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TOP STORIES

Strengthening Political Parties for Greater Democratisation

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ODM NEWS

ODM Leader Mr. Raila Odinga on Wednesday 11th September 2024 designated the Governor of Kisumu Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o to step in as the Chairman of the Central Management Committee, the party's top most organ and the only one chaired by the Party Leader. This, according to Mr. Odinga will give him enough time to focus on his campaign for the African Union Commission Chairmanship whose election is expected in February next year. **>> Pg 16**

Strengthening Political Parties for Greater Democratisation

Political parties are a necessary feature of a democratic political system because it offers the greatest opportunity to facilitate democratic participation and popular involvement in governance and yet those who wield political power in many countries prefer to demobilise them in preference to other alternatives such as the deployment of shadowy cabals and self-serving entrenched governmental bureaucracies in place of well-grounded and vibrant popular political parties rooted in grassroot organising.

There are numerous definitions of political parties. The Political Parties Act, 2011 (PPA 2011) defines a political party as "an association of citizens with an identifiable ideology or programme that is constituted for the purpose of influencing public policy and of nominating candidates to contest elections. According to PPA(2011) this definition includes a coalition political party.

Roles and Functions of a Political Party

According to the PPA 2011 the roles and functions of a political party includes to :
a) recruit and enlist members,
b) nominate candidates for elections,
c) promote representation in parliament and county assemblies and marginalised communities,
d) sensitise the public on the functioning of the political and electoral system,
e) promote and enhance national unity,
f) mobilise citizens into participating in political decisions,
g) solicit and articulate public policy priorities as identified by members; and
h) shape and influence public policy.
A political party is therefore an organization which seeks to influence the governance of a state in line with its ideology and programme. The history of organizing politically is as old as Kenya itself.

Political Parties in Kenya: Lost Chances

The history of political parties in Kenya is history of lost opportunities. Whereas political parties as vehicles for leadership in a country are expected to provide ideological, programmatic, and competent leadership to political processes in a country, ours have been at best sporadic in this respect. Except on few occasions, they have generally been weak and lacked the capacity to provide focused, principled, ethical, and firm leadership.

Anti-colonial struggles and the rise of Political Parties

In the 1920s various organizations such as the Kikuyu Central Association and the Kavirondo Taxpayers Association were formed to campaign for the political and civic rights of Africans.

The real beginning of the national political party was in the mid 1940s with the formation of the Kenya African Union, KAU. KAU was an all encompassing political party

NARC
NATIONAL RAINBOW COALITION

whose main goal was agitation for political independence. In 1952, a state of emergency was declared in Kenya, all political parties and activities were banned. This was because the Mau Mau Liberation Movement had initiated armed struggle as a means of seizing power from the colonialists. It was not until the late 1950s that Africans were allowed to form political parties. A political party's operation was limited to a single district.

The formation of national political parties was allowed by the colonial administration in the early 1960s. Two major political parties emerged, the Kenya African National Union, Kanu, and the Kenya African Democratic Union, Kadu. In the 1963 independence elections, Kanu, led by Jomo Kenyatta, won with a landslide, Kadu, led by Ronald Ngala, became the official opposition party. In December 1964, Kenya became a republic. Kadu dissolved itself and joined Kanu. In effect, Kenya became a de facto one party state.

The tension between the left and right wings of Kanu resulted in the formation of the Kenya Peoples Union, KPU, led by Oginga Odinga, by the left wing of Kanu in 1966. This restored multipartyism and intensely competitive politics. Therefore in the period 1966 to 1969 there was intense political competition between Kanu and KPU. Cold war politics between the West and USSR/China was very evident in the Kanu-KPU struggle. This was the period at which concerted efforts were made by various groups to fan the bogey of ethnic chauvinism in Kenyan politics.

Kanu as a Shell

In July 1969, Tom Mboya, who had been a very effective Secretary General of Kanu, was assassinated. Another very effective Kanu organiser, Pio Gama Pinto, had been assassinated in 1965. In late 1969 the KPU was proscribed after an incident in Kisumu. All its key leaders were detained in prison. Therefore, in the period 1969 to 1982, Kenya became a de facto one party state once again. In 1982, Kenya became a de jure one party state. Multipartyism was reintroduced in 1992.

How Bureaucrats Replaced The Political Party in managing politics in Kenya

The events of 1969, and the period 1969 to 1992 are especially important to the history of multipartyism in Kenya. Kanu essentially became a shell. Real power and control was exercised by the President, and a few cronies, through the provincial administration.

Provincial Commissioners, District Commissioners and Chiefs became the real functionaries of the party. They sold cards, effected

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decisions on who became a party official, effected decisions on who became a Councillor or Member of Parliament.

Kanu was depoliticized. Party manifestos and programmes became beautiful documents which were produced by consultants and bureaucrats just before elections. No one paid attention to them after elections. Kenyans were extolled to 'wacha siasa' and seek 'maendeleo'. The political leadership sold to Kenyans the fallacy that there was something called 'development' which could be divorced from 'politics'; bureaucrats, under guidance from international organizations such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) prepared and imposed the “real” development programmes. This in effect spawned a dependent neocolonial capitalist socioeconomic underdevelopment in which the country continued to produce what it did not need and couldn't consume and consumed what it did not and could not produce.

