



Muungano wa Wanavijiji  
Nairobi Peoples' Settlements Network



# The Peoples' Manifesto

Aspirations and views of the people in  
Nairobi Peoples' Settlements



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# *The Peoples' Manifesto*

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**Nairobi Peoples' Settlements**

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## Introduction

A true manifesto is a product of the aspirations and views of the people especially those who are always excluded and marginalized from the negotiating table.

We, the Network of Peoples' Settlements constitute the majority of the voters in Nairobi. We are the ones who are most often adversely affected by inadequate services, lack of basic services, and insecurity.

We are used as the "cheering crowd" and voting bank by the incumbents and aspirants of political office – civic, parliamentary and presidential. Never, do they find it necessary to involve us in contributing to their lofty promises, policies, plans and manifestos.

We have now decided to change this. We started with the people's budget. Now we are launching our peoples manifesto. We shall no longer accept to be excluded from political processes. The process we have initiated is irreversible and we hope to involve our other brothers and sisters throughout the country.

The process leading to the development of this manifesto was spearheaded by the Nairobi Peoples' Settlement Network, Muungano Wa Wanaviji and the Miss Koch Initiative and involved direct participation of the community groups in all the eight constancies in Nairobi. The manifesto has prioritized the areas that the people demand of the new government. It is but a beginning as we intend, throughout the next five years, to vigorously follow up all those issues using all the power and resources at our disposal. We shall remain vigilant every single day of the five years and the leaders to be elected are put on notice that accountability will be a continuous process. The people have woken up and the journey to genuine and effective participation has begun in earnest.



Putting corrupt and irresponsible leaders on notice

## Issue Statements

### Participation, Legislation and Policy

#### Governance and politics

- Seek views of the people before developing any new public policy
- Promote democratic principles and popular participation by establishing and supporting community structures of governance
- Inculcate human rights practice at all levels of governance
- All political parties should belong to the people and must be seen to be so

#### The Constitution

- Enact a new constitution that promotes peoples' participation
- Put in place mechanisms which will promote and facilitate peoples participation in development of national legislations and local authorities by-laws

#### Transparency & Accountability

- Promote public accountability and access to all public records/information
- Repeal the Officials Secrets Act.
- Enact a Freedom of Information legislation to enable citizens to access all key important public information
- Establish and equip community information and resource centers in all peoples' settlements.

#### Employment

- Create job opportunities and recruit on merit
- Increase the minimum wage provision
- Promote self employment

#### Budgets and Public Finance

- Provide for effective peoples' participation in the national budgeting process
- Reduce tax on essential commodities
- Put measures in place to curb frequent hikes in prices of essential commodities

- Establish a national fund to support small-scale businesses
- Establish a body that will be responsible for salaries and employment benefits of MPs and Councilors

### Devolved Funds

- Provide for a law that will promote effective and direct peoples participation in the use and management of the funds
- Make public auditing mandatory through open and periodic public accountability sessions for all devolved fund projects
- Project identification and prioritization should be done exclusively by the community
- The funds should be managed and projects implemented by the community independent of politicians

### Gender

- Provide equal opportunities to all irrespective of gender
- Ensure fair representation of women at all levels of governance

### Youth

- Stop employment discrimination with a bias on work experience
- Promote and support youth initiatives targeting employment creation
- Extend higher education loan to cater for youths undertaking vocational trainings
- Youth fund is about youths and should be managed entirely by the youths
- Youth fund should be given without favor/political connection

### People with Disabilities (PWD)

- Disability is not inability and therefore Peoples With Disabilities should be treated equally
- Establish special classes, fully equipped and with special personnel, in every school to cater for the education of the Peoples With Disabilities
- Promote and fully support socio-economic initiatives by the People With Disabilities Act
- Operationalize People With Disabilities Act **Children**
- Monitor and ensure the full application of the Child Protection Act
- Listen to the views and opinions of children when making national policies which have effect on their lives

## Land, Security and Infrastructure

### Land/Shelter/Eviction

- Make security of land tenure mandatory and stop all forms of evictions
- Develop and implement eviction legislation that will provide for consultations, participation of the community, compensation and a secure alternative location
- Develop a comprehensive national slum upgrading policy and legislation.
- Give subsidy on building materials/tools for the poor
- Promote slum upgrading initiatives
- Provide security of land tenure to all the peoples' settlements

### Infrastructure

- Build public toilets and sewer lines
- Supply adequate power poles in the slums
- Reduce power connection fees for the poor
- Create access roads in the slums
- Establish a working public transport system to guard the passengers against exploitation *Peoples' Manifesto Harmonization Workshop-3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2007*

### Public utilities

- Establish and equip community social/recreation centers managed by the community in the peoples' settlements
- Train the community on the effective use and management of the utilities
- Reclaim all grabbed utilities
- Improve/provide facilities in the existing utilities

### Sports/Recreation

- Provide for a national sporting policy which will provide guidance for children sporting, nurture talent, provide for appropriate remuneration and the general welfare of the sportsmen/women
- Provide for sporting facilities in the settlements

### Security

- The police should stop the shoot-to-kill culture
- Train the police force in public relation and human rights

- Invest more on intelligence gathering and crime prevention
- Put up more functioning street lights
- Promote community policing
- Police officers should not stay in one area for more than 4 months
- Reform the prisons to be correctional centers and not killing death traps.

