

## MY MANIFESTO FOR LURAMBI CONSTITUENCY

**CANDIDATE:** Denis Makokha Mukoya



**PARTY:** ORANGE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT (ODM)

**VISION:** GOING THE EXTRA MILE FOR SERVANT & TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

- 1) **Youth Leadership** – The tales of Thomas Sankara in Burkina Faso and Valentine Strasser of Sierra Leone are succinct exemplary historical anecdotes of what youthful leadership can achieve in society. Youth should be a period of great Energy, Productivity, Idealism (still non-corrupted), fresh ideas (new insight), learning, generation of vision (Joel 2:28, Acts 2:17), hope, wealth of time to err and be corrected, break with the failures of days bygone.
- 2) **Innovation & Industrialization** – Poverty alleviation among all cadres of society will be at the heart and soul of my campaign. It doesn't suffice to only build schools and furnish them. We also need to create employment opportunities for our people.
  - a. **Building Industries** - With the floundering of Mumias Sugar and Pan Paper, the Western Kenya economic block finds herself ruthlessly exposed to an economic catastrophe. To break the vicious cycle of poverty will require revolutionary ideas not implemented before to replace the lost valuable assets to our community. Jobs will doubtlessly empower our people created by innovation.
    - i. **Conversion of Fuel-powered vehicles / motorbikes to be Electrically Powered Units** – In the interest of 'going green' for Environmental Conservation, this is a new industry coming up which I feel Lurambi Constituency should be at its leading-edge. We will partner with **Opibus Assembly Systems**, the originators of Nopea taxis already in operation in Nairobi. Cars can cover 150 km or 8 hours per single charge. Land cruisers and Land rovers have been used in the initial phase. We have plenty of Electrical Capacity in Kenya that can be effectively harnessed with serious industry. We will sign NDA contracts, IP use & Royalty entitlement Contracts and a Franchising deal where the

innovator, Opibus will get their cut as the people of Lurambi get industries and gainful engagement through jobs from the franchise.

- ii. **Creating Paving Blocks and Tar from recycled plastic waste.** We will partner just like above with **G-Jenge** founder, Eng. Nzambi Matee and also Sandbox (An Innovation hub at UON) in this endeavor.
- iii. **3D Printed Structures (Prefabricated) Houses.** Built with 3-D Printers.
- iv. **Hybrid Vehicle Conversion firms** – Fuel Engines to Electrical to Gas-Powered systems. Will create gainful employment.
- v. **Modern Building Technology training with Pre-fabricated panel technology.** In September 2021, Turkish Eurofix in consort with ARM Cement and NITA organized a 3-week, Theory + Practical skills upgrade training for Workers in the Built Environment Space to tool them with modern construction knowhow. This skills upgrade will cut a niche for the human capital that will be introduced to the International Labour Standards which will be valuable as foreign investors vaunt that while employing locals to their firms. 11,000 youth from all round the country but mostly Machakos county benefited in best practice pertinent to Brick Laying, Interior + Exterior Finishing, Modern Plastering and Interior Design. Next cohort will be campaigned for to come from Kakamega County and Lurambi Constituency specifically with me as your Constituency steward.
- vi. **Ballast Crushing Machines** - In most parts of Butso, there lies many huge rocks that could be of great utility if a machine were acquiesced to make this resource ready for use in the Construction Industry. I promise to prioritize lobbying for an Investor in this industry if elected for the benefit of the people of Lurambi Constituency.
- vii. **Value-addition industries** – Effective monetization of agricultural produce will ensure the improvement of farmers' morale, increased volumes & all-year round availability of produce making the industry sustainable.

*Poverty is alleviated partially by funding and majorly by sensible and lucrative ideas to create solutions to existing problems.*

**b. Technical Innovation hubs & Software Development Centres in Every Ward** – Such a program was in the pipeline for the Jubilee Government because in June 2016, under the auspices of the ICT Authority (ICTA) & Ministry of ICT, I together with others were facilitated to visit a trial-run for the same in Limuru, Kiambu County. These facilities ostensibly boast:

- i. Metropolitan Area Network Topology Computing bolstered by 2.5GHz frequency, multidirectional antennae that provide Wireless Broadband Internet (Wi-Fi) over whole towns which is valuable for research. 5G

technology can also be enlisted. In this era; the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial revolution, the Information Age, Internet is no longer a luxury but a necessity with IoT & Blockchain technology coming to the fore.

