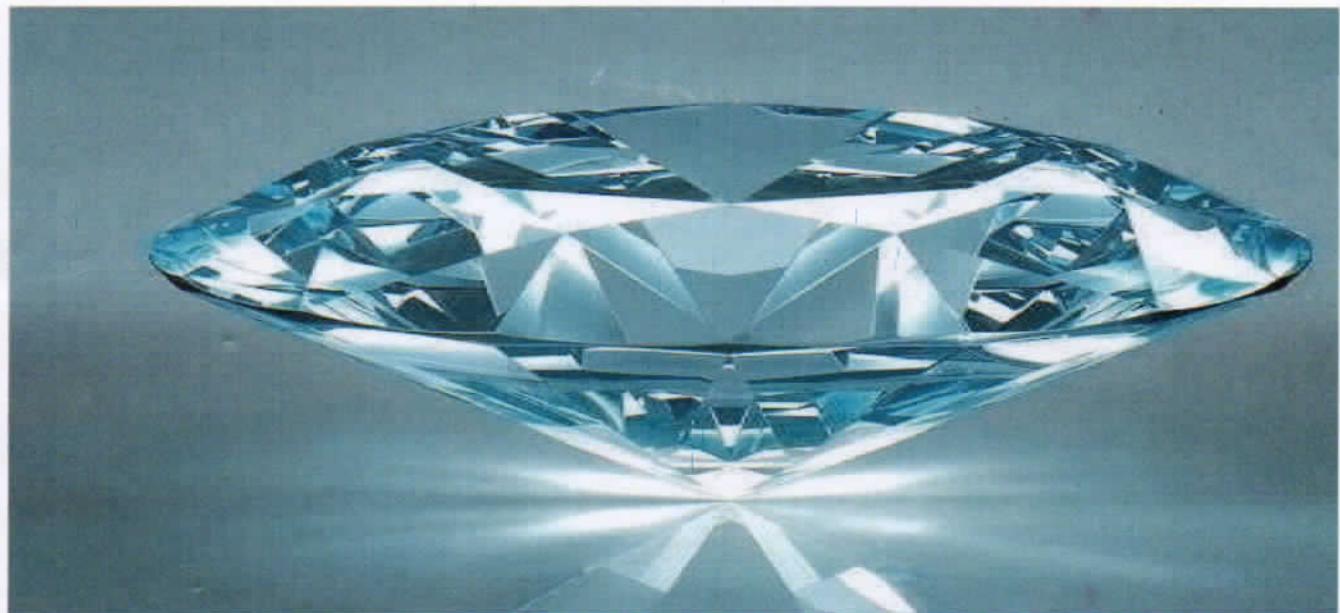


DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT PARTY OF KENYA (DEK)

PARTY MANIFESTO



Party slogan: "All generation equal rights

The National Headquarters will be in Kitengela, Hotel Senator's building, within Nairobi Metropolitan in Kajiado County.

The postal address of the Party shall be P.O. Box 24586 – 00100, GPO, NAIROBI

The Official Website is: <https://dekpartyofkenya.co.ke/>



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1.0 SPEECH FROM THE PROPOSED PARTY LEADER

On behalf of the **Democratic Development Party of Kenya (DEK)**, I am honored to present our party manifesto as part of our application for provisional registration under the Political Parties Act, CAP 7D. This document is not merely a requirement for registration—it is a declaration of our vision, our values, and our unwavering commitment to the people of Kenya.

The DEK is founded on the ideology of **democratic socialism**, a philosophy that combines the principles of democracy with the values of social and economic justice. We believe that political power must always remain in the hands of the people and that governance should be inclusive, transparent, and accountable. Our party seeks to build a nation where every individual, regardless of their background or social standing, has equal access to resources, opportunities, and the ability to live a dignified life.

Our manifesto outlines five core principles and policy priorities that will guide our work:

- ❖ **Democratic Governance:** Strengthening institutions, upholding the rule of law, and ensuring meaningful citizen participation in decision-making.
- ❖ **Welfare State and Social Safety Nets:** Establishing strong systems of support for the vulnerable, including universal social protection programs.



- ❖ **Health:** Guaranteeing universal healthcare access and investment in modern, affordable medical services.
- ❖ **Education:** Ensuring free, quality education from primary to tertiary levels, while investing in technical and vocational training for youth.
- ❖ **Environmental Sustainability:** Protecting our natural resources, advancing renewable energy, and preparing Kenya for a green future.

As we seek provisional registration, we emphasize that this is not only about building a political party—it is about building a movement of hope and transformation. We are determined to engage with citizens across all counties, listening to their concerns, ideas, and aspirations. DEK pledges to make politics people-centered, where every Kenyan's voice counts, and where leadership serves the public good rather than personal interests.

Our ultimate goal is to create a Kenya where **democracy is genuine and participatory**, where **social and economic justice** are not privileges but guaranteed rights, and where **environmental sustainability** secures the future of generations to come.

We trust that the Registrar of Political Parties will consider this manifesto not only as an application but as a **visionary roadmap** for a fairer, more inclusive, and more prosperous Kenya.

Thank you for your time, attention, and consideration.

2.0 HISTORY/ JUSTIFICATION

The **Democratic Development Party of Kenya (DEK)** was conceived in May 2025, born out of a collective recognition that Kenya urgently needed a new kind of political approach. For decades, the country's political landscape has been dominated by traditional parties that, while claiming to represent the people, have too often been influenced by corporate interests, entrenched elites, and systemic inequality. This has created widespread public dissatisfaction, as many Kenyans—particularly the youth, women, workers, and marginalized communities—have continued to feel excluded from meaningful participation in governance and deprived of the social and economic justice they deserve.



The DEK emerged as a movement of hope and reform, initiated by progressive activists, social justice organizations, civil society leaders, and former members of other political formations.

These groups came together around a shared conviction: that the challenges of the modern world—rising inequality, climate change, unemployment, corruption, and weakened democratic institutions—cannot be solved through politics as usual. Instead, they require a new political party with fresh ideas, ethical leadership, and a transformative vision for Kenya.

At its core, DEK is anchored in the ideology of democratic socialism. Unlike traditional forms of socialism, which have sometimes been associated with authoritarian tendencies, democratic socialism seeks to blend the principles of democracy with the values of social justice and equality. It emphasizes that economic and social systems must serve the people collectively, not a privileged few. DEK therefore envisions a society where democracy is not only political but also economic—where citizens have a say not just in who governs them, but also in how resources are produced, shared, and utilized.

The party champions a robust welfare state as the foundation for national development. DEK believes that every Kenyan deserves universal access to healthcare, free and quality education, social safety nets, and protection of workers' rights. The party recognizes that these are not luxuries but basic human rights and essential pillars for building a prosperous, fair, and cohesive nation.

Furthermore, DEK emphasizes environmental sustainability as an inseparable part of development. Climate change, deforestation, pollution, and resource depletion are already affecting the livelihoods of millions of Kenyans, especially farmers and vulnerable communities. The party is committed to advancing green policies that ensure sustainable use of resources, transition to renewable energy, and long-term protection of ecosystems for the benefit of current and future generations.

Economically, DEK supports a mixed economy model—one where both the state and private sector actively contribute to national growth. However, unlike laissez-faire models that allow unchecked wealth accumulation, DEK insists on strict regulation of monopolies and powerful corporations to prevent exploitation and ensure a fair distribution of resources. This approach



ensures that economic development is broad-based and inclusive, lifting up workers, small businesses, and communities instead of enriching only a select elite.

In summary, the DEK exists to redefine Kenyan politics—shifting focus from personality-driven contests and short-term gains to a people-centered agenda that prioritizes justice, equality, sustainability, and dignity for all. The party's history and justification are therefore deeply tied to its mission: to provide an alternative political home for Kenyans who demand honesty, fairness, and transformative leadership.

2.1 Key Tenets of the Party Manifesto

1. Social Justice and Equality

DEK is firmly committed to creating a just and inclusive society by addressing systemic inequalities that have historically marginalized large sections of the Kenyan population. Ethnic division, gender discrimination, and income inequality continue to hinder the nation's progress and unity. DEK seeks to dismantle these barriers through comprehensive social policies that promote fairness, respect, and equal opportunity. This involves advancing programs that uplift women, youth, persons with disabilities, and marginalized communities, ensuring they have access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. The party believes that every citizen, regardless of background, should enjoy equal rights, dignity, and the ability to fully participate in national development. By addressing inequality, DEK envisions a cohesive nation where diversity is celebrated and every Kenyan has a fair chance to thrive.

2. Economic Reform

DEK recognizes that Kenya's economic system has often served the interests of a privileged few at the expense of the majority. To correct this imbalance, the party advocates for transformative economic reforms that prioritize the working class and low-income earners. This includes strengthening labor rights, ensuring fair wages, and improving working conditions across all sectors. DEK supports progressive taxation that ensures the wealthy contribute fairly to national development, thereby reducing the burden on ordinary citizens. Additionally, the party champions expanded public ownership and regulation of essential sectors such as healthcare, energy, and



transportation. By doing so, DEK aims to reduce exploitation, make essential services affordable, and create an economy that works for all, not just a select few.

3. Sustainability

Protecting the environment and combating climate change are central to DEK's vision for a better future. The party believes that economic growth must go hand in hand with environmental responsibility. DEK advocates for aggressive policies to reduce carbon emissions, transition towards renewable energy, and safeguard Kenya's natural resources. This includes promoting sustainable agriculture, conserving forests, and protecting water resources to ensure food and water security for generations to come. DEK emphasizes that environmental sustainability is not only a matter of survival but also an opportunity for green innovation, job creation, and sustainable development.

4. Democracy and Political Participation

DEK is committed to deepening democracy and strengthening Kenya's political institutions. The party seeks to combat corruption, ensure accountability, and foster a culture of transparency in governance. Citizens must have a meaningful voice in decision-making processes, and DEK will promote inclusive participation through reforms that empower communities and enhance representation. The party envisions a political system that reflects the will of the people, respects the rule of law, and guarantees the protection of fundamental freedoms and human rights.

