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SERVING COUMMUNITY AND COUNTRY

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Butere Constituency 2007

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My Vision for Butere

Many friends ask me why I decided to voluntarily leave a well paying top job in one of the world's top multinationals based in London to join what they call the murky dirty world of politics. I have an answer. It is because I have decided to **Serve Community and Country** - (read Butere and Kenya). It is because I have a vision for Butere. It is a clear and firm vision. **“A prosperous and inclusive Butere”**.

I am in politics and want to be the MP for Butere principally to make a difference in the lives of our people, in the way they are led and in the future of Butere and Kenyan politics. I believe very strongly in fact severely that I

can make a real difference by bringing about real policies and real programmes for real people in our real world out there. This is achievable. I believe Determination Conquers All or in Luhya, “ **Obuha Bumala Koosi.**”

My mission for Butere:

My mission is:

- to rid Butere of extreme poverty
- to increase and later achieve food self sufficiency focussing on maize production
- to improve by a huge margin the education standards of Butere which are currently deplorably very low despite the very hard work by our teachers
- to increase cash incomes of the people of Butere so that they are rid of disease and ever frustrating poverty witnessed so badly across the constituency
- to increase the democratic space in Butere politics and leadership
- to bring people right into the centre of all key decisions affecting them in politics and development
- to enhance the confidence of the people of Butere to believe in themselves
- to bring about a completely people centred and people driven development and politics in Butere. All these are badly lacking at the moment.

Transparency in Constituency Development Fund:

With the fiscal devolution the Kibaki government has brought about via CDF and other public funds, there is absolutely no reason why our people should not experience better leadership. Time is now when MPs should concentrate on development not merely issuing cheques for the rehabilitation of already existing institutions. If we do not check this trend Kenya might end up as the biggest graveyard of white elephants all over the place. CDF was not meant to be a source of frustration and den of corruption by MPs but sadly this is the case. We must check this and nip it in the bud.

CDF provides us with an excellent opportunity to involve our people in development and gives us the chance to concentrate on focussing our

people's minds on real change in economy and politics. That is why my approach is premised on the twin key pillars of **Economic Empowerment and Political Empowerment**. I will mainly focus on the former for the obvious reason that poverty is a major challenge and hindrance to many things in Butere including political empowerment.

What have I done so far?

1. Butere Development Caucus:

I have established Butere Development Caucus (BDC) under which we have already embarked on a very successful food security programme to fight hunger in Butere. We distributed maize seed to farmers across the constituency and the results are quite encouraging. There is no reason why Butere should be a perennial net importer of maize. We consume 700,000 bags a year yet produce only 300,000. This trend needs to be reversed, can be reversed and should be reversed

2. Poultry Vaccination Programme:

When is the last time anyone saw veterinary or agricultural extension officers in Butere? I bet most would say never. I would concur with them because this vital sector has been neglected for a generation at least. The good news for Butere people is that their animals and poultry now no longer need die of disease outbreaks. I have for the first time in a generation vaccinated chickens in all over the constituency. Our people know the value of **ingokho**, as a source of protein and as a major social bird in many of our cultural activities from circumcision, to marriage and even funerals. We need to increase the bird stock in Butere and beyond that centre chicken breeding on the economic plank.

3. Introducing alternative cash crops:

I have introduced the cultivation of amaranth as an alternative cash crop to sugar cane in Butere. We need to put cash in people's pockets so they can be able to afford to pay school fess and pay for medical services.

4. Benevolent Fund:

I am shortly launching the BDC Benevolent Fund to assist our people in times of distress caused by so many deaths in Butere.

The shame of CDF:

In politics we must involve the people in decision making and setting priorities for development not merely engage in whimsical pet projects in the name of CDF funded buildings here and there. CDF itself must be managed transparently and inclusively. Our people are not robots to be herded like sheep amid threats of “ *if you do not support me I will not develop your area.*” That all sounds very much like the Nyayo era coming back through a minis state house called the MP’s home or office. Winding back the clock of democracy and freedom in Butere or in Kenya is something we must all resist by all means. Hence the need for political empowerment, yet it cannot happen amidst biting poverty. The days of mere hand outs to people must surely be seen off and in my quest for leadership of Butere I aim to firmly see to it that this is done away with.

Can I do it alone?

No. I want to include the vast and very qualified human resources of Butere in development not isolate and banish them to the periphery of leadership as is the case now. I want to unite all from all spheres and sectors of life and our endeavours. Butere is very blessed with human resources but sadly this has not been recognised or utilised by many of our past / present MPs. I want to reverse this sad trend.

Butere as a role model for Kenya:

I aim to see Butere become a model for development to be emulated by many constituencies in Kenya and even Africa. That is my calling. I aim to attain this dream as I **Serve our Community and Country**. Mine is a calling not merely a career shift. Come please join me on this exciting journey to the redemption of Butere and Kenya.

God bless Africa. God bless Kenya. God bless Butere. God bless you all.