THE VOICES

PARTY MANIFESTO

2027–2032

SAUTI KILA MAHALI

Forty Seven Voices Of Kenya Congress Party

OFFICIAL DOCUMENT OF FORTY-SEVEN VOICES PARTY 2025

FORTY SEVEN VOICES OF KENYA
CONGRESS PARTY
SAUTI KILA MAHALI

Party Name : Forty seven Voices of kenya congress party.
Party Slogan : Sauti Kila Mahali.
Party Abbreviation : "VOICES"
Party Symbol : Carillon Silver Bell.
Party Colours : Macron green, pink, light blue, white , gold and brown

Physical party office :
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FOREWORD

-MESSAGE FROM THE PARTY NATIONAL CHAIRMAN-

Wanasauti, royal members of the Forty Seven Voices of Kenya Congress party, and friends of our party, Today, I stand before you with a vision to ameliorate our beautiful country, Kenya. The VOICES party is a national political party that stands for progress, good governance, and a united, prosperous Kenya. We are the party of the future, and it’s time to create a path that leads us to the hearts and minds of the next generation of youthful, vibrant voters. The Party’s overall objective is to make the Kenyan economy achieve high economic efficiency and competitiveness to uplift the living standards of the people sustainably; our commitment to Kenyans is unwavering. We are not confined by fixed ideologies or partisan boundaries. Instead, we are defined by our determination to put the interests of Kenyans first. We are a party that transcends political divides, seeking partners and friends from all corners of the political spectrum. Our goal is clear: to strengthen our party and lay the groundwork that will propel us into forming the next government. The voice of the government shall strengthen measures to curb corruption and recover looted public assets. Strict anti-corruption laws shall be enforced in order to cultivate an ethic of honesty, integrity, hard work, and selfless service. The VOICES government will capacitate bodies that are in place to identify, curb, and ultimately eliminate corruption.

The next generation of voters is diverse, forward-thinking, and hungry for change. They seek a government that not only listens but also acts on their need, a government that is ready to listen and in tune with the challenges of the youths (Gen Z), men, and women of Kenya. We are that government in the making, and we are building it from the grassroots. Our foundation is built on inclusivity, where all voices are heard, and all perspectives are respected. We know that the challenges of our time require innovative solutions, and we welcome fresh ideas from all walks of life. This is the power of unity, a power that can help us overcome the divisive politics of the past and focus on the common good. The party’s guiding principle is a people-centered, pro-poor development strategy that guarantees the availability of basic needs for all the people of Kenya. Once the VOICES is in government, we will develop a mixed economy based on production, efficiency, social justice, and the eradication of poverty; Institute measures to attain macroeconomic stability (i.e., low inflation, stable interest rates, high growth, fiscal discipline) and prioritize areas of national development; Build a national coalition and consensus in economic planning and implementation through a consultative economic advisory forum of business, labor, government, and civil society. Encourage private and public sector economic programmes that improve people’s well-being; Devise a national programme for innovation that will unleash the talents and creativity of Kenyans, especially the youthful Gen Zs. Set into motion a process of economic transformation and the diversification of the economic base through maximum utilization of local endowments and promotion of value addition, particularly in industry, agriculture, tourism, small-scale mining, and manufacturing; Prioritize job creation through high growth, prioritization of jobs-rich sectors, and targeted interventions, particularly for the youth; Reduce socio-economic disparities among regions to create a foundation for sustainable development by harnessing our resources. Encourage local investors to go into manufacturing through the establishment of a citizen credit institution. Because a well-functioning economy depends on order, peace, and security established by the law, VOICES administration will be guided by the Constitution of Kenya 2010. We will focus on securing the law, including, to the extent necessary, redeeming the constitution, opening up the democratic space, and fostering dialogue, debate, and tolerance of different views. The Voices party is very much aware of the present weak state of the country’s economy to recover without huge external financial support. Our government shall re-engage with the international community and all progressive forces for the support the country desperately needs without selling its soul to the highest bidder. Fellow Kenyan, this country belongs to all of us. Let's build together.

HON. WYCLIFFE KAMANDA GICHURU
NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON
FOUNDER FORTY SEVEN VOICES OF KENYA CONGRESS PARTY .

1.0

- INTODUCTION -

OUR BELIEVE;

FORTY SEVEN VOICES of Kenya Congress Party will unite Kenyans regardless of their tribe, religion, and beliefs. We know Kenyans are well-educated and hardworking people. We believe Kenya is one of the most progressive countries in the world.

Over the years, its various administrations have had mixed success in transforming our country for the greater good. To deal with irritating problems of inequality, misuse of public resources, weak respect of the rule of law, and poverty, among other development challenges, the Voices Party needs a grassroots and national political leadership that is authentic (delivers what it promises) and grounded in the pursuit of meaningful empowerment of the people.

Forty Seven Voices is therefore established as a national grassroots party (one that organizes people in a particular ward, sector, community, or region as the basis of its political work) to provide political leadership and harness influence that is exercised for the common good and attainment of social justice and exclusivity.

The forty-seven Voices believe that good, committed, and vision-led leadership can make a difference in our communities. It is our commitment to Kenyans that we safeguard their interests and ensure their voices are listened to and implemented to the letter.

The government has a responsibility to provide a range of social and economic services that continuously improve well-being and equality across society with particular concern for the most disadvantaged; that public institutions should serve the common interests of the people with accountability and transparency.

The Forty Seven Voices seeks to provide a platform to Kenyans that represents, articulates, and serves the interests of Kenyans who often feel disillusioned with who owns what in politics. Genuine participation in this kind of environment often feels constrained and sometimes even alienating.

Voices Party is determined to be a voice of reason at all levels of government in the understanding that everyone deserves the opportunity to influence governmental decisions in the interest of the overall well-being of their communities to achieve social justice, respect for the rule of law, good governance, and effective delivery of services to Kenyans.

Forty-seven Voices shall therefore seek leadership and influence in all spheres of life—community, education, social groups, trade associations, business, and politics—with a view to building an enduring party that is purpose-driven, as opposed to being a vehicle for/of political convenience.

The mission of the party shall be to continuously create long-term value for our people, especially those most disadvantaged, in order to address both systemic and emerging inequalities that are a source of indignity to households, communities, and the larger society.

In the spirit of devolution, and in the belief that all politics is local, we believe that decisions made closest to the people provide the greatest possibility of ensuring that they are most meaningful and dynamic enough to achieve shared value intended by any development intervention. We shall seek to have increased public resources moved to this level of development and utilized accountably in the interest of the common person.

We shall therefore provide issue-based leadership aimed at effecting change in particular sectors and processes, ensuring that there is delivery of the basics of life to Kenyans at the lowest point of service—community level. Is agriculture getting the attention it deserves in terms of budgetary provisions in areas that create real incomes for our people? Are the small traders facilitated with the necessary infrastructure in the markets where they trade? Do Kenyans living in informal settlements have access to services that enable them to live well?

Through continuous listening tours and engagements with the people, The Forty Seven voices will identify and prioritize the key drivers of change at various levels leading up to this Party's manifesto.

We believe that people should be involved in running their communities. We are determined to strengthen the democratic process and ensure that there is a just and representative system of government with effective legislative institutions, freedom of information, decisions taken at the lowest practicable level and a free and fair voting system for all elections.

We will at all times defend the right to speak, write, worship, associate and vote freely, and we will protect the rights of citizens to enjoy privacy in their own lives and homes.

We believe that sovereignty rests with the people and that Authority in a democracy derives from the people. We therefore acknowledge their right to determine the form of government best suited to their needs and commit ourselves to the promotion of a democratic federal framework within which as much power as feasible is exercised by the regions of the nation. We similarly commit ourselves to the promotion of a flourishing system of democratic County Governments in which decisions are taken and services delivered at the most local level which is viable.

We will foster a strong and sustainable economy which encourages the necessary wealth creating process, develops and uses the skill of the people and works to the benefit of all, with a just distribution of the rewards of success. We want to see democracy, participation and the co-operative principle of industry and commerce within a competitive environment in which the State allows the market to operate freely where possible but intervenes where necessary.
We will promote scientific research and innovation and will harness technological change to human advantage.

We will work for a sense of partnership and community solidarity in all areas of life.
As a result we propose to amend various sections of Kenya national Human rights commission Act to give KNCHR more powers to perform its task in relations to the spirit of Article 59 of the Constitution
We also propose to fund and equip the commission with relevant resources to be able to recruit and maintained well trained and experienced staff, and establish regional offices across Kenya, that will enable the commission to fully perform its constitutional mandate.

1.0 OUR CORE VALUES INCLUDE:

- **UNITY IN DIVERSITY**
- **EQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW**
- **RESPECT FOR THE FREEDOMS AND RIGHTS OF ALL CITIZENS**
- **TRANSPARENCY**
- **ACCOUNTABILITY**
- **INTEGRITY**
- **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Forty-seven voices government will seek to realize Kenya’s aspiration of becoming a prosperous upper middle-income country through three main phases: recovery and stabilization, steady growth, and take-off. The voices will restore market confidence, bring stability to the economy, enable a speedy recovery in economic growth, and ensure debt management and sustainability. Under a climate of steady growth, we shall deepen investments in human capital, strategic economic sectors, and export promotion. With this foundation, we shall accelerate the transformation of the economy by advancing value-addition, industrialization, and the integration into global markets. The following are some of the programmes that we will undertake to achieve this:.

Economic Transformation Programme (ETP)—the ETP will be the overarching framework that will bring together our interventions in the various sectors of the economy to create more and better jobs and to eliminate poverty. It will also focus on value addition in agriculture, mining, and manufacturing to make the economic transformation programme more action-oriented. With job creation as a critical focus, we shall prioritize jobs-rich sectors such as tourism and construction while harnessing the potential of our youth in the digital economy. Free to Worship Christianity and Islam remain Kenya's top religions, promoting and upholding religious freedom and tolerance of other religions and beliefs. At the same time, the VOICES government will promote human capital development and facilitate economic activities through policy formulation, sound regulation, effective service delivery, and maintenance of a secure and stable investment climate.

Entrepreneurship—we will target the formation of a robust indigenous entrepreneurship base as part of the agenda to determine our destiny, retain resources within the country, and build a strong middle class. Entrepreneurship efforts will include a focus on youths and women who will be encouraged to participate in MSMEs. Youths and women will be strongly encouraged to participate in the business, including through initiatives to promote the growth of and performance of Micro, Small, and Medium-size Enterprises (MSMEs). Through the formation of Community Savings and Loans Associations (CSLAs), groups shall receive entrepreneurship training, with financial support provided by an MSME Development Fund. We will also establish the proposed Kenya Enterprise Development (KED) Initiative to support start-ups and existing enterprises and the creation of business incubators that have a high potential for growth and job creation.

Digital Revolution - *deepening the Digital and Knowledge Economy will be a crosscutting approach adopted to 'leap-frog' our progress towards the Vision 2030 of becoming a prosperous Upper middle-income country. Every aspect of human, social, political and economic activity is becoming rooted in information generated by the online activities of people and machines. The dawn information age and, more recently, the rise in automation in the fourth industrial revolution presents both opportunities and challenges for developing countries, especially those that seek to industrialize. It is therefore imperative that as a country, whose demography comprises mainly the youth, we craft our collective digital future and devise national programmes to leverage these events through innovation that will unleash the talents and creativity of Kenyan people. We must aspire to become the centre of digital transformation and use the technology to drive productivity and strengthen resilience in agriculture, manufacturing, health, education and all the other sectors of our economy. In a nutshell, we shall make Kenya move towards a digital economy that will be driven by some deliberate digital governance policies. To achieve this, we will scale-up investments in broad-band capacities, including through public-private partnerships (PPPs) to build a robust, easily accessible and secure Government information and communication technology (ICT) environment. We will also work with service providers to ensure the sound planning and installation of digital infrastructure that is essential to efficient and inclusive service delivery, economic investment and growth and that creates an attractive environment for citizens. We shall build a robust, accessible and secure e-Governance system to enable businesses and citizens to deal with governments promptly and efficiently when applying for services such as permits and licenses.*

To implement a successful economic transformation agenda, we will create a conducive governance environment and address the critical impediments that may affect the achievement of our overall objective.

Comprise;

- *Good governance – we will ensure that public institutions conduct public affairs and manage public resources in a transparent and accountable manner to achieve high economic efficiency and competitiveness required to uplift the living standards of the people;*
- *Improved Policy Environment – we will firmly strengthen the formulation and implementation of the credible macroeconomic, social, external sector and sectoral policies, including specific policy reforms to bring stability to the economy, enable a speedy recovery in economic growth, and ensure debt sustainability;*
- *Strengthen Public Financial Management – we will undertake financial and budgetary reforms to improve public financial management to ensure prudent use and promote accountability and transparency in the use of public resources;*
- *Improved Service Delivery and Productivity – we will ensure adequate investment in the social sector (education, health and water and sanitation) so that we have well-trained and healthy citizens to power the economic transformation agenda; and Improved Rule of Law and Human Rights – the rule of law will be the hallmark that will guide the VOICES in government. We will put in place policies and strategies to enhance access to justice, observance of the rule of law and human rights to ensure there is order and security in the country.*

The Forty seven Voices Party will;

(a) Build and safeguard a fair, free, and open society in which we seek to balance the fundamental values of liberty, equality, and community so that no Kenyan shall be enslaved by poverty or ignorance of conformity.
(b) We will champion the freedom, dignity, and well-being of individuals. We will also acknowledge and respect the right of every Kenyan to freedom of conscience and their right to develop their talents to the fullest.
(c) We will spread and distribute power by implementing fully spectra of devolution to foster diversity and to nurture creativity.
(d) Forty-seven Voices believes that the role of the state is to enable all citizens to attain ideals, to contribute fully to their communities, and to take part in the decisions that affect their lives.
(e) To build a nation in which all people share the same basic rights, live together in peace, and share their diverse cultures freely.

(f) We believe that at different periods a particular generation should be responsible for the fate of our country, and, therefore, each such generation must be given the opportunity to fully play its role in the governance of the nation.

(g) Upholding these values of individual social justice and rejecting all prejudice and discrimination based upon race, colour, religion, age, and disability, and opposing all forms of entrenched privilege and inequality.

(h) Recognizing that the quest for freedom and justice can never end, we promote human rights and open government, a sustainable economy that serves genuine need, public services of the highest quality, international action based on the recognition of the interdependence of all the world's people, and responsible stewardship of the earth and its resources.

The Forty Seven Voices of Kenya Party understands participatory governance to include mechanisms, processes, and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations, and mediate their differences. The envisaged governance framework will guide the implementation of all the goals contained in this manifesto.

1. VISION

The Vision of the Party is to transform Kenya into a just, Modern and a prosperous Nation; a country united in persuit of Happiness and in which , Every Kenyan Citizen has equal and fair chance to be in their best, where every Voice is represented and listened to , The Voice Party will treat all kenyans the same regardless of their religion, tribe and Race.

2. MISSION

To provide a platform for Kenyans to speak their minds in transforming the country, and to inspire, equip, facilitate and harness the beauty of Kenya towards transforming their own lives and those of their children. To create a fundamental shift in the management of public affairs for the good of all Kenyan people..

3. IDEOLOGY

The Forty-Seven Voices of Kenya Congress party is the National Congress Party representing all Kenyan people from all walks of life, tribes, and religions. We believe each Kenyan has the right to express him or herself freely for nation-building, The Voice of the Kenyan people is the voice of God. The party will formulate and faithfully implement programs that nurture and support individual enterprises. The Party is founded on principles of social, economic, and culture and upholds ideals that foster equitable distribution of National Resources and opportunities amongst all citizens and make sure that the Kenyan's voices are listened to, respected, and implemented to the letter.

- IMPLEMENTATION OF KENYA CONSTITUTION -

(1:0)
The Constitution of Kenya 2010 is a progressive document that provides an elaborate framework for restructuring the state and entrenching the rule of law and constitutionalism in Kenya. The full implementation and realisation of the promise of the Constitution is the most important way of consolidating the restructuring of the state. The Forty Seven Voice Party will lead the nation in ensuring that the Constitution is implemented in letter and spirit.

CHALLANGES;

(1:1)
Despite some progress in implementing the Constitution, a number of challenges have impacted negatively on the process. Among these challenges are:
1.The culture of impunity, negative ethnicity, poor governance and disregard for the rule of law, which is deeply entrenched in society.
2.Resistance by those who stand to lose from the full implementation of the Constitution.
3.Institutions charged with implementation of the Constitution on occasions working at cross purposes.
4.Political, transitional and interpretative challenges of the Constitution.

OUR PROMISE;

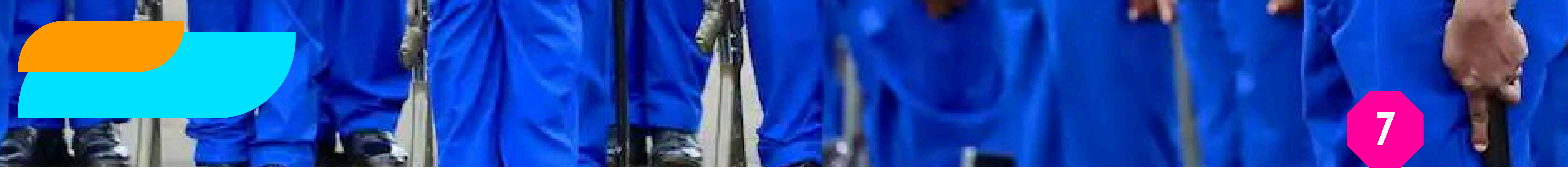
(1:2)
•We will protect, implement and defend the Constitution in spirit and letter.
•We will follow strictly the time specifications for legislation to be enacted by Parliament, as required under Article 261(1) and as outlined in the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution.
• We will protect and facilitate the role of independent constitutional commissions and independent offices established under Article 248 and ensure seamless co-ordination of the organs charged with implementation of the Constitution.
•We will work closely with civil society organisations and communities to provide an avenue for citizen participation.
•We will ensure county governments are founded on the principles of good governance, transparency and accountability.
•We will ensure that Chapter Six of the Constitution on leadership and integrity and Article 10 on national values are fully implemented.
•We will promote diversity and the inclusion of all Kenyan people, communities and counties, through zero tolerance to negative ethnicity and ensuring equity in access to resources and productive opportunities, positions and instruments of power.

WHAT THE FORTY SEVEN VOICES GOVERNMENT WILL DO

The extent to which corruption is embedded in our national life threatens and diminishes all national efforts.To re-adress this, the Constitution provides for the architecture of integrity and anti-corruption measures under Chapter 6, Leadership and Integrity.

The chapter details the responsibilities of leadership (Article 73), the oath of office of state officers (Article 74), the conduct of state officers (Article 75), the financial probity of state officers (Article 76), restrictions on activities of state officers (Article 77), citizenship and leadership (Article 78), and legislation on leadership (Article 80). Since the promulgation of the Constitution, significant progress has been made in reforming the Judiciary, an institution critical to the fight against corruption.

High standards for institutional reform have been set by the Judiciary, which has regained much public confidence. There has been incremental progress in other key sectors of government, specifically in the civil service and in Parliament. However, the police force is still polled as the most corrupt organisation in the country, but faithful implementation of the Ransley Report and completion of the work of the Naikuni Committee on Police Reforms will fundamentally transform the police and strengthen the criminal justice system. Further, the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission has been established to succeed the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission as the main player in the fight against corruption.