5. Global Solidarity

DEK recognizes that Kenya's struggles for justice and development are connected to broader global movements. The party stands in solidarity with international efforts to combat inequality, climate change, and human rights abuses. DEK opposes all forms of imperialism, colonial exploitation, and economic injustice directed at the Global South. By building alliances with like-minded movements across the world, DEK seeks to promote peace, fairness, and cooperation among nations, ensuring Kenya plays its rightful role as a responsible and progressive global partner.

3.0 OUR POLICY PREFERENCE AREAS

- ❖ **Democratic governance**
- ❖ **Welfare State and Social Safety Nets**



- ❖ **Health**
- ❖ **Education**
- ❖ **Environmental sustainability**

3.1 Implementation and approaches

The party shall take cognizant of all legal and policy frameworks in the implementation of the policies' preference areas. The Constitution will be the primary reference in this process. The party will also borrow heavily from the policy frame work like Vision 2030 and Agenda 2063.

3.2 Democratic Governance:

3.2.1 Key Governance Indicators & Data Points

| Indicator | Value / Trend | Source & Date | Interpretation |
|---|---|---|--|
| Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) – Overall Score & Ranking | ~ 60.3 / 100; Kenya ranks 10th of 54 African countries in the 2023 IIAG report. | IIAG (Mo Ibrahim Foundation) — 2023 data for period up to 2023 or 2024. | Kenya is among the better-governed African countries per the IIAG, but its pace of improvement has slowed in recent years. |
| Improvement Over Time (Decade) | + gain in infrastructure, women's equality, sustainable environment; rural economy high (~81.1), women's equality (~73.4), education (~67.0) are stronger sub-categories. | IIAG report 2023/24. | The improvements in infrastructure, connectivity, and environment show where governance has delivered. |
| Areas of Decline or Weakness | Security & Rule of Law sub-category has declined substantially | IIAG & other governance analyses. | These are the “weak links” in Kenya’s governance—progress |



| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| | (security& safety, anti-corruption). Participation, rights & inclusion also showing backsliding in recent years. | | there is lagging or even reversing. |
| Corruption Perception Index (CPI) | Score: 32 / 100 ; Global rank: 121 / 180 (2024). Slight improvement from 31 in 2023. | Transparency International — 2024 CPI. | Indicates serious corruption challenges in public sector, with little improvement over recent years. Below regional and global averages. |
| Electoral Democracy Index | ~ 0.564 in 2023 (V-Dem / Varieties of Democracy) Rising from ~0.546 in 2022. | V-Dem / TheGlobalEconomy data, 2022-2023. | Suggests modest improvement in electoral democracy. Still measured on a scale where some countries do much higher; it shows Kenya's system is competitive but with room for improvement. |
| Judiciary / Public Trust | A 2024 Infotrak nationwide public perception survey: 57% of respondents did <i>not</i> trust the Judiciary; 34% had moderate trust. Judiciary's budget shortfall: in the recent fiscal year, it got ~ | Annual Judiciary reports / public perception studies. | Low trust + under-funding tend to affect judicial performance, delay in rulings, backlog, access to justice. |



| | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|--|---|
| | KSh 22.42 billion vs required ~ KSh 43.17 billion (≈ a 50% funding gap). | | |
| County / Local Governance | <p>Governance Status Report (CGSR) 2025:</p> <p>From the County</p> <p>Only ~ 29.8% of respondents aware of their county's Integrated Development Plan (CIDP).</p> <p>~ 93.5% did <i>not</i> know the cost of local projects.</p> | <p>Transparency International Kenya, 2025.</p> | <p>Transparency and accountability are weak at devolved levels; citizen engagement and information access are major gaps.</p> |

3.2.2 Interpretation: Strengths & Weaknesses

3.2.2.1 Strengths

- Steady Governance Improvement:**

Over the past decade, Kenya has recorded consistent progress in several governance dimensions. Infrastructure development has expanded, improving road networks, energy access, and ICT penetration. Environmental sustainability has gained attention, with policies encouraging conservation, renewable energy adoption, and climate resilience. Advancements in women's equality and broader human development indicators—such as education, healthcare, and social inclusion—reflect Kenya's upward trend. Reports such as the Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) affirm these gains, showing notable sub-category improvements in human development, participation, and rights.

- Electoral Democracy Gains and Strong Legal Frameworks:**

Kenya's democratic system continues to evolve, supported by constitutional, institutional, and legal reforms. The 2010 Constitution remains a milestone, embedding principles of



separation of powers, devolution, human rights, and citizen participation. These frameworks have created space for competitive elections, enhanced inclusivity, and provided checks and balances across government branches. While challenges remain in practice, the legal basis for a functioning democracy is solid.

- **Access to Justice and Judicial Reforms:**

Considerable progress has been made in bringing justice closer to citizens. The introduction of electronic filing (e-filing) systems has improved efficiency and reduced bureaucratic delays. Establishment of mobile courts, regional courts, and additional court stations has expanded access to justice, particularly for marginalized and rural communities. These reforms signify a judiciary that is modernizing to meet the demands of a growing population.

- **Strengthened Democratic Institutions:**

Kenya has taken deliberate steps to entrench democratic values by strengthening oversight institutions, empowering independent commissions, and encouraging civic participation. Initiatives promoting transparency, accountability, and anti-corruption efforts—although still facing hurdles—are gradually shaping a governance culture that is more responsive to citizens' needs.

Kenya's progress illustrates a nation on a democratic path, with tangible achievements to build on. However, the manifesto acknowledges that challenges remain and must be addressed decisively to consolidate these gains.

3.2.2.2 Key Challenges

Corruption

- Corruption remains one of the most persistent and damaging challenges facing Kenya. It cuts across multiple sectors, including government institutions, law enforcement, procurement processes, and public service delivery. This widespread malpractice diverts resources away from development projects, undermines the rule of law, and entrenches inequality by favoring the few at the expense of the majority. Corruption also discourages both domestic and foreign investment, weakening economic growth. Most critically, it erodes public trust in democratic institutions and



leadership, creating disillusionment among citizens. Without decisive and transparent measures, corruption continues to threaten Kenya's democratic and developmental progress.

Electoral Integrity

Free, fair, and credible elections are the foundation of democracy, yet Kenya has continued to face serious challenges in this area.

- **Electoral Fraud and Violence:** Kenya's electoral history has been marred by allegations of voter manipulation, ballot rigging, and disputed results. The 2007 post-election violence, which claimed hundreds of lives and displaced thousands, remains one of the darkest chapters in the country's democratic journey. Although reforms such as the 2010 Constitution and the establishment of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) were designed to enhance credibility, concerns still linger. Issues such as compromised voter registers, weak technology systems, and allegations of partisanship within the IEBC continue to undermine public confidence in electoral outcomes.
- **Ethnic-Based Voting:** Ethnic identity remains a dominant factor in Kenya's electoral processes. Political parties and candidates often rely on mobilizing support along ethnic lines instead of focusing on ideology, policy, or national development priorities. This ethnic polarization fosters division, deepens mistrust among communities, and frequently sparks violence when election results are contested. As a result, elections become a zero-sum contest for ethnic dominance rather than an inclusive process of democratic choice, threatening peace, unity, and long-term political stability.

Ethnic Politics and Identity

Kenya's political culture continues to be deeply shaped by ethnicity, with ethnic identity often taking precedence over ideology or national unity.



- **Ethnic Alliances and Polarization:**

Political parties and leaders frequently form alliances based on ethnic affiliations rather than shared policy goals. This practice fosters exclusionary politics, where citizens view elections as contests between ethnic groups rather than opportunities to advance national development. Such polarization weakens cohesion, breeds mistrust among communities, and heightens the risk of instability when one group perceives itself as sidelined.

- **Discrimination and Marginalization:**

In many instances, government appointments, distribution of resources, and development projects are perceived to favor certain ethnic communities over others. This perceived or actual marginalization creates resentment and fuels grievances, leading to unrest and further divisions. Consequently, ethnic politics not only undermines inclusivity but also threatens long-term peace, equitable growth, and national solidarity.

Devolution and Regional Inequality

The introduction of devolution under the 2010 Constitution was a historic step toward addressing regional disparities and ensuring that governance and resources are brought closer to the people. While devolution has delivered some progress, its full potential has yet to be realized.

- **Funding, Implementation, and Mismanagement:**

Many county governments continue to struggle with inadequate funding and delayed disbursement of resources from the national treasury. In some cases, devolved funds are poorly managed or misappropriated, limiting service delivery and the ability of counties to drive development. This has left certain regions still feeling excluded or underdeveloped despite the promise of devolution.

- **Accountability and Capacity Challenges:**

Weak oversight mechanisms, coupled with limited technical and administrative capacity at the county level, have led to governance inefficiencies. These challenges



undermine the effectiveness of devolution in reducing inequality, fostering inclusive growth, and strengthening public trust in local governance.

Weak Institutions

Kenya's democratic institutions play a central role in safeguarding the rule of law and ensuring checks and balances. However, many of these institutions - including the judiciary, the legislature, and law enforcement agencies - struggle with weaknesses that hinder their effectiveness.

- **Judicial Independence and Legislative Effectiveness:**

While the Constitution guarantees judicial independence, in practice, the judiciary is sometimes perceived as being susceptible to political influence, delayed justice, or corruption. Similarly, the legislature, which should act as a strong oversight body, has at times been criticized for being ineffective, partisan, or easily swayed by executive interests, reducing its ability to hold government accountable.

- **Institutional Capture by Elites:**

Powerful political and economic elites often manipulate or capture state institutions to protect personal or group interests. This undermines transparency, weakens democratic governance, and perpetuates inequality, as public institutions fail to serve the broader population effectively.

Human Rights and Freedom of Expression

- **Freedom of Expression and Media:**

Kenya's Constitution guarantees freedom of expression and media independence, and over the years, these rights have allowed the country to nurture a vibrant press and civil society. However, challenges persist. Journalists and activists have at times faced intimidation, harassment, or arbitrary arrests, particularly when they expose corruption, human rights abuses, or criticize government policies. This creates a



chilling effect that discourages open debate and undermines democratic participation. Minority groups and marginalized communities also continue to experience discrimination, limiting their ability to enjoy equal rights and opportunities.

- **Police Brutality:**

Excessive use of force by law enforcement agencies remains a major human rights concern. Incidents of police brutality, including unlawful killings during protests, arbitrary arrests, and heavy-handed crackdowns, have eroded public confidence in security agencies. Without strong accountability mechanisms, impunity thrives, deepening mistrust between citizens and the state, and threatening Kenya's democratic progress.

