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Corruption is Killing Kenya

Corruption is a national disaster that deprives Kenyans of essential services and goods. Addressing this issue could save taxpayers up to KSh 1 trillion annually. Graft in Kenya's public service has become deeply entrenched, involving presidents, cabinet members, civil servants, and legislators across successive administrations. The ongoing impeachment motion against Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua exemplifies the sophisticated nature of graft in the country. Ground number seven in the motion accuses Gachagua of violating multiple sections of the Anti-Corruption and Economic Crimes Act and the Proceeds of Crime and Anti-Money Laundering Act. The Deputy President is alleged to have amassed significant wealth in the last two years, primarily through corruption and money laundering schemes, using proxies, particularly his sons, to conceal the proceeds of crime. >> Pg2



ODM NEWS

The ODM Youth League (OYL) will next week from the 7th to the 11th hold a retreat where they will discuss matters pertaining to the League, strengthen it, and make it more vibrant. According to the President of the ODM Youth League Mr. John Ketora, the retreat will give members time to strategize, reflect, and review the activities of the league and prepare for a vigorous exercise to revitalize it. >> Pg 16

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A web of 22 companies tied to Gachagua's family members is implicated in suspicious property acquisitions, including Crystal Kenya Limited's purchase of Outspan Hotel and Treetops Hotel in Nyeri, and Vipingo Beach Resort in Kilifi. Additionally, Gachagua is accused of being involved in a KSh 3.7 billion irregular procurement

of mosquito nets, endangering millions of lives. His shell company AgroBriq allegedly transferred KSh 47 million from the Executive Office of the President to another firm to obscure the money trail. President William Ruto is also accused of illegally acquiring public land for the construction of Weston Hotel along Langata Road.

It has become an established trend in the country that every regime creates a string of scams, with one or two being the flagship.



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The Eurobond scandal, often dubbed the "Mother of All Heists," revolves around the mismanagement of KSh. 215 billion in proceeds from a Eurobond issued by the government. It was a clear case of where money was borrowed offshore and stolen offshore. Initially meant to finance infrastructure projects and alleviate pressure on domestic borrowing, the Eurobond quickly became suspect. First, it led to the devaluation of the Kenyan shilling, raising doubts about its benefits. Delays in accessing the funds further fueled suspicion, with allegations that the money was deposited in personal accounts rather than government ones. The Controller of Budget later confirmed that the funds were not credited into the Consolidated Fund as required by law.

Another major concern was the lack of clear budget lines, allowing ministries and departments to use the funds without proper oversight. This lack of fiscal discipline created opportunities for siphoning off the proceeds, with allegations that the funds were moved out of the accounts at alarming speeds. Efforts to trace the movement of the Eurobond proceeds also hit a dead end. While some money was tracked through JP Morgan Chase Bank, where US\$ 2 billion

was deposited, and a portion used to repay a syndicated loan, a significant amount, US\$ 999 million, was transferred to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. After this transfer, there were no further records to account for the funds. Redacted documents and missing bank statements created further opacity, raising serious concerns about where the money went after reaching the Federal Reserve.

The Eurobond heist highlights a pattern of public theft, lack of transparency, and corruption, with large sums of money unaccounted for and few mechanisms in place to ensure public oversight.

The tender for a Sh. 635 billion terminal project at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) in 2013, between the Kenya Airports Authority (KAA) and Chinese firm Anhui Construction Engineering Group Limited, was part of a series of inflated contracts. Initially signed in 2011 for Sh. 59.4 billion, the Jubilee government inflated it by Sh. 9.5 billion. The project, intended to establish Nairobi as an aviation hub, was abandoned in 2016, exposing Kenya to a potential loss of Sh. 20 billion. It remains unclear if this relates to the Global Trading Centre (GTC) project by the same contractor.

The SGR project was one of the flagship projects of the Grand Coalition Government under Vision 2030. The exiting Grand Coalition government had processed tenders for the project and awarded China Roads and Bridges Corporation (CRBC) at Sh. 220 Billion for the Mombasa- Nairobi leg. When it came to power, the Jubilee Government cancelled this tender, then awarded it to the same company, through single sourcing, at Sh. 334 billion (Sh. 114 Billion more). It was later inflated to Sh. 1.3 trillion (US\$ 13.8 Billion) for the entire course. The project is now stuck at Naivasha with no money to complete the third and final phase that was to run from Naivasha to Malaba.

Jubilee's promise to provide laptops to Class One students by 2014 faced corruption in tendering. The project's cost rose from Sh. 24.6 billion to Sh. 26 billion due to tender manipulation. The High Court nullified the tender, as conflict arose between bidders. Olive Telecommunications, backed by the Ministry of Education, was favored over competitors like Hewlett-Packard (HP) and Haier, despite not meeting requirements. These scandals reflect the recurring inflation of public projects under the Jubilee government.



Another major scam under President Kenyatta and his DP Ruto administration involved the National Youth Service (NYS). This involved the fraudulent payout of Sh1.8 billion, including Sh791 million initially admitted by the Ministry of Devolution. An additional Sh609 million was paid under similar circumstances, raising concerns about the scale of corruption. Notably, Sh218 million was paid to Form Home Builders five months before it was officially registered. Two other companies, Reinforced Concrete Technologies and Roof and All Trading, both linked to Josephine Kabura, a hair stylist, also received payments shortly after their registration.

The scandal coincided with leadership changes at the NYS. After Japhter Rugut was replaced by Nelson Githinji as NYS director, Githinji's authority was revoked in February 2015, and his deputy, Adan Harakhe, was appointed the new accounting officer. During this period, Sh460 million of the fraudulent payments was disbursed. The Auditor General also uncovered irregular payments to NYS permanent staff, who were already salaried.

The Public Accounts Committee later suggested that the total amount stolen could be as high as Sh3 billion, with potentially more powerful figures behind

the scheme than the Devolution Cabinet Secretary, Ann Waiguru.