1.7 LAW, JUSTICE AND SECURITY

Equitable provision of safety, security and justice to all citizens is essential for the proper functioning of our country. Lack of safety, security and justice impedes the provision of and access to other services such as education, health, water and sanitation to the people. Forty seven VOICES Government will be committed to the rule of law, justice, the security of all the Kenyan people and the protection of private property.

We believe that the security and justice institutions that are democratically controlled, alongside an independent judiciary that can check the power of the Legislature and Executive including security institutions, is very critical to strengthening the rule of law. This, in turn, fosters development through enhancing the voices of individuals and communities, by providing access to justice, ensuring due process of the law and establishing remedies for the violation of rights. To promote law, justice and security as an essential foundation for the wellbeing of the citizens, the Forty seven Government commits to:

Strengthen all relevant institutions to provide and guarantee security, safety, fundamental human rights, civil liberties and justice;

b. Modernize the operations of the judiciary to speed up the dispensation of justice because justice delayed is as good as justice denied;

c. Widen access to justice to all, especially the disadvantaged in society, particularly women and children as the basis for curbing gender-based discrimination and exclusion;

d. Guarantee adequate funding to all institutions mandated to provide security, ensure safety and dispense justice so that they can operate efficiently and effectively at all times;

e. Mount a comprehensive training and ongoing capacity building programme for all relevant institutions to ensure that they are adequately trained and can provide high-quality services to all the citizens;

f. Support and strengthen the intelligence agencies to provide services that can deal with contemporary threats of money laundering, cross border crime, human trafficking and environmental degradation; and
g. Ensure strict adherence to the rule of law and end selective application of the law to restore faith in the country's critical national institutions of governance

SEPARATION OF POWER

- Forty-seven voices Government will work to strengthen and preserve the integrity of the concept of separation of powers among the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary, as provided for in the constitution. We believe that constructive relationships between these three arms of government are essential to the effective maintenance of the constitution and the rule of law. VOICES Government will, therefore, be committed to entrenching separation of powers and system of checks and balances among these three branches of government to ensure accountability, responsiveness and openness. In each of these constituent areas, we commit to undertake the following:

1. THE EXECUTIVE

- Ensure that the executive is duly accountable to the people of Kenya through the National Assembly and the Judiciary as the hallmark of servant leadership;
- Promote a culture of transparency and accountability, especially amongst Controlling Officers, who will be made to appear before the appropriate committees of parliament as a matter of routine and sanctioning those who choose to abdicate this particular responsibility;
- Ensure regular engagement between the President and the Leaders of Opposition parties to solidify consensus behind the Vision 2030 while ensuring a sense of unity of purpose;
- Ensure that all Cabinet Ministers are appointed based on competence for the portfolios assigned to them to ensure that they meaningfully contribute to the country's overall national development agenda;
- Ensure that the role of Ministers will be to provide strategic leadership to their respective ministries while reserving the responsibly of overseeing the day-to-day operations to Controlling Officers; and

- Subject all senior public officials to performance-based contracts, which will be reviewed annually to ensure that they are making tangible contributions to the national development agenda.

2. THE JUDICIARY

- Guarantee the independence of the judiciary so that it is impartial and effective in the interpretation of laws and administration of justice;
- Respect court judgments and orders to entrench the rule of law and enhance constitutionalism; and;
- Separate the offices of the Attorney General and Minister of Justice to improve the impartiality and objectivity when it comes to legal issues to which the government is an interested party

3. THE LEGISLATURE

- Support reform efforts to make parliament legislatively, administratively and financially autonomous so that it can play its rightful role as a hallmark of democracy;
- Support the National Assembly in staffing and training of the Parliamentary budget office so that it becomes fully operational to support the Members of Parliament in their oversight role over the executive; and
- Support the National Assembly in developing a strategic plan for its legislative agenda to ensure that it meaningfully contributes to the country's development agenda.

ENSURING NATIONAL SECURITY

The politicisation of the police force immediately before and after Independence, the security intelligence function vacuum created upon the establishment of the National Security Intelligence Service (NSIS), and the weakening of the CID following centralisation of decision-making in the force have undermined police performance. In addition, following the Police Act and NSIS Act, 1998, the Commissioner of Police and Director-General of the NSIS are answerable to the President. The new Constitution has provided the basis for addressing this anomaly.

(1:4)
The Constitution provides a framework for major security-sector reforms that reflect the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry into Post-Election Violence (CIPEV) and the Task Force on Police Reforms. Chapter 14 of the Constitution provides for national security organs, namely, the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), the National Intelligence Service and the National Police Service. The chapter provides for the principles of national security to ensure protection against internal and external threats to Kenya's territorial integrity and sovereignty, to its people, their rights, freedoms, property, peace, stability and prosperity, and to other national interests.

(1:5)
Parliament has enacted the National Police Service Commission Act 2011, the Police Oversight Authority Act 2011, and the National Police Service Act 2011. Bills have also been developed on the provision of private security services, the National Intelligence Service Draft Bill 2011 and the National Coroners Bill 2011. These legislative measures are complemented by institutional and administrative reforms on recruitment, training and vetting, as well as terms of service and accountability mechanisms. In addition, a policy on community policing has been finalised and will be devolved to the counties.

(1.6) This new dispensation imposes new challenges and obligations on security structures. The military's roles, for instance, have been expanded, implying a re-orientation of its operational doctrine in a bid to meet its defined tasks, that is, national defence, internal human security and state security activities, regional and institutional peace-keeping and security operations.

DIFFICULTIES ENSURING NATIONAL SECURITY

1 Corruption in the police force that has undermined security in the country.
2 A low police-citizen ratio that has led to the proliferation of vigilante groups and militias in both rural and urban areas.
3 High unemployment rates and poverty that have contributed to the rise of crime and violence, including their exploitation by politicians during electioneering.
4 Porous borders coupled with instability in neighboring countries that have facilitated the commission of acts of terrorism in the country.
5 The proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

FORTY SEVEN VOICES ASSURANCE ON NATIONAL SECURITY

- Operationalise the Bill of Rights through legislation, institutional strengthening and administrative and policy measures.
- Create and/or strengthen mechanisms and institutions for the constructive management of human rights and diversity.
- Strengthen the capacity of county governments to meet the needs of the people as provided for in the Constitution.
- Streamline and harmonise the powers and functions of the various institutions overseeing national cohesion and unity. Establish a human rights tribunal to deal with human rights abuses, as provided for in the Constitution

1.1 Since the promulgation of the Constitution, significant progress has been made in reforming the Judiciary, an institution critical to the fight against corruption.

High standards for institutional reform have been set by the Judiciary, which has regained much public confidence. There has been incremental progress in other key sectors of government, specifically in the civil service and in Parliament.

However, the police and most government institutions force is still polled as the most corrupt organization in the country the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission has been established to succeed the Kenya Anti-Corruption Commission as the main player in the fight against corruption, As

1.2

Forty Seven Voices seven voices government we will strengthens the Judiciary put a proper mechanism in police force we will also ensure we end the corruption mayhem once and for all in all government bodies The extent to which corruption is embedded in our national life threatens and diminishes all national efforts. To redress this, the Constitution provides for the architecture of integrity and anti-corruption measures of Leadership and Integrity. The chapter details the responsibilities of leadership

1.3 DIFFICULTIES ON FIGHTING CORRUPTION

1 .Weak institutions with limited capacity to fight corruption. Furthermore these institutions tend to focus on individuals rather than structures.

2.The use of political mobilisation of ethnicity to frustrate the anti-corruption war and to slow down determination of cases.

3.The general political and civic culture, even at the level of the citizenry, which undermines initiatives at eliminating corruption in Government.

4.Strengthen community policing to protect citizens through the sharing of vital information with the police system for safety, security and sustainable development.

5 .Improve border policing by deploying defence personnel to Kenya's borders.

6. Create a Directorate of Criminal Investigation that is delinked from the command of the national police

1.4 THE FORTY SEVEN VOICES GOVERMENT PROMISE

(i) The Voices government will Strengthen ethics and accountability by building the requisite behavioral reorientation among public officers.

(ii) Enhance the powers of EACC to deal effectively with corruption, including, but not limited to, giving it prosecutorial powers. •

(iii) The Voices Government will establish institutional checks and balances in county governments to prevent the translocation of corruption in all level.
(iv) The Voices Government will Invest in public education and awareness as a corruption-prevention strategy.
(v) The Voices Government will fast-track reform of the criminal justice system to ensure judicious and expeditious disposition of corruption cases.
The Voices party will implement police force reforms to ensure that the police do not delay collect bribes or tamper with investigations.

VOICES GOVERMENT WILL RESCUE KENYANS FROM ;

UNEMPLOYMENT

The Forty Seven Voices believes in building a capable state which recognises that its role is to create the conditions for private enterprise to flourish. The state's role is to give every kenyan the opportunities they need to participate in a growing economy, while at the same time providing a strong social welfare safety net for the most vulnerable.

How government's failures affect Kenyan

•The consequence of government failures is a deepening unemployment crisis where the youth are hardest hit, with 60% of young people aged 22 to 27 unable to get jobs.
To illustrate the failure of the government to create the conditions for businesses to grow, our unemployment rate has increased from 24.0% in 2011 to 29.9% in 2024. The unemployment rate rises to 42.4% when you include discouraged work seekers.

•The inability of the government to control public debt has left Kenyans in a fiscal crisis. Currently, 25% of government revenue is used to pay off debt. For every sh.10 collected from taxpayers, sh.3 is used to pay off debt down Kenya's increasing debt, which currently stands at more than sh.4.5 trillion. This excessive level of debt means we have to spend more money paying it off, which leaves less money for investment in growth-enhancing infrastructure and critical basic service

How the Forty seven voices will rescue kenyans from unemployment

• Forty seven voices has multiple proposals to enhance economic competition, increase employment and unleash enterprise, starting with our Youth Employment Opportunity programes

We cannot grow the economy without controlling our public finances, slashing red tape, and enhancing competition.

The voices government will get our public finances under control by:

• Facilitating skills development to carve out a distinct apprenticeship category within the Labour Relations Act. By making apprenticeships a stand-alone category, we aim to encourage employers to hire, train and enhance the skills of our workforce. Currently, apprentices are categorised as employees. This disincentivises employers from hiring apprentices as they would need to comply with the same onerous labour regulations applicable to employees.

Broadening the collective bargaining1 system so that it is more representative of bargaining parties. We will also exempt SMMEs from the administrative extension of bargaining council agreements.
• This will be done by amending the Labour Relations Act so that small businesses do not have to participate in collective bargaining agreements. If parties are not signatories to collective wage agreements, they should not be subject to those agreements.

• Collective agreements extended throughout an entire industry, including small businesses, compel these enterprises to implement the conditions contained in these agreements. This poses a financial challenge for small businesses as they struggle to match the economies of scale enjoyed by larger counterparts. Additionally, these agreements frequently overlook the financial viability of smaller entities. Exempting SMMEs from this obligation will make it cheaper and easier for them to hire people.

THE FORTY SEVEN VOICE WILL CHANGE THE TAX SYSTEM SO THAT IT ENCOURAGES INVESTMENT, CREATES JOBS AND RESTORES PUBLIC TRUST. WE WILL DO THIS BY:

Committing to no new taxes. People are already heavily overburdened by existing taxes. Rather than trying to extract more out of the approximately 5.5 million people who keep Kenyan's coffers afloat, we need to broaden the pool of taxpayers.

• Preventing hidden tax increases. In the national government, the The Voice pledges that tax brackets will be adjusted for inflation. This way, income will not be depleted by the introduction of so called stealth taxes.

• Expanding the zero-rated food basket to include bone-in chicken, beef, tinned beans, wheat flour, margarine, peanut butter, baby food, tea, coffee and soup powder. Additionally, we will conduct regular reviews on VAT zero-rated items, ensuring essential products remain affordable for low-income households.

• Enhancing Our Economy's capabilities is a top priority. We will ensure that everybody pays their fair share by intensifying efforts to fight tax fraud, illicit trade, collect unpaid income and VAT, and ensure taxpayers file and pay on time.

We cannot grow the economy without controlling our public finances, slashing red tape, and enhancing competition.

• Stabilising public debt. The voices government will establish debt ceilings in the form of a fiscal rule to limit annual government borrowing, avoiding further debt crises.

• Encouraging responsible fiscal spending. Drawing on past government spending reviews, we are committed to enhancing fiscal efficiency and instilling a culture of responsibility in our financial management.

• Improving state-owned enterprises (SOEs) through a balanced approach to privatisation. The goal is to make SOEs financially responsible, fostering competition and innovation.

• Developing a savings culture through a formalised programme in which employees will be offered the opportunity to commit 2% of their salary towards their pension or an alternative savings instrument of their choice. The programme will be coupled with programmes designed to enhance financial literacy.

Voices will slash red tape that holds back small businesses through:

• Accelerating the introduction of 'One-Stop-Shops' for small businesses to reduce the time and cost of starting a business.

• Making it easier for informal traders to sell their goods and services by streamlining by-laws and regulations, expediting the licensing approval process, and assisting them to comply with health and safety standards.

VOICES will develop a competitive, export-orientated economy by:

• Making infrastructure development a top priority by increasing the ratio of gross fixed capital formation2 from 14% to 30% of GDP. The the forty seven voices will harness public-private partnerships to strengthen crucial energy, communication, water, and transport infrastructure. This strategy is designed to spark industrial expansion and attract investment.

• Implementing industrial and competition policy that supports all sectors equally. The forty seven voices will implement a horizontal industrial policy that does not pick winners or losers. This will enhance competitiveness and foster a conducive business environment for enterprise to flourish.

• Strengthening trade and internationalisation. The forty seven voices will leverage key agreements and legislation to enhance our trade connections, streamline trade procedures, and support the competitiveness of local firms in the global market. We do not, however, support existing localisation policies because they jeopardise local businesses' competitiveness, risk international retaliation, and increase the price of goods.

1. VOICES JOBS CREATION

A significant challenge that many Kenyans face today is unemployment, particularly for the youth. Formal sector employment opportunities are scarce and continue to decline. The private sector is struggling, not least due to electricity, blackouts and high energy costs, but due to poor management that has failed to maintain economic growth above the increase in labour participation. Also, low levels of entrepreneurship coupled with limited access to appropriate finance, technology and markets, have further constrained employment creation. Under these circumstances, most of our youth have faced little choice but to engage in informal low-paying activities that present minimal opportunities to advance themselves, thereby keeping them trapped in a vicious cycle of poverty and informality. Further, some have resorted to crime, drug abuse, and other destructive activities. Some politicians have even taken advantage of the poor and unemployed youths to cause mayhem during elections.

Forty Seven Voices has a strategy for employment and job creation. The approach recognizes that robust private sector growth, particularly the growth of the MSMEs, is the most powerful driver of job creation. Through this jobs strategy, we aim to harness the full potential of Kenyan's youth dividend by prioritizing growth in our jobs-rich sectors in our programme for economic transformation and placing a higher priority on the plight of the youth, including through targeted initiatives and programs. We will :

1. Educate, motivate the youth and encourage them to become successful entrepreneurs, who will in turn dramatically improve the employment situation and create jobs for others;
2. Establish labour and employment policies and reforms that ensure that harmony and healthy synergies exist between the workforce and the private sector as the main engine of job creation;
3. Ensure that there are strong synergies between our job creation strategy and MSMEs strategy so that the initiatives we develop to support the MSME contribute to stimulating job creation as well as training and apprenticeship programs;
4. . Promote broad-based re-education, upskilling, retooling, and skills development for formal and informal workers in the public and private sectors, particularly vulnerable groups (women, youths and the disabled);
5. Implement an economic diversification programme that prioritizes jobs-rich sectors, such as agro-processing, tourism, construction and ICT;
6. Focus on changing the mindset and culture of our young generation so that they appreciate their value and reject being used as tools of violence during elections;
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2. VOICES PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

The private sector is the engine of innovation, employment creation, investment and growth for any economy. Dynamic private companies offer the most effective way to create wealth, jobs and prosperity for all on a sustained basis. Therefore, creating the right conditions for businesses to expand and grow is indispensable if we are serious about achieving the Vision 2030. It is only through a well-functioning private sector that our youths will have the chance to get decent jobs and earn a decent living. It is only through a well-functioning private sector that parents can provide for their children, that families have access to affordable goods and services, and that poverty can be eradicated.

In this regard, VOICES Government commits to placing private enterprises at the centre of production and trade, and to supporting private sector development to achieve our overall objective of economic growth, job creation and poverty reduction. We thus commit to improving the relationship between the government and the private sector, including through well-tailored PPPs, particularly in labour-intensive, job-creating ventures. Through a Consultative Economic Advisory Forum, we will collaborate with the private sector on planning and implementation of the development agenda and consult to address hurdles to growth and job creation;

- Improve the business environment and reduce the cost of doing business for the private sector;
- Improve regulatory frameworks and remove administrative barriers to business entry and operations;
- Commit our political support to the Private Sector Development (PSD) reforms;
- Ensure that there is a built-in mechanism for harmonizing the divergent stakeholders' needs and interests at political, institutional and technical levels;
- Ensure that the PSD reform process is sufficiently consultative and that all its key local partners in both the public and private sectors participate to ensure ownership of the process
- Ensure that roles for government and the private sector are well defined and under stood, i.e. the role of the government is to create legislation that is business-friendly and facilitates private sector growth while the role for the private sector is to provide input into the process of developing business-friendly legislation and point out when difficulties are noted
- Prioritize public investments in services that harness the benefits of regional, continental and global trade arrangements and promote PSD through an informed knowledge economy.

3. MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM-SEZED ENTERPRISES (MSMES)

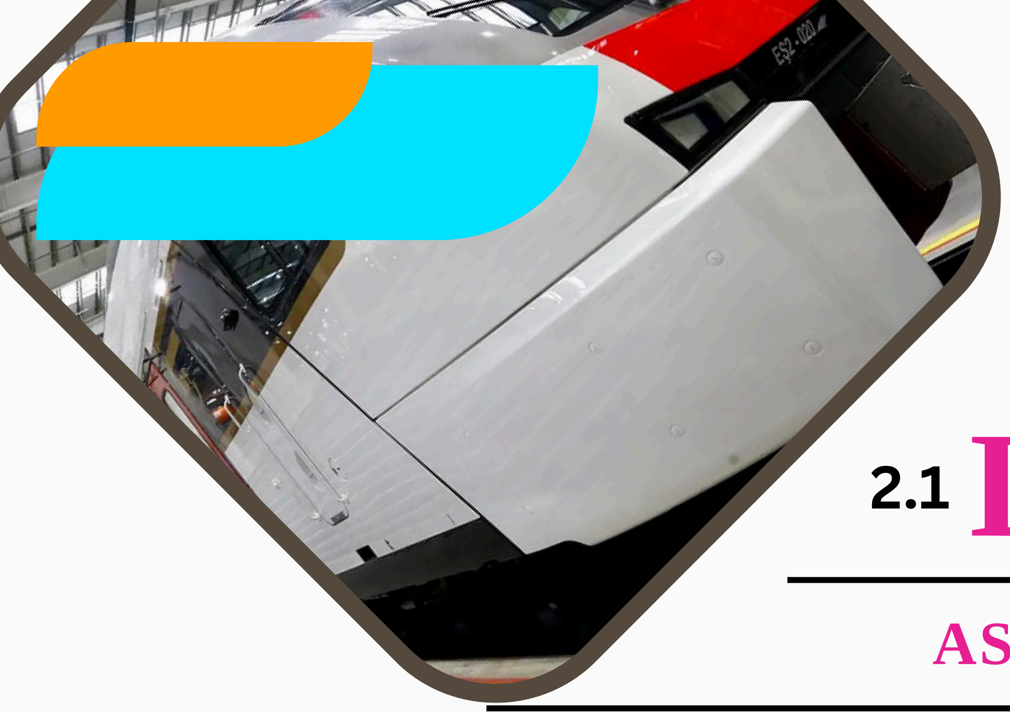
workforce. However, for MSMEs to have a meaningful impact on employment, the numerous constraints faced by the firms will have to be addressed, obstacles such as lack of affordable financing, irregular supply of energy, poor access to skilled human resources and new technologies, high cost of regulatory compliance, and lack of economies of scale.

