The Truth About Politics in Kenya: A Hard Look at Power and Hypocrisy

1. What Is Politics?

Politics is power. It’s the art of influence, decision-making, and resource control. At its core, politics should be about leadership, service, and improving lives. But more often, it's a game of strategy—who can climb highest, talk loudest, or stay longest in power. It’s not always noble. It’s not always clean. But it’s the system we live with.

2. The Political Atmosphere in Kenya

Kenya’s political climate is turbulent. It’s driven more by tribe than ideology. Elections resemble ethnic headcounts. Politicians don't run on solid manifestos—they run on identity, slogans, and spectacle. Power isn’t won through ideas; it’s bought through alliances, rallies, and well-placed money.

Corruption still eats through the system. Leaders caught in scandals bounce back after rebranding or switching parties. Parliamentary debates are sparse, but political drama fills the airwaves. Meanwhile, public frustration simmers—especially among the youth, who feel ignored, used, or outright betrayed.

Yet, despite the mess, Kenyans remain politically aware. Civil society, online activism, and grassroots movements are growing. People are speaking up. The pressure is building. But change is slow.

3. Who Are the Politicians?

In Kenya, most politicians follow a familiar script. They are either:

Wealthy businessmen seeking influence

Lawyers or professionals looking for status

Political heirs continuing family legacies

Former activists who’ve turned system players

Some have a genuine drive to serve—but many are driven by ambition, not vision. Their network matters more than their skillset. Their loyalty is to those who funded their campaigns, not necessarily their constituents.

4. What Changes Once They Enter Parliament?

Everything. Campaign energy fades. Community promises are shelved. Suddenly, the politician is unreachable. Their focus shifts to deals, perks, and positioning.

Inside Parliament, the real business begins—committee seats, contracts, kickbacks. Instead of writing laws or representing the people, many become silent passengers in a system of self-interest. The disconnect grows. Power corrupts—or at least, exposes true intentions.

5. Why Do They Abandon the Fight Against Injustice?

Because the system rewards silence. When outside, politicians speak boldly against inequality, corruption, and oppression. But once inside, those same injustices protect their new privileges.

To fight injustice from within, they'd need to confront colleagues, risk backlash, and possibly lose the benefits they’ve gained. Most aren't willing to do that. So they compromise. They blend in. Some even become the very thing they once opposed.

6. The Typical Kenyan Politician: A Profile

A Kenyan politician is often:

Charismatic but vague

Rich but unaccountable

Tribal when it suits them

Absent after elections

Always campaigning, rarely delivering

They speak the language of the people but live far from their problems. They attend funerals and fundraisers with flair but vanish during policy debates. They promise change but resist reform.

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Final Thought

Kenya doesn't lack talent. It lacks honest leadership. The political atmosphere is poisoned not just by bad actors—but by a culture that normalizes betrayal, rewards theatrics, and punishes integrity.

The challenge is not just to vote—but to demand better, louder, and longer than ever before. Because until the people raise the cost of lying, the price of honesty will stay too high for most politicians to pay.