The energy sector is another lucrative area for "tenderpreneurs." Geothermal Development Company spent Sh. 60 billion and can't light a single bulb. President Kenyatta's pledge to Kenyans for a fifty per cent reduction in the cost of electricity never materialized and will never materialize after the Geothermal Development Company said it will not be able to add 105 megawatts to the national grid. A work plan by the company had outlined the steps the government must take, beginning with commissioning and drilling, to inject 105 MW into the national grid by the end of December 2014. The company claimed the setback was due to tendering delays, but insiders attributed it to the absence of steam. Sh. 60 billion pumped into this project seems to have gone down the drain.

Sources privy to the goings-on said the company contracted to gather steam failed begin because the identified wells were not producing enough. It is said they did not understand why the company was outsourcing drilling services when they had invested billions to buy drilling rigs from China.

Under President Kibaki, Anglo Leasing Scandal was the most infamous. The scandal, which came



to light in 2002, dated back to 1997 when the government under Moi's reign, sought to replace its passport printing system. Initially quoted at 6 million euros by a French firm, the tender was awarded to the British company Anglo Leasing Finance for 30 million euros, which planned to subcontract the same French firm. The deal was not publicly and competitively advertised, and its details were leaked by a junior civil servant. The scandal was linked

to Jimi Wanjigi and the Kamani family, known for their involvement in numerous security-related frauds, with Sudha Ruparell serving as the Anglo-Leasing sales agent. Despite the new NARC government's promises to combat corruption, key officials, including former Internal Security Minister Chris Murungaru and former Vice-President Moody Awori, were implicated. The scandal involved fraudulent contracts for



overpriced goods and services that were never delivered. John Githongo's 2006 report revealed Anglo Leasing as just one of many phantom companies used to defraud the Kenyan taxpayer. Infotalent Systems, owned by the Kamani family, was specifically highlighted for receiving a 59.7 million euro security contract, with a 5.2 million euro back pay for non-performance. The scandal symbolized the persistence of corruption from the KANU to NARC regimes.

The Goldenberg scandal was one of the most notorious corruption cases during Daniel arap Moi's 24-year presidency in Kenya. It involved two companies: Goldenberg International and Exchange Bank Limited, both directed by businessman Kamlesh Pattni and then intelligence chief James Kanyotu. In 1990, Goldenberg was granted a monopoly on gold and diamond exports from Kenya, despite the country having little gold and no diamonds. The government also provided a 35% export subsidy, 15% higher than the official rate, to encourage foreign exchange gains.

However, the exports were largely fictitious, and Goldenberg exploited the scheme to defraud the state of an estimated US\$600 million to US\$1.5 billion. The scandal unfolded during a period of economic austerity and political oppression in the early 1990s, when Kenya was grappling with foreign debt, reduced donor support, and internal borrowing.

Despite various inquiries, including a 2003 Judicial Commission of Inquiry, the full extent of the financial

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In 1988, DUCROIRE, a Belgian bank, won a tribunal awarding Sh1.7 billion, and Austria's BAWAG bank secured Sh1.3 billion in 1992. By 2011, Kenya had paid Sh2.4 billion to settle these debts, but an outstanding Sh3 billion remained for a project that was never realized, resulting in massive financial losses.

damage remains speculative, though it is believed Goldenberg siphoned approximately KSh158.3 billion (US\$2.3 billion). The scandal left a lasting legacy of economic instability and corruption in Kenya's governance during the Moi era.

Under Jomo Kenyatta's administration, two major financial scandals emerged: the Ken-Ren Fertiliser Project and the Halal Meat scam. The Ken-Ren Chemical and Fertilizers Company Limited was a joint venture between the Kenyan government and the U.S.-based N-REN Corporation in the 1970s. The project aimed to reduce fertilizer imports by establishing a factory in Mombasa. However, the factory was never built, leading to legal disputes. In 1988, DUCROIRE, a Belgian bank, won a tribunal awarding Sh1.7 billion, and Austria's BAWAG bank secured Sh1.3 billion in 1992. By 2011, Kenya had paid Sh2.4 billion to settle these debts,



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The Halal Meat scandal involved a private abattoir owned by Mohamed Ali Modha, funded by a government loan through the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development. Completed in 1978, the facility remained closed for six years due to a conflict over the inclusion of Kenya Meat Commission (KMC) officials on its board. In 1984, a severe drought led the government to reopen the slaughterhouse, and negotiations to purchase it began. However, the deal fell through, and in 2004, the government was forced to pay Sh1.8 billion in compensation following a prolonged legal battle. Both scandals reflect substantial financial mismanagement and corruption during Kenyatta's tenure.

To combat corruption, the following key measures are inevitable:

One, public officials should disclose and address conflicts of interest through asset declarations, codes of conduct, and regulations. Legislation should prohibit public officials from engaging in private

business while in office, and transparency in procurement processes should be enhanced to facilitate scrutiny by the media and public.

Two, public officials should receive fair wages and merit-based promotions, while harsh penalties for corrupt behavior should be enforced.

Three, Kenya should pursue bilateral and multilateral agreements to prevent corrupt officials from laundering and hiding illicit funds abroad. International financial systems must implement stringent measures to block the absorption of these funds.

Four, the government should simplify the tender process, reducing bureaucracy, and ensuring fair access to government contracts will foster competition, especially for SMEs, women, and minorities. This inclusivity will increase transparency and minimize opportunities for corruption.

Through these measures, we can restore good governance and accountability, ensuring that public funds are used to benefit all Kenyans.

Representation of the People



SOMALIA'S GOVERNANCE CRISIS

Public Participation and Representation of The People

Genuine and robust Public Participation is the bulwark against representational tyranny by those to whom we have delegated our collective power and authority to govern ourselves. When writing the Constitution of Kenya 2010 we were keenly aware that those we trust with delegated authority and power could abuse it and for that reason therefore we insisted that all those who were to exercise such delegated powers and authority had to continuously involve us.

Recent events have shown that there was great wisdom in insisting on public participation. Clearly the delegates can and have abused the trust we bestowed upon them. Going forward we must strengthen the ability, preparedness and willingness of the people to participate in governance and hold the delegates on a leash. Then and only then shall justice be our shield and defender so that we may have and collectively enjoy plenty within our borders.