To enhance growth and support MSMEs, Forty-seven voices administration will place a high priority on establishing a stable and predictable policy environment that will promote private investment, growth and job creation. We will also undertake the following initiatives:

Formation of MSME Community Savings and Loans Associations – the Community Savings and Loan Association will provide entrepreneurship training and soft loans. Financial support will be provided to start up Associations through an MSME Development Fund. The primary aim of this Fund will be to lower financing costs for qualifying MSMEs, by providing third-party credit risk mitigation, soft loans and, where appropriate, grant financing. Partial Credit Guarantees will be used to reduce risks to commercial banks that extend loans to selected MSMEs;

Establishment of the Kenya's Enterprise Development (KED) Initiative – the KED Initiative will facilitate Business Plan Competitions to support start-ups and existing enterprises that have high growth potential. The objective of the KED Initiative will be to create a demonstrative effect for other firms. Under this framework, MSMEs will present competing business plans showing how they seek to use innovative methods to grow their businesses and create jobs in the priority sectors mentioned above;

Youth Entrepreneurial Services Development Program– this program will involve the formation of functional employment services centres (ESC) that will focus on improving access to employment opportunities. Specifically, ESCs functions will include outreach to jobs seekers and firms, registration of job seekers, profiling and referrals to opportunities. ESCs will also provide youths with tailor-made support to improve employability, including life-skills training covering topics such as aspirations, self-esteem, personal initiative, goal-setting, decision-making, communication and leadership. Young women will benefit from dedicated mentoring to address pervasive social barriers and boost self-confidence.



EMPOWERING CITIZENS THROUGH

2.1 DEVOLUTION

ASSURED FUTURE:

1.1 Forty Seven Voices Of Kenya Congress Party will not rest until county governments are established and fully operational in all 47 counties. The government will also ensure that further decentralisation or systematic effort below the ward level is actualised for effective participation that fosters local leadership; effective resource mobilization and appropriate financial systems; protection of county assets; management of liabilities, human and natural resources and security; and appropriate functioning of state corporations.

1.2 The establishment of the counties moves Kenya away from centralized government where citizens have say or input in decision-making. Devolution empowers citizens and puts them at the center of development. The Voices Government will be dedicated to Article 1 of the kenyan Constitution, which gives sovereign power to the people of Kenya. Chapter 11 of the Constitution provides pillars for realizing devolved government, of which "giving powers of self-governance to the people and enhancing the participation of the people in exercise of powers of the State and in making decisions affecting them" is a provision that Forty Seven Voices intends closely to observe. Doing this will require well structured platforms for citizen engagement, to ensure they play a role in the local development, in the planning for use and management of resources, right up to monitoring and evaluation. The Voice Government will assist county governments to legislate and establish modalities and platforms for citizen participation, including the facilitation of county citizen forums and well-equipped citizen service centers. Kenya has taken the lead in information and communication technology (ICT) pioneered by our own-brand pioneer electronic money transfer, M-PESA, which is currently being studied and embraced internationally. We will make this happens.

1.3 Security is understood broadly to include state, human, economic and social security. This is crucial to both levels of government, and each level must play a role in ensuring holistic security. There has been unnecessary debate on which level of government should have the mandate of ensuring security based on the functional prescription stipulated in the fourth schedule of the Constitution. Promoting peace and security is the responsibility of all citizens, and any level of government assigned this responsibility must ensure that the other level and the entire citizenry are playing their roles.

MUTUAL FUNCTIONING OF NATIONAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS

1.4 The relationship between the national and county governments is key area of our focus. The Voice Party position is that there is need for harmony between the two levels of government in line with the Constitution. The Constitution recognizes the importance of service delivery to citizens, and ties devolution to access of services in Article 6, noting that, 'governments at the national and county levels are distinct and inter-dependent and shall conduct their relations on the basis of consultation and co-operation'. The will not only protect constitutional commissions, offices, state corporations, the Senate, the national and county co-ordinating summits, the council of county governors and related organs but will also facilitate consultation and co-operation and ensure amicable relations between the two levels of government. The The Voice state(Executive) will ensure that these shared institutions serve both levels of government, not only the interests of the national government. This will require more effort within and between the two levels of government. State corporations, such as the Kenya Institute of Administration, will, under an Voice state(government), devolve services to counties to provide training and capacity building

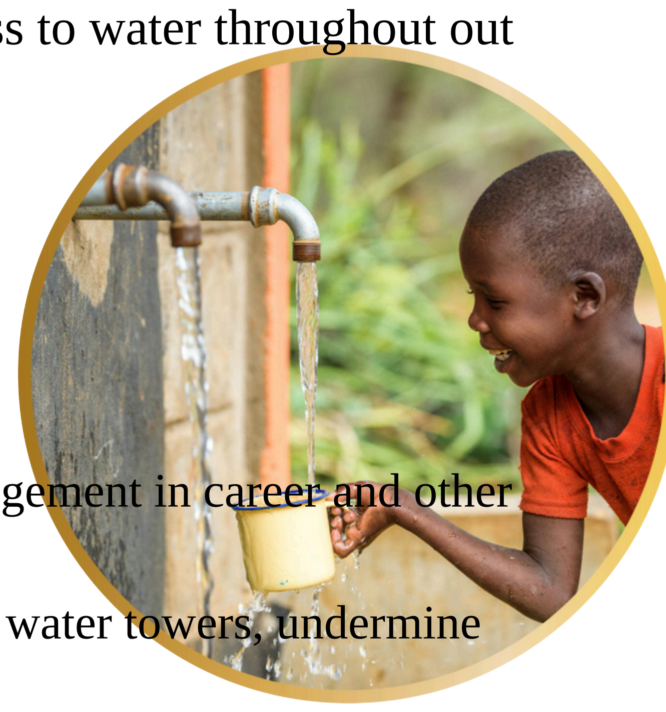
VOICES PROMISE

1.5

- Fully support and facilitate the devolution process and respect the county governments, guaranteeing that this process is not sabotaged by attempts to introduce parallel governments at the county level.
- Harmonise relations between the national and county governments, both in the letter and spirit of the Constitution, and related inter-governmental relations legislation.
- Assist counties to establish structures and mechanisms to allow for local flexibility and responsiveness and to inhibit the translocation of corrupt and dictatorial tendencies in order to shape public service delivery.
- Work with the Transition Authority and CIC in ensuring that all counties retain/recruit skilled staffs that have the requisite technical capacity for effective take-off and, more specifically, the capacity to plan, implement and efficiently manage respective budgets.
- Ensure that the provincial administration is restructured, as provided for, to respect and accord with county governments.
- Collaborate with the CRA in developing clear criteria for the distribution of conditional and unconditional grants from the national government, sharing of revenue and regular review.
- Protect county governments from interference by national officials working at county levels, and ensure amicable functional relations between the two levels of government by establishing a liaison office.
- Establish a County Investment Advisory Committee as a division of Vision 2030 to facilitate county government resource mobilization and financing both locally and internationally

SANITATION AND CLEAN -WATER-

Access to water and sanitation is crucial for sustainable livelihoods . Moreover, access to water and sanitation is important for ethnic, regional and gender parity, conflict management, and the realisation of health and education for all.Provision of clean and potable water is critical for improved health and the reduced incidence of water-related diseases. It is estimated that 80 per cent of all diseases are water-related, leading to high health-sector expenditures at the expense of production. Water is also important for human dignity. About two-thirds (65per cent) of Kenyans have access to improved water sources. However, the urban figures (estimated at 88 per cent) mask significant challenges experienced by those living in urban slums and other informal settlements. The main problem in rural areas is the distance to water points, a burden borne mostly by women. Water sector reforms, guided by the Water Act 2002, have resulted in the creation of various institutions with specific roles and functions for policy and supervision, regulatory and service delivery. Access to sanitation continues to be a major problem, with only 50 per cent of the urban population having access to improved sanitation. The situation in slum communities is deplorable, with garbage and lack of drainage systems exposing residents to a myriad health risks. Only about 19 per cent of waste water in towns is captured by sewerage systems, while 81 per cent of raw sewage is discharged into the environment untreated. This means that most human waste is either penetrating untreated into groundwater or is diverted into surface water courses. The consequences are clear. Approximately 80 per cent of hospital attendance is due to preventable diseases and 50 per cent of these diseases are water, sanitation and hygienerelated. Although the Grand Coalition Government has invested in increasing access to safe water, mainly in arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs), more needs to be done to ensure that most people have access to water throughout out the year. There is need for investment in rainwater catchment and protection of streams.



Demerits on water and sanitasation

These Challenges are;
1 Ensuring equitable distribution of water resources in the country, especially in the ASALs.
2 Relieving the water burden from women who must walk long distances in search of water, further limiting their engagement in career and other development activities.
3 Continued human settlements in water catchment areas and the destruction of forests, and especially in the five main water towers, undermine the hydrological cycle.
4. Contamination of water due to poor sewerage and inappropriate management of garbage, the more so in urban areas.
5. High health costs to the national government and unnecessary suffering to individuals and households, due to exposure to preventable-disease causative agents.
6. Poor urban planning bereft of appropriate drainage, garbage collection and sewerage management structures.
7. The policies and legislation, including the Water Act of 2002 and the underlying policies and regulations, have yet to be aligned with the Constitution and Vision 2030.
8. Inadequate attention to sanitation as a crucial segment in the provision of water and sanitation services, especially to urban informal settlements and rural areas.
9. Lack of a unified framework for the governance and management of water resources, which compromises the government's approach and efforts in co-ordinating and meeting the MDGs.
10.Inadequate private sector investment in water infrastructure and services.
11.Inadequate regional co-operative frameworks for the management of water resources that are shared among the counties and the East African partner states.
12. Pollution of urban and rural water resources continues to undermine conservation efforts.
13. At the state level, there are weak ministerial and agency policies and capacities such as:
14. lack of irrigation and land reclamation policies;
15.scattered information systems, and weak monitoring and evaluation systems;
16. shortages of staff and/or skills in water and sanitation;
17. lack of an effective information, education and communication (IEC) strategy; 19 obsolescence and inadequacy of the available equipment.

Forty Seven Voices pledge

We will;
• Develop an integrated water resource management framework for domestic use, animal husbandry and irrigation.
• Identify the water needs in all counties and introduce special measures to meet those needs, including the expansion of urban water supplies and sanitation in all cities and urban areas.
• Ensure access to clean drinking water by all households.
• Align the institutions and multiple players in the water sector to conform to the provisions of the Constitution.
• Enforce water-quality standards and effective policing by the Water Resources Management Authority and strengthen the Water Services Trust Fund (WSTF) to fund water projects that focus on the rural and urban poor.
• Allocate funds for the construction of dams and water-pans along river basins in all counties as appropriate, including on the rivers Nzoia, Yala, Nyando, Athi, Itare and Tana. Apart from facilitating irrigation, dam construction will address the perpetual problem of annual flooding in flood-prone areas.

The agricultural sector comprises six sub-sectors: industrial crops, food crops, horticulture, livestock, fisheries, and forestry. It employs such factors of production as land, water and farmer institutions (co-operatives, associations, etc). It currently directly contributes 26 per cent of the GDP and indirectly another 25 per cent. The sector also accounts for 65 per cent of Kenya's total exports and provides more than 18 per cent of formal employment. More than 70 per cent of informal employment in this sector is in the rural areas. Industrial crops contribute 17 per cent of the Agricultural Gross Domestic Product (AgGDP) and 55 per cent of agricultural exports. Horticulture, which has recorded a remarkable export-driven growth in the past five years, is now the largest subsector, contributing 33 per cent of the AgGDP and 38 per cent of export earnings. Food crops contribute 32 per cent of the AgGDP but only 0.5 per cent of exports, while the livestock sub-sector contributes 17 per cente of the AgGDP and seven per cent of exports. The livestock and fisheries sub-sectors have huge potential for growth, not yet fully exploited.The Voice believes that the transformation of agriculture, livestock and fisheries is essential for providing Kenyans with adequate food, assuring people of decent incomes, enhancing equity and providing productive employment for many people in the medium-term, as the country strives to industrialise and diversify job opportunities

The cost of living that we are experiencing can only be resolved by raising agricultural productivity. The battle is between farmers needing higher incomes and consumers who want low prices. Maize is a good example: Planting an acre at a cost of Sh6000 and producing 12 bags equates to a cost Sh600 per bag while producing 25 bags equates to a cost pf Sh400 per bag. So the higher the number of bags produced per acre the lower the cost of production. A farmer may see price they are paid and cost of diesel as the main challenge while in fact the problem is low productivity. The same applies to fixed costs such as labour, since weeding an acre with a ten bag or 25 bag crop takes same amount of labour. So by enhancing productivity through access to affordable inputs including fertilizer and certified seeds we will see the farmer earning more money and subsequently reducing the six million bags imported on average annually and lower the cost to the consumer, Jobs Agriculture has the highest employment multiplier effect i.e. agricultural growth creates more jobs in other sectors than any other sector, owing to its strong forward and backward linkages to other sectors of the

Extreme poverty and vulnerability is also an agricultural phenomenon. An estimated two million households, one in six, are food poor. That means they are unable to meet the body's food requirements every day. The vast majority of these are farmers. They have land but they lack the resources to raise productivity to meet their subsistence needs. We believes that support to farmers to raise productivity would not only enable them to feed themselves, but also generate a surplus that contributes to national food security and the economy..

Crop production is mainly rain-fed, with only two per cent of cropland under irrigation. This makes the sub-sector susceptible to the vagaries and the resultant shocks of the weather, which occasion great variations in crop production from year to year. For instance, the drought experienced in 2008/9 resulted in more than 25 per cent of the Kenyan population (an estimated 10 million people) being declared at risk of starvation. Food insecurity, which is pervasive, is worsened by poverty, poor infrastructure, inadequate marketing systems and poor support to small-scale farmers. Women provide most of the labour (about 70 per cent) in this sector. Although the country accounts for 35 per cent of all flower sales in Europe, the returns do not always trickle down to the people who provide services in this industry. The exposure of the workers to occupational hazards continues to be a challenge. The contamination of Kenya's water courses, through the use of pesticides in floriculture and other forms of commercial farming, is a key concern. There have been many debates about genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Food lobby groups have expressed concerns that GMO developers exerted pressure to ensure the enactment of the Biosafety Act of 2009 despite the potential risks (Kenya is the fourth country in Africa to have GMO-ready laws). The risks posed by GMOs are diverse and include most importantly community dependence on external inputs for their agricultural activities. GMOs can also cause genetic pollution, where nonGMO plants may be contaminated due to cross-pollination, which is a threat to genetic diversity.

DEMERITS ON CROP PRODUCTION

1. Environmental degradation due to unsustainable land-use practices, diminishing of viable agricultural land due to population pressure and lack of land-use planning, human-wildlife conflict and compensation, and the nature of human-land interactions among communities across the country.
2. Lack of implementation of the National Land Policy 2009, which seeks to improve the overall framework and define key measures to address land administration, access to land, land-use planning, restitution of historical injustices, environmental degradation, conflicts, unplanned proliferation of informal urban settlements, outdated legal framework, institutional framework and information management.
3. Inadequate investment in research and innovation in long-term action-oriented scientific studies of agro-ecosystems, including the management and dissemination of data. This has limited the understanding of the ecosystem and the overall promotion and development of the agricultural sector.
4. Effects of climate change that have made the predictability of rains and synchronization with the farming seasons difficult for farmers who rely on rain-fed crop production.
5. Declining farm sizes (mainly due to population pressure) and detrimental land-tenure systems, limited access to farm inputs and drudgery due to low mechanization.
6. Lack of extension services, credit and insurance for small-scale farmers.
7. Unregulated use of pesticides that has resulted in the contamination of water courses. In addition, the extraction of water from our lakes (such as Naivasha) has resulted in reduced water volumes, as well as destruction of the natural flora and fauna.
8. Inadequate value addition in processing, preservation and marketing of crops.
9. A poor transport network which results in delayed transportation of produce to choice markets and exploitation of farmers by middlemen and sellers, disenfranchising small-scale farmers who can hardly meet their production costs.
10. Poor management and limited capacity of co-operative societies, resulting in wrangles and losses of farmers' investments and confidence.
11. Infiltration of cheaper food products from neighbouring countries, frustrating the efforts of local farmers. High production costs in Kenya

• Subsidize farm inputs to ensure increased yield, and invest in rural infrastructure so as to facilitate access to markets.
• Reintroduce free extension services to cater for the needs of small-scale farmers and artisanal fisher-folk.
• Promote value addition in agriculture through taxation and other measures.
• Devolve decision-making on funding, research prioritization, agro-processing and value addition to the county governments. This will enhance production and create employment for local people.
• Facilitate the development and implementation of legal and institutional reforms, including harmonization of sectoral statutes, the inclusion of the private sector and non-state actors in planning through consultative forums, and innovative PPP arrangements to strengthen governance in the sector.
• Develop and implement policies and legal and institutional frameworks that enhance the production capacity of farmers in the country.
• Promote greater agricultural research and develop mechanisms to produce crop varieties that can withstand projected climate variability. This will be accompanied by the implementation of structures to strengthen the management of farmers' groups and institutions across the country.
• Invest in modern and innovative science and technology-based intensive and extensive irrigated agriculture for improved yields.
• Encourage investment in post-harvest processing, preservation and storage technologies that will maximize returns to rural producers while ensuring a stable supply and affordability to the consumers.
• Streamline and strengthen the co-operative movement and address the plight of farmers, such as those engaged in pyrethrum, coffee, tea, cashew-nut and sugarcane farming, whjch have experienced dwindling returns

Eye on livestock

The livestock sub-sector contributes about 13 per cent of GDP and accounts for more than 40 per cent of the farm-gate value of agricultural commodities. Livestock production is a major economic and social activity for communities that live in high rainfall areas for dairy production, and in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs) for beef production. The milk industry is the most developed within the livestock sub-sector and is dominated by small-scale producers, who account for 78 per cent of the dairy industry's output. As a result of liberalisation in milk processing in February 1992, there are currently 50 private creameries countrywide that are licensed to produce milk and milk products. Beef is derived from three major livestock production systems: extensive pastoral beef, dairy bull calves, and a commercial beef production system. Kenya's beef cattle population stands at more than nine million, most found in rangelands. Currently, most of the beef produced is consumed locally. There is high potential for export, whose exploitation is limited by market accessibility and animal diseases. Other animals of importance include camels, sheep and goats. In terms of poultry, chicken stands out as the most popular for its meat and eggs. Small-scale farmers constitute up to 70 per cent of the total pig farmers in the country.

