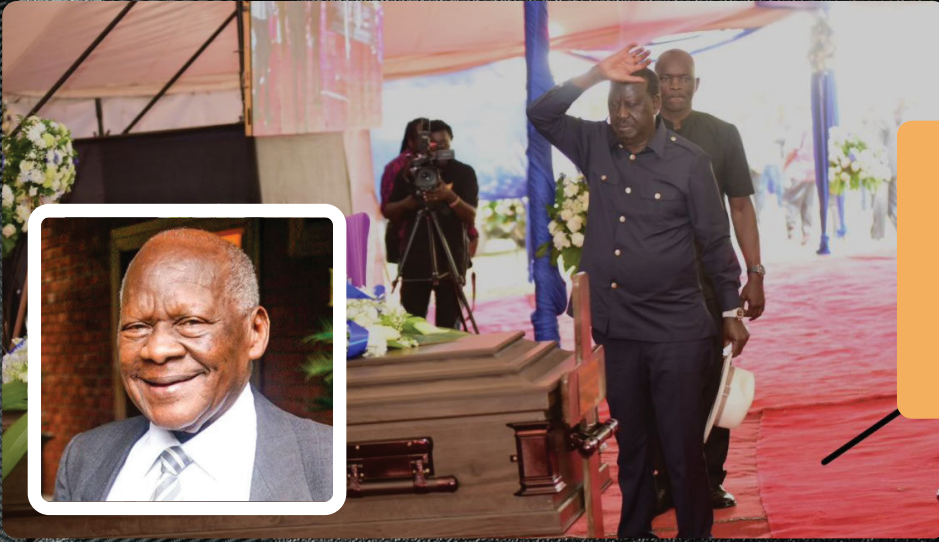
Recognizing that poor infrastructure hampers economic growth, infrastructure development remains another cornerstone of Dr Otuoma's regime. The face of Busia town, for instance, is slowly taking a new shape, with the expansion of the Kisumu-Busia highway from Korinda Junction to Busia One Stop Border Post at the Kenya-Uganda border complete with a defined drainage system.

This modification will ease traffic congestion and accelerate trade at the border town. Separately, the commissioning of the first-ever County Aggregation and Industrial Park (CAIP) at Nasewa, in Matayos subcounty in August 2023 marked a major leap towards industrialization. The Ksh 500 million project is expected to be a catalyst for growth with a primary focus on edible oil, energy, transport and logistics, storage, cold rooms, and warehousing facilities. Once complete, the project will also serve as a hub for agricultural processing and manufacturing, thus providing a vital link between farmers, industries, and the market.

On the education front, Dr Otuoma has rolled out a school feeding program in 460 Public Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) centers, where an estimated 46,290 learners are enjoying fresh and hot meals as per the laid down schools' meals policy.

Dr Otuoma plays his political cards guardedly on the regional and national stage, leading to speculation that he could seek a higher national office in the future. But he remains evasive on his political ambitions: "Let us cross that bridge when we get there. I am presently focused on delivering service to my people to improve their lives as per my post-poll pledge."

Raila Attends the Funeral of Veteran Politician Maina Wanjigi in Nyeri



Mourning a Legend!

Raila attends the funeral of veteran politician Maina Wanjigi in Nyeri

By Our Reporter

ODM Leader Raila Odinga on Friday 5th July 2024 joined thousands of other mourners in bidding farewell to veteran politician Maina Wanjigi at his farm in Nyeri Town Constituency.

Mr. Odinga eulogized the late Wanjigi as a pioneer agriculturalist and an astute politician who worked tirelessly to uplift the standards of living of the people of Kenya. "Mheshimiwa Wanjigi served his people with diligence, he hated corruption and worked towards ensuring everyone in Kenya lived a better life", said Mr. Odinga.

He said the idea to start the Gikomba market in Nairobi's Kamkunji Constituency was an idea that Mr. Wanjigi came up with and ensured it was well executed to have small traders decently sell their wares. "He put the interests of Kenyans first", said Mr. Odinga.