- ii. Computer labs for the youth to run/build their models, projects and research which fosters innovation.
- iii. Software Development Modules, Simulators and Emulator Units.
- iv. Music Recording Studios (Studio Mtaani).
- v. Online Job Opportunities through AJIRA DIGITAL.

We need to think future Techno-cities & Silicon valleys as opposed to ‘wheelbarrow fables’ and ‘miracle-chicken’ narratives being peddled out there to empower our youth!

**c. Business Development Units** – To run ready-for-work programs that mentor youth fresh out of tertiary institutions on the soft-skills required to either run a successful entrepreneurial venture or be easily integrated into the Job Market. One of the glaring reasons for joblessness in Kenya is the skills mismatch between academically imparted knowhow and the situation in the job market. Many employees can only retool a few at their budget leaving others languishing with depreciating prospects of employment with every passing year. Mentorship will be of the essence.

**d. Sensitization of youth to take up Technical Courses** – Initiatives exist but many a time those who need them the most will miss out on opportunities tantamount to failure in the system to promptly transmit information to them for their benefit. I will run not just sensitization programs but make use of the Bursaries available to constituencies additional to the NG-CDF to finance the training of our young people in tertiary institutions (University, Colleges and Polytechnics).

It defeats logic to import Electricians and Plumbers from Kisumu, Nairobi, Kiambu, etc. for a project in Kakamega yet our energetic young people, bound under the cruel yoke of unemployment languish in their parents’ homes looking for jobs.

Construction projects are at a premium currently and there has never been a better time to be aptly-skilled than today as every house requires electrical furnishings, plumbing systems, water supply piping, sewerage and reticulation systems (manholes, bio-digesters, mains sewerage).

Wartime British PM, Sir. Winston Churchill once posited, *“There comes a time when a man is tapped on their shoulder and asked to take up an opportunity unique to his skill, competence and fancy. What a tragedy for him/her to be found unprepared for what would have been his finest hour!”*

**e. Sporting Academies** – Kakamega County has been a sporting powerhouse for our Republic in the many years post-independence. Talents from Football, Rugby, Volleyball, Hockey, Netball, Basketball and many other sports have for many years paid homage to Kakamega as their region of extraction. Today, it is

no secret that Sport pays enormous dividends to those who play it at the highest level as a billion-dollar industry. Role models in existence include:

- MacDonal Mariga (UEFA Champions League Winner – Inter Milan (2010)).
- Victor Wanyama (UEFA Champions League Finalist – Tottenham Hotspurs (2019)).
- Dennis Oliech (UEFA Champions League Group Stage – Auxerre (2013)).
- Jentrix Shikangwa (Most Promising player in AFCON).
- Rugby – Collins Injera, Humphrey Kayange, Willy Ambaka, Eden Agero among a galaxy of others won the Singapore 7s Main Cup (2016).
- Ferdinand Omanyala (African 100 Metre-Race Record Holder at 9.76 Seconds (2021)).

We can no longer ignore this incontrovertible body of work in cognizance of the Millions of Shillings in Salaries, emoluments and sponsorship deals international sportsmen are entitled to in the modern day. We must prepare our children to maximize on this gravy-train by enrolling them in sports academies at their formative stages. We will build the respective Sporting Academies eventually while in the interim proportionately fund and keep accountable the local “Centres of Excellence” to harness these talents early and polish them to a blinding shine.

**3.) Improve Kakamega’s Water Supply** –The Kakamega of today is not that of 20 years ago. The advent of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) adjunct to progress in Devolution creating the Kakamega County government has seen a ballooning in the population of Kakamega County from slightly under 300,000 at the time of the 2007 Elections to 1,867,579 (2019 Census). For Lurambi Constituency – 186, 654 (2019 Census) up from 111,732 (2009). We can no longer talk about this indispensable resource, water as merely a campaign promise but an important prerequisite to life, enterprise, irrigation agriculture, development and industrialization. Time is ripe for a dam/reservoir to serve our burgeoning population. Boreholes, wells and river watering outlets will supplement the supply. Irrigation agriculture by use of the **Money Maker Pump** will be critically enforced.