Demerits on livestock sector

(i)The danger and conflict over grazing resources, which occur regularly during drought and between pastoralists and farmers.
(ii) .Disease and pests are a key problem in the ASALs, which have limited access to veterinary services, both private and government, in part due to poor physical infrastructure which makes communication difficult. The private sector providers of these services are largely uninterested in the ASALs, as demand for their services tends to be low and the supporting infrastructure poor.
(iii) The frequency of droughts and floods in the rangelands in ASALs – droughts, floods and unpredictable weather patterns have a direct effect on livestock feed and water supplies and consequently the quality and quantity of production. These shocks leave the vast majority of cattle-keepers vulnerable, as livestock die and pasture is rendered unusable by floods.
(iv) Constraints imposed by poor infrastructure mean that the ASALs' access to livestock markets in other parts of Kenya, as well as to the export market, is limited. Poor infrastructure also implies that that the ASALs are primary producers of livestock with little, if any, value addition.
(v) The limited water sources in the ASALs have become magnets for distressed pastoralists from across the regions. Influxes of herds from other areas tend to degrade the rangelands and other pasture areas.
(vi) Unavailability of suitable credits to livestock farmers and limited commercialization of smallholder farmers.
(vii) Poor storage facilities for farm produce, which results in excessive wastage during times of plenty and very high demand during times of scarcity.
(ix) Unfavourable international trade environment and trade barriers – informal trade that is not recorded compounds this situation further. It is estimated that 80 per cent of livestock sold in Kenya comes from other countries. In addition, trading instruments that include subsidized imports do not favour Kenya and other countries in the region.

The forty seven voices party promise

The Voice Government will work with the counties and the private sector, facilitate the development of improved high-yielding and disease- resistant animals among pastoralist communities, small-scale dairy farmers and those owning traditional stock.
• Provide free extension and subsidized veterinary services, including breeding, treatment and control and prevention of diseases.
• In partnership with the private sector, establish livestock insurance schemes to mitigate the consequences of drought and animal diseases.
• Establish livestock-processing industries in the ASALs, whose mandate would include cushioning farmers in times of drought and other shocks.
• Invest in early-warning and disaster preparedness that safeguards livestock farmers in view of climate change and natural shocks.
• Enter into agreements with neighbouring countries to monitor cross-border trade and disease control, to ensure that Kenyan farmers reap the maximum benefits from their stock.

Fisheries sub-sector plays an important role in the national economy. It contributes about 0.6 per cent of GDP and support 70,000 Kenyans directly. However, this figure could be higher if value-addition at the various stages of the supply chain were considered and post-harvest losses minimised. Fisheries production comes from aquaculture and capture fisheries, which are further divided into marine and freshwater. Capture fisheries account for about 96 per cent of the national nominal production. Unfortunately, there have been declines in fish stock in most of the country's water. The decline is in both productivity and species composition. For example, it is estimated that Lake Victoria experienced a substantial drop in productivity between 1999 and 2008 (214,709 metric tons to 134,709). In addition, although the lake had more than 200 fish species in the recent past, it is today dominated by only three species. Fewer than 50 species are still in existence in the lake. There have been several efforts by the government to develop this sector: the construction of several aquaculture facilities in different parts of the country, capacity building through training and deployment of technical staff to support farmers, and the development of links and collaborations with local and international organisations.

Challenges on fisheries in kenya

(i) Lack of a co-operation approach among the different institutions engaged in the sub-sector.
(ii)Lack of a all-inclusive policy in aquaculture, despite its importance to the economy.
(iii) Weak research programmes and training for fish farmers.
(iv) Inadequate outreach programmes and inefficiency in the dissemination of technology to fish farmers.
(v) Low funding by government and inadequate investment by the private sector.
(vi) Poor/low consumption of fish at source (lakes) due to high retail costs compared with same commodity in non-fish producing areas.

The forty seven voices Government assurance;

1.The Voice will contrive policies and legislation to guide the management, research and investments in aquaculture.
2.Promote investment in modern, hygienic landing bays, storage and processing facilities, efficient transport and communication infrastructure on inland fishing areas particularly around Lake Victoria.
3.The Voice will Provide funds, in partnership with the private sector to support groups engaged in aquaculture across the country.
4.The Voice Will Support regularization of costs at source to enhance diets of communities living near rivers and lakes.
5.The Voice will contrive the devolution of KEMFRI activities to the counties and increase investment in research, through supporting county-level research institutions, to generate strategies that ensure the protection of the various species in the country.

Mother-Nature

Our Nation is rich in environmental and natural resources, including land, soil, water, forests, the atmosphere, climate, wind, sound, biological materials such as plants and animals, as well as social factors. Our country economy relies heavily on natural resources in terms of people's livelihoods and as a contribution to the national income.

Demerits on Mother Nature

1.The abundant natural resources in Kenya have not been utilised to ensure economic growth, improved livelihood of Kenyans, sustainable development and general stability of the Kenyan social, economic and political climate.
2. The agrarian sector, which is the mainstay of the economy, draws heavily from the environment. Yet conservation and value addition have not been integrated into the constellation of resources – land for agriculture, pasture and rural settlements and related natural resources, such as forests and water; culturally-defined or economically determined production systems; prevailing technologies of resource utilisation, and human resource capacity.
3. Although these components influence the sustainability of the environment and natural resources in Kenya, resource distribution and governance is inequitable and deficient in the agrarian sector in particular and in environment and natural resources more generally

Voices Government promise;

The Voices Party will utilize the following over-arching strategies in the management, conservation and ameliorate of the environment and natural resources.
(i) Roll out market incentives, such as pollution taxes, tax rebates for green enterprises, eco-labelling and tradable permits.
(ii) Establish strong environmental and emission standards, such as standards for fuel consumption, energy-efficiency and recycling guidelines.
(iii) Adopt and implement strategies and policies to determine the quantity and quality of resources at the county and national levels, and implement precautionary measures such as environmental impact assessments, audits, monitoring and evaluation.
(iv) Support awareness, advocacy and literacy programmes to educate Kenyans on the importance of environmental and natural resource conservation and management. In line with Article 69 (2), raise awareness among communities to own the protection and conservation of the environment and to ensure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources. Adopt and implement natural resource conservation strategies that include re-generation, renewal, bio-remediation, and afforestation
(v). Support and encourage research, innovation and appropriate systems of intellectual property to promote the conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of environmental and natural resources.
(vi) Design an environmental management structure that is free of complexities of the current system that accords greater equity of access to natural resources, and empowers natural resource managers to make appropriate and sustainable environmental decisions.

Forests are a source of numerous products, such as timber, poles, fuel-wood, food, medicines, fodder and other non-wood forest products. Forests are also home to varieties of animals, plants and micro-organisms, which are crucial in maintaining the ecological balance, as well as having in some cases medicinal value. Moreover, forest resources and forestry development activities also contribute significantly to the national economy by supplying raw materials for industrial use and creating substantial employment opportunities and livelihoods. The forestry sector in Kenya is integral to many socio-economic activities in rural and urban households, businesses, subsectors and industries. It supplies energy for domestic and industrial activities, provides timber for construction and also plays a fundamental role in the hydrological cycle. For example, about four million people living adjacent to forests depend on them for energy, food, medicine and other non-timber products. It is estimated that 80 per cent of the population uses biomass energy, while urban development and hydro-energy rely heavily on water. Kenya is considered by the UN to be a low-forest-cover country because it has less than two per cent of its total land area classified as forest, compared with the 10 per cent expected minimum. The country has only about 10 forest conservancies. This has resulted in reduced water catchment, biodiversity, supply of forest products and habitats for wildlife. In addition, it has led to conflicts over access between forest managers and communities living near forest resources. Hence, forestry governance is an integral pillar in environmental and natural-resources governance, and also in attainment of many goals in socio-economic development.

Challenges on the forests preservation in Kenya

1.Over-exploitation and degradation of forest resources, mainly from unsustainable human activities, have led to the loss of forest cover, soil erosion, loss of biological and cultural diversity, greenhouse-gas emissions and watershed degradation.
2. Kenya's forest cover has been under constant threat from illegal loggers, incompetent management, and lack of integrity among forest managers.
3. There are limited reliable and consistent statistics on forest cover, forest conditions and changes over time to guide decision-making by the Kenya Forest Service and relevant agencies of government, the private sector and civil society.
4. Forestry governance is integral to socio-economic and political stability. However, sustainable development and management of forests continues to face major challenges, including inadequate financial resources, lack of appropriate enabling policies and legislation, and increasing population and poverty, which continue to exert pressure on Kenya's forest resources.

Voices Government on Agriculture

Agriculture remains the key driver of Kenya's economic development contributing over 50% of the GDP both directly and indirectly. Among the key crops driving this sector is coffee, which is cultivated in 33 counties. The coffee value chain includes growers, millers, brokers, traders and consumers. Coffee has been Kenya's key foreign exchange earner since its introduction into the country over a century ago. However, over the last few decades, this important industry has suffered several challenges thereby reducing its contribution to the country's GDP as well as lowering farmers earnings from the crop. It is in recognition of this that the government has developed the Coffee Development and Marketing Strategy to resuscitate the growth and transformation of the sector with the key goal of making the sector Kenya's top foreign exchange earner and increase income for farmers and other value chain players. The strategy identifies eight pillars that will underpin the sector's growth and transformation over the next five years. These are:
(i) production
(ii) processing and value addition,
(iii) marketing,
(iv) domestic consumption
(v) research and extension
(vi) climate change, environment, and inclusivity
(vii) financing and payment management.
(viii) governance and institutional development The strategy has been developed through an extensive consultative process with various sector stakeholders including, but not limited to, coffee growers, regulators, millers, brokers, MDAs, county governments and the Council of Governors.

The Voice Goverment will tensify and diversify agricultural production and productivity to meet national food security and market requirements while promoting conservation, development and sustainable utilisation of crop, livestock and fisheries resources, and The Voice Will also improve soil fertility for increased production and productivity based on good agricultural practices.

- pay farmers on time
- Affordable Fertilizer
- Ready Markets,Local & international
- Farmers free education on modern farming techniques
- affordable Government loans on farmers
- 86.56% of kenyans use Coffee and tea daily

TEA IN KENYA

- Tea is a major cash crop in Kenya. Kenyan tea has been the leading major foreign exchange earner for the country.
- Most tea produced in Kenya is black tea, with green tea, yellow tea, white tea, and purple tea (a product whose leaves are naturally so colored by inherent anthocyanins)produced on order by major tea producers.
- Tea was first introduced in Kenya in 1903 by GWL Caine and was planted in present-day Limuru. Commercialisation of tea started in 1924 by Malcolm Fyers Bell, who was sent out by Brooke Bonds to start the first commercial estates. Since then the nation has become a major producer of black tea. Currently Kenya is ranked third after China and India in tea exports in the world. Kenyan tea is also one of the top foreign exchange earners, alongside tourism, horticulture, and Kenyan coffee.
- The task of managing the small-scale holder lies with the Kenya Tea Development Agency (KTDA). Currently the KTDA has 66 tea factories serving over 500,000 small-scale farmers cultivating over 100,000 ha. Of all tea produced in Kenya, KTDA members produce over 60% while the rest is produced by large-scale producers.

Our promise

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Cotton business in Kenya

- Until the 1970s, Kenya was a major cotton producer for domestic and international consumption. At its peak, the industry supported more than 200,000 households. In Taita Taveta County, where the Labl project is based, cotton-growing was the primary source of steady income for local farmers who leveraged the robust local infrastructure to produce raw cotton for ginneries. The gain from the sale of cotton enabled them to pay school fees for their children and healthcare, supplement their incomes and pay for their citizenry obligations. Losing the principle local industry forced families to search for alternatives. Generally, men migrated elsewhere to search for work, while women were left at home to care for the children and practice subsistence farming to feed their families.

- The forty-seven voices will work with the local community to revive and reimagine the cotton sector in Voi.
- THE VOICE government we will create a sustainable and fair clothing producer for fashion brands with a big vision to make the fashion industry planet positive through a new way of creating and selling. This systemic will redesign offers a connected value chain – from regenerative cotton farming to processing, from textiles to fairly made clothing production. This pioneering model is an answer to the fragmented supply chains in fashion that have caused a host of social, economic, and environmental issues.

- The special body under thevoice governmentas will built its first full-scale production facility in Voi, Kenya, where they will engage and empower the local farming community to be a valued part of their supply chain. The local community co-owns the production facility, which means that any profits directly support local community interests. We will worke closely with private sectors and the local community to develop a regenerative design for cotton production, which can be replicated amongst the target group of 5.000 farmers.
- The forty-seven will ensures the revitalized cotton sector is regenerative

Our promise

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- Kenya coffee has been grown for over a century now, since 1893 when it was first introduced in Kenya. The total area under coffee is estimated at 160,000 hectares, about one third of which is the plantation sector and the rests under small holder sector with an estimated 700,000 growers.
- The total annual production has been fluctuating widely due to climate as well as socio-economic factors. At the moment, production stands at about one million bags per year.
- There are two distinct flowerings in each year, shortly after the beginning of the rains in March/April or October. At the moment, production stands at about one million bags per year.
- There are two district flowerings in each year, shortly after the beginning of the rains in March/April or October. In most districts the main crop ripens from October to December. The early crop often starts in May-July.
- PROCESSING
- Almost all Kenyan coffee is processed by a wet method in order to ensure the best quality. Growers pick only the red-ripe cherry. At the factory, the cherries are sorted before processing and unripe, overripe or diseased cherries removed. The cherries are then pulped to remove the outer skin.
- The slimy sugary coating (mucilage) – which remain on the beans is removed through fermentation process. Fermentation of parchment should be completed within 36 hours.
- The parchment is now ready for sun drying on drying tables where it is regularly turned to obtain the bluish colour for which Kenya coffee is famous.
- Drying the coffee is the lat process on the farm. When it is fully dried the coffee is bagged and ready to be sent to the mills.
- GRADING AND CLASSIFICATION
- At the mills the parchment skin surrounding each bean is removed followed by mechanical grading of the coffee into seven (7) separate grades according to size, weight and shape of the bean. Currently there are 7 licensed commercial coffee mills and several pr
- This grade is a combination of A and B (6.80 mm screen
- Any light coffee blown away from all grades including ears mostly from el
- The smallest and thinnest beans mostly broken and faulty.
- Mbuni is coffee that has not gone through the wet process (unwashed). It comprises about 10% of the total crop and graded either as heavy mbuni (MH) or light mbuni (ML). This grade generally fetches lower prices and has a sour tasting liquor.
- These grades are then classified based on a numerical reference system on a scale of 1 to 10. The quality of the raw, roast and the liquor are analyzed and described based on this scale where one (1) is the finest and best and ten (10) is the least favoured. The cup may be described as Fine Fair to Good. Fair Average Quality (standard 4), Fair, Poor to Fair to Common Plain Liquors.
- QUALITY ASSURANCE
- Coffee quality and safety has been an issue of great concern to coffee producers and consumers all the world over.
- The Directorate as the regulatory authority puts coffee quality at the centre of its mandate. Every coffee miller and marketing Agent is by law required to forward a coffee sample for every lot handled for quality analysis and arbitration in case of dispute. Growers also come to the Directorate for quality analysis of their coffee samples before making their marketing decisions.

- Coffee Marketing and Promotion
- MARKETING
- Currently, there are two coffee marketing systems in Kenya. The time tested central auction system has coffee auctions conducted every Tuesday of the week throughout the year. This is a market where coffee is bought by the licensed coffee dealers through competitive bidding. The Nairobi Coffee Exchange is under the management of the Kenya Coffee Producers and Traders Association (KCPTA).
- The Direct Sale, commonly referred to as “Second Window” requires that a marketing Agent directly negotiate with a buyer outside the country and a sales contract is duly signed and registered with the Directorate. The Directorate ratifies the contract after carrying out an inspection and analyzing the coffee for quality and value as per the contract.
- There are two categories of Marketing Agents namely:- Commercial Marketing Agents who offer their services purely for commercial purposes and the Grower Marketing Agents who are growers marketing their own coffee.
- The forty seven voices on coffee PROMOTION
- This will be done through:-
- Generic promotion of Kenya Coffee and what it stands for the customers. (brand identity).
- Identifying and developing strategic networks through foreign Embassies, consumer and industry organizations in order to increase awareness of the quality and the consistency of Kenya Coffee.
- Gathering Trade and Industry intelligence on consumption and industry developments in a bid to identify opportunities, threats and advise stakeholders accordingly.
- Establishing linkages with locally based exporters and dealers so as to gather and analyze data on market trends and consumer patterns.
- Developing respective country and consumer profiles in existing markets as well as emerging markets of Eastern European Europe, Asia and others in order to guide industry’s marketing efforts.
- Participating in local and international Trade Fairs and Exhibitions as a means of increasing consumer awareness.
- Encouraging the growers and the buyers of Kenya Coffee to enter into relationship marketing so as to shorten the marketing chain, hence increase returns to growers.

Our promise

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climate change has become the defining human development challenge of the this Century.
Kenya's climate is influenced by its situation on the equator,
its topography,
the Indian Ocean, and the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone
. Kenya, like other countries, is already experiencing the negative impacts of climate change.
Indicators of climate change include weather variability, floods, droughts, increased
greenhouse gas emissions and temperature changes.
Climate variability has significant economic costs in Kenya. Periodic floods and droughts have already caused major socioeconomic impacts and reduced economic growth in Kenya through to the damage and inconvenience they have caused to people as well as to crop and livestock production. The most recent drought of 2011 affected millions of Kenyans and led to major economic costs. Both water and energy sectors suffered huge constraints.
Future climate change will lead to additional and potentially very large and uncertain economic costs, which could possibly be as much as US$0.5 billion per year. This is equivalent to about two per cent of GDP, with reductions in long-term growth.
Research indicates that Kenya is not adequately prepared to adapt to or mitigate existing climate risks.

CHALLANGES **ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

1. Majority of Kenyan households rely on fossil fuels, which account for a high of 16.8 per cent of total energy use. Inadequate or unaffordable alternative energy sources accelerate climate change.
2. Inadequate appropriate transportation, especially in urban areas, has resulted in high use of private transportation, increasing the use of oil-related energy products in the transportation sector, causing the greater emission of ozone-depleting gases.
3. Inadequate integration of climate change and its effects into the framework of environmental governance, policy and law.

4 Inadequate data on the process and effects of climate change in Kenya it is therefore important to prepare for climate change. While it is difficult to predict the effects with confidence,
5.There is need to plan robust strategies to prepare for the future, rather than using uncertainty as a reason for inaction.

THE VOICES PROMISE

- We will use climate-change indicators to formulate policies and preventive master plan to attenuate the causes of climate change.
- We will Partner with the international community in attenuating and modify to the effects of climate change in Kenya.
- We will Build capacity of relevant stakeholders in both public and private sectors to draw-up strategies and actions to address climate change.
- We will develop Kenya's colossal potential in geothermal, wind, solar, hydro and other renewable energy resources. Namely ,
include efforts on multi-purpose dam projects for irrigation, flood-management and electric power generation.
- Find comprehensive, innovative and adaptive development responses to the risks posed by climate change, as opposed to the present practice of launching ad hoc response schemes after disasters have struck. These innovative and adaptive measures include crop and livestock insurance schemes, research on drought-tolerant crops, conservation farming, minimum tillage, agro-forestry, and agricultural diversification.
- Take deliberate steps towards a green economy in Kenya. This includes promoting green investment, increasing the number and quality of jobs in the green sectors and increasing the share of green sectors in GDP.