Political Instability and Lack of Consensus

- **Electoral-Related Instability:**

Kenya has a long history of political instability, particularly during and after election periods. The competition for political power often becomes zero-sum, where winning is viewed as a matter of survival for certain groups or regions. This mindset has led to violent confrontations, destruction of property, and loss of life, most notably during the 2007–2008 post-election crisis. Such instability undermines the democratic process, weakens public confidence in electoral institutions, and distracts the government from addressing critical development priorities. The lack of genuine political consensus and commitment to shared national interests fuel recurring tensions and hinders long-term stability.

- **Dynastic Politics:**

Kenya's political scene has also been shaped by dynastic politics, where a handful of powerful families have dominated leadership positions for decades. This concentration of power fosters political elitism, limits the diversity of leadership, and alienates ordinary citizens who feel excluded from meaningful participation. Dynastic



dominance perpetuates rivalries among elites, fuels regional and ethnic divisions, and makes politics appear inaccessible to new and visionary leaders, thereby slowing democratic renewal.

Socioeconomic Inequality

- **Economic Inequality:**

Economic inequality continues to be one of Kenya's most pressing challenges. Despite periods of growth, wealth distribution remains highly skewed, with a small segment of the population enjoying significant prosperity while millions live in poverty. Access to basic services such as quality education, healthcare, and decent housing is still uneven, particularly in rural and marginalized regions. These disparities limit social mobility and perpetuate cycles of poverty. Economic hardship often fuels public dissatisfaction with democratic governance, as citizens lose faith in the ability of leaders to deliver inclusive development. Unequal access to resources also shapes political loyalty, with communities supporting leaders they believe will bring development to their regions rather than focusing on national interests.

- **Youth Unemployment:**

Kenya's youthful population, while a potential demographic dividend, faces extremely high unemployment and underemployment rates. Many young people struggle to secure decent work, leading to feelings of exclusion and frustration. This vulnerability makes them easy targets for political actors who exploit their frustrations by offering quick promises or mobilizing them for disruptive activities during election cycles.

Media and Information

- **Media Bias and Partisanship:**

Kenya enjoys a relatively free and diverse media environment, with numerous TV stations, radio channels, newspapers, and online platforms. However, the sector faces

persistent challenges of sensationalism, bias, and political partisanship. Media outlets are sometimes co-opted by powerful political or business interests, leading to skewed reporting that favors particular leaders or parties. This undermines the media's role as a neutral watchdog and reduces public trust in journalism. In heated political seasons, sensational reporting often fuels divisions, contributing to misinformation and polarization.

- **Access to Information:**

While Kenya has made progress with the enactment of the Access to Information Act (2016), citizens still struggle to obtain timely, accurate, and reliable information from both government and private institutions. Bureaucratic hurdles, lack of transparency, and intentional withholding of information remain obstacles. Limited access to factual information prevents citizens from making informed choices, weakens accountability, and ultimately diminishes meaningful participation in democratic processes.

Gender Inequality and Women's Political Participation

- **Low Political Representation:**

Although the 2010 Constitution of Kenya introduced progressive provisions such as the two-thirds gender rule to promote gender equality in governance, women remain underrepresented in elective and appointive positions. Structural barriers, including limited financial resources, gender-based violence in politics, and exclusion from influential party networks, continue to restrict women's access to leadership roles. This persistent underrepresentation undermines inclusive democracy and prevents women's perspectives from shaping policies that directly affect them.

- **Cultural Norms:**

Deeply ingrained cultural and societal beliefs about traditional gender roles also hinder women's political participation. Many communities still perceive politics as a



male-dominated arena, discouraging women from aspiring to leadership positions. Such attitudes not only marginalize women but also discourage younger generations from engaging in public service. Overcoming these barriers requires deliberate efforts, including enforcing constitutional provisions, empowering women economically, and sensitizing society to embrace gender equality as a pillar of democratic governance.

3.2.3 Our agenda

3.2.3.1 Short-Term Measures (5+ years)

1. Electoral Reforms

- **Improve the Electoral Process:**

The party will prioritize strengthening the independence, professionalism, and accountability of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). This includes improving recruitment processes to ensure commissioners and staff are impartial, enhancing the use of technology to increase efficiency and transparency, and putting in place strict measures to deter electoral fraud. Restoring public confidence in the IEBC is essential to building trust in democratic processes.

- **Voter Education:**

A comprehensive nationwide voter education program will be rolled out to ensure citizens understand their rights and responsibilities in elections. This will include community forums, school-based civic education, and digital campaigns aimed at young voters. By equipping citizens with knowledge, the party seeks to reduce manipulation, increase turnout, and strengthen the legitimacy of elections.

- **Strengthen Election Monitoring:**



The party will actively involve civil society, religious institutions, and international observers in monitoring elections. Independent monitoring will serve as a safeguard against malpractice and ensure credibility in electoral outcomes.

2. Combat Corruption

- **Reinforce Anti-Corruption Institutions:**

The party will push for reforms that give anti-corruption bodies like the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) full independence, free from political interference. Adequate funding, modern investigative tools, and accountability frameworks will be provided to strengthen their capacity to detect, investigate, and prosecute corruption cases effectively.

- **Swift Justice:**

To restore public trust, the party will champion the fast-tracking of corruption cases, especially those involving senior government officials and high-value theft of public funds. Transparent trials, with clear timelines and public access to proceedings, will be encouraged to ensure justice is both done and seen to be done.

- **Public Awareness Campaigns:**

Nationwide sensitization programs will highlight the harmful impact of corruption on development. Citizens will be empowered to report corruption safely through whistleblower protection laws and anonymous reporting channels.

3. Promote Political Inclusivity

- **Inclusive Political Dialogues:** Foster structured and regular dialogues that bring together leaders from diverse political parties, ethnic groups, and civil society organizations. These platforms should aim to build mutual trust, address



grievances, and develop shared solutions for national issues such as governance, equity, and representation.

- **Encourage Cross-Party Alliances:** Support the formation of political alliances that are issue-based and nationally focused, rather than rooted in ethnic or regional loyalties. Such alliances can bridge divides, enhance cooperation, and promote a stronger sense of national unity by prioritizing development and democratic values over ethnic interests.

4. Strengthen Media Freedom and Accountability

- **Protect Press Freedom:** Uphold and enforce legal frameworks that safeguard journalists, editors, and media houses from harassment, censorship, or intimidation. Independent media is vital for transparency and accountability, allowing citizens to access truthful and balanced information without fear of interference or suppression.
- **Media Literacy:** Invest in nationwide media literacy initiatives to empower citizens to critically evaluate news sources, identify misinformation, and understand the importance of ethical journalism. By fostering an informed society, media literacy strengthens democratic participation and ensures the public can hold leaders accountable based on accurate and reliable information.

3.2.3.2 Medium-Term Measures (3-5 years)

• Devolution Strengthening

- **Decentralized Governance Capacity Building:** Enhance the effectiveness of county governments by increasing funding and providing training for county officials. This will improve planning, resource management, and service delivery, ensuring that counties can respond to the unique needs of their communities. Capacity building also involves equipping counties with modern systems and skilled personnel to manage devolved functions efficiently.
- **Accountability Mechanisms:** Establish strong, independent oversight bodies at the county level to audit financial operations and monitor the use of public resources. Regular audits, transparent reporting, and strict penalties for



mismanagement will help curb corruption and promote trust between citizens and county leaders.

- **Promote Local Citizen Participation:** Create platforms for community engagement through open forums, town hall meetings, and digital feedback systems. Active citizen involvement in governance decisions ensures inclusivity, strengthens democracy, and ensures that local priorities guide development initiatives.
- **Institutional Reforms**
 - **Judicial Independence and Reforms:** Safeguard the judiciary from political manipulation by ensuring all judicial appointments and promotions are strictly based on merit and competence. Invest in modern infrastructure, digital systems, and continuous training for judicial officers to improve efficiency, reduce case backlogs, and guarantee timely, impartial rulings.
 - **Parliamentary Reforms:** Empower Parliament to function as a genuine watchdog over the executive by strengthening its oversight committees and reinforcing accountability mechanisms. MPs should prioritize national development, policy-making, and legislation that serves all citizens, rather than focusing solely on local or ethnic interests.
 - **Strengthen Law Enforcement:** Transform the police service into a professional, accountable, and depoliticized institution. This involves enhancing training, improving welfare, and introducing strong internal accountability systems to prevent abuse of power. A reformed police force will enforce the law fairly, protect human rights, and build public trust in law enforcement.
- **Promote Civic Engagement and Participation**
 - **Civic Education Programs:** Expand and sustain nationwide civic education initiatives aimed at equipping citizens with knowledge about their constitutional rights, democratic responsibilities, and mechanisms for demanding accountability from leaders. Such programs should be accessible in schools, communities, and through digital platforms to reach diverse groups across the country.
 - **Youth Empowerment:** Establish inclusive platforms where young people can actively participate in political and governance processes. This includes structured



mentorship schemes, youth forums, and internship opportunities within government institutions to nurture leadership skills, amplify youth voices, and inspire a new generation of responsible leaders.

- **Gender Equality in Politics**

- **Increase Women's Representation:** Enforce affirmative action measures, such as gender quotas, to ensure women have equitable access to both elective and appointive positions at national and county levels. These policies will help break structural barriers that have historically limited women's participation in governance.
- **Support Women's Political Leadership:** Establish targeted leadership development programs to equip women with the skills, resources, and mentorship needed to run effective campaigns and actively contribute to decision-making. Special funds and platforms should also be created to reduce financial and cultural barriers that often discourage women from pursuing political careers.

3.2.3.3 Long-Term Measures (5+ years)

1. Deepen Institutional Capacity

- **Building Strong Democratic Institutions:** Invest in long-term reforms that create a professional, transparent, and independent public service, judiciary, and legislature. These institutions should be equipped with adequate resources and safeguarded from political interference to guarantee impartiality, efficiency, and accountability. Their strength will ensure sustainable checks and balances on executive power.
- **Ensure Political Party Accountability:** Reform political parties to focus on issue-based politics rather than ethnic or personality-driven agendas. Encourage internal democracy, transparency in party financing, and inclusive leadership structures, so parties genuinely represent citizens' interests while fostering stability and constructive political competition.

