For Love of Country and Right to Live in Dignity:
An Open Memorandum to President William Samoei Ruto

Friday 28th June 2024

PREAMBLE

We are youth of Kenya, represented by the many faceless young people from all parts of the country and across diversities, united in the desire for a better country for ourselves.

CONSIDERING Article 1 of the Constitution of Kenya that "all sovereign power belongs to the people of Kenya and shall be exercised only in accordance with the constitution"

AWARE that Kenya is the only country in the world to have an article specific to youth, Article 55, which provides access to relevant education and training; opportunities to associate, be represented and participate in political, social, economic and other spheres of life; access to employment; and protection from harmful cultural practices and exploitation;

RECALLING that Article 37 guarantees citizens the right to assemble, demonstrate, picket and participate, we recognise the recent demonstrations by young people across the country as an act in exercise of this right. Today we speak not on behalf of the courageous young men and women who have taken their agency, anger and resolve to the streets across our Republic in the last few days; we do not speak for them because they have already spoken candidly, fluently and consistently. Rather, we speak in solidarity WITH them and the struggle. We speak to affirm their courage and tenacity and commitment to mission. We speak to celebrate the sacrifices made, even in the face of lethal police and State brutality.

SADDENED by the killings, injuries and abductions of several young people and children we wish to register our most sincere condolences to families, friends and colleagues of the young killed by the Kenya Police, for no reason other than the exercise of their constitutional right to demonstrate. No Kenyan should lose their life for fulfilling the promises of the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. We wish the quickest healing and recovery to the injured at home and in various hospitals across the Republic. We urge the government to comply with all the existing Court Orders and release all protesters abducted and/or unlawfully detained by the security agencies.

ACKNOWLEDGING AND APPRECIATIVE of the President's two addresses to the nation on Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th, we nonetheless believe that both addresses fell woefully short in demonstrating the President's appreciation of the gravity of the moment, and in

particular, the legitimacy of the demands by the people, the catastrophic failure of judgment by the high command of the National Police Service and the resultant loss of lives, as well as the systemic nature of the problem.

In particular, we are persuaded that the struggle against an insensitive and illegitimate Finance Bill 2024 was a symptom of a deeper malaise. The youth of Kenya are saying unequivocally that the entire system is broken and unsustainable, that enough is enough, and that there must be swift, radical and far-reaching changes in the management of public affairs. We submit that, although triggered by the bill and the arrogance by members of the national assembly and the Kenya Kwanza leadership, the peaceful demonstrations call for a wider and broader conversation and action on the Kenya we want with regard to the state of governance, accountability, representation and equal opportunity.

Subsequently, we demand as follows:

1. **ON THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND PEACEFUL PROTEST:** We demand an immediate and permanent cessation of violence, killings, kidnappings, and disappearances of peaceful protesters by the security agencies. We demand an end to the profiling and targeting of protesters and active citizens for expressing their democratic right to protest and hold an opinion. We urge citizens to record and document these violations for the coming accountability.
2. **IMMEDIATE RECONSTITUTION OF THE IEBC** to enable voters commence the process of recall of all elected representatives who went against the will of their constituents. We have a live petition in the Courts on the matter of the immediate reconstitution of the IEBC. We shall also be writing to Chief Justice Martha Koome requesting for an expeditious hearing and determination of all matters within the courts that relate to the constitution of the IEBC.
3. **CONTINUOUS VOTER REGISTRATION:** The Constitution anticipates continuous voter registration between elections. We demand that the IEBC commences a new voter registration drive to update the voter register and ensure that all Kenyans who qualify to vote have the opportunity to do so in all elections.
4. **ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE:** A 2016 audit revealed that 35% of national government employees were between the ages of 51 and 60. The Public Service Commission to publish a State of Youth in Public Service REPORT, and provide a framework for increasing opportunities for qualified and interested young Kenyans to join government service.
5. **ON PUBLIC DEBT:** We demand Full Disclosure of the national public debt register so that Kenyans can know what we owe and who we owe. We have to stop this and future regimes using imaginary Debt to steal from Kenyans and enslave Kenyans to the IMF

and World Bank, in perpetuity. The demand for a national public debt register is a critical first step, and we endorse the efforts of Senator Okiya Omtatah in this regard.

6. **ON CORRUPTION:** We demand that budgeted corruption be eliminated. We re-emphasize the government cutting down on expenditure on non-essential services such hospitality, reduction of luxurious vehicles, limiting the amount of their purchase and number owned per official, foreign and local travels.
7. **ON LEADERSHIP AND INTEGRITY:** We demand that you deploy an 'Ethical Standard as opposed to a Legal Standard' and terminate the positions of all government officials who have been adversely mentioned in corruption cases. We demand a reconstitution of the Cabinet and a thorough audit of all appointees to Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government.
8. **ON REMOVAL OF UNCONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES**: Chief Administrative Secretaries and other unconstitutional offices of spouses to positions that are non-existent in the constitution. These positions have evolved into political tokens and rewards and continue to be paid against lawful court orders, and despite the hard economic times faced by the country. Additionally, 100 intercessors stationed at State House are currently being paid for by the taxpayers under the auspices of a non-existent and unconstitutional 'Faith Diplomacy' spearheaded by the First Lady Rachel Ruto. The National Dialogue Committee Report (NADCO) recommends the creation of positions that will only increase the public wage bill and benefit neither the young workers nor the republic. We reject the expansionist agenda of The NADCO Report and demand a definitive end to CAS and Intercessor positions in government.
9. **ON THE ILLEGITIMATE HOUSING LEVY:** Like all Kenyans of good mind, we remain opposed to the Housing Levy and demand its termination, together with full accountability for the monies already collected by the government.
10. **ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** Meaningful public participation with technology assisted processes and without the common practice of this administration to omnibus bills. There are constitutionally provided timelines and proper frameworks for engagement that include the public to access information.

May God Bless Kenya.
#RejectFinanceBill2024 | #ProtectTheChildren | #RejectNotAmend | #FreeTheAbducted

Signed,