May We Never Forget

Our representatives have forgotten that it is just one hundred days since the day parliament was stormed on Tuesday 25th June 2024. On that unforgettable day Kenya saw a the storming of parliament by the Gen- Z because the representatives of the people had stubbornly ignored the pleas of a desperate and hurting public that they should not pass the punitive Finance Bill 2024. They decided to ignore public opinion and pleas against the Finance Bill 2024-2025.

May We Never Forget.

On that fateful day the government massacred young protesters on the hallowed grounds of parliament merely for peacefully exercising their constitutionally guaranteed right to express their disagreement with their representatives in the national assembly and the executive. It has since been authoritatively reported that over 60 youth were killed, hundreds injured and many more abducted and forcibly disappeared. The blood

of the dead has not dried and the wounds of the injured have not healed. Scores are missing from their homes and their parents and relatives too fearful to come out and complain. Abductions and unexplained disappearances and deaths continue.

Under the circumstances one thought that the MPs as representatives of the people and the government of Kenya would



The controversial ADANI deal involving the surreptitious scheme to dispose off the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) to the scandal-ridden Indian firm was exposed but government appears determined to cut the deal whatever it takes.

have learned to conduct genuine and robust public participation and to pay more attention and listen to the people. Sadly in the last one hundred days the number and frequency of dubious and shady government deals involving hundreds of billions of shillings continue to hit the headlines in the mass and social media. All these and many more; without public participation.

The controversial ADANI deal involving the surreptitious scheme to dispose off the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) to the scandal-ridden Indian firm was exposed but government appears determined to cut the deal whatever it takes. The same firm is named in opaque deals in the power generation and transmission sectors as well as in the health sector. It is reliably reported that it may be associated with the dubious Kshs 104 billion deal associated with the chaotic and scandalous Social Health Authority (SHA) and Social Health Insurance Fund. (SHIF) initiative. All these have been undertaken without public participation and in total disregard of due process.

What is Public Participation?

Public participation can be any process that directly engages the public in decision-making and gives full consideration to public input in making government decisions.

Public Participation also referred to as citizen participation is the foundation of good governance in a modern democratic society as it allows citizens to voice their concerns, contribute to decision-making processes, and hold their leaders accountable.

It is a process, not a single event. It consists of a series of activities and actions by an agency or department over the full lifespan of a project to both inform the public and obtain input and approval wfrom them. Public participation affords the people as "stakeholders" the opportunity to influence decisions that affect their lives.

Public Participation in The CoK 2010

In fact in Kenya Article 10 (2) of the Constitution of Kenya 2010 ((CoK 2010) declares that public participation is among the national values and principles of governance. More significantly Article 10 (1) decrees that:

"The national values and principles of governance in this Article bind all State organs, State officers, public officers and all persons whenever any of them:- a) applies or interprets this Constitution; b) enacts, applies or interprets any law; or c) makes or implements public policy decisions".

The principle of "We the People" enshrined in the Kenyan Constitution must be realized through active and effective public participation. In fact Article 1(2) of the CoK 2010 states that:

(1) All sovereign power belongs to the people of Kenya and shall be exercised only in accordance with this Constitution. Moreover Article1(2) declares that:

"The people may exercise their sovereign power either directly or through their democratically elected representatives. (c) the Judiciary and independent tribunals. (b) the county level."

This requires a paradigm shift in how the government engages citizens in the process of public policy conception, formulation, implementation monitoring, evaluation and reporting.



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Representatives must be proactive in soliciting and valuing public input, while citizens must be informed and willing to engage in governance processes.

Those in the legislative and executive branches of government must realise that the powers that they exercise are delegated by the people who may withdraw it to exercise the same directly. They are merely agents and servants of the people and the people don't abdicate on the election day.

"Wajumbe"

The people's representatives, MPs, are called **"wajumbe"** (messengers) in kiswahili because they are carriers or bearers of **"ujumbe"**(message(s)). It would be of great value to society if they

understood that they speak on behalf of the people and therefore they have to consult and faithfully bear the message(s).

Somehow the members of both houses of Parliament (MPs) and members of the County Assemblies (MCAs) are quick to forget that they are messengers with a message from their voters to the assembly. All the functions and powers of those assemblies can be carried out directly by the people who voted the representatives to the legislative bodies if they fail to faithfully transmit the people's messages. It is for that reason that the people were careful to inscribe the mandatory requirement for public participation in the CoK 2010 so that the people can continuously engage not only the MPs and MCAs but also the executive.

Unsurprisingly the representatives have repeatedly demonstrated their lack of respect for the people whose delegated powers and authority they transiently exercise on trust. The Kenyan ruling elite is beholden to foreign powers and interests and seem to have sworn an oath that if ever there is a conflict between the interests of the Kenyan people and that of the foreigners that of the foreigners will prevail.

This is not surprising because the typical politician in Kenya is a product of neocolonial breeding

and therefore has disdain for the people. A disdain whose roots is to be traced to the colonial origin of the state in Kenya. The post-colonial state in Kenya is essentially a dependent neocolonial state and is therefore colonial in character and purpose. The colonial state was brutal, oppressive, domineering, patronising, extractive and exploitative.

Their mission was to establish a dependent capitalist economy that served imperial kitchens and industries. Consequently they bequeathed us underdeveloped economies that produces what we don't consume and left us consuming what we don't produce.

The postcolonial ruling elite was bred and nurtured for the reproduction of that model. The mission of the neocolonial state is an unchanged colonial mission. A neocolonial state is therefore really just a later-day colonial state ruled by a client ruling ruling elite that owes loyalty to imperialism.

Notwithstanding explicit requirements of the CoK 2010 recent protests against the Finance Bill show that the Kenya Kwanza government believes that once they were installed in office they don't need to pay attention to the express requirements of the CoK 2010 and the views of the public as expressed in public participation sessions.

Neocolonial Monarchy and Disdain For Public Participation

The utter disregard for the explicitly expressed views of the people as expressed in public participation sessions makes the MPs appear as beholden to the President who is himself beholden to US, Western, and foreign imperialist interests. In the service of imperialists he postures and is seen as a tyrant with little regards for the Constitution of Kenya 2010 (CoK 2010). Together with the president the MPs imagine that Kenya is a monarchy and the President's word is the law of the land.