In summary, the head of state, a few cronies and bureaucrats ran the affairs of the state. The party was just a mere shell. It did not, and could not play its leadership role in the governance and transformation of the state, economy and society.

Political Parties of the Rich and Powerful

The return of multiparty politics in 1992 had its unique challenges.

First, most of the large parties were formed by defectors from Kanu, who as indicated above, had very little experience in the management of democratic and effective political parties.

Second, the state decided which political party should be registered and which should be denied registration.

Third, the funding of political parties through contributions and levies by its overall membership was an alien concept to Kenya. Many members expected the leadership to bankroll the political parties. This state-of-affairs led to the monopolization of the leadership of large and powerful political parties with persons who were financially well endowed. These persons used their status to dictate what happened in political parties. If they could not get their way, they simply withheld funds or defected to more pliant political parties.

Our current electoral system also renders political parties irrelevant except as vehicles for going to parliament. Since individuals finance their own campaigns, and in fact bribe voters, they do not need to be loyal to parties and their ideologies, policies and programmes. So to strengthen political parties as vehicles that nurture a democratic culture and produce principled and ethical leadership, our electoral system must be reformed.

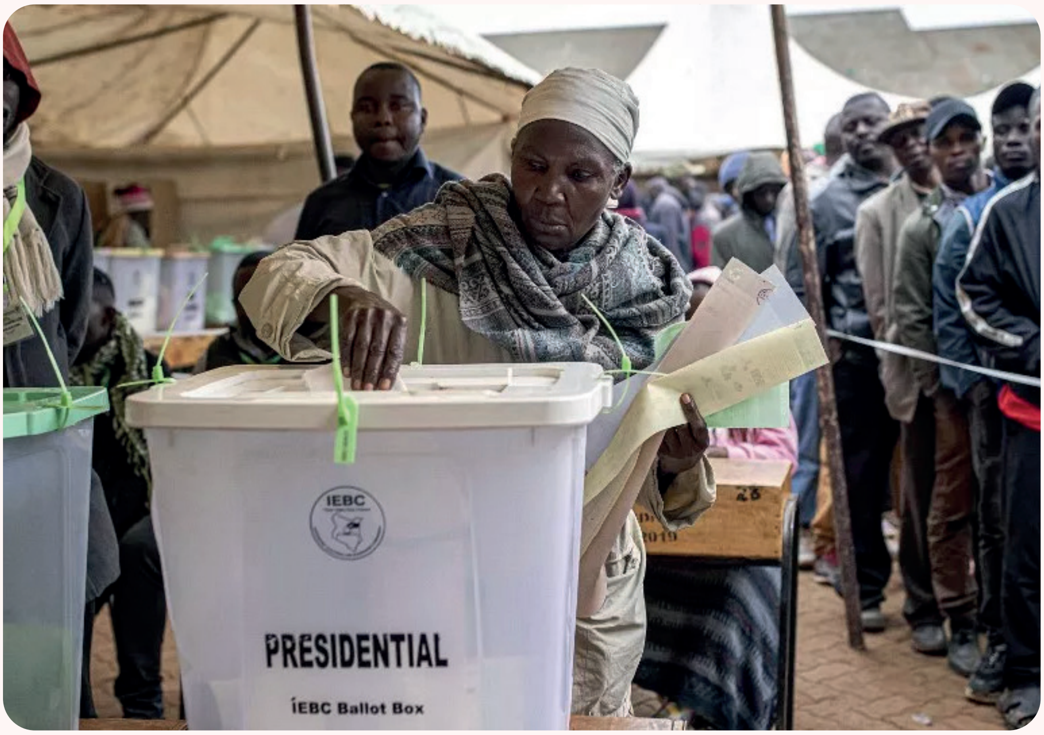
Political parties as vehicles for leadership in a country are expected to provide ideological, programmatic, and competent leadership to political processes in a country. However as we have noted, political parties in Kenya, especially ruling parties been weak and have largely lacked the capacity to provide focused, principled, and ethical, leadership.

Hurriedly cobbled together political coalitions with little internal coherence (in terms of ideology, organizational structures and staffing) have not able to effect credible and democratic nomination processes for, parliamentary, county assembly and presidential candidates. The parties don't have adequate capacity to effectively monitor the polling and subsequent tallying processes on the election.

Political Parties as Vehicles for Representation of the People

An ***electoral system*** can be defined as the regulation of the election of public officials. In other words it can be seen as the regulation of the relation between voting and the elected officials. An electoral system is, therefore, the way in which votes can be turned into elected representatives.

The electoral system with its specific electoral rules and regulations determines the winner, the composition of parliamentary representatives and government. It is an essential component of any legal framework. In reality, electoral systems are more complex than just an application of a mathematical formula for the allocation of seats.