2. Foster National Unity and Reconciliation

- **Address Ethnic Divisions:** Establish long-term reconciliation and healing programs that confront historical injustices and promote inclusivity. This includes



supporting truth and justice mechanisms, fostering inter-community dialogues, and creating platforms where diverse groups can engage in constructive conversations. Such efforts will nurture tolerance, mutual respect, and national cohesion while reducing ethnic-based conflicts and mistrust.

- **Create Unity through Education:** Reform education policies to instill national identity and civic pride in young people. Curricula should emphasize shared history, cultural diversity, and the values of unity and patriotism. By embedding these principles early in schools and universities, Kenya can build a generation that embraces inclusivity and works together for common progress.

3. Promote Socio-Economic Justice and Equity

- **Focus on Poverty Alleviation:** Develop comprehensive policies to tackle unemployment, poverty, and inequality, with special emphasis on marginalized and vulnerable communities. This includes investing in education, healthcare, and vocational training to empower citizens with skills and opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. By addressing these socioeconomic challenges, the government can reduce frustrations that weaken democratic trust and instead promote social stability and inclusion.
- **Ensure Equitable Resource Distribution:** Strengthen mechanisms that guarantee fair allocation of national resources, prioritizing historically disadvantaged regions. Investment in infrastructure, social amenities, and development projects should be based on equity and need rather than political patronage. This approach will foster balanced development, reduce regional disparities, and promote a sense of shared national progress.

4. Strengthen the Rule of Law

- **Constitutional Reforms:** If necessary, initiate constitutional reforms to strengthen democracy, ensure human rights protection, and promote political and economic stability. These reforms could focus on further limiting executive power or enhancing checks and balances.
- **Legal and Institutional Transparency:** Ensure that all governmental and political actions are transparent, with clear regulations and oversight mechanisms. Legal



reforms should focus on improving access to justice for all, particularly the marginalized.

5. International and Regional Collaboration

- **Regional Partnerships:** Strengthen Kenya's partnerships with other African nations to promote democracy and good governance across the region. This can include sharing best practices, promoting peace, and fostering political stability.
- **Global Advocacy for Democracy:** Engage with global institutions, such as the United Nations and the African Union, to support Kenya's democratic goals and commit to international standards of human rights and democratic practices.

3.2.4 Grassroots Implementation Measures

- Establish ward-level people's assemblies/barazas where citizens directly shape local priorities.
- Introduce participatory budgeting at ward and village levels to ensure resources reflect community needs.
- Strengthen village-level civic education programs on rights, governance, and accountability.
- Set up local oversight committees to monitor county projects and fight corruption at the grassroots.

3.3 Welfare State and Safety Nets

A hallmark of democratic socialism is the redistribution of wealth to reduce social and economic inequality. The welfare state plays a crucial role in this process, through progressive taxation (where wealthier individuals and corporations pay higher taxes) and the provision of social programs (like unemployment benefits, pensions, and welfare payments) to redistribute resources to the neediest. The idea is that by providing direct assistance to individuals in need, a welfare state can reduce the risk of poverty, prevent social exclusion, and promote social cohesion.

The social safety net is a set of services provided by the state to protect individuals from economic hardship due to job loss, illness, old age, or other risks. Social insurance programs such as unemployment insurance, disability benefits, child benefits, and pensions are essential parts of the safety net in a democratic socialist system. These programs aim to ensure that no one



falls below a minimum standard of living. The safety net is designed to be universal and inclusive, providing assistance to all citizens, particularly during times of personal or economic crisis. This manifesto seeks to address the following challenges: -

3.3.1 Key challenges

Limited Financial Resources

- **Budget Constraints:** Kenya faces significant budgetary constraints, limiting its capacity to fund large-scale welfare programs. The government's budget often prioritizes infrastructure development and debt servicing, leaving limited funds for social welfare and safety net programs.
- **Dependence on Foreign Aid:** A significant portion of funding for welfare programs comes from international donors and development partners. This dependency can be unstable and unreliable, especially if external funding decreases or is redirected elsewhere.

High Levels of Poverty and Inequality

- **Prevalence of Poverty:** Despite efforts to reduce poverty, a significant portion of Kenya's population still lives below the poverty line, particularly in rural areas. According to reports, over 30% of Kenyans live in extreme poverty, making it difficult for welfare programs to cover all those in need.
- **Rural-Urban Disparities:** The gap between rural and urban areas is particularly pronounced in Kenya, with rural populations facing limited access to welfare benefits and services. Many social protection programs are centered around urban areas, leaving rural populations, particularly those in marginalized regions, underserved.

Weak Administrative Capacity and Infrastructure

- **Poor Service Delivery:** The implementation of welfare programs often faces challenges due to weak administrative infrastructure. There are issues with bureaucratic inefficiencies, corruption, and lack of coordination between



government agencies. This leads to delays, misallocation of resources, and unequal distribution of benefits.

- **Limited Outreach:** The lack of proper data systems to identify those in need hampers the targeting of welfare programs. In Kenya, many poor and vulnerable individuals are either excluded from the safety net programs or do not benefit from them due to poor reach in remote or hard-to-reach areas.

Corruption and Mismanagement

- **Misallocation of Funds:** Corruption remains a significant challenge in Kenya's public sector. Resources allocated for welfare programs are sometimes diverted due to corrupt practices, reducing the effectiveness of social safety nets and leaving vulnerable groups underserved.
- **Clientelism and Political Patronage:** In some instances, social assistance programs are used for political gain, where benefits are distributed based on political loyalty rather than actual need. This leads to a skewed distribution and the exclusion of marginalized groups.

Political Instability and Policy Continuity

- **Political Will:** The implementation of a comprehensive welfare state requires sustained political commitment, which can be difficult to maintain, especially with changing administrations. Welfare policies may shift with each election cycle, creating inconsistencies in service delivery.
- **Devolution Challenges:** Kenya's devolution system, which decentralizes the delivery of services to county governments, has had mixed results. Some counties are better equipped to manage welfare programs, while others struggle with limited capacity, poor governance, and lack of resources to implement effective safety nets.

3.3.2 The DEK Agenda



3.3.2.1 Short-term Interventions:

1. **Cash Transfers & Social Assistance:** Increase the provision of targeted cash transfers, especially to vulnerable populations (e.g., elderly, persons with disabilities, orphans, and poor households).
2. **Food and Nutrition Support:** Immediate food relief programs for regions facing food insecurity, ensuring that the most vulnerable get access to basic nutrition.
3. **Healthcare Access:** Expand subsidized healthcare services through public hospitals, especially in underserved areas, to reduce out-of-pocket health expenses.
4. **Emergency Employment Programs:** Short-term public works or "cash-for-work" programs to address unemployment, especially in rural and marginalized communities.

3.3.2.2 Medium-term Interventions:

1. **Universal Health Coverage (UHC):** Strengthen efforts towards UHC by expanding access to healthcare services and insurance schemes like the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF), ensuring broad coverage.
2. **Education Support:** Increase subsidies and support for vulnerable students (e.g., scholarships, free primary and secondary education), reducing barriers to education.
3. **Social Insurance Programs:** Develop social insurance schemes (e.g., unemployment insurance, pension systems) for informal sector workers, which is a large portion of the workforce.
4. **Livelihood Support Programs:** Improve access to skills development, entrepreneurship support, and small business financing for vulnerable groups to promote self-sufficiency.

3.3.2.3 Long-term Interventions:

1. **Sustainable Social Security Systems:** Build a comprehensive national pension and social security system that covers all Kenyans, including informal workers, to provide long-term financial security.



2. **Inclusive Economic Growth:** Promote policies that support job creation, particularly in rural and marginalized areas, through industrialization, agriculture modernization, and infrastructure development.
3. **Infrastructure Development:** Expand access to critical infrastructure (e.g., roads, water, electricity) in underserved regions to promote equality and support social and economic integration.
4. **Legal and Policy Reforms:** Institutionalize a welfare state by establishing strong legal frameworks for social protection, labor rights, and human rights, ensuring sustainability and equity in welfare programs.

3.3.3 Grassroots Implementation Measures

- Roll out ward-based social protection officers to register vulnerable households (elderly, PWDs, single mothers).
- Ensure cash transfer and food support programs are distributed transparently through local community centers.
- Support ward-level cooperatives and self-help groups as channels for micro-credit and livelihood support.
- Establish community welfare desks to link citizens to social security, bursaries, and NHIF schemes.

3.4 Health

In a democratic socialist framework, **healthcare** is considered a fundamental human right, and the state plays a central role in ensuring that all citizens have access to affordable and high-quality healthcare services. This manifesto seeks to highlight key health indicators, strengths, challenges and DEK agenda in relation to health.