Mr. Odinga rallied behind the path the Gen Zs had taken to push for reforms in the country and good governance saying he was fully behind them. "Gen Zs are continuing with what we have been doing. Kenya deserves good

leadership. I am behind you guys" he said.

The late Wanjigi, a former member of parliament for Kamkunji constituency for 25 years served as a cabinet Minister in President Daniel Arap Moi's administration. He is the father of businessman and politician Mr. Jimi Wanjigi.

ODM to Initiate the Process of Recalling Errant MPs Who Voted for the Finance Bill.

By Our Correspondent



ODM party has announced that it will initiate the process to recall Members of Parliament in the National Assembly who supported and voted for the Finance Bill 2024, going against the position taken by the Azimio la Umoja One Kenya Coalition affiliate parties.

During a meeting of the Party's Central Committee on Tuesday 2nd July 2024 and chaired by Party Leader Mr. Raila Odinga, it was resolved that the legislators who went

against the party position to vote for the Finance Bill 2023 and repeated the same during the vote on the Finance Bill 2024 should be punished by being recalled by the electorate under the constitution of the land.

Reading the resolution of the meeting to the media, Secretary General Mr. Edwin Sifuna said the legislators had twice shown defiance to the party and that the only way to deal with them was to subject them to their own electorate to have them recalled and

be forced to seek a fresh mandate on a party of their choice.

"The ODM Party shall initiate and lead recall processes in the following constituencies in light of the current office holders' repeated violation of their sacred oath and the electorate's wishes. Gem (Mr. Elisha Odhiambo), Bondo (Dr. Gideon Ochanda), Navakholo (Mr. Emmanuel Wangwe), Kajiado Central (Mr. Memusi Kanchory), Ikolomani (Mr. Bernard Shinali) and Suba South (Mr. Caroli Omondji)".

Take Responsibility for the deaths caused by police officers during the Gen Z protests.

By our Reporter.



Protestors During Anti-Finance Bill Protests in Nairobi

ODM Party wants the government to take full responsibility of the deaths and other injustices meted out to the young Kenyans who staged countrywide demonstrations to protest against the draconian Finance Bill 2024.

Although President William Ruto bowed to the pressure of Generation Z and conceded by declining to assent to the bill to become law, overzealous police officers charged unarmed protesters shooting and killing tens of them.

Media houses captured police officers firing live bullets at the protesters at close range, killing and maiming many. Some protesters were seen on television pleading with police officers not to use excess force on them, but their pleas fell on deaf ears.

Now, the ODM party says, what the Kenya Kwanza administration did to the protesters was unlawful and uncalled for. In a statement read to the media by Secretary General Mr. Edwin Sifuna, the party said it

stands with the people of Kenya in their quest to liberate themselves politically, socially and economically. "Kenyans asked us to stand with them against the punitive tax proposals in the Finance Bill 2024 and we did", said Sifuna.

Mr. Sifuna, also the Senator for Nairobi County, said the ODM party stood with Kenyans on the floor of the House and opposed the draconian bill that would subject them to further state of poverty through high taxes. "Of the 115

Members of the National Assembly who voted against the Bill on the Floor 73, were members of ODM. We applaud these great patriots and thank them for being true representatives of the people" he said.

He said the party was proud of her legislators who put out a spirited and intellectual fight in the house to try and stop their Kenya Kwanza counterparts and collaborators from passing the bill.



As a Party, we celebrate you for being on the right side of History. Sadly, a few of our members went against the people's wishes and sided with the oppressor.

~ Edwin Sifuna

Wiper Party suspends 'loose mouth' MP, reprimands 3 others

By Our Correspondent

The Wiper Democratic Movement Party Wednesday 10th held a meeting of the National Executive Committee (NEC) and resolved to have Daadab Member of Parliament Mr. Farah Maalim Mohammed for the remarks he made last weekend concerning the ongoing anti-government protests.

