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Okoa Mombasa 2022 Elections Demand Pledge: Memorandum of Demands

Okoa Mombasa is a group of workers unions, businesses, civil society organisations and individuals that have come together out of concern for the livelihoods and wellbeing of the residents of Mombasa. We are committed to ensuring public participation at the local level in decisions affecting the use of local resources.

We, Okoa Mombasa Coalition Members, together with residents of Mombasa County, demand that the political leadership of Mombasa County and the national government:

1. *Prioritize the Inclusion of Mombasa*

We oppose the government directives ordering that all cargo should be transported up-country via the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR). These directives have directly contributed to the loss of jobs, the closure of businesses, the loss of livelihoods and the decline of Mombasa's economy.

We demand that the CS Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure reverse the unlawful directives and allow freedom of choice of cargo transportation from Mombasa.

We demand job creation opportunities and initiatives to cushion those affected by the job losses and business closures.

We demand the upgrade of the Mombasa-Nairobi Highway to facilitate efficient road transportation, trade and economic growth of towns along the highway.

2. *Implement Public Participation in Governance*

We oppose the lack of public participation in decisions such as the detrimental directives that affect the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people.

We demand that Mombasa residents are engaged and consulted on decisions that affect their resources and assets. Consultation must happen in meaningful public participation exercises, and their views must be considered in all decision making.

We demand participation in the re-naming exercise of the waterfront park and certain streets in Mombasa County.

3. *Ensure Transparency and Justice for SGR's Extensive Failings*

The SGR was wrongfully conceived and constructed; including the fraudulent procurement process, lack of transparency around the loan and other agreements, and lack of public participation during the project's initial phase.

We demand the immediate publication of the SGR contracts and agreements related to financing, construction, management, operation, and impact of the project.

We demand investigation into individuals responsible for the fraudulent procurement of the SGR project, and those withholding information on the SGR. We demand prosecution of these individuals where warranted.

4. *Protect Devolution*

We oppose government policies that undermine devolution and its potential to uplift counties using local resources. In Mombasa, the harbour is the local resource, and the Port sustains the livelihoods of Mombasa residents. Mombasa County should benefit from having the Port, just as other counties benefit from their local resources.

We demand prioritization of Mombasa residents' needs from political representatives nationally and within Mombasa County.

We demand a county government that will prioritize and implement policies that ensure local resources benefit Mombasa residents. These benefit-sharing policies are a key pillar of the county's devolution agenda.

Mombasa County residents have pledged to vote for aspirants who will respond to these demands should they win in the August 9, 2022 elections. Mombasa County residents further resolve to hold signatories accountable for their promises during their 5-year term should they win the elections.

By signing this Memorandum of Demands, the aspirant accepts to include these demands in her/his manifesto and plan of action.

Name of Aspirant:

Signature:

Date:

Position vied for:

Political Party Membership (or Independent Candidate):