3.4.1 Key Health Indicators in Kenya

| Indicator | Recent Value(s) / Trend | Details & Implications |
|-----------|-------------------------|------------------------|
|-----------|-------------------------|------------------------|



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| Life Expectancy at Birth | ~ 67.70 years (2024) up from ~67.47 in 2023. | Slow but steady improvements in life expectancy. Reflects improvements in child survival, disease control, etc. |
| Under-Five Mortality Rate (U5MR) | ~ 34.8 deaths per 1,000 live births (recent) Estimated ~39.9 per 1,000 in 2023. | U5MR has declined markedly over past decades (from ~115/1000 in 2003 to ~40-35+ now). However, still above the SDG target of 25 per 1,000 by 2030. |
| Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) | ~ 379–594 deaths per 100,000 live births depending on source/report. Also model estimates suggest ~149 deaths/100,000 for some years (but these seem lower / from different modeling inputs). | Kenya has made progress, but maternal mortality remains high, far above the SDG target (< 70/100,000). Discrepancies in reported numbers reflect different measurement methods, data collection, and definitions. |
| HIV/AIDS Prevalence & HIV Burden | ~ 3.3–3.7% HIV prevalence among adults (15-49) in recent years. ~ 1.37-1.40 million Kenyans living with HIV. | Higher prevalence among women (~5.3%) vs men (~2.6%) in many estimates. Significant geographic variation: some counties have much higher burdens. |
| Health Facility Readiness and Capacity | Based on the 2023 National Health Facility Census : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14,883 health facilities assessed across all counties. Many facilities lack basic equipment and capacity. For example, majority of facilities that offer specialized outpatient services include | Suggests that while many facilities exist, many are under-equipped or under-staffed to offer full essential health services. This affects quality and outcomes. |



| | | |
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| | <p>obstetrics/gynaecology (~69%), paediatrics (~61%), general surgery (~57%), internal medicine (~57%).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical gaps in equipment, staffing, etc. | |
| Health Funding / Expenditure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government health spending projected to increase: from KSh 107.52 billion in FY2023/24 to KSh 121.97 billion in the next financial year. ~13.5% increase. • Earlier, a near doubling was projected: from Sh88.1 billion in 2022/23 to Sh161.8 billion in 2023/24. | <p>Increased funding is positive, especially for infrastructure and operational costs. However, the question is whether resources are efficiently deployed and whether increases keep up with inflation, population growth, and rising health needs.</p> |
| Key Causes of Perinatal / Neonatal Deaths / Maternal Complications | <p>From recent reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complications of placenta, cord, membranes slightly up (from ~16.7% → ~17.7%) of perinatal deaths. • Maternal complications during pregnancy decreased (from ~20.8% to ~17.4%). • “No maternal conditions identified” category remains large (~35%) in perinatal death reports. | <p>Indicates that many perinatal deaths do not have a clearly identified maternal cause (which may be data quality issues). Also, the rise in some complications suggests the need to strengthen antenatal care, obstetric services.</p> |

3.4.2 Strengths and Weaknesses

3.4.2.1 Strengths / What is Going Well

- **Decline in Child Mortality:** Kenya has recorded a notable reduction in child mortality over the years, with significant drops in under-five and infant mortality rates. This



reflects improvements in maternal and child healthcare services, better access to immunization, and expanded community health programs.

- **Increased Facility Birth Rates:** More mothers are choosing health facilities for childbirth, a sign of growing trust in the healthcare system. For example, Kisumu County reported a rise in facility deliveries from around 69% in 2021 to 94% in 2023, highlighting progress in maternal health and safety.
- **Vaccination Coverage:** Immunization programs remain strong, with about 80% of children aged 12–23 months receiving full basic vaccinations, protecting against major childhood illnesses.
- **Health Investment:** Incremental increases in health expenditure and infrastructure upgrades continue to strengthen service delivery across counties.

3.4.2.2 Key Challenges

Health Financing Models

- **Out-of-Pocket Expenditure:** A large proportion of Kenyans continue to finance healthcare directly from their pockets, creating major financial barriers to accessing timely and quality care. This disproportionately affects low-income households, forcing many to delay or forego medical treatment due to costs. While the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF, soon transitioning to SHIF) has expanded, coverage remains far from universal. Informal sector workers, who make up a significant part of the economy, are especially excluded, leaving millions without reliable protection against health expenses.
- **Underfunded Insurance Schemes:** Public health insurance schemes, including NHIF/SHIF, face persistent challenges of underfunding, low contribution rates, and weak sustainability mechanisms. Inadequate premiums, irregular contributions, and limited pooling of resources hinder the schemes' capacity to cover comprehensive services. Coverage gaps leave many citizens unprotected, and frequent complaints about inefficiency and corruption further erode public confidence in health insurance as a sustainable financing model.

Public Health Challenges



- **Disease Burden:** Kenya continues to grapple with a dual disease burden that places immense pressure on the health system. Infectious diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, and tuberculosis remain widespread, particularly in rural and low-income communities. At the same time, there is a sharp rise in non-communicable diseases (NCDs) like diabetes, hypertension, cancer, and heart disease, driven by urbanization, changing lifestyles, and poor dietary habits. This dual challenge strains already limited resources, requiring simultaneous investment in prevention, treatment, and long-term management.
- **Outbreaks and Epidemics:** The country is vulnerable to recurrent outbreaks of diseases such as cholera and measles, and remains at risk of global threats like Ebola. These emergencies often demand urgent responses, overstretch health facilities, and disrupt ongoing public health programs.

Cultural and Socioeconomic Barriers

- **Health Illiteracy:** A significant portion of the population, particularly in rural and marginalized areas, lacks adequate knowledge about healthcare services, disease prevention, and healthy practices. This gap in awareness leads to delayed care-seeking behaviors, self-medication, and the persistence of preventable diseases. It also weakens the effectiveness of public health campaigns.
- **Gender and Social Inequality:** Deeply entrenched cultural norms and gender roles often limit women's and marginalized groups' ability to access healthcare. In many conservative or rural communities, women may require spousal consent to seek care, limiting timely treatment. Reproductive and maternal health services are especially affected, leading to higher risks for mothers and children.
- **Stigma:** Social stigma remains a major barrier to treatment and care, particularly for individuals with HIV/AIDS, mental health conditions, or reproductive health needs. Fear of discrimination discourages people from seeking help, resulting in worsened health outcomes.

Health Infrastructure



- **Inadequate Health Facilities:** Many parts of Kenya, particularly rural and remote areas, continue to face shortages of hospitals, clinics, and dispensaries. Existing facilities are often understaffed, overcrowded, or lack the necessary equipment and medicines to provide quality care. This strains the system and forces patients to travel long distances for basic services.
- **Poor Distribution of Resources:** Health infrastructure is heavily concentrated in urban centers, leaving rural and marginalized communities underserved. The imbalance in resource allocation creates inequalities in access to care, limiting opportunities for timely diagnosis, treatment, and emergency response in these areas.

Shortage of Healthcare Personnel

- **Brain Drain:** Kenya faces a persistent challenge of losing skilled healthcare professionals to migration. Many doctors, nurses, and specialists seek better salaries, working conditions, and career opportunities abroad or in the private sector. This high attrition rate leaves the public health system understaffed, particularly in critical areas such as maternal care, emergency medicine, and specialized treatments. The loss of trained personnel reduces the country's return on investment in medical education and strains the capacity of remaining workers.
- **Unequal Distribution:** Healthcare personnel are heavily concentrated in urban centers, leaving rural, remote, and marginalized areas underserved. This uneven distribution results in inequities in access to quality healthcare, with rural populations facing longer waiting times, reduced service quality, and higher health risks.

3.4.3 Our agenda

3.4.3.1 Short-Term Strategies (1-2 years):

1. Increase Emergency Funding and Resource Allocation:

- **Boost Health Budgeting:** Allocate more funding to critical health areas, particularly emergency responses like disease outbreaks and maternal and child health. Ensure that health financing is prioritized in national and county budgets.



- **Temporary Support for Rural Areas:** Deploy mobile clinics and temporary health facilities in underserved rural and remote areas to address immediate healthcare gaps.

2. **Strengthen Healthcare Workforce:**

- **Short-Term Recruitment:** Temporarily increase the recruitment of health professionals (doctors, nurses, medical staff) to address urgent staffing shortages, especially in rural and underserved areas.
- **Incentives and Retention Plans:** Offer retention incentives (e.g., allowances or housing benefits) for health workers to remain in under-resourced regions and reduce migration to urban centers.

3. **Expand Access to Health Insurance and Subsidies:**

- **Expand NHIF Coverage:** Introduce measures to quickly expand the coverage of the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF), especially for informal sector workers and vulnerable populations.
- **Increase Subsidies for Essential Services:** Provide targeted subsidies for essential health services, such as maternal care and immunization, to reduce out-of-pocket expenditure in the short term.

4. **Improve Disease Surveillance and Response:**

- **Strengthen Surveillance Systems:** Implement rapid disease surveillance and reporting systems, especially for infectious diseases like cholera, malaria, and HIV/AIDS, to allow for faster responses.
- **Public Health Campaigns:** Launch immediate health education campaigns on disease prevention, hygiene, and sanitation to mitigate the impact of disease outbreaks.

3.4.3.2 Medium-Term Strategies (3-5 years):

1. **Infrastructure Improvement:**

- **Upgrade and Expand Health Facilities:** Invest in building and upgrading health infrastructure in both urban and rural areas. This includes expanding hospitals, upgrading rural health centers, and improving basic amenities like water and electricity in healthcare facilities.



- **Develop Health Supply Chains:** Improve the supply chain for medical products, including essential drugs, vaccines, and medical equipment, ensuring reliable and timely distribution across the country.

2. Capacity Building and Health Workforce Development:

- **Train Healthcare Workers:** Develop and implement training programs to upskill health professionals, including community health workers, nurses, and doctors, to improve the quality of care.
- **Incentive Structures for Rural Deployment:** Build longer-term incentive structures for healthcare workers in underserved areas, such as housing allowances, career development, and better working conditions.

3. Health Insurance and Financing Reforms:

- **Strengthen Public Health Insurance:** Reform and expand the SHIF to cover more populations, particularly in informal sectors. Explore additional funding models such as community health insurance schemes.
- **Innovative Financing for Health Programs:** Explore partnerships with international agencies, the private sector, and NGOs to mobilize additional funds for essential health programs, particularly for maternal and child health and emergency care.

4. Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):

- **Engage the Private Sector:** Build partnerships with the private sector to improve service delivery, particularly in areas such as diagnostic services, supply chain management, and healthcare infrastructure.
- **Private Financing for Health Programs:** Explore the role of private financing and investment in areas like pharmaceuticals, medical technologies, and health insurance coverage to supplement public resources.

5. Improve Health Data Systems:

- **Establish Integrated Health Information Systems:** Implement robust data management systems for tracking health outcomes, patient records, and service utilization. Use data for evidence-based planning and decision-making.



- **Strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E):** Ensure proper monitoring of health programs and provide regular feedback loops to ensure programs are effective and efficient.

3.4.3.3 Long-Term Strategies (5+ years):

1. Universal Health Coverage (UHC):

- **Fully Implement UHC:** Make significant strides toward universal health coverage by ensuring that all Kenyans, regardless of income or location, can access affordable healthcare services. This will involve expanding public health insurance schemes and integrating them with national health services.
- **Equitable Health System:** Focus on closing the gap between urban and rural healthcare services by decentralizing health services and ensuring that marginalized groups, including people in remote areas and low-income families, receive equal care.