### Disasters and Emergencies

- Decentralize fire fighting services to at least every ward
- Facilitate realization of community access roads
- Set aside funds under the devolved fund systems to address disasters and emergencies.
- Educate people on disaster management/response

## Basic Services

### Education

- Provide quality education, employ more teachers and supply schools with adequate learning materials
- Provide Free education from primary to university
- Review the 8-4-4 curriculum to reduce the number of the subjects
- Build more schools especially in the peoples settlement

### Health

- Build, and fully equip, health centers with qualified personnel in every ward
- Health centers to operate 24 hours
- Provide for public maternity in the Peoples Settlement
- Enact a national hospital insurance fund to provide free healthcare for all especially the most vulnerable

### HIV/AIDS

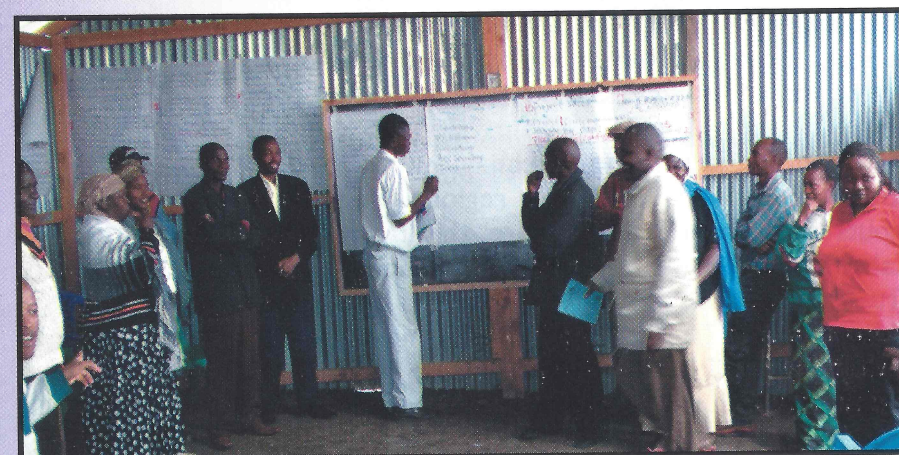
- Provide basic needs to all poor AIDS patients including food and shelter
- Provide free ARVs all patients who cannot afford
- Establish an HIV/AIDS patient friendly insurance policy

### Environment

- Put up refuse disposal sites away from the residential areas
- Provide for waste disposal sites/materials
- Build adequate drainage and sewers for waste waters
- Put up public toilets in the settlements
- Provide for environment friendly and community-managed solid waste management services

### Water

- Facilitate access to clean, affordable and safe water to all
- Preserve water catchments area and plant more trees
- Promote rainwater harvesting and put in place a national water harvest policy
- Provide for free public water and sanitation points.



*Putting their needs and aspirations on paper*

## Profile of Muungano wa Wanavijiji

**M**uungano wa Wanavijiji is a Kiswahili name for slum dwellers federation started in 1996 as a loose network of slums in Nairobi and Athi River. The movement has since then spread to Kisumu, Mombasa, Kitale, Meru, Nakuru, Naivasha, Kiambu, Nyeri, Makindu, Ndia and Siaya.

In Nairobi, Muungano is present in over 120 community-based groups in each of Nairobi's eight constituencies with an estimated population of 10,000 members.

Muungano seeks to improve the quality of life of its members through an extensive process of policy advocacy and dialogue with government (central and local) civil society and private sector organizations. Amongst other strategies, the federation is currently promoting daily savings, community-led enumeration of urban conditions and assets, house and infrastructure modeling and construction.

Muungano operates an urban poverty fund (Akiba Mashinani) coordinated by its local and regional networks with professional inputs by Pamoja Trust. To-date, this facility has managed to raise Ksh 50 million in capital for housing. Amongst others, Akiba Mashinani Trust has financed the construction of over 60 housing units in Kambi Moto, Huruma. The demand for financing has increased tremendously with many applicants seeking finances for land, businesses and water and sanitation.