8.6 Soil Conservation
Soil erosion and land degradation are among the main challenges to agrarian development, along with the conservation and sustainable utilisation of the environment and natural resources. About 24 billion tones of top-soil are washed away annually.

Nurturing the Potential of Our Youth Forty seven Voices recognises the numerous social, economic, political, cultural and health challenges facing the youth in our communities. Approximately 60 per cent of the Kenyan population is below 26 years of age. Half of primary-school leavers do not proceed to secondary school, which implies that more than 500,000 youths enter the job market annually to compete for non-existent jobs. High levels of unemployment among the youth, currently estimated at over 62 per cent of the unemployed, leaves youths open to manipulation and susceptible to crime and violence.

A large proportion of unemployed youth (90 per cent) has no vocational or skills training. Indeed, youths are the key perpetrators and victims of crime and violence in both urban and rural areas. Although the Grand Coalition Government created a ministry of youth affairs and established the Youth Enterprise Fund to enable the youth to access micro-credit, efforts in this regard have not been successful. The Fund, initiated in 2006, has had limited success because most of youth groups have invested the resources in consumables, instead of production. It is estimated that one in every five new smokers is a youth, with females taking up smoking more rapidly than males. Drug and substance abuse is a key challenge for this age-group. Alcohol abuse is also a major problem, with addiction being reported in children as young as 10. This behaviour has serious implications for the health and career development of the youth. It is estimated that 12 per cent of girls aged 15-24 are infected with HIV (compared with 2.3 per cent of their male counterparts), with adverse consequences for their own health and that of the nation at large. The risks facing girls are mainly as a result of a female predisposition to sexually transmitted infections (STIs), as well as socio-cultural factors, poverty and the economic disempowerment of women.

- Forty Seven Voices Promises to involve the youth in decision-making and planning of interventions that address their needs. • Establish well-equipped vocational and entrepreneurial training centres (VETC'S) in each sub-county, to offer the acquisition of modern entrepreneurial and technological skills to meet demands of the jobs market.
- • Establish a special skills and talent development bursary scheme for talented, out-of-school youths.
- • Promote working relationships between the private sector, educational institutions, VETC'S and non-state actors (NSAs) to provide opportunities for job-placement, internships and apprenticeship to young college graduates.
- • Restrict the supply and demand of alcohol, drugs and substances of abuse through implementing stringent border controls and stiff punishment for people engaged in the drug trade. In addition, the government will work with NACADA to design education programmes for schools to educate the youth on the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, drug and substance abuse.
- • Implement strategies that support the adoption of behaviors that are protective of the youth against health risks (including susceptibility to HIV and other STIs), including abstinence, fidelity and condom use. • Promote the development of modern sports centres and academies in each sub-county, to enable the development of sporting talent among the nation's youth.

Promoting Sports in the Community

Forty Seven Voices will promote sports to encourage the public to participate in various types of sports activities and develop a strong sporting culture in the country, helping them develop a healthy lifestyle.

Promotion of sports in the community accounted for a majority of the Government's recurrent expenditure on sports development. In 2023-24, about $6 billion or 81% of our recurrent expenditure on sports development has been used to promote sports in the community but we have seen the the outcome.

Each April 6, we celebrate the World Day of Sport for Development and Peace worldwide. Historically, sports have played a fundamental role in societies: whether as sporting competitions, physical activities, or simply in the form of games. Beyond this, it is a key component for the development of environments where solidarity, tolerance, cooperation, health, and inclusion prevail.

Indeed, sport is a fundamental tool and fundamental right with the power to change the world. And in the process, strengthen social connections and foster sustainable development and comprehensive social well-being. Today, we recognize that sport is increasingly helping to achieve these goals.

- promote sports and talents from grass root level
- Annual county sports and talent day in partnership with county governments
- Promote equal access to physical activity for all.
- Offer people in rural areas the opportunity to lead active, happy and healthy lives through sport.
- Foster the empowerment and community engagement of in sport for women.
- In partnership with County Goverments to create standard stadiums and a talent reaseach hub

Persons with disabilities in Kenya(PWDS)

It is time to raise awareness as a society about the benefits of physical activity and encourage its development. When we evaluate all the positive factors it brings and when these are maximized, its impact is greater. Its ability to promote integral citizenship values, in addition to improving the quality of life of people. On the occasion of this day, We Voices party call for the promotion of mechanisms that integrate sport as an instrument to build peace and promote the sustainable development of our societies

Forty seven voices aim is to empower persons with disabilities and improve their quality of life.
Our Approach ;

- We will donate essential mobility devices and encourage persons with disabilities participate in valuable therapy sessions.
- The mobility devices, such as wheelchairs and crutches, will enhance their mobility and independence.
- Therapy sessions professionals equipped participants with tools and techniques to manage their disabilities more effectively.

It is estimated that 10 per cent of all Kenyans have a disability (that is, approximately four million Kenyans). The Constitution entitles persons with disability to a range of services, including access to educational institutions and facilities, reasonable access to all places (including public transport and information) and communication (sign language and Braille), and access to materials and devices to overcome constraints arising from disability. Despite the enactment of the Persons with Disabilities Act of 2003, the implementation of the rights contained therein has not been effected. Although the National Council for People with Disability is in place, the resources allocated for addressing the needs of people with disability are too limited to have a positive or long-term impact.

This program is our unwavering commitment to ensuring that persons with disabilities in Kenya lead dignified and empowered lives,
The Forty Seven Voices emphasizes the significance of collaboration with various stakeholders across the country. By working together with registered and private NGOs organizations they can ensure similar services reach persons with disabilities nationwide. This collaborative approach will create a more inclusive society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive.

Older persons: Although older people have traditionally comprised a low proportion of the Kenyan population, there is a marked increase in the proportion of people living beyond 65 years of age (currently estimated at four per cent of the population). There are higher levels of poverty among older people – 50 per cent of people aged over 60 are estimated to live in absolute poverty. Furthermore, older people are more vulnerable to non-communicable diseases (mainly cardiovascular diseases, cancers and diabetes). The government has since 2009 implemented a cash-transfer programme targeting older persons. Although this is a timely action, more needs to be done to ensure that the programme reaches all those in need in a predictable and reliable manner. The full implementation of the National Social Health Insurance Scheme would benefit this group greatly.

Forty seven Voices Pledge

• Enact legislation to operationalise fully Article 43 of the Constitution guaranteeing all Kenyans their social and economic rights.
• Roll out a universal pension scheme for all Kenyans aged 65 and over.
• Upscale cash transfers to vulnerable households and individuals, including orphans and vulnerable children (OVC), and the urban and rural poor. • Implement a National Social Health Insurance Scheme that would contribute significantly to the wellbeing of the poor and vulnerable groups.
• Through partnership with the private sector and civil society, develop measures that recognise and motivate vulnerable groups (including street families) to become productive members of society

Promoting Juakali sectors and small businesses

Bringing recognition to the skills of informal "Jua Kali" sector workers in Kenya,learning the skills jua kali in Kenya will enhance the employability of kenya youth. It will validate the under-recognised competencies of artisans and provide them new work opportunities.

The word Jua Kali literally translates as 'hot sun' in Swahili and in Kenya it is used to refer to the informal sector of traders and small business owners running shops on the street or in open market spaces. The sector provides employment to 78 percent of the working population of the country

Jua Kali is a collection of traders and artisans with a wide range of skills, including carpentry, metal work and welding, shoe repair, tailoring, automobile repair, plumbing and many others. With long years of work experience within a particular sector, the Jua Kali traders and artisans often become highly specialized in their skills area. At the same time, being subjected to a range of local requirements, they produce creative and cost-effective solutions for the community.The forty Seven P

Challenges affecting Jua Kali Business

Nevertheless, the sector struggles with the challenges of informality, limited access to finance and business development services, low wages, and lack of social protection.Many of these informal workers are unable to complete formal education or training owing to limited access to funds and are thus forced to take up these informal forms of training and employment."

In the Jua Kali sector, the execution of work and transfer of knowledge also follows an informal approach. "The traders and artisans learn from the local master crafts-persons and do not receive a degree or certificate for the skills they develop. This in turn deprives them from obtaining formal employment and stable income opportunities, despite their significant capabilities and competences.

The Forty Seven Voices Approach on Jua kali Business

The Voice aims to enhance the employability to millions youth groups and rural and urban communities to recognition of skills and prior learning by working with the forty seven county governments. This exercise will be developed around the Recognition of Prior Learning process, an assessment approach that focuses on workers' abilities and enables them to be properly assessed, certified and awarded a qualification based on competency standards and learning outcomes in line with the Kenya National Qualifications Framework

"Many workers in Kenya have excellent skills, but no papers to prove it. And they belong to the Jua Kali sector. Recognising their prior learning and acquired skills is a first important step towards formalising the informal. It will facilitate the assessment and certification of important skills that are contributing to our country vision 2030.

The Voice will validate the under-recognised competencies of artisans and provide them a competitive edge in seeking other available national, regional and even international work opportunities

FORTY SEVEN VOICES ON *Education*

FORTY SEVEN VOICES OF KENYA CONGRESS PARTY ON EDUCATION

Education, a pillar of human capital development, is critical for rapid socio-economic development. With a world driven by knowledge, there is a need for immediate action to be taken to restore our education system to international standards. While Kenya has had well-written strategies for the education sector, they have not been actualized. As such, instead of a prioritization of the sector, its budget allocations have been reducing over the years from 20% percent of the budget in 2022 to partly 12.4 percent in the 2024 Budget. This is at odds with international commitments to provide at least 20 percent of the national budget to the education sector.

Forty-Seven Voices Government commits to re-aligning the education sector programmes and National Development Plans and to prioritizing Education, Science and Skills Development Sector as one of the key potential sectors for job creation and economic development in the country.

We will ensure that we provide quality and equitable access education as well as efficient management of the sector. VOICES shall look at curriculum content so that it is revitalized to meet Kenya's development aspirations and goals. This will include how to build in entrepreneurship instead of focusing on passing a test whose content is far removed from a young person's ability to manage their immediate environment, support their wellbeing, and create or find a job. We will promote policies that shall address the core barriers to access to education and ensure that established standards for quality education are met and enforced. In this regard, we commit to:

- Increase the share of education in the national budget in line with the country's commitment at the international level;
- Reform the bursary and student loan system so that students who cannot afford to pay school or university fees can take up their places;
- Provide a platform for the government to engage with professors, teachers, scholars and students through a consultative and not confrontational approach;
- Develop education-industry linkages and fostering innovation and entrepreneurship to ensure graduates will have relevant and employable skills;
- Respect, support, empower and reward our teachers, tutors and lecturers for their noble cause;
- Promote culture, arts and sport, where employment opportunities remain unrealistic as an integral part of our national development; and .
- Ensure girl child have equal access to education as boy child by tracking and addressing challenges that girl child face such as early marriages menstrual hygiene and pregnancies.
- Provide interest-free loans for university/technical school students who meet the required entry qualifications. We will fund this by providing guarantees to the banking sector and by absorbing the interest.
- Introduced a free daily school meal for all children attending primary school.

1.1 The future of our country is in children . We have a moral and material duty to see that children and young people are fully equipped to deal with the complexities and challenges which face them now and which they will meet as citizens; parents and workers in the future. Our children must be provided with a system of education that enables them to control that future.

We will ensure that our system of education is democratic and just, that it is creative and compassionate, and that it is one in which our youngsters can fully exploit the advantages of science and technology with confidence and in safety.

1.2 The world's education systems vary widely in terms of structure and curricular content The International Standard Classification of Education provides a comprehensive framework for organising education programmes and qualification by applying uniform and internationally agreed definitions to facilitate comparisons of education systems across countries.Overall, the number of pupils attending school since INTRODUCTION OF NEW KENYA CONSTITUTION 2010 had increased by 26.3per cent by 2020,enrolments in ECDE increased from 1.7 million to 2 million, with 67 per cent in public schools; enrolment in primary schools increased from 9.1 million in 2020 to 9.68 million pupils in 2020, (although the percentage attending public school fell from 97 to 84); and enrolment at secondary school increased from 1.1million in 2021 to 1.7 million in 2022 (90 per cent in public schools). However, there is considerable variation in enrolment rates by geographic area, though Kenya’s primary . For example, in Nairobi, the enrolment rate is only 46 per cent compared to the national average of 92 per cent. Some ABOUT 42% pupils in Nairobi are not in formal primary school. In addition, an estimated 54% children of school-going age have never attended school, and more than one-third of children in North Eastern report that they have never attended school.

Education is backbone of our country under the Forty seven voices government its our duty to make sure we invest heavily in education sector The Private schools are well equipped in terms of classrooms, laboratories and other social amenities, while public schools lack learning resources such as laboratories and libraries; for poorer schools located in rural areas, the situation is worse, we will work closely with forty seven county governments' we will ensure all public schools get clean water, Electricity, Laboratories and modern classrooms

CERTIFIED TEACHERS,UNIFORMATITY & SPACECIOUS CLASSROOMS FOR LEARNERS

(i) Public schools also lack qualified teachers and most schools are characterized by a high teacher mobility ,We the Forty seven voices government we will employ new teachers annually in all forty seven counties.
(ii) Each public primary classroom to have less than 40 pupils and public secondary school to have less than 50 students.
(iii) Each County will have same school Uniform for primary school and unique same uniforms for secondary school learners we also understand that Public schools have high dropout rates, with studies attributing this to high incidences of drug-addiction, bullying and teenage pregnancy we will enforce the teachers ,work with county governments closely to ensure children once enrolled are retained in school and monitored throughout their primary and secondary education .

INSECURITY

(i) Insecurity has a great impact on the ability of students to access education. The most affected regions include the clash-torn regions located in certain parts of Coast province, such as Likoni and Tana River, and parts of Rift Valley. Cattle-rustling and banditry in the arid and semi-arid regions has resulted in parents withdrawing their children from schools.
(ii) Long distances and insecurity erodes parents’ confidence in sending girls to school .The voice government will put strong security measures to make sure that learners are safe in affected institutions in coast, rift valley and northern Kenya regions

1.2 In pursuit of those objectives, Voices government will invest in education so that the abilities of all children and adults from rural areas and in every part of our country are discovered and nourished. We propose the establishment of National Education Funding Authority (NEFA) to ensure every Kenyan child access quality education from Basic education to Higher education without financial challenges

Voices government values the research and teaching contribution made by Kenya's higher education system. We will ensure that our universities and polytechnics get the resources they need to restore and expand the opportunity for all qualified young people seeking higher education to secure places. We will ensure that more adults have access to higher education to give them the 'second chance' of personal development.

We will also invest in research in higher education by increasing funding, in order to provide the facilities and opportunities necessary to sustain standards of excellence, to retain and attract the highest talents and to encourage the industrial and commercial application of research output.

Free Education for Street Children and Adults in the streets;

WE THE FORTY SEVEN VOICES we will package education as 'everyone's business' to draw on the strengths of other government ministries to improve schools. For example, ministry of communication to see that young Kenyans have access to ICT, ministry of public health and sanitation to ensure that learners have access to proper nutrition and hygiene .
The voices government we will give Kenyans in the street free Education we will work closely with Forty seven counties government .
Each county will collect data of all street families in major county towns ,each county will have at least four institutions;
(i) Primary boarding institution
(ii) Secondary boarding institution
(ii) ICT hub

Technical, Industrial and Vocational Education and Training (TIVET)

The Voices Government will establish TIVET institutions across all counties to develop technical skills.
In partnerships with local and global institutions, establish incentives for leading edge innovations in TIVET,
We will adapt a relevant model to position TIVET as the force behind the knowledge-based economy in Kenya.

UNIVERSITY EDUCATION

(a)The Forty seven Voices Goverment will improve the quality of education and skills building to ensure that the graduates are absorbed into the job market.

(b) Forty seven Voices of Kenya Goverment will allocate resources for research and facilitate the linkages between the universities, government and industry.

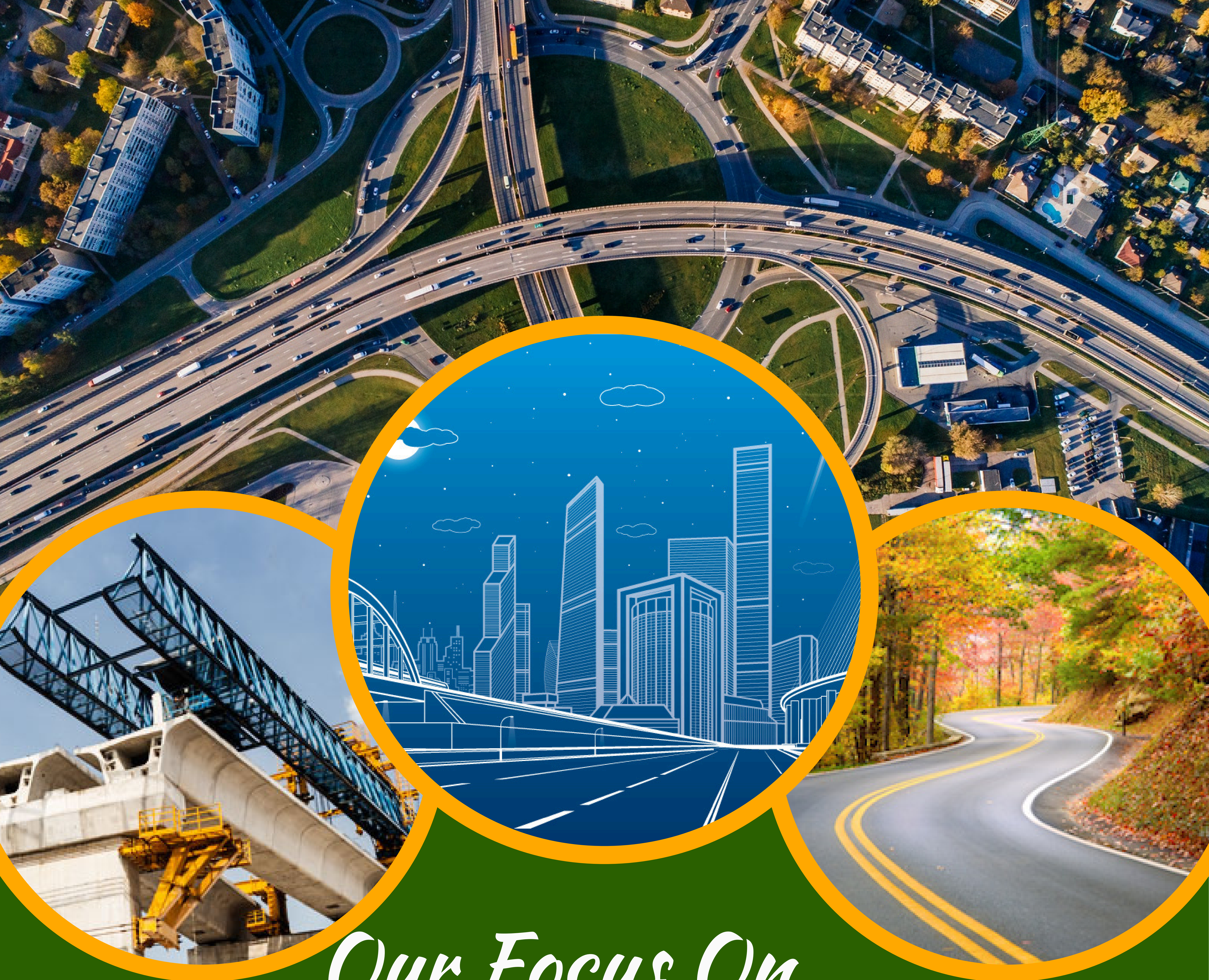
(c) The Forty seven voices Of Kenya Goverment will increase gross enrolment rates from five per cent to 10 per cent by the year 2022, in line with the policy framework.