2. Health Systems Strengthening:

- **Establish a National Health Workforce Policy:** Develop long-term policies for the recruitment, training, and distribution of healthcare professionals across the country, especially in rural areas. This includes expanding the capacity of medical schools and training institutions.
- **Integrated and Decentralized Services:** Strengthen the healthcare system by further decentralizing services to counties, ensuring that health services are better tailored to local needs and more effectively managed.

3. Sustainable Financing Models:

- **Progressive Taxation for Health:** Implement progressive taxation mechanisms to finance healthcare programs, ensuring that wealthier individuals and corporations contribute more to public health funding.
- **Sustainability of NHIF:** Reform the NHIF to ensure it is financially sustainable, expanding coverage, improving service delivery, and integrating it with other healthcare financing systems for broader coverage.

4. Social Determinants of Health (SDH) Approach:



- **Address Social Inequalities:** Implement long-term strategies that address the social determinants of health, such as poverty, education, housing, sanitation, and nutrition. This holistic approach can reduce the burden on the healthcare system by preventing diseases in the first place.
- **Promote Health Equity:** Focus on reducing health disparities between regions and populations through targeted interventions that address both medical and social needs.

5. Research and Development:

- **Invest in Health Research:** Increase funding for health research, particularly in areas like infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, and local health challenges. This can help Kenya develop more effective and context-specific health solutions.
- **Innovation in Health Delivery:** Support innovation in healthcare delivery through technology (e.g., telemedicine, mobile health) to expand access to services, especially in rural and remote areas.

3.4.4 Grassroots Implementation Measures

- Expand **dispensaries and health centers** in every ward, with priority for remote areas.
- Train and deploy more **Community Health Volunteers (CHVs)** to households for preventive health.
- Introduce **mobile clinics** to serve pastoralist and hard-to-reach communities.
- Provide **ward-level health funds** to support maternal, child, and emergency healthcare.

3.5 Education

Democratic socialists believe that education should be treated as a universal right, not a commodity. This contrasts with the neoliberal approach, which often treats education as a service to be purchased. A central tenet is that every individual, regardless of their economic background, should have access to high-quality education from early childhood through higher education. One of the primary goals of democratic socialists is to ensure that education at all levels (including higher education) is free or heavily subsidized. This approach is based on the



belief that education should not be a privilege for the wealthy but a common good accessible to all citizens. It supports the idea of free public schooling, free college or vocational training, and eliminating student debt. This manifesto seeks to address the following challenges:

Here's a summary of recent statistical data on the status of education in Kenya, including strengths, challenges, and some regional/structural details. If you want, I can also pull up comparative data (by county, income, etc.).

3.5.1 Key Statistics & Trends

| Aspect | Data / Figures | Implication |
|--|--|--|
| Pre-primary, Primary, and Junior Secondary Institutions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2023, Kenya had 47,666 registered pre-primary schools (32,461 public; 15,205 private). Primary schools (2023): 35,570 total (23,831 public; 11,739 private). Pre-primary enrolment in 2024: ~2.91 million pupils, up from 2.88 million in 2023. | <p>The infrastructure is expanding, especially at early childhood levels.</p> <p>Private school participation is non-negligible. Growth in pre-primary suggests focus on early learning.</p> |
| Transition Rates (Primary → Junior Secondary / Secondary) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary to Junior Secondary (Grade 6 → JSS): ~96% national transition rate. Transition from primary to secondary (Form 1): ~91% in recent reports. However, over 130,000 pupils who sat primary exams in 2023 had <i>not</i> reported to secondary / Form One as of certain cut-off dates. | <p>High but imperfect transition; still gaps, especially in follow-through to secondary school in some areas/cases.</p> <p>Efforts are being made (government “mop up” exercises) to reach 100%.</p> |



| | | |
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| Completion & Dropouts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary school completion is variable: national average ~84%, but with severe regional disparities (e.g. ~59% in North Eastern, ~73% Coast, ~97% in Central). Survival to Class 6: Boys ~92.9%, Girls ~96.2%; Survival to Class 8 (end of primary): Boys ~79.7%, Girls ~86.2%. Secondary retention is weaker: many dropouts or delays before completion. | While entry/enrolment is high, retention and completion (especially by end of primary and into/through secondary) remain problematic, especially for boys and in marginalized areas. |
| Adult Education / Literacy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult education enrolment dropped ~9.5% from 2022 to 2023: from ~138,628 learners to ~125,402. Female adult learners constitute ~63.1% of those enrolled. Literacy rate (age 15+) in 2022: ~82.9%. | Adult learning is declining, which could undermine lifelong learning, workforce skills, and equity. Literacy is fairly high but there is still a sizable portion of population not literate. |
| Inequalities & Regional Disparities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regions like North Eastern suffer low primary completion (~59%) vs Central (~97%). Counties such as Kajiado, Narok, Isiolo, Kilifi report lower transition to secondary Form One (some <80% or even ~64%) compared to | These gaps show that simply increasing national averages isn't enough: location, gender, economic status matter a lot. Marginalized and remote communities lag behind. |



| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | <p>many other counties (>95%+).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More boys than girls drop out before completing primary; girls have higher completion rates. | |
| Curriculum / Assessment Changes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With phasing out of Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) (2023), Kenya introduced new assessments like the KPSEA for Grade 6. • Number of basic learning institutions rose sharply; junior secondary schools now make up ~25% of all basic learning institutions. | <p>This reflects reforms (like Competency-Based Curriculum, CBC) and structural changes in the system. The implementation of these is likely to affect how learning, progression, and outcomes evolve.</p> |

3.5.2 Strengths and Weaknesses

3.5.2.1 Strengths

- **High Transition Rates:** Kenya has made significant progress in ensuring that more learners successfully transition from one education level to the next. Policies aimed at achieving universal access to basic education have produced measurable results, with many regions recording impressive movement from primary to junior secondary levels. This demonstrates growing inclusivity and an expanding reach of the education system.
- **Growth in School Infrastructure:** The establishment of more schools, particularly at the pre-primary and junior secondary levels, has improved access to education across the country. Expanded infrastructure reduces overcrowding, shortens travel distances for learners in rural areas, and supports the government's goal of making education available to all.



- **Gender Parity:** Kenya has achieved or come close to gender parity in enrolment, especially at the primary level. Boys and girls now have fairly similar enrolment rates, marking progress toward equal opportunities in education.

3.5.2 Key challenges in the education sector in Kenya

Inadequate Infrastructure and Resources

- **Overcrowded Classrooms:** One of the most pressing challenges in Kenya's education sector is overcrowded classrooms. Rapid population growth and the push toward universal access to basic education have increased student enrolment, but investment in facilities has not kept pace. In many public schools, a single teacher may be responsible for over 60 learners, limiting the effectiveness of teaching. Overcrowding reduces interaction, discourages creativity, and leads to high student-to-teacher ratios that compromise quality.
- **Lack of Teaching Materials:** Many schools, especially in rural and marginalized communities, operate with an acute shortage of textbooks, teaching aids, laboratory equipment, and digital learning tools. The lack of resources widens the gap between urban and rural learners, creating inequalities in academic performance and future opportunities. In the digital era, insufficient access to computers and internet connectivity further disadvantages learners in remote areas.
- **Poor School Buildings:** A large number of schools operate in dilapidated or temporary structures. Some classrooms are poorly ventilated, lack proper desks, or are built with weak materials that pose safety risks. Others lack access to electricity, clean drinking water, and adequate sanitation facilities. Such conditions negatively affect the learning environment and, in some cases, discourage attendance, particularly among girls who need proper sanitation during menstruation.

Teacher Shortages and Quality

- **Insufficient Teachers:** There is a shortage of qualified teachers, particularly in rural and remote areas. The ratio of teachers to students in many public schools is high, which



affects the quality of education. The data on Teacher Shortage in Kenya is as illustrated here below

1. **Primary Schools:** Kenya has an estimated shortage of over 100,000 teachers in primary schools, according to reports from the Teachers Service Commission (TSC). This shortage is most severe in rural and underserved areas.
2. **Secondary Schools:** There is also a shortage of approximately 60,000 teachers in secondary schools. This is largely due to the increasing number of students and the expansion of secondary education.
3. **Teacher-to-Student Ratio:** The ideal teacher-to-student ratio in Kenya is 1:40 for primary schools and 1:25 for secondary schools. However, many schools are struggling with ratios much higher than this.
4. **Regional Disparities:** The shortage is more acute in specific regions, particularly in marginalized and rural areas, where schools often face greater difficulty attracting qualified teachers.

- **Underpaid and Overworked Teachers:** Teachers in Kenya often work in challenging conditions and may be underpaid or lack proper incentives. This can lead to low morale, absenteeism, and a lack of motivation, further affecting the quality of education.
- **Professional Development:** There is a gap in continuous professional development opportunities for teachers. This limits their ability to improve teaching methods and adapt to new curricula or educational technologies.

Equity and Access

- **Rural vs. Urban Divide:** There are significant disparities in education quality between urban and rural areas. Students in rural areas often face greater barriers to accessing quality education, including fewer schools, longer distances to travel, and inadequate resources.
- **Gender Disparities:** While gender parity in primary education has improved, girls in rural areas still face barriers such as early marriage, cultural practices, and teenage pregnancies that hinder their education.



- **Special Needs Education:** There is limited access to education for children with disabilities, with few specialized schools, inadequate training for teachers, and a lack of resources to support inclusive education.

High Dropout Rates

- **Economic Barriers:** Many families in Kenya cannot afford the cost of education, even though primary education is free. School uniforms, textbooks, and exam fees can be prohibitively expensive, leading to high dropout rates, especially at the secondary level.
- **Child Labor and Early Marriages:** Economic hardship in many households results in children being sent to work or married off early, depriving them of the chance to complete their education.
- **Teenage Pregnancy:** Teenage pregnancy, particularly in rural areas, is a significant barrier to education for girls. Many young mothers drop out of school due to social stigma, lack of support, and inadequate facilities to accommodate pregnant students.

Curriculum and Examination System

- **Rigid Curriculum:** The education system in Kenya has been criticized for being rigid and overly focused on rote learning. There is limited emphasis on critical thinking, creativity, and practical skills that are relevant to the needs of the labor market and the modern economy.
- **Exam-Centered Education:** The national examination system places immense pressure on students and teachers, leading to a culture of "teaching to the test." This can undermine the development of holistic, well-rounded individuals and contribute to high-stress levels among students.
- **Inadequate Career Guidance:** Many students, particularly in secondary school, lack proper guidance on career paths, vocational training opportunities, or alternative routes to success outside of university education.

