

JENGA MKENYA

RESTORING DIGNITY, VALUES AND DEVELOPMENT TO THE CITIZENS OF KENYA

**A Presidential Manifesto by Independent Aspirant,
REUBEN KIGAME**

PREAMBLE

I, Reuben Kigame Lichete, running as an independent presidential candidate hereby solemnly commit myself and my government to this People's Manifesto as a means of providing servant leadership, guided by the Constitution of Kenya, and by a personal faith in leadership through example.

I issue this Manifesto for the purpose of healing, uniting and building a new, better, prosperous, hopeful, god-fearing and people-respecting nation of Kenya.

So help me God!

OUR PHILOSOPHY

We commit to rebuild Kenya as a united, peaceful, prosperous and godly nation using four main pillars which mark our political philosophy:

1. *Utu* (dignity),
2. *Haki* (*Justice*)
3. *Maadili* (values) and
4. Ugatuzi (devolution)

UTU

This is the foundation of our government which insists that everyone is made in the image of God and must be respected and treated with dignity at all times regardless of who they are, have or lack. It is built on the African philosophy that believes “I am because we are,” that people come before projects and that to develop the citizen as an individual is the best and fastest way of developing a nation.

In entrenching *Utu*, our government shall emphasize and promote:

1. Respect of every life from conception to natural death in accordance with Article 26 of our Constitution
2. Protection of the family as the fundamental institution of life.
3. Equality of all citizens and freedom from discrimination as enshrined in Article 27 of our Constitution as well as other provisions of the Bill of Rights.
4. Economic and social rights as enshrined in Article 43 of our Constitution with emphasis on food security, clean water and environment, health, housing, clothes and education.
5. An end to negative ethnicity and profiling, police brutality and extra-judicial killings.
6. An end to the culture of street children and families.

Haki

We commit to entrench and ensure the realization of a government and society that is driven by justice and the rule of law, and respect for fundamental human rights such as the right to life, food, clean water and environment, decent housing, free elementary and affordable tertiary education, jobs as well as decent pay and working environment. We shall actively promote:

- (1) The enjoyment of all basic human rights.***
- (2) The full realization of the bill of rights as enshrined in our constitution.***
- (3) The enjoyment of all internationally-recognized rights and privileges that enhance better governance and the improvement of individual lives.***
- (4) The promotion of the rule of law, right to property as well as national sovereignty.***

MAADILI

Our government shall seek to establish, defend and promote character as the measure for qualification to serve in government, and undo the destructive culture of mannerlessness, shortcuts, impatience, greed, corruption, impunity and lawlessness. We shall promote the culture of servant leadership by example, integrity, truthfulness, promise keeping, accountability trust and the rule of law. All state and public officers, institutions and organs in government shall be guided by the national values enshrined in Article 10 of our Constitution, which include patriotism, national unity, sharing and devolution of power, the rule of law, participation of the people, human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality, human rights, non-discrimination and protection of the marginalized. We shall promote good governance, integrity, transparency, accountability and sustainable development.

In promoting the culture of values, our government shall:

1. Interview, appoint or hire only people without a record of crime, impunity or corruption.
2. Establish strict checks and balances for all government procurement, management and reporting of projects at national and county levels.
3. Digitize all government services and communication including the culture of using government phones and computers for communication by government officials.
4. Clean up the civil service to rid it of ghost workers, cartels and unqualified staff and set up stricter KPIs and work contracts.
5. Declare Kenya a zero-corruption and zero-impunity society.

Ugatuzi

Our government shall devolve development by laying emphasis on growing the socio-economic potential of marginalized and other undeveloped parts of the country through our Demarginalization policy. We shall decentralize government by embarking on contextual administration, e.g. moving Agriculture ministry headquarters to the North Rift (the bread basket of Kenya), the Department of fisheries to Kisumu, Livestock and the Kenya Meat Commission to Kajiado and Isiolo respectively and Tourism to Mombasa, etc. We shall open up Northern Kenya, the Upper Coast, Marakwet, Pokot, Laikipya and other marginalized areas for grand industrialization and trade activities. Our goal is to depopulate urban slums by resettling job-seekers in new, more lucrative centres. We wish to increase funds to the counties to 50 per cent of the national budget, promote local investment and tourism as well as develop strong economic blocks within our borders. shall embark on reviving our economy by making all development projects people-centred. Nothing will be done under my government without asking the question, “How will the project directly benefit *Mwananchi*?”