Besides his numerous democratic deficits it is manifest that President Ruto also has an antiquated notion of his powers 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 very limited and constrained constitutional authority donated by the people of Kenya.

The President and all state and public officers and the representatives of the people must be reminded that people don't work to pay taxes or to serve governments 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 and justify why it needs revenue raised through taxation. It is for that



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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.

It looks like President Ruto imagines that God ordained him and the state to raise taxes and the people's representatives appear to believe that they are his minions ruling the people rather than servants of the people whose mission should be to voice the opinions of the people. They seem to believe that the Kenya Kwanza manifesto and the wishes of the President supercedes the CoK 2010 and the the wishes of the people as expressed in public participation sessions.

They forget 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 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.

Effective public participation ensures that policies reflect the will and needs of the people, fostering a more inclusive and equitable society. This is why the CoK 2010 places a strong emphasis on public

participation, with Article 10 listing it as a national value and principle of governance.

Is All Public Participation Genuine?

“The Ladder of Citizen Participation” proposed by Sherry Arnstein is one of the most widely referenced and influential models in the field of democratic public participation. Arnstein opens her article with a central question:

“What is citizen participation and what is its relationship to the social imperatives of our time?” She then

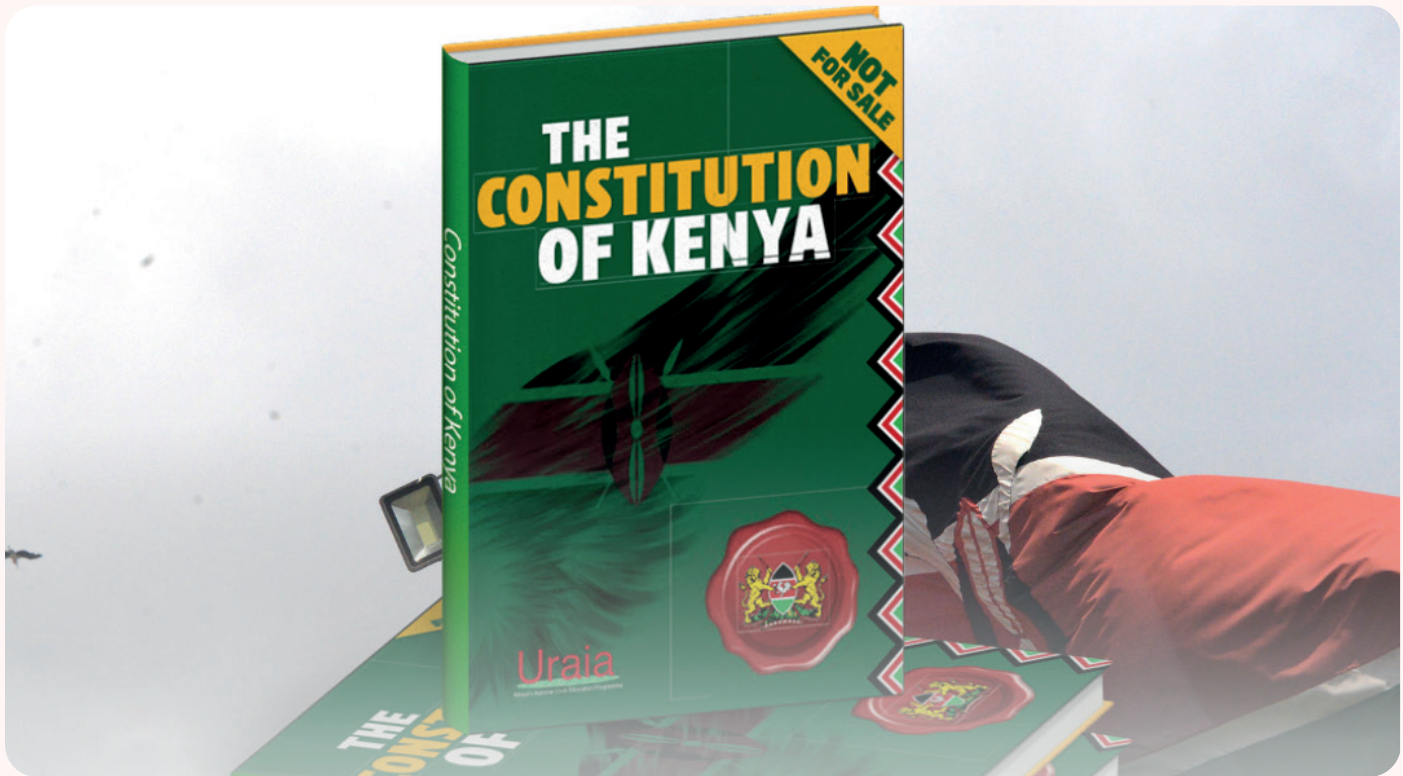
provides a detailed answer:

“My answer to the critical what question is simply that citizen participation is a categorical term for citizen power. It is the redistribution of power that enables the have-not citizens, presently excluded from the political and economic processes, to be deliberately included in the future.

It is the strategy by which the have-nots join in determining how information is shared, goals and policies are set, tax resources are allocated, programs are operated, and benefits like contracts and

patronage are parceled out. In short, it is the means by which they can induce significant social reform which enables them to share in the benefits of the affluent society.... **participation without redistribution of power is an empty and frustrating process”**(emphasis added).

To be effective, public participation must therefore be more than just a formality. It should involve proactive engagement with citizens, transparent dissemination of information, and genuine incorporation of public input into decision-making processes. This requires government officials



to create accessible platforms for dialogue, solicit feedback on proposed legislation, and demonstrate a willingness to adapt policies based on citizen input.

Even though inclusive citizen participation is, among others, intended to produce more democratic and better decisions and is regarded as crucial in the governing process, debate persists on how to achieve successful citizen participation.

Attracting and maintaining citizen engagement often proves to be a struggle especially where genuine concern and good will is lacking.

The question that arises then is under which conditions can inclusive citizen participation thrive and produce the greatest gains?

Empowering The People For Effective Participation

Below are some conditions which have been put forth:

- a. The people should be equipped to have the skills, knowledge and attitudes to participate, including the ability to organise themselves.
- b. Effectively implemented laws, regulations and policies that enable participation and social accountability.
- c. Commitment to genuine inclusive participation by the government and citizens:

willingness to incorporate citizens' needs and suggestions in policy.