• Support and help universities implement reforms as set out in the current policy framework in the areas of increased access, affordability, equity, relevance, research, governance, resource mobilisation (including staff compensation and retention), linkages with industry and partnerships with other global institutions.

• Encourage universities to incorporate elements of entrepreneurship, innovation and social responsibility.

HELB

The Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) is a statutory body established in July 1995 by an Act of Parliament 'Higher Education Loans Board Act' Cap 213A.The Forty seven voices Goverment will Facilitate public universities to diversify their sources of income to finance university education, with a view to lowering tuition and fees paid by students directly



Our Focus On infrastructure

The Forty-seven Voices of Kenya government Our Vision on infrastructure is to 'provide sustainable world-class transformative infrastructure and services to the people Kenya

Our Mission is to 'provide an efficient, affordable, cost-effective and reliable transformative infrastructure for sustainable economic growth and development, through construction, modernization, rehabilitation and effective management of infrastructure and services.

1. • We will delivering transformative infrastructure by accelerating ongoing infrastructure development, focusing on quality, aesthetics and functionality of the infrastructure services developed. This will enable the country to make tremendous strides towards facilitating socio-economic development.
2. • We will create a seamless interconnectivity throughout the country with linkages to neighbouring countries through the country's roads, railway, ports, airports and telecommunications.
3. • We will strengthen the dominant regional hub scenario in the country (particularly in our roads – Northern Corridor, port, rail, airport), SEZs and Free Trade Areas.
4. •We will increase electric power generation through various energy initiatives, such as green energy and clean energy, to improve reliability in the electric power supply and support a faster rate of industrialisation.
5. • We will attract increased private sector investment in infrastructure development and management in the country. There are currently a number of private-sector involvements, particularly in the energy, water and railway sub-sectors. More private sector investments are being explored in roads, railways, ports and water services.
6. •We will strengthen the institutional framework for infrastructure development and accelerate the speed of completion of infrastructure projects.
7. •We will create more jobs in both specialised areas and labour, thus reducing poverty levels in the country. Countries such as Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and India have used transformative infrastructure development as a means to spur socio-economic growth and development. Malaysia has constructed such highways and landmark investments as the Petronas Twin Tower as a means of strengthening capacity in local construction expertise.
8. • We will create capacity in the infrastructure industry from human, technological, financial and consumers in the country. Such countries as China, India, Malaysia, Brazil, Iran and Singapore have used this model to adapt technology and train their manpower, while building capacity in their delivery institutions.
9. • We will strengthen Kenya's socio-economic base. Continued investment in infrastructure has seen the country recovering speedily from the shocks that resulted in a jumpstart from a marginal 1.6 to 2.6 and 5.5 per cent growth in 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively.
10. • We will develop and maintain an integrated, safe and efficient transport network.
11. • We will integrate information and communication technologies in the process of infrastructure development and service provision.
12. • We will benchmark infrastructure facilities and service provision with globally acceptable performance standards targeting enhanced customer satisfaction.

- Adequate transport infrastructure will be required to meet the demands of the population and its economic activities. Providing the required urban and rural transport infrastructure and services calls directly for major investments in infrastructure through extensive public works. The demand for transport infrastructure and services is expected to be influenced by changes in population and in purchasing power, demographic shifts, changes in regional and international trade patterns and in the urban and rural economic matrix, national defence needs and changes in the global transport industry. The challenge for the Port of Mombasa is not only that of attracting and servicing increased traffic from the hinterland within Kenya and in neighbouring countries but also that only small-sized vessels are calling at the port, while larger post-panamax vessels cannot access the port due to its shallow channel. The roads sub-sector is reeling under a large backlog of road rehabilitation and maintenance work that requires large amounts of funding.
- At the national level, more than 50 per cent of the total classified road network requires urgent rehabilitation to bring roads to a maintainable condition, at an approximate cost of Kshs 150 billion (approximately US$ 1.9 billion). Further, there are crucial cross-country and other road networks in marginalised areas, referred to as ‘low potential areas’, which require urgent development to take roads to where all Kenyans live and to enhance accessibility and national mobility

- The rapidly growing aviation industry in Kenya faces major challenges, including inadequate regulations and enforcement, oversight and accident investigation capacity and air transport infrastructure, and limited capacity in local training institutions. The air accidents that have occurred in the recent past and the real threat to aviation security that is faced today make it more compelling for the country to work harder towards improving the safety of the airspace and aviation security in order to sustain growth.
- In the energy sub-sector, the government has consolidated the Electric Power Act and the Petroleum Act through the Energy Act 2007. The Rural Electrification Authority (REA), the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) and the Energy Tribunal have been established. In addition, a state-owned Geothermal Development Company (GDC) has been established, with charge of geothermal resource assessments and the sale of steam to future independent power producers (IPPs) and KenGen for electricity generation. The GDC will also sell lowenthalpy geothermal fluids to other users. Further, Kenya Electricity Transmission Company (KETRACO), which is 100 per cent government owned, has been established to be responsible for construction and maintenance of new power transmission lines. The Kenya Power and Lighting Company (KPLC) is responsible for distribution and will keep its current stock of existing 132 kV and 220 kV transmission lines.

- While significant gains in infrastructure development have been realised over the past five years, Kenya's global competitiveness is still weak. This is mainly attributed to high cost of doing business. Some of the challenges include: the high cost of power, poor road networks and poor performance by the Kenya Railways Corporation Concessionaire.
- The sector has been implementing key reforms aimed at enhancing efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery. In the roads sub-sector, following the enactment of the Roads Act 2007, the government has operationalised the three road authorities namely, the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA), the Kenya Rural Roads Authority (KeRRA), and Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA).
- The government has finalized a draft Integrated National Transport Policy Paper under the theme 'Moving a Working Nation', which prescribes policies aimed at facilitating national and regional integration, promoting trade and economic development, and contributing to poverty reduction and wealth creation and the achievement of the objectives of Vision 2030 and beyond.
- The increasingly youthful population is faced with unemployment and diminishing opportunities for self-actualisation. While inter-generational conflict for leadership continues to intensify, the government has, since Independence, not been able to invest in infrastructure that is capable of assuring the youth of a better today and the best of tomorrow.
- The Voices believes that there is need to deliver infrastructure for all Kenyans through its leadership, and this forms the basis of its infrastructure policy platform.

VOICES GOVERMENT WILL;

• Invest at least 15 per cent of GDP on infrastructure development over the next five years.
• Expand the road network to reach all Kenyans and cover all parts of the country, thus achieving the ambition of having all Kenyans and Kenya genuinely connected.
• Address the existing imbalance in the provision of road infrastructure, which is concentrated in the so-called "high potential areas", in order to open up hitherto marginalised regions and improve accessibility for the development of all economic sectors and regions in Kenya.

CHALLENGES ON INFRASTRUCTURE

1 The sub-sector's budgetary allocations have never matched the resources required to provide a reliable road (both classified and unclassified) network. Inadequate plant and equipment under the Mechanical and Transport Fund to meet the ever increasing demand.
2 Funds absorption and disbursement, procedures on the development co-funded projects portfolio.
3 There is huge maintenance backlog on the roads network, which has reduced the uptake of new projects.
4 Low capacity in the local construction industry.
5 Poor control of roadside development and poor co-ordination of physical development plans with road corridor development.

6 Challenges with enforcement of axle-load limits.
7 The reduction in maintenance funds for Classes D, E and other roads and eventual equitable distribution of the 10 per cent Fuel Levy Funds meant for maintenance to all constituencies. This has led to a thin spread of financial resources across all the constituencies, which does not result in meaningful road maintenance works. The funds are inadequate to make the desired impact in any constituency's road network.
8 The management of the Constituency Road Maintenance Funds through the legislative arm of government as represented by the CDF mechanism.
9 Managing stakeholder expectations and maintaining the existing good will.
10 Lack of technology to stabilise gravel and earth roads in national parks and game reserves.

What Forty seven Voices Government will do

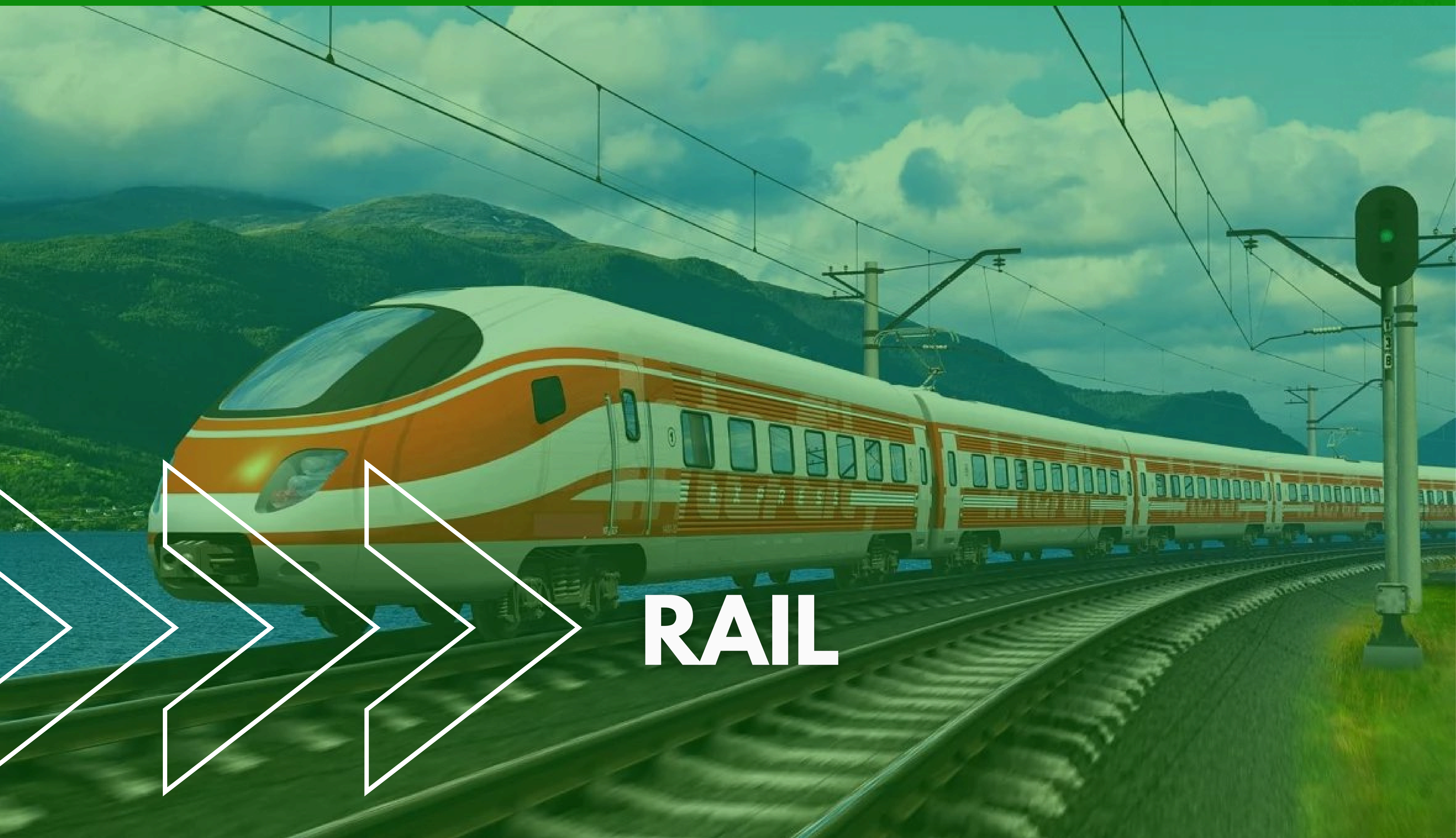
- Institutionalise budgetary provision for road infrastructure to four per cent of the current GDP in order to accelerate the provision of effective road infrastructure.
- Working with agencies responsible for roads, bituminise all international trunk roads linking Kenya and its neighbours, while upgrading busy sections of the network to dual carriageways. Bituminise all roads linking counties, rural areas and key service and production centres. Bituminise all urban arterial and access roads, and streets serving residential and commercial estates.
- Empower county governments to improve, develop and upgrade roads within their jurisdictions, so as to improve county-based investments and local economic vitalisation.
- Create an appropriate legislative framework and a suitable commercial environment for increased PPPs in the provision of high-quality, cost-effective road development and maintenance on the viable road network.
- Institutionalise labour-intensive and other appropriate methods (such as public works) in road construction in order to create employment cells countrywide. Devolve the functions of KIBHIT to counties to ensure the availability of appropriate skills for road construction and maintenance.

4.4 Rail Infrastructure

There is poor coverage by rail, and the existing network is inadequately maintained. The existing capacity of the railway is under-utilised. The rail system has a capacity of more than six million tonnes per year, but it handles only 2.4 to 3.2 million tonnes per year. Despite concessioning of the existing Mombasa-Nairobi-Kisumu-Malaba rail line to Rift Valley Railways, rail operations have continued to deteriorate, in both operational efficiency and safety standards.

THE VOICES PARTY TRANSPORT

ROAD



RAIL

AIR

Currently, there are too many overloaded road-freight vehicles carrying cargo that should be transported by railway. Plans to upgrade the existing Mombasa-Nairobi-Kisumu-Malaba rail line to standard rail gauge have not progressed since the idea was mooted in 2007. The Grand Coalition Government has just completed pre-feasibility studies for a new railway line connecting the proposed Port of Lamu with South Sudan and Ethiopia via Isiolo, as part of the Grand LAPSSET Corridor Project.

CHALLENGES AFFECTING RAILWAYS TRANSPORT

1 There has been limited investment by both the government and the private sector in rail infrastructure over the years. As a result, the existing Kenyan rail network is almost obsolete, with outdated technology and aged components. The rail technology is inefficient and expensive to manage. The narrow-gauge (one-metre track) rail network limits capacity and speed of trains.

2 Long distance intra-urban travel between Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu and other towns takes many hours or days to accomplish by the existing rail network. Further, air transport is expensive, forcing the majority of people to depend on road transport. This scenario limits opportunities and increases the turnaround time for transacting business between cities.

THE FORTY SEVEN VOICES PLEDGE

- Create an appropriate legislative framework and a suitable commercial environment for increased PPPs in the provision of high-quality, cost-effective road development and maintenance on the viable road network.
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3. An urban commuter rail infrastructure and services are currently absent in major cities, while operations in Nairobi are inappropriate and unplanned. This situation has led to prime journey time rising from an average of 20 minutes to more than 40 minutes in key city networks during peak hours.

Forty Seven Voices Promise on Railway Transport

- Construct a modern, electric, standard-gauge, high-speed railway system to link key cities and towns along the Northern Corridor for the rapid transit of passengers and bulky goods. This would protect our roads and lower costs for business.
- Fast-track the construction of the LAPSSET Corridor rail line connecting Kenya with South Sudan and Ethiopia, to open up Northern Kenya and improve regional trade and transport with its neighbours.
- Develop a light railway transport network for Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru and Kisumu.
- Conduct an appraisal of the capacity of the country to put in place underground rail transport in Nairobi and Mombasa cities.

Maritime and Inland Waterways Infrastructure;

The maritime industry is currently one of the fast-growing sectors of the economy, due to increased demand for sea-borne trade in the region. Regional economies are fast-growing, while new markets have emerged in Ethiopia and South Sudan, which have focused on exporting and importing their goods using Kenyan ports. Mombasa is the main sea port in Kenya, followed by Kisumu. There are other minor ports, such as those at Shimoni, Vanga, Lamu and Lake Turkana. The Grand Coalition Government has just completed detailed studies for the proposed Lamu Port, which has the potential of being a deep-sea port in addition to a regional passenger hub.

There is much undeveloped potential in the maritime sector. Kisumu has major potential as a regional inland water port. It could be the main driver for other regional ports, such as Bukoba, Jinja, Mwanza and Port Bell. Lake Turkana has the potential to be an inland water transport link with Ethiopia. The Dongo Kundu area, acquired in 1976 for the purpose of developing an EPZ, has a shoreline of 2,000 metres of straight quay, and this has remained

ROAD TRANSPORT CHALLANGES;

1 The roads department has a history of low-budget execution, while projects are not chosen based on traffic assessments, sound economic appraisals or cost-benefit analyses.

2 Poor management and lack of transparency in transactions leads to inefficient executions of works, sizeable cost and time overruns and dubious quality of works.

3 A present focus by the Government on prioritising backlog rehabilitation of poor roads at the expense of routine and periodic maintenance of good roads.

4 The institutional framework in the Ministry of Roads is unsuitable and too cumbersome for efficient and effective delivery of road works.

Voices Promise;

- Fast-track the transition to the new institutional set-up created by the Roads Bill of 2007, in which three statutory road authorities have been created.
- Prioritise, based on a sound benefits analysis to the economy, the rehabilitation of the road network countrywide.
- Improve the capacity in the local road-construction industry in terms of strengthening professional governance and self-regulation.
- Reduce waiting time at the port, weighbridges, and borders, through reform in the transport sector packaged as logistics reform.
- Complete the modernisation reform programme through automation of container tracking, in partnership with the private sector.
- Fast-track the construction of Lamu port to serve Ethiopia, Somalia, Southern Sudan and Uganda.
- Develop a free port to create a free trade zone in the port of Mombasa through a public-private partnership.
- Ensure international container terminals are moved to computer-based systems to ease the organization and management of container stacking and storage.

Accelerating Growth Through Information, Communications and Technology (ICT)

Kenya’s ICT sector has undergone a revolution following the laying down of three fibre-optic international submarine cables in 2009 and 2010, which ended the country’s dependence on limited and expensive satellite bandwidth. Bandwidth prices have now fallen by more than 90 per cent, enabling cheaper tariffs for telephone calls and broadband internet services.

A simplified and converged licensing regime introduced in 2008 has lowered the barriers to market entry and increased competition by allowing operators to offer any kind of service in a technology and service-neutral regulatory framework.

Road Transport Infrastructure

Road transport alone accounts for more than 80 per cent of the total internal freight and passenger traffic in the country, with the remainder being mainly carried by rail and only a small proportion by air. However, the roads sub-sector is faced with a myriad problems, including:

1 There are more than 65,000 km of classified roads (14 per cent paved), 15,000 km of municipal roads (17 per cent paved) and approximately 120,000 km of unclassified roads, of which there is no inventory. It is estimated that 20 per cent of paved, 30 per cent of gravel and 60 per cent of earth roads are in poor condition. The roads sub-sector is reeling under a large backlog of road rehabilitation and maintenance, which requires large amounts of funding. At the national level, more than 50 per cent of the total classified road network requires urgent rehabilitation to bring it to a maintainable condition. The stock of backlog maintenance is estimated to cost about Kshs. 100 billion (approximately US$ 1.22 billion). Further, there are other crucial cross-country networks and roads in marginalised areas, previously referred to as 'low-potential areas' that require urgent development in order to (a) link all parts of the country; (b) provide accessibility to locations where Kenyans live; and (c) enhance transportation efficiency and overall national mobility.