It is important in ***representativity*** that there is a fairly balance correlation between the number of seats and the various social and political forces, as well as presence of marginalised groups such as women, youth, ethnic minorities and the disabled in the elected National Assembly and or other elected bodies

In terms of ***effectiveness*** the system must have the ability to generate a manageable number of political parties in parliament and can also aggregate interests effectively and can produce timely political decision-making.

Voter must have ***genuine choice***, i.e, must have the chance to select not only among parties and lists, but also among individual candidates

The system should have ***transparency*** such that the voters are not confused by too elaborate Systems whose complexity become an obstacle to exercise their will.

Legitimacy means that the electoral system should reflect, a genuine national consensus and not be seen by significant sectors of the population as flawed and unfair.

There are two main systems of elections:

- ***Proportional Representation (PR)***
- ***First-Past –The Post (FPTP)***

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Proportional representation (PR) voting systems are used by many of the world's major democracies such as South Africa. Under PR, representatives are elected in proportion to the number of votes received. PR assures that political parties will have the percent of legislative seats that reflects their public support. A party or candidate need not come in first to win seats.

FPTP or “winner-take-all” is applied in single constituencies, where votes going to a losing candidate are wasted, even if that candidate garners 49.9% of the vote. This leaves significant blocs of voters unrepresented. Voters sense this, and so often we do not vote for a candidate we like, but rather the one who realistically stands the best chance of winning—the “lesser of two evils.” Or, all too often, we don't bother to vote at all.

For genuine choice amongst competing political programmes and representation, some form of PR systems is the best option. The CoK 2010 provides some form of PR systems in Senate (for women), in the National Assembly (for 12 seats only) and at the County Assemblies (for the opposite gender- read women).

It is therefore imperative that the electoral laws should embrace PR. This is a crucial first step in Democratizing Political Parties as Vehicles of Effective Representation.

Processes and Internal Party Democracy

As we have noted, the return of multiparty politics in 1992 had its unique challenges.

Management Experience and Stability

Most of the large parties were formed by defectors from Kanu who as indicated above, had very little experience in the management of democratic and effective political parties.

Political parties as vehicles for leadership in a country are expected to provide ideological programmatic, and competent leadership to political processes in a country. However as we have noted, political parties in Kenya are weak and do not have the capacity to provide focused, principled, ethical, and firm leadership.

Funding

The funding of political parties through contributions and levies by its overall membership was an alien concept to Kenya. Many members expected the leadership to bankroll the political parties. This state-of-affairs led to the monopolization of the leadership of large and powerful political parties with persons who were financially well endowed. These persons used their status to dictate what happened in political parties. If they could not get their way, they simply withheld funds or defected to more pliant political parties. It is important that the government strengthens the recently initiated funding of political parties.

The Political Parties Fund

To mitigate against this weakness the funding of political parties from public coffers was introduced after many years of struggle. Article 23 of the PPA 2011 therefore establishes a Fund to be known as the Political Parties Fund and that is to be administered by the Registrar of Political Parties.
Article 24(1)(a) provides that: "such funds not being less than 0.3 % of all the national government's share of revenue as divided by the Annual Division of Revenue Act (DARA) enacted pursuant to Article 218 of the CoK 2010 as may be determined by the National Assembly; and

(b) contributions and donations to the Fund from any other lawful source. Article 25 outlines the distribution of the Fund as follows:

(a) 70% of the Fund proportionately by reference to the total number of votes secured by each political party in the preceeding general election,
(b) 15% of the Fund proportionately to political parties based on the number of candidates of the political party from special interest groups elected in the preceeding general election,
(c) 10% of the Fund proportionately to political parties based on the total number of representatives from the political party elected in the preceeding general election; and
(d) 5% for the administration expenses of the Fund.

The administration of this Fund has been fraught with serious challenges as the incumbent ruling party has endlessly sabotaged the effective provision and disbursement to the competitors who are meant to benefit from the Fund.

Electoral System and Party Nominations and Lists

Nomination

Our current electoral system also renders political parties irrelevant except as vehicles for going to parliament. Since individuals finance their own campaigns, and in fact bribe voters, they do not need to be loyal to parties and their ideologies, policies and programmes.

Party Lists

Party lists for "nominations" to the Senate, National Assembly and County Assemblies should be arrived at transparently by party competent and approved delegates.

Internal Democracy and Discipline

A political party is an institution of inclusion- for those who believe in its ideology, programme and discipline. It is also an institution of exclusion- for those who do not believe in its ideology, programme and discipline. A Social Democrat does not belong to the Christian Democratic Party.

It is important to distinguish between party members and party supporters. Members are the owners of the party. They are subject to party discipline and support the party financially, with their labour etc. These are persons who, if need be, will die for the party. Party supporters are those who may vote for the party at various times and may also support the party when they deem fit.

Our current electoral system also renders political parties irrelevant except as vehicles for going to parliament. Since individuals finance their own campaigns, and in fact bribe voters, they do not need to be loyal to parties and their ideologies, policies and programmes..
Internal party democracy is crucial to the stability and growth of a political party. Member of various organs should be allowed to express themselves freely within the organs. They should be free to express contrary opinions with due respect to decorum and discipline. Members must not engage in rebellious or disruptive behavior

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in stating contrary opinions. Once and idea is debated and agreed upon.