Mr. Maalim who is also the Deputy Party Leader of the Wiper Democratic Movement was captured in a viral video saying if he had power, he would have taken the most drastic and punitive measures against the protesters in-

cluding killing over 5,000 of them saying their actions amounted to a 'coup' attempt.

He allegedly made the comment in his native Somali language, an allegation he has vehemently denied saying the video was doctored.

The party which met under the leadership of Mr. Kalonzo Musyoka agreed that the remarks by Mr. Maalim were reckless and that he failed to uphold the Wiper ideals.

In a statement read by the Party Secretary General Ms. Shakila Abdalla,

the party called for the de-whipping of Mr. Maalim from all parliamentary committees including the Speakers' panel where he serves.

Three other legislators elected on the party ticket namely; Ms. Doris Donya Toto (Woman Representative of Kisii County), Mr. John Okano Bwire (Taveta), and Mr. Abubakar Ahmed (Nominated) were also reprimanded for going against the party stand and voted for the Finance Bill 2024.

Mr. Maalim's fate and that of the other three will be determined by the party's



No handshake, Raila assures Kenyans

By Orange Reporter



Party Leader Raila Odinga meets a team of young Leaders who paid him a Visit.

ODM Leader Raila Odinga on Wednesday moved to dispel claims that he was gearing for a handshake with President William Ruto.

Mr. Odinga who on Tuesday morning during the signing of the IEBC Amendment Bill into law by Pres. Ruto called for a multi-sectoral dialogue as the only solution to calm down the current political temperatures, said that was an avenue for a handshake with the government.

In a post on his X handle (formerly Twitter) after meeting with a section of young parliamentarians from the party at his office, Mr. Odinga said "Nimeambiwa na hawa viongozi kwamba mumesema hamtaki handshake. Ujumbe umefika" (These leaders have told me that you do not want a handshake. I have received the message).

Mr. Odinga's call for dialogue to address many issues being raised by Kenyans elicited mixed reactions with the Gen Zs saying they were uncomfortable with such arrangements.

Dialogue

Currently, the main subject of Kenya's scalding hot political temperature is the multi-sectoral dialogue that was proposed by President William Ruto alongside Opposition Leader Honourable Raila Odinga. The request for dialogue, which was not generally received well by the public, continues to draw heavy criticism from several people, both inside and outside the government.

Additionally, people are attacking political leaders who are asking the youth to heed to the call for dialogue and stop going to the streets. The latest casualty of these attacks is Honourable Gladys Wanga, Governor of Homa Bay County, who was recorded on video asking the people of Homa Bay County not to be involved with the protests, as it is a war that is not "theirs." The governor came under fire for making this statement, with netizens accusing her of playing the tribal card in an attempt to employ divisive tactics and cause disunity among the youth.

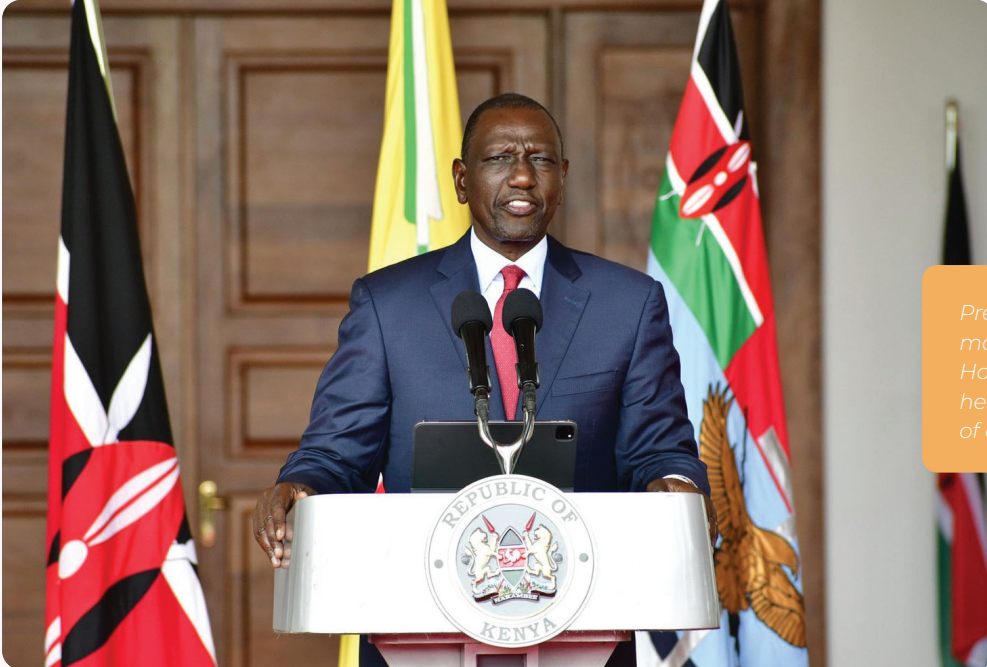
Further fueling the youth's reluctance to get involved in dialogue is a video that recently resurfaced of Professor Kithure Kindiki, current Cabinet Secretary for Interior and National Administration, speaking at the late G C Kariuki's funeral back in 2020. In the video, the CS recounts a time, earlier in the year, when the opposition had threatened to hold demonstrations against the Elections (Amendment) Bill which had just been tabled in the Senate.