**4.) Academic Bursaries and Creation of an Endowment Fund** – I will ensure every child that deserves a bursary actually gets it by effective vetting of the cases that come to the NG-CDF office. The shot-clock on discrimination is running down to zero. Norms of days bygone that saw poor children missing out on their constitutionally enshrined Right to Education (Chapter 4, Article 43, Clause (f)) while well-connected people take their children to Cambridge, UK on Constituency Bursary funds will be a thing of the past.

Will seek PPP’s to get more bursary and endowment funds.

Will build more classrooms to keep the subsidized education & 100% transition rate dream alive.

**5.) Open Tendering & Procurement Procedures** – Pursuant to Chapter 12, Article 227 of our Constitution as read with the Public Procurement & Asset Disposal Act (2020) – Tendering, Procurement and Asset disposal under my regime will be done:

- i. In a free, fair, accountable and transparent manner.
- ii. In awareness of the constitutional reality of public participation.
- iii. In appreciation of the AGPO stipulations where 30% is reserved for the Youth, Women and PWD.

Closed (clandestine) tendering that pays fealty to friends, relatives and election financiers/benefactors will be in our rear-view mirror at Lurambi NG-CDF Offices.

**6.) Promotion & Funding of Financial Empowerment Cooperative Groups** – Affordable business financing will be sought from congenial credit provision firms. However, we as the residents of Lurambi will need to come together and mobilize funds in table-banking modelled cooperative groups to keep our mostly MSME businesses & cottage industries liquid albeit afloat sustainably. In future we must look at amalgamation and partnerships among these groups to create a Bank for our People in a similar model to Equity Bank, Family Bank & HFC Bank. Need I tout the benefits of having our own bank to the residents of Lurambi Constituency specifically additional to the ‘People of Mulembe’ in general? We need to move away from the minuscule projects requiring small capital to think Big, building megastructures similar to those built by our brothers from Central Kenya. A dream should be great enough to even scare you! Look at the Rwathia Billionaires of Murang’a and their virtual ownership of Nairobi City, The Owners of Mt. Kenya University, Zetech University, Riara University, The Nairobi Hospital, The Karen Hospital just to name a few.

I will push for the creation of a Revolving Fund to assist the self-help groups formed with affordable loans.

Affordable financing should no longer be the preserve of blue-bloods but also the blue-collar cadre of society.

**Agribusiness Projects**

Fingerlings (Tilapia)  
Irrigation equipment.  
Day-old chicks.  
Incubators (for selfsame chicks).  
Seeds & fertilizer.

**Others**

Carwash equipment.  
Beauty-spa paraphernalia (kits).  
Motorbikes.  
Cybercafe set-up kits.

**7.) Enhancing Electricity Supply** – We will in concert with REREC maximize connection of electricity to previously underserved areas. Furthermore, we will push for Solar Installation kits for those too far to be reached in the short-term additional to those who relish a backup system. This will improve the lives of our people for whom many facets of life now depend on electrical power.

Cottage Industries will be allowed to sprout in our rural outposts with the availability of Power.

**8.) Lobby For More Roads, Footpaths and Bridges** – This will open up the rural economies and facilitate access of agricultural goods to market. It will equally facilitate human transport to potentially get Human Resource to Capital & Land.

**9.) Health Care** – I will lobby for affordable Medical Insurance for all so that we are saved from the debacle currently at play that sees even former legislators like the late Hon. John Serut & Nemesyus Warugongo fundraising publically for medical expenses on social media. It boggles the mind to think what the hoi-polloi is going through if the ostensibly high and mighty are in such a quandary.

The number of Dispensaries and Health Care Centres will invariably have to be scaled up.

**10.) Improvement of the Agricultural Value Chain** – A massive problem our people have had is the lack of a dignified earning for their agricultural and even entrepreneurial endeavours despite expending their hardwork adjunct to a heavy investment of their resources. This often leaves them drained and in despair about producing any more for the market. This has a negatory impact on volumes of production for both market and industry but also curtails the prospect of all-year availability of produce.

More often than not, the aforementioned problem is caused by a plethora of middlemen at many points of the value chain that decrease adversely the eventual pay-off to the producer.

I Propose systems to improve the value chain by:

- a. **Cutting off the middleman** – Funding production and access of USSD and Mobile-based services for direct access by the farmers to the market.
- b. **Improve Transport Infrastructure** – This will cut down on the transport component of the cost.

**11.) The Inua Jamii Senior Citizens' Stipend/Pension Scheme** – This will have to be pushed aggressively so that all Citizens who are above 70 years of age receive it without discrimination.