It is important to remind members of the provisions of Article 14A which prescribes that a member may be deemed to have resigned from a political party if:

(d) in any way or manner, publicly advocates for the formation of another political party, or
(e)promotes the ideology, interests or policies of another political party.

Conclusion

Our current electoral system also renders political parties irrelevant except as vehicles for going to parliament. Since individuals finance their own campaigns, and in fact bribe voters, they do not need to be loyal to parties and their ideologies, policies and programmes. So to strengthen political parties as vehicles that nurture a democratic culture and produce principled and ethical leadership, our electoral system must be reformed.

Industrialising Kenya

INDUSTRIALISING IN KENYA

Kenya is fast deindustrialising. A walkthrough Nairobi's Industrial Area reveals the extent of this crisis. Structures that once hosted workshops and factories have now been turned into warehouses for imported goods. The economic model we have pursued, with the advice and support of the International Financial Institutions, has reinforced the international division of labour where African countries produce and export primary commodities (agricultural produce, minerals, marine produce, forest produce etc.) and import processed, manufactured and value-added products. Simply put, we produce what we don't consume and consume what we don't produce. Only rapid industrialisation can create the requisite resources to satisfy basic human needs like food, healthcare, education, shelter and employment.

To boost economic growth, we must shift from an import-substitution approach to a strategy that encourages manufactured exports while protecting local industries. This would enhance our balance of payments and reduce economic vulnerability. Current industrial strategies are inadequate due to their poor adaptation to local conditions, inefficient resource use, and lack of agricultural linkages. We should focus on rural, less capital-intensive industries, drawing from Chinese and East Asian models, prioritizing consumer goods and agricultural inputs tailored to local needs.

Short to Medium-Term industrial Interventions

Textile and Apparel. Kenya's textile and apparel sector has the potential to drive the country's transition to middle-income status and provide employment for its growing youth population. As a manufactured good, it offers opportunities for value addition, improved trade logistics, and skill development from factory to management levels. This sector could serve as a gateway to broader manufacturing and economic diversification, a goal supported by the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). However, nearly 15 years after AGOA's launch, Kenya has not fully capitalized on the duty-free trade benefits, with exports still dominated by primary commodities. Despite growth in apparel exports and employment, the sector lags behind countries like Bangladesh. Key recommendations include developing a cotton seed system, upgrading ginneries, revitalizing cooperatives, and banning cotton exports to boost the industry.

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Leather.

Kenya's leather industry, despite its natural advantages, struggles to capitalize on a growing global market. While Kenya produces about 3.3 million pairs of leather footwear annually, primarily for the domestic market, its competitiveness in high-quality, globally marketable products is low. Most of the country's leather exports are semi-processed (wet blue leather), with little value added. Raw hides and skins, once significant exports, have diminished due to a 2009 export tariff, though smuggling persists. Footwear is Kenya's largest leather subsector, but handbags show more global potential. To grow the industry, Kenya needs better policies on hides and skins, improved animal husbandry, stricter export regulations, and enhanced promotion of local products. Developing industrial parks and infrastructure would attract investment, while coordination across the leather value chain is essential for the sector's growth and sustainability.

Pharmaceuticals.

As of November 2023, Kenya had 35 licensed local pharmaceutical manufacturers, including one multinational, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK). The domestic industry is valued at around KSh 30 billion, representing only 20% of the market, with the rest dominated by imports. Despite having the capacity to meet 80% of local demand and supply the East African region, Kenya's pharmaceutical industry faces significant competition from imports, many of which are substandard.

Several factors contribute to the influx of imported pharmaceuticals, such as easy registration processes with the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB), zero pharmaceutical import tariffs, and the PPB's limited capacity to monitor foreign drug factories. Additionally, penalties for importing substandard drugs are low, and quality testing is inconsistent.

Local manufacturers face challenges such as exclusion from donor-funded procurement due to the lack of WHO pre-qualification, limited capacity to participate in large tenders, financial strain from government reimbursement delays, and price competition from imports.

To address these issues, KEMSA and state-run hospitals should prioritize sourcing locally produced drugs, donor-funded projects should be encouraged to procure locally, and access to the local market for EPZ products should be improved.

Glass.

Kenya's flat glass market is experiencing annual growth of 3-4%, driven by public construction projects and increasing demand for commercial, residential, and mixed-use developments. Nairobi's emergence as a regional business hub and modernization trends are further boosting flat glass demand, especially for stylish interiors. Flat glass is used in residential applications such as windows, doors, and mirrors due to its strength, energy efficiency, and aesthetic appeal. The East African flat glass market is projected to exceed USD 235 million by 2024, fueled by urbanization, population growth, and middle-class expansion in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Tanzania.