- d. The identification, understanding and involvement of all relevant stakeholders, particularly marginalised and vulnerable groups.
- e. A well-planned process with clear objectives and sufficient allocation of resources. The plan and its limitations should be understood by all stakeholders.
- f. A transparent government: the publication of understandable and useable information.
- g. Trust between government and citizens.

Kenya's legal framework strongly supports public participation.

Additionally, international conventions and treaties signed by Kenya stress the significance of public participation. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) affirm citizens right to engage in public affairs. These agreements collectively mandate that governance must integrate public participation to ensure policies and decisions reflect the people's will.

The government should therefore prioritize raising awareness of participation rights, enhancing transparency in its processes,

ensuring information accessibility across different formats and languages, and expanding digital platforms while effectively bridging the digital divide.

Recent widespread youth demonstrations in the country demonstrate that public participation should not merely be a procedural formality but a vital component of a functioning democracy. It should ensure that the voices of all Kenyans are heard and considered in policy-making, so as to move towards a more inclusive, equitable, and responsive government and society.

The extremely popular Gen-Z protests against the Finance Bill and bad governance are a reminder of the need for continual engagement and the essential role that public participation plays in the democratic process.



The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) affirm citizens right to engage in public affairs.

Despite strong legal frameworks, achieving effective public participation in Kenya faces numerous challenges such as limited awareness, inadequate access to information, and insufficient mechanisms to incorporate public feedback into policy decisions. There are also logistical barriers like geographical constraints and digital divides also hinder broad participation, especially among marginalized and rural communities.

Above all else it is quite clear that those in power; the bureaucracy and the predatory buccaneers and parasitic cabals and tenderpreneurs have captured and privatised the state for the sole purpose of self-aggrandisement and primitive accumulation through looting, pillaging and extortion. That, in fact, is why they are roaming around the world hawking and peddling public assets and parastatals with the connivance of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

To effect genuine public participation and genuine representation is the major task for patriots. The people must be empowered to examine and formulate strategies for liberating themselves from the clutches of these parasitic elements who are spawned by imperialists to eternally dominate us and keep the country perpetually on its knees with a begging bowl. The Kenyan people must live in a just, equitable and prosperous society.

Making Kenyan Agriculture Work for the Country



Agriculture Mechanisation in Kenya

For economic development, and to ensure our very survival we must industrialize our economy and mechanise our agriculture using modern scientific technology. There is no other way.

Vision 2030 aims to transform Kenya from a low income country into a middle income one by the year 2030 by industrialising the economy. This means that the GDP per capita would increase from about USD 800 to over 10,000.

Industrialisation is the process by which a country builds its capacity to process raw materials for consumption or further production. It involves the mechanization of manufacturing and an increase in the importance of manufacturing in the overall economy.

Agricultural mechanisation is a major strategy in the realization of Vision 2030 and Agenda 2063.

Agricultural mechanization is a major production input that encompasses application of engineering and mechanical technology and increased power to agriculture, largely as a means to enhance the productivity of land and human labour.

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The fact that agriculture employs 75% of the labour force and only contributes 26% of GDP is also worrying. This means that 15% of the labour force contributes 74% of GDP. This gross labour inefficiency in agriculture is due to lack of appropriate mechanisation.

Agricultural mechanization aims at increasing the power inputs to farming activities hence intensified production and enhanced value addition resulting to decreased cost of production and reduction of drudgery in farming activities. It also improves the timeliness and efficiency of farm operations; accomplishes tasks that are difficult to perform without mechanical aids;

improves the quality and value of work produced and processed products; creates employment opportunities, sustainable rural livelihoods; provides agriculture-led industrialization and markets for rural economic growth among

Agriculture Mechanisation in Kenya

According to government of Kenya statistics agriculture is significant to Kenya's economy and contributes approximately 26 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), 60 percent of the export earnings and employs 75 percent of the national labour force.

The sector is without doubt a key driver towards the realization of the high (10%) annual economic growth envisioned in the Kenya Vision 2030 and Sustainable Development Goal No. 1 and 2 with respect to reduction of extreme poverty and hunger.

However agriculture in Kenya faces many challenges including the relatively high average age of farmers which is more than 60 years and lack of appropriate mechanisation.

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Agricultural mechanization plays a key role in increasing efficiency and effective utilization of the productive resources. However, a number of reasons have hindered enhanced adoption of the technology along the production value chain. The environment for mechanization has in the past been unfavourable for adoption while capacity for training, research and technology development has been inadequate. The promotion of mechanization for increased productivity and provision of quality assurance are broadly insufficient.

The relatively low level of mechanization is due to a number of challenges facing the sub-sector. These include; inadequate training, research and technology development; weak local manufacturing and distribution, insufficient



agricultural mechanization quality assurance, low level of investments in mechanization services, poor extension and technology adoption, and weak institutional and legal framework.

Application of mechanization technology increases power to agriculture, largely enhancing productivity of human labour. Despite mechanization being vital for agricultural production, most farming communities lack machines to undertake their operations efficiently and effectively. Currently the use of motorized power stands at 30 percent, hand and animal draught power (ADP) at 50 percent and 20 percent respectively.

Use of farm machinery and equipment is determined by the production systems which include farm size and availability of power. Currently, provision of farm machinery and equipment services is offered by individual farmers, private service providers and the public sector including Agricultural Mechanization Services (AMS) stations and Agricultural Technology Development Centers (ATDCs).

Agricultural Mechanisation Policies in Kenya

Kenya's agriculture system has undergone tremendous evolution over the last nine decades. In the colonial era (1920-1960), commercial agriculture was limited to white settler farmers. In 1963, the policy focus shifted to increased participation of indigenous Africans in commercial agriculture. The large-scale farms were highly mechanized in comparison with indigenous African farms. Post-



The Agricultural Sector Development Strategy (ASDS, 2010-2020) is geared to transform Kenya's agriculture into a profitable, commercially-oriented and internationally and regionally competitive economic activity that provides high-quality, gainful employment to Kenyans.

independence policies emphasized on broad self-sufficiency in agricultural products and gradual reduction of government control in the production process.