Funding and Management



- **Underfunded Education Sector:** Despite efforts to increase funding for education, the sector remains underfunded relative to the needs. This affects the implementation of key programs, infrastructure development, and provision of learning materials.
- **Corruption and Mismanagement:** Corruption and poor management at various levels of the education system, from local government to national ministries, can divert resources away from where they are most needed, further exacerbating challenges in schools.
- **Inadequate Government Support for Private Institutions:** While public schools face challenges, many private institutions, especially those in the informal sector, operate without sufficient regulation or support, often providing substandard education to marginalized communities.

3.5.3 Our agenda

3.5.3.1 Short-Term Interventions (1-2 years)

1. **Improved Funding for Schools:** Increase funding for public schools to ensure the provision of basic teaching materials (e.g., textbooks, chalk, computers). Priority should be given to under-resourced schools, particularly in rural areas.
2. **Teacher Support:** Provide teachers with immediate training in critical areas such as classroom management, use of technology, and coping with overcrowded classrooms. Short-term incentives like increased allowances or better working conditions can also be introduced.
3. **School Infrastructure Repairs:** Prioritize urgent infrastructure improvements, such as repairing dilapidated buildings, ensuring clean water and sanitation facilities, and providing basic electricity to schools.
4. **Subsidies for School Costs:** Introduce subsidies for uniforms, textbooks, and exam fees for low-income families to reduce financial barriers that contribute to school dropouts.
5. **Address Gender Disparities:** Implement targeted programs to reduce early marriages and teenage pregnancies, such as community outreach and partnerships with local leaders, and improve access to sanitary products for girls.



6. **Emergency Support for Students:** Provide mental health support and remote learning solutions (e.g., radio and TV programs) to address the impact of COVID-19 disruptions and to mitigate learning losses.

3.5.3.2 Medium-Term Interventions (3-5 years)

1. **Curriculum Reform:** Review and revise the national curriculum to make it more flexible, relevant, and focused on skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, and digital literacy. This would also include integrating vocational training into mainstream education.
2. **Expansion of Teacher Training Programs:** Develop continuous professional development programs for teachers, especially in rural areas, to improve their capacity to deliver quality education. This could also include increasing the number of teacher training colleges.
3. **Increased Access to Technology:** Expand digital literacy programs, ensure that all schools have reliable access to the internet and modern teaching tools, and provide training for teachers on how to effectively integrate technology into lessons.
4. **Expansion of Vocational and Technical Education:** Develop and expand TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) programs to provide alternative pathways to employment and reduce the cultural stigma around vocational training. Collaborate with industries to align training programs with market needs.
5. **Strengthening School-Community Partnerships:** Engage communities and local governments in school management and decision-making. Promote awareness campaigns on the importance of education, especially for girls, and encourage local support for school infrastructure.
6. **Gender-Sensitive Education Programs:** Launch campaigns to reduce dropout rates among girls, especially in rural areas, by providing scholarships, creating girl-friendly school environments, and addressing social and cultural barriers.



3.5.3.3 Long-Term Interventions (5+ years)

1. **Universal Access to Quality Education:** Ensure all children, including those with disabilities, have access to free, high-quality education at all levels. This involves building new schools in underserved areas, improving existing ones, and ensuring accessibility for children with special needs.
2. **Comprehensive Education Financing Strategy:** Develop a sustainable, long-term strategy to ensure sufficient and consistent funding for education. This could include increasing government allocation to the education sector, implementing innovative financing mechanisms, and addressing issues of corruption and mismanagement.
3. **Decentralized Education Management:** Strengthen local governance and school autonomy by empowering local authorities to make decisions regarding curriculum, teacher recruitment, and infrastructure development based on local needs.
4. **Nationwide Digital Education Integration:** Establish a nationwide digital education strategy that ensures all schools are equipped with internet, modern computers, and e-learning platforms. This strategy should also include bridging the rural-urban digital divide.
5. **Comprehensive Reform of the Examination System:** Overhaul the national examination system to reduce its focus on rote memorization and encourage the development of critical thinking and creativity. This could include continuous assessment models and more holistic evaluation methods.
6. **Social Protection Programs:** Develop and expand social protection programs (e.g., conditional cash transfers, school feeding programs) to support the most vulnerable children and encourage school attendance, particularly in disadvantaged areas.
7. **Sustainable Teacher Recruitment and Retention:** Implement long-term strategies to recruit and retain teachers in rural areas, including improved salaries, career development opportunities, and housing allowances. Strengthen teacher unions to advocate for better working conditions and policies.
8. **Public-Private Partnerships:** Encourage private sector involvement in educational infrastructure and curriculum development to foster innovation. Ensure that the private



sector's role is regulated to prevent the commercialization of education and ensure equitable access for all students.

3.5.4 Grassroots Implementation Measures

- Build **pre-primary and junior secondary schools** in underserved villages.
- Establish **ward-level bursary committees** to ensure fair and transparent allocation of scholarships.
- Provide **community learning centers** for adult literacy and vocational training.
- Equip rural schools with **solar-powered ICT hubs** to bridge the digital divide.

3.6 Environmental Sustainability

Democratic socialism and environmental sustainability are two concepts that are often linked due to shared values around equity, justice, and long-term well-being for both people and the planet. Democratic socialism is a political and economic ideology that advocates for both political democracy and social ownership of the means of production, with an emphasis on reducing economic inequality, protecting workers' rights, and promoting social welfare. Environmental sustainability focuses on meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, especially in terms of maintaining ecological balance and reducing environmental degradation. This manifesto seeks to address the prevailing environmental sustainability challenges.

3.6.1 Key Environmental Indicators & Trends in Kenya

| Dimension | Data / Figures | Source & Notes |
|----------------------------------|--|---|
| Forest Cover, Loss & Degradation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kenya loses ~ 84,716 hectares of forest per year to deforestation; ~ 14,934 hectares annually to degradation.• Natural forest loss in 2022 was ~ 6,290 hectares.• Forests cover about 8.83% of | <p>Forest cover remains under pressure. The degree of loss is significant, both ecologically (e.g. biodiversity, water catchments) and economically. The restoration goal is ambitious, but likely necessary.</p> |



| | | |
|---|--|--|
| | <p>Kenya's land area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degradation costs the economy ~ Sh 534 billion annually (~3% of GDP). • Kenya has committed to restoring ~ 10.6 million hectares of degraded forest land by 2032 as part of its restoration strategy. | |
| Renewable Energy & Energy Mix | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable energy accounts for ~ 86.98% of electricity generated in Kenya (report for FY ending 2022). • Electricity generation mix: geothermal, hydro, wind, solar are significant; thermal/fossil sources are a small part. | Strong performance in clean electricity is a positive sign for climate mitigation. However, the full energy consumption (household cooking, transport, etc.) may still rely heavily on non-renewables / biomass. |
| Land Degradation / Ecosystems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over 20% of Kenya's landmass is degraded. • Degradation of forests and landscapes is contributing large annual losses of forest land. | Degraded land affects agricultural productivity, water supply, soil fertility, resilience to climate shocks. Restoring degraded land is crucial for sustainability. |
| Pollution & Environmental Health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to Numbeo (crowdsourced), Kenya has moderate to high levels of air pollution, water pollution, dissatisfaction with garbage disposal, etc. • Indoor air pollution (from biomass burning) is a major health hazard, contributing to | Pollution is a dual environmental and public health concern. Not all data is high-quality or official, but points to important issues especially in urban areas and informal settlements. |



| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | respiratory illnesses. | |
| Forest Financial & Policy Commitments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kenya aims to increase tree cover from the current level (≈9-12%) up toward 30% under its National Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Strategy. There is a plan to plant 15 billion trees by 2032. | These are ambitious policy goals. Their success will depend heavily on implementation, funding, community participation, and monitoring. |

3.6.2 Strengths and Weaknesses

3.6.2.1 Strengths & Positive Trends

- High Share of Electricity from Renewables:** Kenya stands out globally as one of the leading countries in the use of renewable energy. Over 85% of the country's electricity is generated from renewable sources such as geothermal, hydro, wind, and solar power. This transition not only reduces the nation's carbon footprint but also shields the economy from the volatility of global fossil fuel prices. Such reliance on clean energy contributes significantly to climate change mitigation and positions Kenya as a regional leader in green energy innovation.
- Policy Commitments for Restoration:** The government and stakeholders have made notable policy commitments toward restoring degraded ecosystems. Ambitious programs such as the plan to plant billions of trees and restore millions of hectares of land demonstrate Kenya's dedication to reversing decades of environmental degradation and deforestation. If effectively implemented, these initiatives will improve biodiversity, combat desertification, enhance water catchments, and strengthen climate resilience for communities that rely heavily on natural resources.
- Economic Recognition of Environmental Loss:** Kenya has taken commendable steps in quantifying the financial cost of environmental degradation, estimated at about KSh 534 billion annually (roughly 3% of GDP). By translating ecological damage into measurable economic terms, policymakers and citizens are more likely to appreciate the urgency of



conservation. This recognition strengthens the case for robust environmental governance, as protecting natural resources is not only an ecological imperative but also an economic necessity.

3.6.2.2 Key challenges

Weak Enforcement of Environmental Regulations

- **Challenge:** Kenya has established a comprehensive framework of environmental laws and regulations, including the Environmental Management and Coordination Act (EMCA). However, the actual enforcement of these laws remains weak. The main issues include insufficient funding for environmental agencies, limited staffing, corruption, and at times, a lack of political commitment to prioritize environmental protection.
- **Impact:** This enforcement gap allows illegal activities such as logging, sand harvesting, illegal mining, and poaching to continue largely unchecked. These practices accelerate deforestation, land degradation, loss of biodiversity, and depletion of natural resources. Ultimately, the weak enforcement undermines Kenya's progress toward sustainable development and makes it difficult to address long-term environmental threats effectively.