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Additionally, the glass container segment is growing, particularly due to a global shift away from plastic packaging. Kenya's ban on plastic bags and plans to reduce plastic bottle usage are expected to increase demand for glass packaging. Despite local glass manufacturers sourcing 99% of raw materials domestically, many companies import glass from Egypt due to lower costs. To boost local production, the Kenyan government could provide incentives for investors, establish new glass manufacturing plants, and implement tariffs and restrictions on imports to create a level playing field for local manufacturers.

Paper and Pulp.

Kenya imported paper and pulp products worth US$423.1 million in 2018. The pulp and paper industry relies on fiber materials such as wood and straw, with sugarcane bagasse emerging as a low-cost, renewable alternative. Bagasse, a by-product of sugar production, can significantly increase in value when used for paper pulp rather than fuel, offering a sustainable solution to the growing wood shortage. With its high regeneration rate, sugarcane is a superior material for pulp making, protecting natural resources. The industry employs 10,000-15,000 people directly and 120,000-150,000 indirectly. To boost Kenya's paper industry, proposals include reviving Rai Paper Mills in Webuye using the abundantly available sugar bagasse, establishing two new plants in Nyanza and the Coast, and restricting paper imports.

Furniture.

The furniture value chain in Kenya consists of six key segments: forestry, timber harvesting and transport, timber processing, timber trading, furniture manufacturing, and sales.

However, the industry faces significant challenges.

First, the input supply is constrained, as the forestry sector cannot meet local timber demand, making Kenya a net importer of timber. Import licenses, which are opaque, further complicate the process, while sawmilling is fragmented with little investment, and the wood processing sector operates inefficiently under an oligopoly.

Second, the industry suffers from low labor productivity, particularly in the informal sector, due to limited training and outdated machinery. Poor production facilities hinder innovation and efficiency.

Third, local manufacturers face intense competition from Asian imports, especially in formal retail channels, limiting their access to both domestic and regional markets. Informal manufacturers (Jua Kali) are also losing market share as consumers shift towards mass retail.

Finally, there is limited collaboration between stakeholders across the value chain, with weak linkages between formal and informal sectors. This fragmentation reduces efficiency, specialization, and opportunities for mass production, and there is no unified industry association to advocate for the sector. To stimulate industrial development, the State should undertake several key approaches:

One. Market Assessment and Dialogue: Conduct a rapid market assessment to identify opportunities from government procurement, increased demand,

or disrupted imports. Engage with manufacturers, importers, and potential investors through regular dialogues and consider establishing an Economic Recovery team similar to the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) from the 2008-2013 Grand Coalition government. Utilize consultative meetings like The Prime Minister's Roundtable for coordinated action.

Two. Review Investment Code: Amend the Investment Code to favor domestic production of processed, manufactured, and value-added products over imports and primary commodity exports. Focus on industries that create mass employment, use local resources, transfer technology, and earn or save foreign currency.

Three. Land Bank Creation: Develop a land bank to facilitate investment by consolidating and making land available for manufacturing and agriculture. Establish industrial parks to streamline the industrialization process.

Four. Prioritize Sub-sectors: Initially focus on 2 or 3 key subsectors to streamline government efforts, given limited resources. Emphasize export-oriented sectors or those that can compete without violating the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA). Prioritize subsectors with potential for backward integration and global market competitiveness.

Five. Identify and Address Bottlenecks: Address specific challenges faced by anchor investors, such as land access, infrastructure, inputs, skills, regulations, and finance. Develop a manageable list of tasks for government intervention.

Six. Coordination and Taskforces: Enhance coordination among government agencies by assigning each agency specific interventions. Appoint a senior minister or agency head to lead a taskforce with a strong secretariat to ensure effective follow-up.

Seven. Iterative Problem-Solving: Continuously adapt and learn from experiences to build momentum for reforms. Use insights to shape future sector development plans, focusing on industrial parks, special economic zones, and tailored policies.

As the AfCFTA is implemented, increasing industrial and production capacity in key areas such as infrastructure, trade, finance, education, agriculture, and technology will be crucial. This effort is vital for diversifying economies, creating jobs, expanding the tax base, and improving healthcare funding.

> ***"Kenya's Vision 2030 emphasizes major infrastructure projects like roads, railways, ports, and airports, all of which require substantial iron and steel.***

Long-Term Industrial Development

Kenya has significant potential to foster industrial growth and competitiveness by focusing on key sectors: iron and steel, automotive, building and construction, and electrics and electronics.

Iron and Steel:

Kenya's Vision 2030 emphasizes major infrastructure projects like roads, railways, ports, and airports, all of which require substantial iron and steel. The development of a competitive steel industry is vital as it supports machinery, automotive, and maritime product manufacturing. Kenya possesses rich mineral resources, including iron ore, coal, and limestone, which are essential for steel production. However, challenges such as high electricity costs and inadequate local raw materials hinder competitiveness. To address these issues, Kenya should enforce electricity rebates, expedite mineral surveys, and ban scrap metal exports. Investing in integrated iron and steel mills and controlling product imports will boost the sector.