Upon economic liberalization in early 1990s, both the input and output markets were opened to competition from global forces and withdrawal of state support such as subsidies, extension services market protection thus adversely affecting most agriculture commodities.

The Strategy for Revitalizing Agriculture (SRA, 2004-2014) identified one of the major causes of low agricultural productivity as low adoption of mechanization. The strategy proposed agricultural mechanization to increase efficiency in agricultural productivity. The Agricultural Sector Development Strategy (ASDS, 2010-2020) is geared to transform Kenya's agriculture into a profitable, commercially-oriented and internationally and regionally competitive economic



activity that provides high-quality, gainful employment to Kenyans. This was to be achieved within the framework of improved agricultural productivity and farm incomes, while conserving the land resource base and the environment.

The country has not operated with a clearly defined agricultural mechanization policy. The existing strategies have not sufficiently addressed agricultural mechanization challenges leading to the low level of agricultural mechanization in the country. There was need for more power for effective and efficient application in modern commercial agriculture.

The objective of the present policy is to sustainably raise the level of agricultural mechanization for increased productivity and income of agricultural producers. These will be achieved through training, research and technology development, local manufacture and distribution, agricultural mechanization quality assurance, investments in mechanization

services, extension and technology adoption and improved institutional and legal frameworks.

Agricultural Mechanisation as part of Kenya industrialization Strategy

Agricultural mechanisation cannot be viewed in isolation. It is a strategic programme in the overall economic development plans of the country. Specifically, it must be discussed as a part of the industrialization efforts of the nation.

In analyzing our agricultural mechanisation and industrialization objectives and strategies, we must also take into account the historical situation in which we find ourselves.

Our technologically backward economy was fashioned deliberately by the British colonialists. Our economy supplied



Agricultural Production Systems in Kenya

Agricultural production consists of crops, livestock and fisheries systems. These require mechanization to increase productivity and tap the enormous existing potential. Various systems are discussed below.

Crop Production Systems

Mechanising crop production will involve appropriate mechanical system including:

- Land preparation machinery and implements such as tractors
- Planting machinery and implements
- Weeding machinery and implements
- Harvesting machinery and implements

Biochemical systems for:

- Seed production, processing, storage and marketing
- Herbicide production and marketing
- Pest control chemicals

Harvesting systems including:

- Harvesting machinery such as combined harvesters
- Root crop harvesters
- Fruit harvesters

Crop production structures are also important in mechanisation.

These include:

- Greenhouses
- Farm fences
- Vertical farming
- Urban agriculture structures

Crop Processing and Storage

Primary processing and storage is key to value addition in agricultural mechanisation. This is the processing done on or near the farm. The unit operations in crop processing and storage which are pertinent to mechanisation include:

- Cleaning
- Washing
- Threshing
- Cooling
- Drying
- Size reduction
- Cane sugar processing
- Coffee processing
- Drying
- Size reduction
- Mixing
- Heating
- Cooking
- Refrigeration
- Condition storage and transport
- Packaging
- Marketing

Britain with raw materials and it in turn supplied us with durable and semi durable consumables like bicycles, ploughs, spades, etc

The few engineering workshops we had were mainly engaged in repairs of imported goods; simple engineering items like springs, steel wires, iron chains and machine tools were imported mainly from Britain. The above scenario has not changed much,

except for the emergence of 'Jua Kali' sector which mainly recycles scrapped imported machine parts into hand-made consumer semi-durables.

The 'Jua Kali' sector uses highly labour-intensive methods, reminiscent of 18th century Europe. The basic question which we must address is simply: What is the best option for agricultural mechanisation?

Livestock Production

There is great potential for mechanization of animal production systems to meet growing demand for livestock and livestock products. The current situation is that:

- Most of the livestock are currently produced in extensive systems with some communal grazing and free ranging of rain-fed rangelands.
- Intensive production is practiced in the high rainfall areas,
- Semi-intensive systems are found in semi-arid lands and extensively in arid areas. Use of mechanized livestock production systems is very low.

Livestock production systems can be improved by:

- Production structures such as intensive and semi- intensive chicken houses, pig houses, and milking parlours
- Slaughterhouses and slabs

Processing of Livestock Products

Primary processing of livestock products include:

- Collection, cleaning and packaging of eggs
- Milking of animals and cooling of milk
- Slaughter of animals
- Drying of meat
- Shearing of wool
- Packaging of products



Fisheries Production

Fisheries production systems include:

- Capture which takes place in the marine waters, inland waters. Production systems in capture fisheries are categorized into artisanal fishing and semi-industrial fishing.
- Aquaculture which can be land based in ponds or water based in cages. Aquaculture systems are categorized as semi-intensive, intensive and extensive depending on

the inputs and production system.

However, adoption of mechanized production system is low.

Fish Processing

Primary processing of fish includes:

- Washing
- Gutting
- Cutting
- Drying
- Smoking
- Packaging



Agriculture and Employment

It is often argued that as agriculture employs the vast majority of our labour force, it is therefore our most significant economic sector. Implicit in this statement is that this state of the affairs has to be maintained, at least for the foreseeable future. What is the validity of this argument?

As stated above, the primary objective of agriculture is to provide food and other raw materials. This process must obviously be carried out in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

Employment is created in this sector because we require human labour intervention in the production process. Mechanisation

leads to more labour and process efficiency, resulting in better energy utilization and lower production costs. In an industrializing economy, labour requirements are reduced in various industries as production systems are progressively mechanised.

The workers displaced in such industries are absorbed in other industries where they are required. In fact, the lowest unemployment rates are in the most industrialized countries which have the highest levels of agricultural mechanisation.

Mechanising our agriculture will displace some labour from the sector. However this is actually desirable in a modern industrialising economy. In such an economy, labour is required in many other areas.