He confesses that he, alongside top government officials "pretended to be talking to the opposition" to get them to postpone the planned demonstrations. He further states that at the end of the day, the ruling party had their way as the 'dialogue' ended up bearing no fruits. This video has further bolstered citizens' mistrust in the government since it has proven that dialogue is, more often than not, used to buy time for the government when in actual sense, it does not get anything done.



Too Little Too Late - Gen Z's Reject Dissolution of Cabinet

By Our Correspondent



President William Ruto making his address at State House on July 11, 2024 when he announced the dismissal of all Cabinet Secretaries.

After three weeks of calls for reform within the Government of Kenya, President William Ruto, via a presser held at State House, announced his decision to dissolve the entire Cabinet save for the Deputy President and the Prime Cabinet Secretary. This comes after members of the public took their time to scrutinize the use of public funds in various ministries, an activity which further angered and radicalized several citizens if their social media posts are anything to go by.

Additionally, members of the public have been of the firm opinion that the Executive arm of the government has been performing dismally in terms of executing their role of advising the President on matters policy decisions. For the longest time, netizens have been dissatisfied by the retention of various cabinet

secretaries despite the fact that their tenures have been marred by corruption, incompetence and scandals involving mismanagement of public funds.

For instance, the now former Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Agriculture, Mithika Linturi, was spotlighted a few months ago for his involvement in selling fake fertilizer to farmers, which led to poor quality yields and further exacerbated the sorry state of food security in Kenya. However, to the utter shock of Kenyans, he was not impeached as most people had expected. Same goes for former Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Health, Susan Nakhumicha, during whose tenure the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) had been gradually collapsing, with irregular losses of money to the tune of hundreds of millions being reported every so often.

These dismal performances of cabinet secretaries, coupled with their flashy displays of wealth and an air of arrogance whenever called into account, fueled calls for their dismissal. Yet, Kenyans still feel that firing them alone is not enough. Several Kenyans have taken to social media and demanded that the dismissed cabinet secretaries be prosecuted for mismanaging public funds while in office. Additionally, they are demanding that the ministers who had plundered public resources give them back to be utilized rightfully.

Aside from the ministers, Kenyans are also demanding that the Inspector General of Police, Japhet Koome, be placed on the chopping block as well, and be prosecuted for unleashing rogue police officers upon peaceful protestors, a decision which led to the

death of more than 40 Kenyans. Above all, Kenyans are still amplifying the hashtag #RutoMustGo on X, and demanding for the resignation of President William Ruto, claiming that no amount of dismissal of government officials can mend their trust in the government.

“

These dismal performances of cabinet secretaries, coupled with their flashy displays of wealth and an air of arrogance whenever called into account, fueled calls for their dismissal.