2 Despite reforms undertaken in the roads sub-sector between 2003 and 2012, the existing institutional framework requires further strengthening to make it more efficient and effective for appropriate delivery of the roads infrastructure. Even though the Grand Coalition Government has significantly increased funding levels for road-asset investment over the past four years, there is inadequate local contracting capacity, thus hampering optimal and competitive participation of local road-contracting companies in road-asset development and maintenance.

4 The Road Maintenance Levy Fund (RMLF) is insufficient for maintenance of the public road network and could only cover 60 per cent of the maintenance requirements if the road network was in good maintainable state.

5 Currently, there is no comprehensive policy for financing the roads sub-sector. Road rehabilitation and development is too dependent on development-partner support. The government does not have sufficient funds for rehabilitation, upgrading and construction of new roads. Additionally, financing is insufficient for safety, control of environmental impacts, and traffic management.

6 It is estimated that backlog maintenance alone requires approximately Kshs 100 billion, which, if implemented over a five-year period, would mean Kshs 20 billion per year. Periodic and routine maintenance requires an additional Kshs 15 billion per year. To date, 80 per cent of urban roads, 50 per cent of main class A, B and C roads and 96 per cent of rural class D and E roads remain unpaved. The percentage of unpaved main class A, B and C roads is likely to increase from 50 per cent to approximately 70 per cent when re-classification of roads, which is long overdue, is undertaken.

7 The urgently needed network expansion and capacity enhancement will also require substantial funding of approximately Kshs 20 billion per year. The recent Nairobi Master Plan Study recommends an investment in new infrastructure of approximately Kshs 5 billion per year. Urgent upgrading and development in other major towns, as well as main and feeder rural roads, requires an additional Kshs 10 billion per year.

8 An improved road network to facilitate the economic growth of Kenya would thus require approximately Kshs 80 billion per year – four per cent of GDP using 2007 statistics. Currently, Kenya's GDP is estimated at Kshs 3,400 billion. The World Bank recommends using of at least seven per cent of GDP for infrastructure (this includes rail and air transport, as well as the water sector).

9 There is severe vehicle congestion on roads within large towns and a lack of sufficient parking, in addition to the low performance of the railways sector, which has led to over-burdening of the main roads, which now have to carry a larger proportion of heavy cargo than would otherwise be the case.

10 Even though there is a Roads Sector Investment Plan, which is a framework for participatory identification and prioritisation of road development, the selective way the government has identified roads for development and maintenance continue to cause concern to Kenyans.

Maritime and Inland Waterways Infrastructure

The Port of Mombasa has been a regional hub for Eastern and Central Africa but is fast losing ground to other ports, such as Dar es Salaam, due to inefficiency and lack of a port infrastructure development strategy. Mombasa Port is the gateway to the economies of several other countries, including Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Southern Sudan, North-Eastern Tanzania and Somalia. These countries rely on Mombasa Port for import and export operations.

VOICES GOVERMENT PROMISE

- WE will increase the capacity of the Port of Mombasa, install the equipment required for efficient operations and establish a free trade area.
- We will Facilitate the development of the international sea port at Lamu and kilifi in accordance with the LAPSSET Corridor Project
- We will develop other minor satellite ports, such as Shimoni, Lake Turkana and Kisumu, through strategic partnership approaches.
- We will enhance the safety of maritime transport through enforcing standards and providing state-of-the-art equipment and putting in place relevant equipment.
- Establish a Coast Guard Service to link up with other international community coastguards in strengthening the safety and security of the maritime industry.
- Revitalise the inland waterways port infrastructure in the lake region, with Kisumu as a regional inland waterway hub to link with other regional ports such as Bukoba, Jinja, Mwanza and Port Bell.
- Establish an inland waterway transport infrastructure around Lake Turkana to improve mobility around the lake and provide a link with neighbouring Ethiopia.

Air Transport Infrastructure;

Air transport has grown through demand from the local business community and foreign tourists and investors. It is also the most cost-effective means of transport for high-yielding exports and perishable goods, such as floriculture and fish products.
It therefore has the potential to catalyse the consolidation of economic gains and spur further growth. In spite of the existence of a good network of airstrips and aerodromes, these investments are lying idle, completely neglected.
There are about 570 aerodromes in Kenya, of which 156 are public. Of the public aerodromes, nine are currently managed directly by the Kenya Airports Authority (KAA). Jomo Kenyatta International Airport is currently playing the role of a regional hub within Eastern, Central and parts of Southern and Northern Africa. Moi International Airport Mombasa is playing a major role as a tourist reception facility for the country and specifically the coastal zone as an entry and exit point. The policy aims to consolidate this position, with a view to improving Kenya’s tourist share in the region and internationally.
Eldoret International Airport, which was built in late 1980s and early 1990s at a cost of Kshs 2.0 billion, is providing an alternative entry and exit point into and out of the country through the Western Kenya region, and the policy strives to expand the exploitation of this opportunity.

AFFORDABLE LIVING!

Ensuring Planned Urbanisation and Access to Affordable Housing
About 35 per cent of Kenyans live in urban areas, a proportion that is expected to increase to 50 per cent by 2030. The key challenge for the country is that about 60 per cent of urban resident live in slums and informal settlements. People in such settlements generally have low levels of education and experience higher levels of crime and violence, disease and fires, as a consequence of poor housing and living conditions. Although the previous governments has committed to undertaking slum upgrading as part of meeting the MDGs, the level of expansion of urban areas invalidate any of the efforts in place. The devolution process will ultimately lead to the expansion and/or growth of urban areas to serve people at the county headquarters. Although this presents an opportunity for bringing services closer to the people, the main challenge is poor planning with the risk of transferring the challenges of big towns, including limited capacity for garbage collection, sewerage
and access to basic services, to the county headquarters. The Voice government will take cognisance of the need to address urbanisation now.
Access to housing remains a major challenge in Kenya. The housing gap is currently estimated at 350,000 units annually in major urban areas. As noted above, most urban dwellers live in shelters that are unfit for human habitation.

DIFFICULTIES

1 Unplanned urban development that has led to slum housing on land that is unsuitable for human habitation (near sewers and garbage dumps), with serious environmental and health risks.
2 Rapid expansion and transformation of formerly small towns into urban centres (as county headquarters) with no or inadequate amenities to ensure that those migrating from rural areas have access to basic services.
3 Corruption that has resulted in public land being illegally granted to private developers and individuals, which has limited the potential for expansion and provision of the necessary amenities.
4 Lack of planning for the social needs of workers, which leads to the proliferation of informal settlements to cater for the housing needs for people working in industry.
5 Poor or non-enactment of building standards, which has resulted in the mushrooming of housing structures that are poorly constructed and pose risks to the inhabitants. There have been many deaths and injuries caused by collapsing buildings.

VOICES PROMISE

- Facilitate the county governments to prepare integrated urban development plans.
- Streamline licensing and approval systems for building developed modern houses, through the enactment of the Housing Policy. This Bill will provides for ‘one-stop-shop’ housing development approvals.
- Work with the National Land Commission and the county governments to ensure that all public land that has been inappropriately allocated to individuals and other entities is reclaimed and used for the provision of services that serve the Kenyan people at large.
- Working closely with the relevant associations (eg, the Architectural Association of Kenya), to ensure that county headquarters are planned appropriately.
- Work with county governments in setting targets for the construction of housing units in urban areas.
- Expand the slum-upgrading programme to cover all major urban areas, with a view to ensuring that the urban poor live a life of dignity.
- Expand Urban Cash Transfers to reach the poor and vulnerable in urban areas across the country, while building their capacity to get out of poverty.

The Employment Act (2007) was enacted following a comprehensive review of labour laws. The Act declares and defines the
fundamental rights of employees to provide basic conditions of employment and to regulate employment of children. The Act provides for decent work and decent livelihoods for working populations. It addresses social marginalisation and workers'
risks, thereby providing a regulatory framework for ensuring decent work. It seeks to transform the labour sector and to enhance the social and economic wellbeing of the workers and their families. The National Child Labour Policy (2004-2009)
is further aimed at protecting children from exploitative and dangerous labour and related tasks.
The ministry of labour is responsible for the administration of the workmen's compensation system, approving settlements and paying benefits from funds deposited by employers. Currently, Kenya does not have an unemployment insurance scheme.

DIFFICULTIES

1 Inadequate implementation of productivity-based compensation that would ensure remuneration for skills and work output.
2 Lack of knowledge and understanding of the labour laws, exposing people to exploitation and occupational hazards (such as experienced by workers in horticulture and floriculture production).
3 Lack of enforcement of international labour standards, to which the government is a signatory.
4 Corruption in production firms that interferes with the enforcement of regulations aimed at protecting the workers.

The Forty Seven Approach;

- Ensure the promotion and protection of workers, accompanied by intensive worker education in conformity with international best practice.
- Domesticate ILO core labour standards to form the core of our national legislation.
- Develop and implement a productivity policy for the labour market.
- Enforce adherence to labour standards for decent work by all employers, and institute regular inspection in accordance with the labour laws.
- Establish an unemployment insurance scheme to cushion workers while out of employment and to ensure their re-integration into the job market, to be implemented as provided for in the Constitution and as part of social protection.
- Legislate for stiff punishment to individuals and agencies contravening the laws against child labour.

Tourism

Kenya has prided itself as a global tourism destination and the economy is expected to grow through tourism. The productivity of traditional tourism has continuously gone down, due to exploitation by foreign firms. In order to maximise on the investments in tourism, several actions must be taken:

- Measures to encourage domestic tourism
- Create a Commission on Tourism to assess the problem
- Integrating international and domestic tourism
- Conference tourism
- Ensuring the environment and infrastructure supports the growth of the industry.

Tourism currently accounts for about 10 per cent of Kenya's Gross GDP, making it the third-largest contributor to GDP. It is also Kenya's leading foreign exchange earner, generating about Kshs 73.6 billion in 2010, up from Kshs 65.4 billion in 2007.

Further, the sector is a major source of government revenue in the form of taxes, duties, licence fees and entry fees, among other things. Due to tourism's linkage with other sectors, it has a very high multiplier effect on the economy, having the capacity to stimulate demand for locally produced goods and services, to provide a wide market for agricultural products, to promote regional development, and even to create new commercial and industrial enterprises.

Kenya recorded the highest number of tourist arrivals ever, at 1,095,945, at 31st December 2010. This was a 15 per cent increase over the 952,481 arrivals in 2009. This figure excludes cross-border tourist arrivals, which could add up to approximately another 700,000 tourists.

CHALLENGES AFFECTING TOURISM

1 Lack of focus on intensive marketing and promotion, product development, natural and wildlife asset protection, in order to attract tourists from existing and new markets.

2 Kenya is characterised as a once-in-a-lifetime tourist destination, with fragmented and less competitive products in today's market.

3 The sector is vulnerable to political instability and global economic recession, so has remained stagnant and requires revamping to compete internationally.

4 Policy reforms are required to enhance an enabling environment that comprehensively protects the sector's asset base and builds capacity to contribute further to economic gains.

OUR FORTY SEVEN VOICES PROMISE

- Institute, within 12 months, policy and institutional reform to improve co-ordination between seven ministries and public agencies involved in tourism-related activities.
- Fine-tune the legal and regulatory framework to harmonise mandates and clarify leadership roles; currently there are some 44 pieces of legislation related to tourism in the country.
- Undertake policy and institutional reforms focusing on developing co-ordination mechanisms, harmonising mandates and clarifying leadership roles.
- Explore the possibility of creating an apex body (as in Rwanda) to help in improving co-ordination among accountable bodies.
- Build capacities of county governments to identify, develop and exploit the tourism potential in their respective jurisdictions.
- Develop an overall tourism development strategy to improve co-ordination and give priority to strengthening public services that impact directly on tourism.
- Create a Tourism Commission to submit to government a programme of action within six months.

The size of the government and economic growth are interrelated: the relationship is positive when public resources raised through taxes (that do not impact adversely on growth) are invested in growth-enhancing activities. Historically, the Kenya government's revenue effort has been comparable to East Asian 'tiger economies' (18-24 per cent of GDP). The difference is that the Asian economies have consistently devoted more than one-third of their revenues – close to 10 per cent of GDP – to capital formation, while the Kenya government has seldom managed to contribute one per cent of GDP. The extent to which government spending is adding to the accumulation of these assets will have a positive impact on economic growth.

In this context, general government services have contributed an average of 14.5 per cent to GDP, mainly in the sectors of public administration, defence, education and health, from 2005 to 2010. Overall government expenditure has increased.

The fiscal deficit has widened significantly in the past two years, to an estimated eight per cent of GDP in 2008/9. Revenues grew marginally in proportion to GDP between 2003/4 and 2008/9. Expenditures that grew steadily in proportion to GDP at the beginning of the period increased considerably in the past two years, driven by an increase in capital spending and an increase in spending through other levels of government, such as the devolved funds and transfers to semi-autonomous government agencies (SAGAs) and parastatals. However, the revenue-to-GDP ratio at around 21 per cent is high in Kenya compared with other countries of a similar income level.

DIFFICULTIES

1 In the context of policy, rapidly scaling up spending in order to maintain and rehabilitate infrastructure, while maintaining macroeconomic stability.
2 Competing demand for social spending, which has increased rapidly following the government's adoption of free primary education in 2003 and various health goals.
3 How to use fiscal policy in the medium-term to create fiscal space for infrastructure and social spending without compromising the solvency of public finances.
4 Getting more value out of government's current level of social and infrastructure expenditure and curtailing general administrative expenditure.
5 Improving productivity in public expenditure to enhance investor and development partner confidence through efficient public services.

THE FORTY SEVEN VOICES PROMISE

- Improve the quality of expenditure through efficient use of public resources in education, health and roads, which account for more than half of total government expenditure.
- Measure government performance in service delivery by linking resource use to results and impact on quality of services.
- Establish cost benchmarks and service-delivery targets for all government ministries, state corporations and county governments.

EQUALITY AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

Forty Seven Voices is a social Congress party, we will invest in the social sector as a key mandate. In line with the Social Pillar of the Kenya Vision 2030, we will seek to build 'a just and cohesive society with social equity in a clean and secure environment'.

The social pillar is based on transformation in eight social sector areas, namely: education and training; health; water and sanitation; environment, housing, and urbanisation; gender, youth, sports, and culture; and promoting equity and poverty reduction. There is special recognition for people with disabilities and those who live in marginalised areas. In pursuit of the provisions of Article 43 of the Constitution, We will formulate and implement a policy that focuses on a social protection and welfare system appropriate for Kenya in the 21st Century. This policy will promote human capital development; provide basic social welfare while avoiding welfare dependency; create social conditions supportive of growth and development. It will be founded on a basic level of security provided to all, with particular focus on the poor. Just as important, and to realise everyone's potential and narrow disparities in income, living conditions and wealth, Our Policies will place a premium on equality of opportunity in education, health, employment and enterprise.

This will allow people to enjoy a higher standard of living and share in the fruits of growth and development. Pillars of the Forty Seven Voices Social Protection Programme The social protection programme will be built on three pillars:

Pillar 1: Social Assistance

• Roll out a universal pension scheme for all Kenyans aged 65 years and above.

• Upscale cash transfers to vulnerable households and individuals, including orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and the rural and urban poor.

Protect individuals and households from the impacts of adverse shocks to their consumption and support them to manage these shocks in ways that do not trap them in poverty, through reducing their exclusion and strengthening their agency, with a view to eventual graduation from social assistance to self-providing and self-financing alternatives.

• Cushion workers and their dependants from the consequences of income-threatening risks, such as sickness, poor health and injury at work, as well as exposure in post-employment life.

• Promote key investments in human capital and physical assets by poor and non-poor households and individuals capable of ensuring their resilience in the medium-term and of interrupting and exiting the inter-generational cycle of poverty.

• Promote synergies and integrated approaches among social protection providers, as well as positive interactions among stakeholders for optimal functioning of this policy.

Pillar 2: Social Security

Working with all other stakeholders, We will:

• Upscale and strengthen existing social security regimes and extend legal coverage to all workers, whether in the formal or informal sectors, as well as their dependants.

• Work towards the establishment of a Universal Pension Scheme (UPS), where every Kenyan aged 65 years and above will be entitled to an old-age pension. This will be done after thoroughgoing studies have been conducted with regard to viability, delivery and sustainability.

• Implement structures to make membership of social security schemes compulsory and enforce compliance for those who are able to contribute, and to monitor compliance with this obligation.

• Streamline governance and management arrangements applicable, so that governance is representative of government, employer and worker interests, and management of the schemes is streamlined, cost-effective and transparent.

• Develop synergies within social security and across the social protection spectrum, to establish a seamless system of care and provision through suitable benefit harmonisation and a co-ordinated and integrated system of multi-pillar retirement provisioning, supported by co-ordinated information systems and reliable contributor and beneficiary databases.

• Put in place effective and independent regulators to ensure the contributors' interests are protected.

Extend the range of benefits provided by social security schemes to extend coverage to core areas of needed protection, such as unemployment and comprehensive pre- and post-natal care.

• Determine the desired scope, role and place of occupational schemes in appropriately extending social security coverage to those who can contribute to their own post-retirement welfare and security and risk mitigation.

Pillar 3: Social Healthcare

The Forty Seven Voices Will , in collaboration with stakeholders,

• Establish a fully-fledged comprehensive National Social Health Insurance Scheme, to cover all Kenyans, and to which those who can afford it must contribute.

• Establish a framework for medical aid for those who are not able to contribute, so that they are able to access an essential benefit package of healthcare, including for maternal care and pandemics such as HIV-related conditions.

• Ensure institutional streamlining, including the removal of duplication and inconsistencies in healthcare provisioning.

Establish a health insurance regulator to improve standard-setting, regulation and supervision in the health sector.

• Provide a supportive framework for private sector participation in healthcare and determine the exact role, place and function of medical benefit (insurance) schemes in relation to the NSHIS and government interventions in healthcare.

An Forty Seven Voices will be committed to ensuring that the people of Kenya experience a transformation in their social lives. The economy cannot be seen to be growing when most of the population lives in poverty. The main challenge that faced the Grand Coalition Government (2008 to 2012) in transforming the social sector was lack of a harmonised and co-ordinated approach. Social-sector issues were addressed in different ministries, with disparate mandates that often worked at crosspurposes. An ODM Government will, therefore, consolidate its efforts to address inequity and discrimination, which have entrenched poverty and denied more than half the population their dignity.The Voice recognises the need to focus on key social sectors, including gender, culture, sports, urbanisation and housing. Although health and education fall under the social sector, they are addressed separately due to their importance to the overall development of the country

ADDRESSING GENDER ISSUES

Women in Kenya are disadvantaged politically, socially, economically and culturally. Although they constitute 51 per cent of the Kenyan population, only six per cent of them hold titles to land. Furthermore, women make up most of the 47.6 per cent of Kenyans classified as poor (living below the poverty line) and have limited access to both movable and immovable assets, factors that impact on their capacity to invest and improve themselves economically. Gender-based violence continues to be a major problem, with approximately 41 per cent of women aged 15-49 years reporting having been physically and/or sexually abused. Furthermore, female genital mutilation (FGM) continues to be practiced widely in the country, despite legislation that outlaws it.

he Women’s Enterprise Fund (WEF), officially launched in 2007, was aimed at the economic empowerment of women. Loans reach the target beneficiaries through partner financial intermediaries and directly through Constituency Women’s Enterprise Scheme (C-WES). It is notable that the Fund has led to improved incomes for the women; enhanced and diversified businesses; increased access to other markets; ability to make independent decisions; access to extension services; and impact on other stakeholders (the communities in general) and the economy. Although the country is committed to empowering women as part of the MDGs, the contribution of women in agriculture is not fully recognised, yet they contribute about 70 per cent of the labour force in this sector. Women’s role in decision-making at the national level remains minimal at 9.9 per cent (in the National Assembly), way below the Constitutional provision of at least 30 per cent of either gender.