Challenges in Agricultural Mechanization

The challenges facing agricultural mechanisation in Kenya include:

- Inadequate machinery
- Inadequate staff, plant operators and mechanics,
- Inadequate mechanization extension,
- Inadequate access to mechanization technologies,
- Lack of adequate credit and finance to farmers and private contractors,
- Inadequate after sales and service back-up,
- Decreasing land sizes,
- Enterprises that do not support mechanization business model,
- Vast area of coverage for government mechanization stations,
- Inadequate resources/funding for stations,
- Gender and youth imbalance in agriculture
- Aged farming citizens

Way Forward

The basic approach to economic development through agriculture that we should take should be that of a nation based on modern industry. That is: We should industrialise.

1. Reform and transform agricultural mechanization. This is the only way that we can expand the production of food and capital equipment to satisfy the basic needs of our people.

Industries using modern large scale methods have to be supplemented by small industries which may be particularly suited for better utilization of local resources, and

for achievement of local self-sufficiency in respect of certain types of essential consumer goods like food, cloth and agricultural implements.

For the small-scale industries to survive and thrive, they have to be supplied with a number of factors including: Cheap raw materials; cheap, efficient and reliable power; technical advice; organized marketing of produce; and where necessary, safeguards against hostile and disruptive foreign competition from dumping of subsidised imports.

The basic strategies for industrialization should involve:

1. Emphasis on heavy industries; establishment and nurturing of well supported and funded research institutes; setting up of the infrastructure for power and transport; and selective disengagement of the economy from the world economy.
2. The perverse position that, in modern times, we must permanently run an economy in which a significant sector is engaged in agricultural production using rudimentary hand tools, animal powered technologies and manual machines such as oil presses should be opposed.
3. Agriculture like all production processes, is a thermodynamic process. There must be a minimum energy input into the system to achieve meaningful production. Food and crop production, Fisheries and Livestock production systems have to be achieved in the most efficient way,

maximising the productivity of land and labour, and it is only by doing this that a surplus can be realized which can be marketed at a lower price. Further, if the economy does not produce enough surpluses, then there is nothing to re-invest in the acquisition of new and better technology.

4. Local capacity building for staff and other stakeholders to be enhanced: Well-paid, highly educated experts from international organizations and NGOs, and local consultants on their payroll who have graduated from using slide rules to electronic calculators and finally to electronic computers should not sermonize to us about the merits of using hand tools and animal power.

These people enjoy the fruits of industrialised societies, which have only been made possible by modern industry. They enjoy modern medical care with all its scanners etc., they drive air-conditioned cars which glide over potholes. They enjoy cultural events (cocktail parties, plays, etc.) made possible by industrialization. They communicate through email. They use mobile telephones and watch satellite television, and they have the most modern household appliances to make life easier. Why would these people, then, be opposed to others enjoying the fruits of industrialization? Their unstated aim, surely, is to keep us backward.

5. Investments in Agricultural Mechanization. For us to industrialize and mechanise our agriculture, we need to have meaningful investment in science and technology research and consultancy. This should include the nurturing of a patriotic community of researchers and consultants in agriculture, engineering and other related areas of S & T. The funding of research should be carried out primarily by our government. Most foreign research funders actually know what results they want. They just want their positions reinforced by local researchers. Our researchers must be paid meaningful salaries; they cannot be expected to do any useful work if they are constantly hustling to keep alive. Worse still, the low pay entices them into the hands



For the small-scale industries to survive and thrive, they have to be supplied with a number of factors including: Cheap raw materials; cheap, efficient and reliable power; technical advice; organized marketing of produce; and where necessary, safeguards against hostile and disruptive foreign competition from dumping of subsidised imports.



of foreign agencies; they become consultants for these agencies locally or they leave the country altogether to affect the same.

6. The successful mechanisation of our agriculture will also depend on defining minimum land sizes for different agro-ecological zones. Rampant subdivision of land has led to minuscule land holdings in some areas with the best agricultural soils such as Kakamega and Kisii. The use of land for speculative purposes also adds to production costs. Careful policies should be adopted to discourage such speculation. The crucial question in industrialization and agricultural mechanisation is: Where do we get the capital from? Essentially we must look inwards to our own selves before we turn to external sources of resources with little or no interest in the transformation of our countries. In Kenya almost every self-respecting cooperative society has (or intends to) invest in beautiful modern office complexes in Nairobi and other urban areas. These are potential sources of domestic capital accumulation which can be applied to industrialization

of the country. Additionally it is widely believed that large amounts of domestically generated resources are lying in offshore accounts. Such funds could be invested in domestic industrialization.

7. It is encouraging to note that the Kenyan Science and Technology Act provides for an allocation per year of 2% of GDP (About Kshs 11 trillion in 2023) for research. This amounts to about KES 220 Billion in 2023. Part of this fund allocated to research in agricultural mechanisation would greatly benefit the country.

1.0 Conclusion

Industrialization and agricultural mechanisation will only be possible through enlightened political leadership. The government must reconcile apparently opposing sides in: production and consumption; agriculture and industry; heavy and light industry; and large scale and small scale agriculture.

The government should involve our local experts in clearly defining our industrialization and agricultural mechanisation objectives. Correctly defined strategic programmes should be implemented by competent professionals who are deft at tactical management.

The people should be involved at every stage of the processes described above. Without the enthusiastic support of the people, the programmes cannot succeed. Just after the inception of the processes, the people should begin to see some tangible fruits. This will motivate them to work harder.

The people should enjoy maximum human and social rights for their enthusiastic involvement in economic development activities. They should be free to debate issues, associate, elect leaders of their choice, etc. Equally important, they should have affordable access to food, shelter, housing, education, and medical care.

Where necessary, the private sector should be motivated and nurtured to provide a useful input in our agricultural mechanisation efforts. However, the government bears the ultimate responsibility for economic development. Our

government should not abrogate its responsibility for economic management to foreign agencies and mystical economic forces emanating from America and its industrialized allies.

We must have foresight. We should plan for ourselves, our grandchildren, and our great grandchildren. Some of our leaders act as like a medieval army of occupation, who would loot and mismanage a country and return triumphantly back home with their ill-gotten proceeds. Do these people ever think of their grandchildren? What country will these children inherit at this rate?

For economic development, and to ensure our very survival we must industrialize our economy and mechanise our agriculture using modern scientific technology. There is no other way.

