

KENYA KWANZA ALLIANCE WOMEN CHARTER

The Kenya Kwanza Alliance,

INSPIRED by the input of millions of women from diverse geographical, social, cultural and economic backgrounds articulated in our numerous Bottom-Up consultative forums held across our Country;

APPRECIATING that women constitute half of the population of Kenya yet they remain grossly underrepresented in the labour force, economic opportunities and leadership;

RECOGNIZING the existing legal guarantees on women's rights contained in the Constitution and laws of Kenya as well as the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and other international legal instruments applicable to Kenya;

ACKNOWLEDGING the vital role women play in the development of our Nation,

COMMITTED to the ideals of the total inclusion of women in the political, economic and socio-cultural development of our Country;

CONVINCED that the protection, respect and fulfillment of women's rights is a primary duty of Government and the Society;

NOW THEREFORE covenants and commits as follows:

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

ACKNOWLEDGING that the participation of women in the key sectors of our Country's economy is minimal, and further that a vast majority of women remain in low income jobs or enterprises and endure poor working conditions;

WE COMMIT TO:

- Put in place and implement legislative, policy and budgetary measures for elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in the labour market and enterprise;
- Empower millions of women through the Bottom-Up Economic Model;
- Ensure that 50% of the proposed ksh 50 Billion **Hustlers Fund** earmarked for the promotion of micro and small enterprises is allocated to women owned enterprises;
- Increase the existing budgetary allocations to the UWEZO Fund, Women Enterprise Fund (WEF) and the National Government Affirmative Action Fund (NGAAF) and ensure easier and speedier access to these funds by more women;
- Fully enforce the 30% Access to Government Procurement Opportunities (AGPO) regulations and ensure more deserving women benefit from government procurement opportunities;
- Fully actualize AGPO by ensuring that women owned enterprises automatically qualify for LPO financing through the Hustlers' Fund
- Ensure that women owned enterprises automatically qualifies through Hustlers' Fund;
- Provide financial and capacity building support for women-led co-operative societies, *chamas*, merry-go-rounds and table banking initiatives and protect them from predatory interest rates charged by unscrupulous money lenders;
- Promote market access locally and internationally for women-owned cottage industries such as *Ushanga*, soapstone, home crafts, weaving, embroidery and other enterprises; and
- Take measures for the prevention and punishments of sexual harassment at the work place in both the public and private sectors.

LEADERSHIP

Recognizing that women remain largely excluded from participation and decision making in our Country's governance and political institutions;

WE COMMIT TO:

- Ensure the realization of the two-thirds gender rule in elective and appointive positions in the Public Sector, within 12 months following election of a Kenya Kwanza Administration;
- To work with Public Service Commission (PSC) and other relevant agencies to ensure that all public appointments shall adhere to the two third gender rule including in Parastatals, Constitutional Commissions, Independent Constitutional Offices and the entire Public Sector; and
- Reserve 50% of Cabinet positions to women;

SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

***AWARE** that millions of women and girls continue to suffer from sexual and gender-based violence;*

WE COMMIT TO;

- Ensure the security, safety and dignity of all women and girls, and eradicate sexual and gender - based violence in public and private spheres;
- Increase the number of, and personnel at, gender desks at Police Stations;
- Increase funding for the Anti-Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) Board and Fully Implement the Anti FGM Law;
- Put in place legislative and policy measures to prevent and eradicate the rampant brutality and degrading treatment of domestic workers locally and abroad;
- Establish a social welfare fund for Kenya women working abroad to provide a safety net for distressed diaspora citizens; and
- Establish a Women Rights Agency at the Office of the President to address Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV), early marriages, FGM, abuse of domestic workers locally and abroad and to coordinate activities of County rescue centers for victims of SGBV.

HEALTH

ACKNOWLEDGING that health services remain inadequate, inaccessible and unaffordable to millions of women in our Country;

WE COMMIT TO:

- Fully implement Article 43 of the Constitution which guarantees the highest attainable standard of health for everyone;
- Establish the Hustler Health Care (HHC) Programme and ensure that by December 2022, every woman in Kenya is insured with the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF) at an affordable premium based on one's ability to pay and free of charge for all indigent women;
- Ensure deployment of adequate numbers of skilled community health workers on a regular stipend paid through a cost-sharing framework between the National Government and County Governments;
- Improve pre-natal, post-natal, maternity and mental health services for women; and
- Provide mothers of new born babies with diapers for their children for three months free of charge.

THE ENVIRONMENT

RECOGNIZING that environmental degradation impacts more on women, increases their responsibilities at home, at the farms and in the community thereby accelerating poverty;

NOTING that women especially those living in rural areas use firewood or charcoal to cook for their families due to lack of alternative affordable energy;

WE COMMIT TO:

- Ensure sufficient and safe water supply and sanitation services to women in all areas of our Country, including those living in rural areas and informal settlements;
- Ensure availability of clean, safe, environmentally friendly and affordable cooking fuels and eventually eliminate the use of firewood and charcoal for cooking; and
- Ensure women participate in, and are part of, policy making and implementation institutions at all levels.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

ACKNOWLEDGING that many girls do not complete school due to early marriages, childhood pregnancies and other harmful practices;

ACKNOWLEDGING FURTHER that the number of women who pursue Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) remains extremely low;

WE COMMIT TO:

- Provide free sanitary towels for all girls;
- Enforce a 100% return to school policy for all teenage mothers and ensure that they automatically benefit from the Government of Kenya Education Bursary Programme;
- Design and implement a policy to ensure more women pursue careers in STEM disciplines;
- Support young women transitioning into Technical training institutions to undertake STEM courses and make them automatic beneficiaries of the Government of Kenya Education Bursary Programme;
- Create gender parity in ICT awareness, education, training and opportunities in the labour market;
- Double the amount of money allocated to the school feeding programme to raise the number of beneficiary children from two million to four million; and to provide conditional grants to County Governments and ensure they match the National Government allocation to this programme; and

- Establish a training institute for women within the Kenya School of Government (KSG) to enhance the capacity of women in leadership.

AGRICULTURE AND LAND OWNERSHIP

RECOGNIZING that despite providing the bulk of labour in agricultural production, women remain disenfranchised and poorly compensated for their input;

WE COMMIT TO:

- Take legislative, policy and budgetary measures to ensure recognition and economic reward for women in agriculture and to ensure the participation of women in decision making at household, community and National levels on matters relevant to agricultural production, value addition and enterprise;
- Take legislative and policy steps to enhance ownership of land by women;
- Enhance access by women to agricultural training, farm inputs and equipment; and
- Take administrative measures to ensure 100% enforcement of the spousal consent legal provisions in land transactions to cushion women and children from dispossession of family land.

VULNERABLE WOMEN

NOTING that older women, widows, single mothers, orphaned girls and women living with disability require special protection;

WE COMMIT TO:

- Re- design and implement a comprehensive national programme for the protection of older women, widows, single mothers, orphaned girls and women living with disabilities;
- Ensure the representation of older women, widows, single mothers, orphaned girls and women living with disabilities in the administration of all Government funds targeting women as beneficiaries;

- Reform the cash transfer programme regulations to ensure easy, speedy and convenient access of the cash transfer by older women, widows, single mothers, orphaned girls and women living with disabilities;
- Set up a special fund to support widows facing severe economic hardship; and
- Ensure children of single mothers and automatically entitled to Government Of Kenya Education Bursary.

IT IS THUS AGREED AND COVENANTED IN NAIROBI THIS 10TH DAY OF JUNE 2022

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WILLIAM RUTO
Presidential Candidate United Democratic Alliance Party &
Kenya Kwanza Alliance Coalition