Deforestation and Land Degradation

- **Challenge:** Deforestation remains one of the most pressing environmental challenges in Kenya, primarily driven by logging, agricultural expansion, and the widespread use of charcoal as a household energy source. Alongside this, land degradation is fueled by overgrazing, poor land-use planning, and unsustainable farming practices that deplete soil fertility and strip vegetation cover.
- **Impact:** These activities accelerate biodiversity loss, disrupt ecosystems, and increase carbon emissions, thereby worsening climate change. Soil erosion becomes more severe, reducing agricultural productivity, contaminating water sources, and threatening food security. Ultimately, deforestation and land degradation undermine rural livelihoods and long-term environmental sustainability.

Climate Change and Vulnerability



- **Challenge:** Kenya is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as droughts, floods, and changing rainfall patterns. Many communities depend on rain-fed agriculture, making them especially vulnerable to these shifts.
- **Impact:** Climate change threatens food security, water resources, and agricultural productivity, which in turn affects poverty levels and economic stability. Addressing climate change requires large-scale adaptation and mitigation strategies, but funding and capacity are often limited.

Inadequate Funding and Resource Allocation

- **Challenge:** Environmental programs in Kenya often suffer from insufficient funding and poor allocation of resources. Government agencies responsible for the environment, such as the Ministry of Environment and Forestry and the Kenya Forest Service, frequently face budget constraints.
- **Impact:** Limited financial resources reduce the capacity to implement and monitor environmental programs effectively, making it difficult to achieve long-term sustainability goals.

Population Growth and Urbanization

- **Challenge:** Kenya's rapidly growing population and urbanization put increasing pressure on natural resources. This leads to the expansion of settlements into ecologically sensitive areas, over-exploitation of resources, and increased waste generation.
- **Impact:** The growing demand for land, water, and energy exacerbates environmental degradation and pollution, particularly in urban areas like Nairobi and Mombasa.

Poor Waste Management

- **Challenge:** Waste management, especially in urban areas, is a major environmental issue in Kenya. Poor waste collection, inadequate disposal systems, and limited recycling initiatives contribute to pollution and the accumulation of plastic waste.
- **Impact:** This leads to clogged drainage systems, water pollution, and environmental hazards, including harm to wildlife and human health.



Political and Institutional Instability

- **Challenge:** Kenya has experienced periods of political instability and weak governance, which can affect the implementation of long-term environmental policies. The decentralization of power, while potentially positive, has also resulted in inconsistent environmental management at the local level.
- **Impact:** Political interference, corruption, and mismanagement of environmental resources hinder effective policy implementation and create barriers to accountability and transparency.

Lack of Public Awareness and Education

- **Challenge:** While there is growing awareness of environmental issues, there is still a significant gap in public understanding of sustainable practices and environmental conservation.
- **Impact:** Without widespread public engagement, it is difficult to generate the collective action necessary for effective environmental conservation. Local communities may not fully understand the long-term consequences of their actions, such as deforestation or poor waste disposal.

Over-reliance on Traditional Agriculture

- **Challenge:** Many communities in Kenya still rely on traditional, unsustainable agricultural practices. These include the overuse of chemicals, monocropping, and farming on marginal lands, which degrade soil health and reduce agricultural productivity.
- **Impact:** This leads to decreased food security, poor agricultural yields, and long-term damage to ecosystems.

3.6.3 Our agenda



3.6.3.1 Short-Term Strategies (1-2 Years)

These strategies focus on immediate actions that have quick impacts, raise awareness, and lay the groundwork for longer-term success.

1. Public Awareness and Education Campaigns

- **Action:** Launch national and local campaigns to educate the public on sustainable practices, such as waste reduction, energy conservation, water saving, and recycling.
- **Objective:** Increase awareness of environmental issues and engage citizens in sustainable behaviors.

2. Strengthen Environmental Law Enforcement

- **Action:** Enhance the enforcement of existing environmental regulations, such as those related to illegal logging, pollution control, and waste management.
- **Objective:** Demonstrate commitment to protecting the environment and deter illegal activities.

3. Promotion of Renewable Energy Solutions

- **Action:** Implement pilot programs for renewable energy (solar, wind, or small-scale hydropower) in off-grid communities or government buildings.
- **Objective:** Reduce reliance on fossil fuels and lower carbon emissions in energy consumption.

4. Waste Management Improvements

- **Action:** Implement community-based waste management programs, including composting, recycling, and reducing single-use plastics.
- **Objective:** Reduce pollution and encourage proper disposal and recycling in urban and rural areas.

5. Promote Sustainable Agriculture Practices

- **Action:** Support smallholder farmers with training on sustainable agricultural practices, such as crop rotation, organic farming, and integrated pest management.
- **Objective:** Increase soil health, conserve water, and reduce reliance on harmful chemicals.

6. Pilot Green Infrastructure Projects



- **Action:** Start small-scale projects such as green roofs, urban gardens, or rainwater harvesting in cities to demonstrate the benefits of sustainable infrastructure.
- **Objective:** Build local capacity and showcase the effectiveness of green infrastructure.

3.6.3.2 Medium-Term Strategies (3-5 Years)

These strategies involve scaling up successful short-term initiatives, improving systems, and making structural changes to support long-term environmental goals.

1. Expansion of Renewable Energy Infrastructure

- **Action:** Scale up investments in renewable energy projects, such as solar farms, wind energy, and geothermal, to increase access to clean energy in both urban and rural areas.
- **Objective:** Diversify energy sources, reduce fossil fuel dependence, and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Development of Green Jobs and Training Programs

- **Action:** Create training programs for green jobs in sectors such as renewable energy, environmental monitoring, sustainable agriculture, and waste management.
- **Objective:** Provide employment opportunities while fostering skills in environmentally sustainable practices.

3. Strengthen Environmental Governance and Institutions

- **Action:** Strengthen the capacity of environmental agencies and local authorities to implement sustainability policies and programs effectively, including training in environmental law enforcement, monitoring, and data collection.
- **Objective:** Build more robust and efficient institutions that can manage and implement sustainability programs.

4. Promote Sustainable Urban Planning

- **Action:** Integrate sustainability into urban development plans, such as promoting green building standards, energy-efficient public transportation, and smart city technologies.



- **Objective:** Ensure that urban expansion follows principles of sustainability, reducing environmental impact and improving quality of life.

5. Ecosystem Restoration Projects

- **Action:** Initiate medium-scale ecosystem restoration programs, such as reforestation, wetland rehabilitation, and soil conservation in degraded areas.
- **Objective:** Restore ecological balance, enhance biodiversity, and improve local environmental conditions.

6. Establish Climate Change DEKptation Plans

- **Action:** Develop and implement climate change DEKptation strategies for vulnerable sectors such as agriculture, water resources, and coastal communities.
- **Objective:** Increase resilience to the impacts of climate change through practical, community-based approaches.

3.6.3.3 Long-Term Strategies (5+ Years)

These strategies aim for systemic transformation, focusing on deep structural changes and long-term sustainability.

1. Transition to a Circular Economy

- **Action:** Promote policies that support a circular economy, such as product design for reuse, repair, and recycling. This may involve encouraging businesses to adopt sustainable production processes and reducing waste at the consumer level.
- **Objective:** Shift from a linear economy (take, make, dispose) to one that is restorative, reduces resource extraction, and minimizes waste.

2. National Green Energy Grid

- **Action:** Develop a national renewable energy grid to integrate energy from diverse clean sources, such as solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal.
- **Objective:** Provide affordable and sustainable energy to all sectors of society, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and contribute to national climate goals.

3. Integrated Water Resource Management



- **Action:** Implement comprehensive, long-term water management strategies that incorporate efficient irrigation, water recycling, and the protection of natural water bodies (rivers, lakes, and wetlands).
- **Objective:** Ensure sustainable water usage, especially in areas prone to droughts, while improving access to clean water for all communities.

4. Zero-Carbon Transportation Systems

- **Action:** Plan and build integrated, low-carbon public transportation networks that prioritize electric buses, light rail, cycling lanes, and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure.
- **Objective:** Reduce carbon emissions from transportation and promote sustainable, accessible, and equitable mobility.

5. Institutionalizing Sustainability into National Policies

- **Action:** Integrate environmental sustainability into all national policy areas, including education, agriculture, infrastructure, health, and economic development. Establish long-term sustainability goals within the national development plans.
- **Objective:** Ensure that sustainability becomes a core principle guiding all aspects of national governance and development.

6. Green Infrastructure at National Scale

- **Action:** Promote large-scale green infrastructure projects, such as national parks, wildlife corridors, and sustainable urban development, integrating nature-based solutions to address climate and ecological challenges.
- **Objective:** Create a national network of sustainable landscapes that contribute to biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and ecological balance.

7. Global Environmental Leadership and Climate Advocacy

- **Action:** Position the country as a leader in global environmental and climate change negotiations by actively participating in international agreements and setting ambitious targets for emission reductions and environmental protection.
- **Objective:** Contribute to global environmental sustainability and leverage international partnerships for funding and knowledge exchange.



3.6.4 Grassroots Implementation Measures

- Mobilize **community-based tree planting drives** in every ward, tied to local schools and youth groups.
- Support **ward-level climate adaptation projects**, such as water harvesting, irrigation, and afforestation.
- Empower **local forest and water user associations** to monitor and manage natural resources.
- Establish **green jobs programs** (waste collection, recycling, clean energy enterprises) run by youth groups at community level.

4.0 CONCLUSION

The **Democratic Development Party (DEK)** stands at the crossroads of hope and responsibility. At a time when societies are plagued by deepening inequalities, climate and environmental crises, and threats to democratic institutions, our manifesto is not just a policy blueprint — it is a solemn promise. A promise to deliver justice, equity, and sustainability for every citizen, regardless of their background or circumstance.

We envision a nation where democracy is not reduced to periodic elections, but becomes a living process of participation, accountability, and empowerment. Guided firmly by the principles of democratic socialism, we believe that social justice, solidarity, and fairness must define the path of development. Our commitment is to an inclusive economy that prioritizes people over profits, safeguards the environment for future generations, and ensures that no one is left behind.

In this manifesto, we call upon all citizens to dream boldly and act collectively. The DEK is not just a political party — it is a movement of hope and change. Together, through compassion, courage, and unity, we can build a society where opportunity is shared, dignity is upheld, and development truly serves the people — not just the privileged few.

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