Automotive:

The automotive sector faces challenges from an influx of used vehicles, inadequate policies, and poor incentives for local production. Implementing a National Automotive Policy, supporting agricultural mechanization, and enforcing regulations on local parts sourcing are crucial interventions. The focus should be on local assembly of vehicles from completely knocked down (CKD) kits and promoting the production of automotive parts. Additionally, opportunities exist in manufacturing maritime products for transport, fishing, and offshore mining, which will support a robust automotive industry.

Building and Construction:

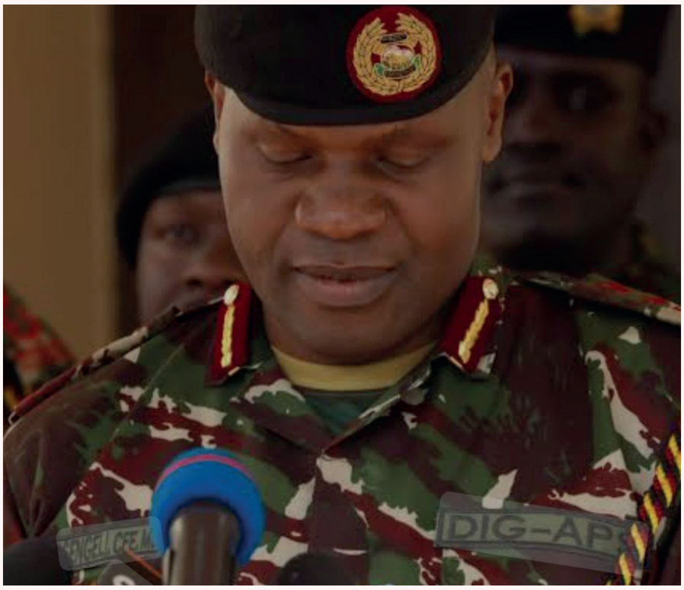
The high cost of locally produced cement, limited building material options, and reliance on imports for some materials, such as ceramic tiles, affect the competitiveness of the building and construction sector. To improve this, Kenya should enforce electricity rebates, expand local clinker production, and prioritize indigenous suppliers. Encouraging local production of building materials and limiting imports where local supplies are adequate will enhance the sector's performance, reflecting positively on the country's economic health.

Electrics and Electronics: Challenges in this sector include a lack of local procurement for government projects, tariff anomalies, skills gaps, and illicit trade. Key interventions include enforcing the Buy Kenya Build Kenya policy, reviewing the East African Community Common External Tariff (EAC CET), and developing market-driven training programs. With the growing demand for ICT equipment and the Fourth Industrial Revolution, Kenya should leverage its mineral resources for ICT manufacturing and enhance its digital and technological capabilities to drive productivity and efficiency in the manufacturing sector.

Overall, investing in these sectors aligns with Kenya's long-term industrialization strategy, leveraging local resources and addressing current challenges to build a competitive and sustainable industrial base.

Masengeli Under Fire for Withdrawing Judge's Security

The Acting Inspector General of Police Mr. Gilbert Masengeli



The Acting Inspector General of Police Mr. Gilbert Masengeli has come under sharp criticism from Kenyans for defying court summonses over the missing Kenyans popularly known as the Kitengela Three.

Mr. Masengeli skipped six summonses issued by High Court Judge Lawrence Mugambi to explain the whereabouts of political activists Mr. Bob Njagi and brothers Jamil Longton and Aslay Longton who were abducted by police on August 19, 2024.

On all occasions, Mr. Masengeli was out of town hence giving the impression that he was busy serving the nation by visiting security prone areas of the country.

This caused uproar from Kenyans who were eager to know where the three Kenyans are and when the would be produced in court for prosecution if they ever committed any crime.

This prompted Justice Mugambi to convict Mr. Masengeli to six months in prison for outright defiance of the court summons.

In retaliation, the National Police Service on Monday (16th September 2024) withdrew the security detail attached to the Judge under unclear circumstances.

The new development prompted the Judicial Service Commission under the leadership of Chief Justice Ms. Martha Koome to issue a statement accusing the National Police Service of vendetta.

"It is crucial to remember that judicial independence is not a privilege for judges; it is the cornerstone for all citizens", said the Chief Justice. She said Judges must be free to make decisions based solely on the law, without fear of retribution or interference.

"Any encroachment on this independence puts our society at risk of descending into lawlessness, where might supersedes rights and justice subverted by intimidation", she said.

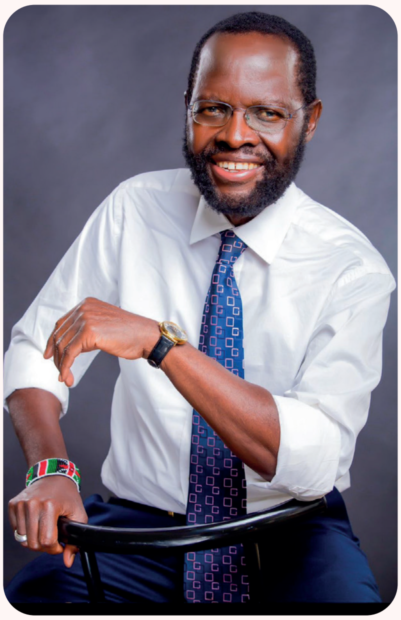
However, in a statement issued on Tuesday (17th September 2024) morning, Mr. Masengeli said the withdrawal of the security personnel attached to Justice Mugambi was procedural and in accordance with the provisions of the National Police Service.