Our Development Agenda

To *Jenga Mkenya* we will prioritize the following commitments:

1. Access to food and water through:
 - Dedicating kshs 35 billion in our annual budget to irrigation for food production in the Kulalo-Galana and Turkwell regions.

- Offering an annual fertilizer subsidy of kshs 12 billion to farmers, up from the last financial year's subsidy of kshs 5.7 billion. This will be distributed through farmers' societies as well as churches and mosques.
- Eliminating cartels from the Agricultural sector and engaging such middlemen in licensed, government-controlled marketing and distribution units.
- Cleaning up all water bodies and outlawing pollution to the environment.
- Funding existing and new fish farmers and investing in cold rooms and value addition for the blue economy for local consumption and export.
- Investing an annual kshs 15 billion in the meat and dairy industry, focusing on the empowerment of pastoral communities.

2. Access to cheap and quality health services through:

- Disbanding KEMSA and setting up a more accountable, transparent and corruption-free medical management and supplies body.
- Ensuring a minimum health allocation for every county in order to guarantee a minimum health standard throughout the country that promotes the dignity of all Kenyans.
- Concentrating all health programmes on prevention by investing in public health services.
- Outlawing the spending of money raised by health institutions in other functions and departments of government.
- Ensuring proportional distribution and balancing of what is contributed to health and what is spent by making NHIF a purely social protection agency for basic health services. Currently private providers are collectively paid more than public providers yet public providers attend to more people.
- Establishing a harmonized medical scheme to cushion the least-advantaged in the society who cannot afford the national NHIF payments. This will be through a modest tax.
- Hiring all existing health practitioners and expanding the training of more. Currently, out of the 12,000 registered medical practitioners, only about 7,000 are hired. This will end.
- Eliminating all barriers to the establishment of private medical institutions and providing incentives for the importation of medical equipment.
- Establishing a pandemic and emergency medical fund for unexpected national medical challenges as well as the funding of medical research.

3. Provision of free primary and high school education and bursaries for all needy college students. This we intend to achieve by taking the following measures:

- Establish day care centres in every constituency to ensure a safe environment for our young children to ensure mothers can work without worrying about the safety and nurture of their children.
- Institute a government-sponsored lunch programme for all pupils and students in arid and semi-arid areas as well as those in informal settlements.
- Provide free primary, high school and undergraduate education for all children living with disability and invest in the modernization of their education through public-private partnership.
- Expand the capacity of educational institutions by funding the construction of more schools and colleges through public-private partnerships

- Review our education system to harmonize the 8-4-4 system with the recommendations of CBC so that we have a better quality, practical and contextual system.
- Ensure capitation for all our children in school, whether in public or private institutions.
- Involve private institutions in the selection of students both at high school and college level.
- Harmonize and consolidate the training of teachers for special needs education, early years, diploma and degree programmes, and include a compulsory ethics and special needs education for all teacher training programmes.
- Ensure all learners have textbooks regardless of whether they are in private or public institutions.
- Remove all children from the streets and ensure they go to school.
- Pay off existing HELB loans and register anew all needy cases in society.
- Abolish CDF and NGCDF and centralize all education funds in one national kitty for disbursement to needy students by the Ministry of Education science and Technology and ensure MPs and county Governments do not operate bursaries or public funds.
- Establish an education charity and endowment fund at the office of the president to which individuals, companies and other well-wishers can contribute to for the education of the needy.
- Build more schools in arid and semi-arid areas as a means of opening up the country and eliminating idleness and banditry.

4. Management of corruption, impunity and debt through:

- Empowering EACC with prosecutorial powers.
- Strengthening our judicial systems through increased funding to speed up investigations.
- Jailing everyone found guilty of engaging in corrupt dealings.
- Offering cash rewards to citizens who expose factual graft.
- Providing a 90-day amnesty period for returning of corruption-related proceeds followed by confiscation of assets and repatriation of stolen wealth from offshore accounts.
- Increasing systemic surveillance to prevent theft.
- Making all tendering processes public.
- Employing corruption-free people in government.
- Appointment of a CS for Finance and Government Stewardship.
- Riding the government of debt. The real cure of our debt which now stands at nearly ten trillion is first to stop borrowing altogether, renegotiate our repayment and possible cancellations and then use our expanded economy and tourism in paying off. We can sell our minerals and excess wildlife to repay.
- The cure to our loss of funds which averages 2 billion per day is to employ people with proven values and then broaden our tax collection avenues as well as increase our foreign exchange.