Women are under-represented in executive decision-making positions, despite the existence of policies, legislative reforms, plans and programmes aimed at resolving these disparities. The Constitution recognises the importance of addressing gender discrimination as a key measure of ensuring that both women and men enjoy their rights. However, the recognition of women’s rights, access and control of resources will remain provisions, unless there is commitment towards addressing the social, economic, political and cultural barriers that continue to hinder full enjoyment of their rights. The implementation of the Constitutional provisions has met with various challenges related to the reluctance or inability of the Grand Coalition Government to change the status quo. Promoting women’s rights should not, however, be at the expense of men. The fate of the male child is increasingly being considered. Alcohol, drug and substance abuse, major problems among male youth, are issues that need to be addressed urgently if Kenya is to have a truly equitable society.

Forty Seven Pledge'

• Implement the constitutional provisions that redress current gender disparities. This will include engaging in affirmative action and other means to ensure at least 33 per cent representation by women in all leadership positions: parliament, national and county governments, the foreign service and so on.
• Ensuring that public and private institutions put in place measures to address gender-based violence (against both girls and boys) and ensure that our criminal justice system severely punishes those who perpetrate such violence.
• Improve women's access to appropriate, affordable and quality healthcare, information and services.
• Address micro-credit conditions, which continue to disenfranchise poor women with high interest rates and stiff conditions for qualification, in line with MFI policy.
• Develop programmes that integrate delinquent young men into society.
• Put in place measures to address cultural practices that suppress women's potential.

CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Culture comprises a set of ideas, customs and social behaviour of people reflecting their ethnic heritage, their way of life, values, languages, traditions, arts, and basic knowledge. Over centuries, culture has undergone evolution, making its preservation crucial to fostering a sense of continuity and belonging. Erosion of culture not only negatively impacts people's lives but undermines the identity of people through the loss of language, cultural knowledge, humanity, uniqueness, among other aspects.
Preserving culture plays a vital role in fostering social cohesion, respect, and mutual understanding, Notable points include the emphasis on acquiring knowledge and skills for sustainable development, promoting development-oriented policies supporting creativity and innovation, advocating for sustainable tourism with culture and products and reinforcing efforts to protect the world's cultural and natural heritage.

CHALLANGES

In the 21st century, several elements of societal progress have contributed to loss of culture. Although globalization, industrialization and immigration have contributed to economic growth of many countries, they have simultaneously been key causes of loss of cultural heritage. Immigration for social and economic opportunities often forced immigrants to assimilate into the new culture of the host country, inevitably supressing their own. Industrialization has led to outward expansion of cities, leading to absorption of smaller cities and villages that are often geographical epicentres of culture. Globalization has led to the showcasing of more cultures and unfortunately there has been a quest to imitate and embrace dominant cultures whether socially or economically. Locally, if traditional knowledge and practices are not adequately incorporated into education, there may be cultural erosion. Dominance of international media can also shape perceptions and preference, hence leading to gradual shift from traditional cultural expressions. Children from intercultural marriages are mostly exposed to adopt aspects of both parents' cultural background, potentially leading to a dilution of distinct tribal practices. This blog focuses on interventions towards promoting preservation of cultural heritage in Kenya.

THE FORTY SEVEN VOICES PROMISE

(i)Launch cultural hubs in 47 counties
(ii)Each Community to hold a cultural event annually
(iii)Celebrate Kenyan foods before indepence
(iv)Promote cultural wear from kenyan communities to the world
(v)promote local tourism
vi)(promote cultural activities in Primary and secondary schools

FORTY SEVEN VOICES ON HEALTH

A HEALTHY NATION IS A WEALTHY NATION

The Forty Seven Voices Party Approach;

(i)The Forty Seven Voices of Kenya Government will build a healthy nation and a productive hireling Nation because the Kenyan people deserve to know they can be treated when at their most susceptibility. and because the economic status of a country is closely associated with the health of its people. We seek to reduce the cost of healthcare which has driven many families into financial ruin and will ensure that every citizen has access to the best possible healthcare at the most affordable price. We seek to make mothers healthier and stronger because they are the gatekeepers to child and family health. We will provide dignified support to the elderly and the disabled and will customise healthcare service delivery to the realities of culture and geography.

(ii)We will Support the development and implementation of a healthcare financing strategy, which will focus on universal coverage to be achieved in a realistic timeframe (in the next five to 10 years).
• Strengthen the enforcement of the Health Sector Code of Conduct to ensure efficient use of resources especially by NGOs and development partners. This will include investigating and punishing all cases of leakages in the system.
• Increase budgetary allocation to the health sector over time to ensure that human resource capacity is improved, availability of equipment, innovation and increased investment in preventive health (environment, awareness and proper disposal of biomedical waste).
• Support the establishment of a social health insurance scheme for Kenyans. A review of the proposed National Social Health Insurance Scheme will be conducted to bring it in line with the Constitution and the social protection policy. Put in place measures to ensure implementation. In this regard, within the framework of the fund, establish a special fund for managing chronic diseases such as cancer, diabetes, chronic lung diseases and HIV/Aids among others.
• Expand the Health Sector Service Fund (HSSF) established by the government to enhance financial access to facilities and improve service delivery at the lowest levels. Ensure that standards and guidelines are put in place, in consultation with health stakeholders, to regulate the cost of services in private health facilities.

(iii) The Voices Government will inflate the "Huduma ya kina Mama programme " (free maternity programme) to all government and private hospitals and provide health cover a special Social Health insurance fund to all expectant mothers for a period of 16 months covering the period before and after birth.

(iv) The Voices Government will inflate a proper health cover to all Kenyans above 65 years of age and provide insurance to families with children with disabilities.

(iii) The Voices Government will benefit packages for all special health cover members to cover a broader set of services including emergency ambulance evacuation, heart surgeries and chronic diseases.

Voices will Continue the drive towards universal health care. By 2027 more than 13 million Kenyans will have health insurance through NHIF. n Increase the number of health facilities at the community level, including mobile health services so that you and your family have access to a fully equipped health centre within 5 miles of your home.

(iv) Continue to scale up the Managed Equipment Programme and establish new referral hospitals.

(v) Establish regional cold chains for drugs and vaccines to ensure safe and high quality drugs are available in the regions.

(vi) Establish at least one specialised cancer hospital in the country to reduce the financial burden and other challenges faced by patients seeking cancer treatment. n Provide internet enabled communication in all hospitals to enable medical personnel to seek expert guidance and support from specialists across the country and abroad.

(vii) Make health and medical tourism a vibrant socio-economic sub-sector in Kenya.

(vii)The Status of Health Facilities and Service Delivery Government run (public) facilities make up 52 per cent of the total health facilities in Kenya. Faith-based and NGO facilities (FBOs) account for 15 per cent, while private hospitals and clinics make up 33 per cent of total health facilities. The public sector provides healthcare to between 60 and 80 per cent of Kenyans.
(ix)There are also 1,200 and above licensed private pharmaceutical outlets in Kenya and an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 unlicensed outlets. This extensive network of health facilities is, however, dilapidated and run down and in urgent need of refurbishment and renovation.

In many parts of the country, health facilities lack basic equipment and supplies to enable them to provide services to the people. Facilities also lack basic health supplies, which severely compromises access to services for citizens. Utilisation of healthcare services therefore remains low, despite increased investment in the sector and demand creation activities. The sector has no comprehensive regulatory framework in place to guide service delivery and ensure access to quality services. Currently, the ministries of health are the regulators and also the providers of poor health services.

Challenges

1. Long distances to health facilities in marginalised parts of the country going beyond the stipulated five-kilometre limit, which hinders access.
2 .Major disparities in distribution of facilities, especially in arid and semi-arid areas and between rural and urban areas.
3 .Limited facilities for providing specialised treatment, which forces most patients to seek treatment in other countries, such as India and South Africa. For example, cancer treatment is available in only three facilities countrywide and the services are expensive and beyond the reach of the majority of Kenyans.
4 .Limited range of services, which are also of poor quality.
5 .Weak regulatory and co-ordination structures.
6 .Low utilisation of health services by communities, due to logistical and cultural barriers

FORTY SEVEN VOICES will do

• Undertake comprehensive implementation of the Constitution, including the review and formulation of policies to ensure that the right to health as outlined in the Constitution is attained.
• Support the acceleration of reforms in the health sector in line with the Constitution and ensure equity in all areas.
• Design and implement a ‘No region, No Kenyan left behind’ policy in health to ensure equity in access to health care across the country.
• Support the implementation of policies including regional and global agreements as provided for in the Constitution.
• Increase investment in the Community Health Strategy to strengthen the participation of citizens in health-promotion and prevention and to ensure that each county has the required number of CHWs as recommended in the strategy.

PAN-AFRICANISM deepening East African integration and

East Africa unity

(a)The Common Market: The protocol for establishment of the EAC common market was signed in November 2009 and came into force on July 1, 2010. The common market provides for free movement of the people of EAC across borders; the right of establishment for East Africans within the EAC; free movement of services and capital, and the right of residence. Under this arrangement, professionals, business people and workers can access opportunities available across the borders without discrimination. Achievements so far include the easing of cross-border movement of persons; an East African passport; separate counters to serve East African nationals in all international airports in the region and at crossing points. A single immigration departure/entry card has been adopted and is in use.

(b)The Monetary Union: The East African Monetary Union is the third step in the EAC integration process. The taskforce spearheading negotiations on the protocol for the establishment of the monetary union has been working for the past two years. The 12th Summit of the EAC Heads of State in 2010 gave a target of finalising the protocol by 2012.

CHALLEGES AFFECTING EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY

(c)
i) Emergence of non-tariff barriers (NTBs) that frustrate the movement of goods and services across borders.
(ii) Low level of awareness among stakeholders.
(iii)Overlapping membership of partner states in regional bodies, i.e. in EAC, Comesa and SADC.
(iv) Inadequate implementation of the customs union protocol and slow take-off of the common market protocol.
(v) Fear of citizens of partner states on the likely potential loss of employment opportunities through increased labour mobility and competition. 6 Fear by citizens of certain partner states of loss and competition over land

VOICES GOVERMENT PROMISE

(d)
Advocate the realisation of the customs union authority, common market authority and an economic union commission to maximise integration gains.
• Develop deliberate programmes to tap the benefits of labour mobility.
• Develop a regional competitiveness strategy to exploit means of livelihood alternative to land.
• Adopt appropriate mechanisms and frameworks to nurture soft instruments for integration, such as EAC scholarships, EAC sports leagues and EAC cultural forums, including mainstreaming the East African identity, making the integration process truly people-centred.
• Operationalise the East African Trade Negotiations Act (2007).

POLITICAL ALLIANCE

(e)Political Federation The quest for a political federation in the EAC remains the overarching ambition of the partner states. While the EAC has made relatively bold strides towards economic integration, the process of building regional bodies and pooling sovereignty as envisaged in the treaty has been limited. This has impeded progress towards a political federation. The creation of a political federation will require a steady transfer of political control to the centre, as a step towards ceding powers and creating the nucleus of a future federal authority of East Africa. The quest for a political federation has preoccupied the member states since pre-Independence days. However, cognisant of the experiences of Europe, from which the envisaged stages were borrowed, and given that the Euro as a common currency is facing challenges, the voice party government will support the EAC summit's resolution to fast-track the political federation process. This is based on the fact that experience elsewhere has shown that a successful monetary union springs naturally from a common political union.

CHALLEGES AFFECTING EAST AFRICA POLITICAL ALLIANCE

(f)

The initial stages of integration have faced numerous challenges of implementation that have undermined the integration process. The citizens of East Africa have yet to comprehend the gains accrued from the customs union and the common market, and fears and concerns among the citizenry of the partner states remain whenever the idea of a political federation is propagated. The quest for political federation comes at a time when benefits from the formative stages aforementioned have not been fully realised. The most critical challenges facing the quest for a political federation are thus:

1 Lack of a design or a model framework for political federation.

2 Lack of a discernible political will from the respective partner states to cede sovereignty.

3 Lack of tangible impact in the governance process by the East African Legislative Assembly and the East African Court of Justice.

4 The disparity among partner states in upholding good governance standards, as well as the potential spill-over of bad governance practices from one partner state to another.

5 Perceived loss of identity and social cohesion.

6 Significant disparity in the constitutional frameworks of partner states.

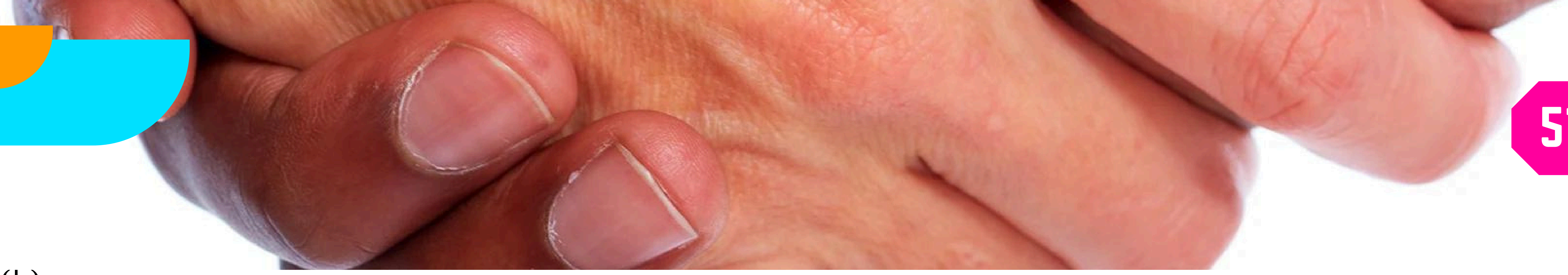
FORTY SEVEN VOICES PROMISE

(g)

• Rationalise the existence of key EAC institutions, such as the East African Court of Justice, the East African Legislative Assembly and the EAC Secretariat.

• Expedite the process of harmonisation of the partner states' foreign, security and defence policies and practices, and ensure the implementation of a common EAC foreign and security policy.

• Sensitise the people of East Africa on the potential benefits and challenges of regional integration.



(h)
Pan-Africanism, as an expression of continental identity and coherence, distinguishes regional integration in Africa from other regions in the developing world. But the economic arguments for regional co-operation are also particularly strong, given the small size of many African countries in economic terms. Furthermore, most African countries remain highly dependent on agriculture and suffer from high levels of poverty. In these circumstances, there is an over-arching need for African regional integration schemes focused on exploiting whatever synergies may exist to promote peace, good governance and economic development. Despite the force of these arguments, regional integration efforts have been rather slow. The Lagos Plan was promoted by the Economic Commission for Africa and launched in a special initiative by the OAU. It envisaged three regional arrangements, aimed at the creation of separate but convergent and over-arching integration arrangements in three sub-Saharan sub-regions. West Africa would be served by the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas), which pre-dated the Lagos Plan. A Preferential Trade Area (PTA) was established in 1981 to cover the countries of East and Southern Africa, which was eventually replaced in 1993 by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa). For Central Africa, the treaty of the Economic Community of Central African States (Eccas) was approved in 1983 but has yet to be fully ratified. Together with the Arab Maghreb Union (Amu) in North Africa, these arrangements were expected to lead to an all-African common market by the year 2025. The Lagos Plan was followed up in 1991 by the Abuja Treaty, re-affirming the commitment of the Organisaiton of African Unity (OAU) heads of state to an integrated African economy. In April 2001 at Sirte, African heads of state launched the African Union to replace the OAU.

CHALLEGES AFFECTING PANAFRICASM

(i)
Intra-regional trade in Africa as a share of total foreign trade has traditionally been low compared with other regions. Figures in the early 1990s suggested that the proportion was only 8.4 per cent in 1993, compared with western Europe (69.9 per cent), Asia (49.7 per cent), North America (33 per cent) and Latin America (19.4 per cent). However, recorded trade underestimates the volume of actual trade and, if proper account was taken of the size of informal trade, the African numbers would not look so out of line. Furthermore, there is evidence that the importance of intra-regional trade has been steadily increasing in recent years. 1 Most African states have suffered from severe macroeconomic disequilibria, foreign debt-service burdens, over-valued currencies, lack of trade finance, and a narrow tax base, with customs duties a substantial source of revenue. The protective import-substitution strategies adopted by most countries since Independence resulted in a host of regulations restricting trade, such as licensing, administrative foreign-exchange allocation, special taxes for acquiring foreign exchange, advance import deposits and so on. Thus the economic context has been unfavourable to the development of regional commitments.

2 The design of African integration schemes around inward-looking industrialisation meant that the economic costs of participation for member states are often immediate and concrete (in the form of lower tariff revenues and greater import competition), while the economic benefits are long-term and uncertain and are often unevenly distributed among member states.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

(a)

• Play a leading role in the promotion of good governance, peace and resolution of conflicts in Africa.
• Promote movement of people within the continent by reviewing Kenya's visa policies towards African citizens, with a view to eventually removing visa requirements for Africans. • Lobby to host pan-African institutions. • Sensitise the people of Kenya to the potential benefits and challenges of regional integration. • Promote Kenya as the communication hub of Africa. • Support efforts by Kenya Airways to connect Nairobi with all African capitals and major cities. • Aggressively market Kenyan companies and products in the EAC, Comesa and SADC regions, as a way of promoting intra-African trade and investment.

Challanges

(b)

Challenges Owing to its location in a volatile region plagued with civil wars and instabilities, Kenya faces a series of challenges, including: 1 The proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

2 Uncontrolled flow of refugees and internally displaced persons.

3 Human-trafficking.

4 Piracy.

5 Political instability and conflict.

6 Drought and famine.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND CO-OPERATION

(c)

When Kenya became independent in 1963, it joined the community of nations as an actor of international law in its own right, and committed itself to international co-operation in pursuit of its interests. This commitment included co-operation in addressing common problems facing humanity that could successfully be resolved through sustained global efforts. These problems include promotion of international peace and security; protection of human rights; participation in peace-keeping efforts; promotion of international law, and the search for consensus through the AU, the UN and other international bodies.

ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE

(d)

Diplomacy across the world now places emphasis on building economic and trade partnerships among nations. In addition to regional co-operation and integration arrangements, Kenya is involved in other international initiatives aimed at consolidating its trade and economic relations globally. The objective is to achieve the country's developmental goals through building global economic partnerships.

COMMITMENT TO INTERNATIONAL LAWS AND NORMS

(e)

At Independence, Kenya acceded to the UN Charter, the AU Constitutive Act (formerly the OAU Charter) and other international treaties. Kenya has since become a signatory, as a member of the international community, to other international treaties and conventions, including the Rome Statute. Kenya is legally bound to adhere to these international commitments, which are critical to the country's international credibility. The Constitution provides a road map to exercising this responsibility.

THE FORTY SEVEN VOICES PROMISE

• Ensure that Kenya fully discharges its obligations and observes its commitments under international law, as provided for in the Constitution.

THE VOICES

PARTY MANIFESTO

SAUTI KILA MAHALI

Forty Seven Voices Of Kenya Congress Party

OFFICIAL DOCUMENT OF THE VOICES PARTY 2025