He said the security personnel attached to VIPs remain in service and can be recalled anytime for redeployment. "The two officers being general duty officers were recalled for purposes of attending VIP security courses", said Mr. Masengeli.

He added that VIP protection is a reserve for the Presidency. "Other than the President, Deputy President and the Retired President, no other Kenyan is entitled by law to be provided with personal security detail".

The Law Society of Kenya led by its President Ms. Faith Odhiambo faulted the decision to withdraw the security of Justice Mugambi saying it was ill-advised and uncalled for.

Nyong'o to Step in for Raila in ODM



ODM Leader Mr. Raila Odinga on Wednesday 11th September 2024 designated the Governor of Kisumu Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o to step in as the Chairman of the Central Management Committee, the party's top most organ and the only one chaired by the Party Leader. This, according to Mr. Odinga will give him enough time to focus on his campaign for the African Union Commission Chairmanship whose election is expected in February next year.

Mr. Odinga made this decision at a meeting of the Central Management Committee, the first one to be attended by the newly elevated party officials, Mr. Abdulswamad Sherrif Nassir (Governor of Mombasa) and Mr. Godfrey Osotsi (Senator of Vihiga) both of whom were appointed Deputy Party Leaders to replace former Governors Wycliffe Oparanya and Ali Hassan Joho who were both appointed into government as Cabinet Secretaries. Others were Ms. Gladys Wanga, the Governor of Homabay who is the party chairperson and Ms. Rosa Buyu, MP for Kisumu West.

Ms. Wanga replaced Mr. John Mbadi who served as Chairman of the party for nine years and whose appointment into Cabinet paved the way for her to step into the shoes while Ms. Buyu replaced Mr. Opiyo Wandayi who is now the Cabinet Secretary for Energy and Petroleum.

Mr. Odinga's campaign for the AU top seat is expected to intensify in the coming months, head of the February 2025 elections to be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the headquarters of the African Union. This will involve travelling to the various countries in the continent to pitch his bid and seek the support of those countries.

"I want to focus on this campaign and in my absence, I would like Prof. Nyong'o to be chairing meetings of the Central Management Committee (CMC), he said.

Prof. Nyong'o took his X handle to thank the Party Leader for allowing him to chair the party's top organ. "I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our leader Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga and the Central Management Committee for entrusting me with the responsibility of Acting Party Leader. I deeply appreciate your confidence in me to oversee the party while Baba attends to his international duties".

Governor Barasa Summoned as Osotsi Sounds a Warning

The Governor of Kakamega County Mr. Fernandes Barasa, Speaker of the County Assembly of Kakamega Mr. James Namatsi and the former Majority Leader in the Assembly Mr. Philip Maina have been summoned to appear before the Central Management Committee of the party over the continued wrangling in the County Assembly and blatant defiance of decisions of the Committee.

The decision to summon the trio was arrived at after deliberations of the Central Management Committee over the refusal by the Speaker of the Assembly Mr. Namatsi to replace Mr. Maina with Mr. Geofrey Ondiro Obonyo, a decision made by the Central Management Committee chaired by the Party Leader Mr. Raila Odinga.

In a statement read to the media by Secretary General Mr. Edwin Sifuna, the Committee felt undermined by the Speaker's decision not to effect the changes as made by it. "That the state of affairs in Kakamega County Assembly has now become unacceptable. The Party via official communication designated Hon. Geoffrey Ondiro as the Majority Leader", said Mr. Sifuna emphasizing on the earlier decision defied by Mr. Namatsi.

Mr. Sifuna cited the Governor, the Speaker and Mr. Maina and the people behind the defiance of the decisions of the party's top organ. "The Committee has therefore resolved to summon the three to appear before it at a date to be communicated", he said.

Over the weekend, Mr. Barasa and a section of MCAs castigated the decision of the Central Management Committee to summon the trio saying they do not want to be micromanaged. Speaking at a funeral in Shinyalu constituency on Saturday, Mr. Barasa poured cold water on the summonses saying he will not allow the committee to dictate to the county how it should run its affairs.

"The County Assembly of Kakamega and I as the County Chairman respect the party, but please, don't micro-manage the county government", he said.

He said they have the executive authority of the people who elected them and that there is no county that is directed by the party on how to run its programmes.