5. otion of the arts, sports and tourism through:

- The creation of county talent centres and three regional arts districts, one in Mombasa, another in Nairobi and another in Kisumu.

- Completion of the construction of unfinished sports centres and facilities, restructuring of national sports management bodies and remuneration of different sports heroes.
 - Marketing Kenya as the most preferred tourist destination in the region.
 - Reorganizing and strengthening our copyright laws and institutions to serve our talented citizens.
6. The management of our environment and making Kenya green through:
- Increasing our forest cover to 15% in five years
 - Cleaning our water bodies including the removal of hyacinth and other wastes.
 - Investing in solar and other forms of alternative energy.
 - Encouraging a move towards electric cars in a bid to reduce pollution.
 - Strengthening NEMA by localizing it and giving it prosecutorial powers.
7. Strengthening our foreign policy and regional integration for greater security and socio-economic growth through:
- Bringing Somalia, Somaliland, Eritrea, Djibouti, Puntland, Ethiopia, Mauritius, Seychelles, Malawi and Zambia into an East Africa Federation in order to manage terrorism, regional conflicts, maritime disputes and other social upheavals as well as boost regional trade, cultural exchange and cooperation.
 - Adopting Nonalignment as our official foreign policy backed up by centrism or moderate thinking in order to ensure objectivity in all matters of international cooperation and conflict resolution.
 - Promoting economic and cultural exchange with our neighbours for social cohesion, institutional exchange and job market expansion.
 - Encouraging the growth of educational and research cooperation.
 - Promoting pan African goals from a regional context.
 - Making it easy for the movement of our people across the region.
8. Job creation: Jenga Mkenya shall embark on the following in order to create more jobs and opportunities for the citizens of Kenya:
- Introduce the Shift system in public service so that the first shift operates from from 6:00 a.M. to 2:00 P.M. and the second from 2:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. Monday to Friday with no government services over the weekend in order to strengthen the family and expand tourism and the entertainment/recreation industry, leading to more jobs and a healthier society.
 - Introduce internships lasting a minimum of three years for our graduates in order to give them work experience and make them more competitive in the job market.
 - Establish manufacturing as well as boost value-addition while discouraging importation of what we can make or process.
 - Introduce high levies and on importing what we already have as a country.
 - Expand the informal sector and innovation in order to spur growth, utilize our untapped brains and create jobs.
 - Demarginalize the country by embarking on national projects to open up the undeveloped parts of Kenya thus creating jobs and getting rid of informal settlements by encouraging those living in slums to look for jobs in the newly opened up areas with better living standards.

- Work with Kenyans living in the diaspora to become the key investors in the country through public-private-partnerships and the zero-rating of initial startups.
- Ensuring we go after stolen funds so that we can use them to pay off our debts while negotiating for both debt relief and cancellation where possible, as we work with partner African governments to ensure afrocentric policies in borrowing and debt management.
- Negotiate coordinated investment in the East African Federation as well as professional exchange and removal of unnecessary barriers to trade.
- Revive dead industries and modernize them to ensure optimum production.
- Eliminate ghost workers from government and ensure strict adherence to retirement regulations so that more young people can be absorbed in job markets.

CONCLUSION

The *Jenga Mkenya* government hopes to commence with the following as soon as we are sworn in:

- 1) Lower food prices
- 2) Lower and rationalize taxes and levies.
- 3) Lower fuel costs
- 4) Declare Kenya a corruption-free nation with unbearable consequences for anyone found guilty of engaging in the vice.
- 5) Outlaw abortion except when the mother's life is in danger in accordance with article 26 of our Constitution.
- 6) Appoint a government of National Unity representing the various communities and gender, age and disability.
- 7) Hire 12,000 trained health practitioners within the first 6 months of being in office
- 8) Embark on a humane process of removing all the children and families from the street and repatriating them to families or housing them in government-sponsored institutions and those run by charities.
- 9) Reform the police services to make them people-friendly and to ensure greater competence.
- 10) Embark on the pacification of conflict-prone regions of Kenya through community-based resolutions as well as the use of our disciplined forces.

This is our solemn commitment.

So help us God!