## Profile of Nairobi Peoples' Settlements Network

**T**he Nairobi Peoples' Settlements Network is an initiative of community groups from various peoples' settlements within Nairobi (formerly called slums). The Network was mooted in October 2005, while planning for the celebration of December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005 World Human Rights Day. The Network was adopted on 10<sup>th</sup>

**D**ecember 2005 at St. John's Catholic Church, Korogocho during the World Human Rights day celebrations.

The main aim was and still is to bring together community groups engaged in various activities in order to improve effectiveness in the use of available resources and to encourage the bottom-up approach to planning through involvement of communities in prioritizing their needs.

The Network is guided by the following objectives;

- To bring together community groups within the people settlements in and outside Nairobi for the purpose of networking on various issues affecting them;
- To identify and bring together partners working within people settlements in order to develop a holistic approach to the existing problems
- To create a forum for lobbying and advocating on matters affecting people in the settlements.
- To facilitate peoples participation in identification, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of projects in the settlement

## Profile of Miss Koch Initiative

Miss Koch Initiative is a renaissance of the Korogocho youth founded in the year 2001. It was established by the youth of Korogocho who came together to respond to the girl rights violations that were rife in the area then. Since its inception Miss Koch has evolved from the search of the girls' emancipation to the fundamental transformation of the entire Korogocho and other non-formal settlements in Kenya.

**Vision:** To create a society that respects and promotes wholesome development of its male and female members.

**Mission:** To provide a platform for the youth of Korogocho, in particular

girls and women to participate effectively in the socio-economic and political development processes.

### Strategic directions

1. Enhance citizens' participation in Governance and development issues.
2. Building a vibrant and empowered girls constituency in Korogocho.
3. Enable youths and other vulnerable persons to take active part on issues of HIV/Aids and sexual & reproductive health care.
4. Increase youth participation in their personal and community development.
5. Establish a significantly visible and reputable movement.

### Programs

Miss Koch has organized its work around four substantive programme divisions:

#### a) WADADA

Girl rights, empowerment and education.

**Programme Goal:** To build a community where girl rights are appreciated, protected and enjoyed.

### Activities

1. Empowering girls to speak up and to lead the community in socio-economic and political affairs.
2. Supporting girls' education both at formal and non- formal spheres.
3. To raise awareness about girl rights in Korogocho.
4. Documentation of girl right abuses and establishment of action and referral system.
5. Establishment of a vibrant gender-responsive network in Korogocho

#### b) DARAJA

Human rights, good governance, peace and conflict management

**Programme Goal:** To promote peace, develop the culture of human rights and ensure good governance in the community and at other levels.

### Activities

1. Build capacity of the community to participate in governance and development programmes.
2. Conducting participatory and activists research studies in Korogocho
3. Strengthening information systems and advocacy networks
4. Conducting accountability campaigns in Korogocho
5. Organizing Peace forums and awards in Korogocho.

#### c) BADILIKA

HIV/Aids and Adolescent Sexual Reproductive Health

**Programme Goal:** To have young people in Korogocho change their risk-taking behavior

### Activities

1. Promoting peer education programmes in Korogocho
2. Raising awareness on HIV/Aids and fostering risk-avoidance skills amongst the youth
3. Addressing the root causes and spread of HIV/Aids Youths amongst the youth.
4. Giving hope and advocating for the rights of people who are living with and HIV/Aids

#### d) BURUDIKA

Talent, skill and capacity development.

**Programme Goal:** To assist youth in Korogocho to identify and nurture talent, skill and capacity to overcome the employment problem that confront them.

### Activities

1. Promote mentoring and rehabilitation programme
2. Identify and establish income generating activities for the youths
3. Promote talent made in Korogocho
4. Organize exchange programmes for youths
5. Rebuild the image of Korogocho

## 6. Creating awareness on various programmes undertaken by the Initiative

### **Our Achievements**

- Establishment of girls' 'Education & Freedom' resource fund.
- Offering education support to needy girls from Korogocho.
- Helping girls to build self esteem & to take leadership roles.
- Linking girls and women struggles in Korogocho.
- Winner *Mayor's Award 2004-Safer cities*
- Winner *Mashinani Award 2005 -Kenya National Commission on Human Rights.*
- Miss Koch 2003 also won the *Eve Young Woman of the Year (2004) Award.*
- Establishing a functional community resource centre in Korogocho
- Promoting talent made in Korogocho.
- Encourage the Youth of Korogocho to take charge of their lives in positive ways
- Enhanced community participation in various campaigns e.g LASDAP
- Creating capacity & skill development opportunities for youths of Korogocho.
- Intensifying horizontal and vertical networking with other organizations.
- Ensuring, visionary leadership, committed membership and elaborate programmatic & financial operations.
- Building a movement that is admired and referenced in various spheres etc.

### **Support us**

Miss Koch has affirmed that people can use their togetherness to demand for their rights and seek credible solutions to their problems. We value your solidarity and welcome you to make your kind contribution to the Initiative.



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