Basketball Legend Mutombo Passes on Aged 58



AFP, Los Angeles

Congolese-American basketball great Dikembe Mutombo, renowned as one of the best defensive players in NBA history, died on Tuesday 1, October 2024 aged 58.

Mutombo, an eight-time NBA all-star, passed away surrounded by his family after a battle with brain cancer, the league added. "Dikembe Mutombo was simply larger than life", NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said of the 7ft 2in (2.18m) Hall of Famer in a statement.

"On the court, he was one of the greatest shot blockers and defensive players in the history of NBA. Off the floor, he poured his heart and soul into helping others", Silver added, noting Mutombo's extensive humanitarian work.

Mutombo who played 18 seasons in the NBA worked tirelessly to improve living conditions in his native Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) through his personal foundation.

The efforts which included donating millions of dollars to help build

a hospital on the outskirts of the Capital Kinshasa, earned him multiple humanitarian accolades including the US President's Volunteer Award.

"He was a humanitarian at his core" said Silver, who often travelled alongside Mutombo in his work as the NBA's Global Ambassador. Mutombo retired from NBA in 2009 after a dazzling playing career in which he became synonymous with defensive dominance.

After moving to the United States from his homeland to pursue basketball as a 21-year-old, Mutombo shone during his collegiate career with Georgetown before being chosen by the Denver Nuggets with the fourth pick of the 1991 NBA Draft.

He spent five seasons at Denver Nuggets, before spending another five years with Atlanta Hawks, followed by stints with Philadelphia, the New Jersey Nets, New York Knicks and Houston Rockets.

Mutombo, a four-time NBA defensive player of the year, finished his career with 3,289 blocks, second all time behind only Hakeem Olajuwon with 3,830.



291 MPs Support Gachagua's Impeachment

291 Members of Parliament signed a motion to remove Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua from office, setting the stage for an historic moment reminiscent to a similar motion in 1989 moved by the then MP for Embakasi the late David Mwenje against the then Vice President Dr. Josephat Njuguna Karanja.

The tabling of the motion by MP for Kibwezi West Mr. Mwenji Mutuse came amid failed attempts by the Deputy President Gachagua to have the courts stop parliament from going ahead with his planned impeachment.

High Court declined to temporarily stop the parliament's impeachment of the Deputy President over gross violation of the constitution and promotion of ethnically divisive politics. Justice Bahati Mwamuye declined the legal challenge and certified the case urgent, while ordering parties to appear before him on October 10.

Even as this happened, members of parliament from both sides of the political divide appended their signatures to the motion filled by Mr. Mutuse which cites eleven counts being leveled against the Deputy President ranging from abuse of office to promoting politics of ethnicity.

Mr. Mutuse read out names of the 291 Members of Parliament signed to support the motion to send the Deputy President home as he tabled it saying he has concrete evidence to prosecute when the time to move it comes.

There was excitement in the house as Mr. Mutuse tabled the motion with members chanting "patriot" after every name was read out.

The only time parliament impeached a sitting number two in command was in 1989.



DP Gachagua to have a Date with MPs on Tuesday 8th October



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua will be given two hours on Tuesday October 8, 2024 to defend himself against the charges made in an impeachment motion against him.

National Assembly Speaker Moses Wetang'ula said that the Deputy President will have a chance to speak before the house and defend himself against the claims made against him in the motion by Kibwezi West Member of Parliament Mr. Mwenji Mutuse on Tuesday (1st October 2024).

Mr. Wetang'ula also revealed that public participation on the ouster motion will be done in all the 47 counties on Friday, October 4, 2024.

Members of the National Assembly gathered in parliament on Tuesday where Speaker Wetang'ula approved the impeachment motion against the Deputy President saying all the eleven grounds meet the constitutional threshold. Mr. Mutuse, while giving notice of the motion said he has concrete evidence, both documented and live to support the eleven charges against the Deputy President.

Governor Barasa Steps up Campaign to Strengthen the Party in Kakamega



In a move to drive membership and strengthen the branding of the ODM Party in Kakamega County, Governor Fernandes Barasa, who also serves as the County Chairman of the Party, on Tuesday 1st October 2024, commissioned the newly equipped Malava ODM Office in Malava town.

The Governor stated that this initiative, which began in Mumias East Constituency, will extend to all 12 constituencies of Kakamega County to boost registration and visibility of the Orange Democratic Movement Party at the grassroots level. Mr. Barasa further noted that ODM members in Kakamega County strongly support the appointment of Vihiga Senator, Hon. Godfrey Osotsi, as the ODM National Deputy Party Leader.

He also addressed previous reports concerning alleged rent arrears at the Kakamega County Party Headquarters, clarifying that the office is fully paid for and equipped to serve the people. Present at the launch were MCAs, led by Chief Whip Benard Mulama, Area MCA Geoffrey Sikolia, and ODM Kakamega branch officials.

ODM Youth League to Retreat for Strategy



The ODM Youth League (OYL) will next week from the 7th to the 11th hold a retreat where they will discuss matters pertaining to the League, strengthen it, and make it more vibrant.

According to the President of the ODM Youth League Mr. John Ketora, the retreat will give members time to strategize, reflect, and review the activities of the league and prepare for a vigorous exercise to revitalize it.

“We are going to have our members discuss and make a resolution on where they want the League to go in terms of vibrancy and visibility”, he said after a meeting with the planning committee members.

He said the retreat will start with a meeting of the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the League on Tuesday, October 8, which will pave the way for the National Governing Council (NGC) meeting of the league on the 10th of October.

“We shall have the party leadership address the League on Wednesday 9th October”, he said. Mr. Ketora said they have invited the Party Leader Mr. Raila Odinga to address the league officials. “We have also invited our Deputy Party Leaders Hon. Simba Arati, Hon. Godfrey Osotsi and Hon. Abdulswamad Sherrif Nassir as well as the Chairperson Hon. Gladys Wanga and Secretary General Hon. Edwin Sifuna to address us”, said Mr. Ketora.

He said that the progress report on implementing the League’s Strategic Plan will be presented to the members for their input.

“We shall also launch our Youth League Policy that is aimed at guiding the activities of the league going forward”, he said. Mr. Ketora added that they will also have a session on the broad-based government with ODM members serving as Cabinet Secretaries.