But in a quick rejoinder, the Deputy Party Leader Mr. Godfrey

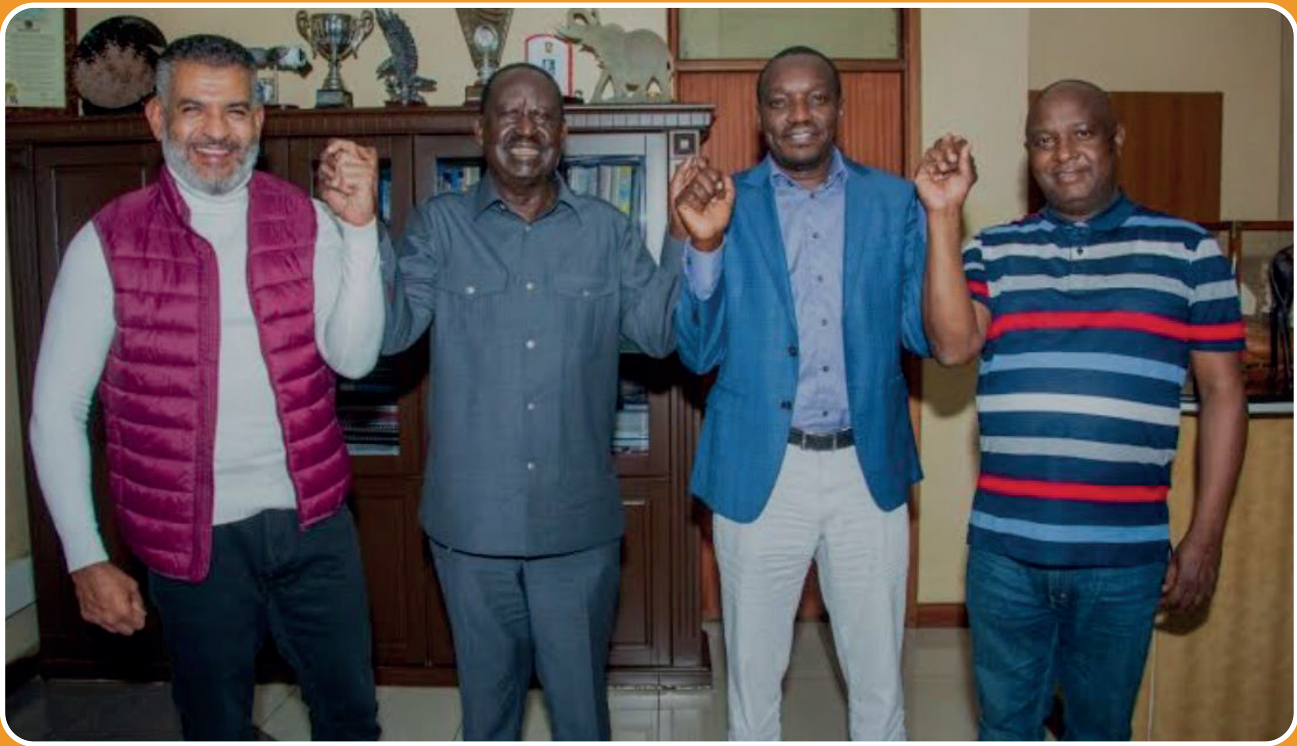
Osotsi warned the Governor against disrespecting the party. In a statement on Monday (16th September 2024), Mr. Osotsi noted all ODM party members are expected to show respect to respect to the party organs and abide by their decisions.

"It was a resolution of the Central Management Committee that the governor, speaker of the county assembly and the former majority leader must immediately cease frustrating members of the assembly and implement the recommendations of the party of the leadership question", he said in the statement.

"Governor Barasa has already been invited to make his case before the same organ he is now disparaging and this does not bode well for the proper resolution of the matters in question" said Mr. Osotsi.

The Senator of Vihiga asked the Governor of Kakamega to desist from his unbecoming behavior as he awaits his date with the committee.

Arati and Osotsi to Resolve the Bickering in Kilifi



Deputy Party Leaders Godfrey Osotsi and Simba Arati have been tasked with the responsibility of resolving leadership wrangles in Kilifi County. The decision to dispatch the two to Kilifi County was arrived at during the meeting of the Central Management Committee on Wednesday (11th September 2024) in Nairobi and chaired by Party Leader Mr. Raila Odinga.

Reading the committee's resolutions to the media, Secretary General Mr. Edwin Sifuna said the committee had received complaints of wrangling within its ranks in Kilifi County saying this had to be resolved for the party to resume its normal operations in the county. "Two Deputy Party Leaders Hon. Simba Arati and Hon. Godfrey Osotsi should hold an urgent meeting with with all stakeholders in Kilifi to resolve this matter", he said adding that the two will be joined by the National Organizing Secretary of the party Hon. Abdisalan Ahmed Ibrahim.

Mr. Sifuna said the committee wants party members to remain disciplined and avoid actions and words that undermine the party and its organs. "Members are reminded that all sanctioned party meetings must and shall be organized and communicated through the National Secretariat", he said adding that "invitations to any meetings of any organs of the party not originating from the National Secretariat should henceforth be ignored".

The meeting also resolved to appoint Sen. Hamida Kibwana to the National Elections Coordinating Committee (NECC), replacing Ms. Beatrice Askul who has since assumed her new responsibility as a Cabinet Secretary in government.

The Committee also directed the NECC to hold the postponed grassroots elections in the month of November 2024.