“We are all nailed on the cross of poverty; it is only we (the people of Meru) who will remove ourselves from that cross.”

Kiraitu Murungi
Kiraitu Murungi is one of the greatest sons of Meru today. There is no doubt that he will win the 2013 General Elections and become the Senator for Meru County. After an extraordinary career as a Law teacher, a Lawyer, Human Rights Activist and a Member of Parliament in the last two decades, he has distinguished himself as a visionary credible political leader and a passionate social organizer, who has propelled his South Imenti Constituency into unprecedented levels of economic development and social prosperity. He is determined to *Make Meru Great*.

The question is; **Who is this man Kiraitu Murungi? What does he stand for? What is his agenda for Meru County?**

Kiraitu was born during the height of the *Mau Mau* struggle in 1950’s and grew up in great poverty with his mother Anjelika in a detention camp. His father Daniel Kiraitu was one of the Key *Mau Mau* leaders in Meru. He is married to Priscilla Kathuguchi and they have four children; Nkatha, Mwenda, Makena and Kendi.
He attended Kairiene and Kionyo Primary Schools and later Chuka Boys High School and Alliance Boys High School, Kikuyu. Always a top student, Kiraitu studied law at the University of Nairobi where he obtained both a Bachelors and a Masters Degree in Law.

He later obtained another Masters in Law Degree from the prestigious Harvard Law School in the United States of America, where President Barack Obama was his classmate. He has taught in both the University of Nairobi and the Kenya School of Law.

An academic in his own right, Kiraitu has written numerous academic and journal articles and authored two books; “In the Mud of Politics” and “The Song of My Beloved”. His official biography, “Kiraitu Murungi; An odyssey in Kenyan Politics” was published in November 2012.

A key pillar in President Kibaki’s Government; Kiraitu has served in various important positions including chairperson of the Cabinet Anti-Corruption Committee; member of the National Security and Foreign Relations Committee; Member of the Cabinet Infrastructure Committee, and Cabinet Committee on the Constitution. Kiraitu is also a member of the National Economic and Social Council which drives Vision 2030, and has been chair of the East African Council of Energy Ministers.
As Minister for Justice and Constitutional Affairs between 2003 and 2005, Kiraitu introduced major reforms in Governance, Justice, Law and Order Sector including, the Human Rights Commission, the Anti-Corruption Commission, “the radical surgery” of the judiciary, and the ambitious program, (GJLOS) which has revolutionized the justice system in Kenya.

As minister for Energy, Kiraitu radically transformed the energy sector. He is celebrated all over Kenya for the rural electricity program which has connected most urban centres, secondary schools, health centres and other public facilities to electricity. Kiraitu has launched Kenya into the green energy revolution through massive expansion of geothermal and wind electricity generation. During his tenure as Minister for Energy, Electricity connectivity in rural areas grew from 6% to 30% and the number of customers countrywide grew from 800,000 to over 2 million.

He accelerated fossil fuel exploration in the country leading to the discovery of coal, oil and gas for the first time in the history of Kenya.

It is largely due to Kiraitu Murungi’s visionary and focused leadership that the Ministry of Energy was ranked No.2 out of 40 ministries in performance Contract evaluation of Financial Year 2011/2012.
Kiraitu has widely travelled in most of the developed, developing and underdeveloped countries of the World and has taken keen interest in the politics and economic development strategies of the fastest growing economies of China, India, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Rwanda, which he believes hold the key to unlocking Africa’s vast underdeveloped economic potential.

Kiraitu believes that the greatest enemy of the Meru people is poverty. His dream is to make Meru rich and prosperous.

As the Member of Parliament for South Imenti for the last two decades, Kiraitu has worked very hard to empower the people of South Imenti to reject the culture of apathy and helplessness and to uproot themselves from poverty. In 1993, Kiraitu helped to found the South Imenti Development Association (SIDA), a Community-Based Organization committed to uprooting the roots of poverty in South Imenti.

Over the years he has struggled with youth poverty, apathy and hopelessness through the South Imenti Development Association (SIDA), South Imenti Credit Company (SICCO), South Imenti Youth Development Programme (SYDP) and South Imenti Youth Company (SIYCO). He intends to expanded replicate these arrangements at the County level.
Kiraitu has put agriculture as his priority No.1. South Imenti is now No.1 in banana production in the whole of Kenya. He has greatly supported tea, coffee, and dairy farmers, tree farming and fish farming in Meru. A practical grassroots leader who teaches by doing, Kiraitu is a tea, banana, and tree farmer; and is now the No.1 fish farmer in Meru County. Kiraitu has greatly expanded irrigation in South Imenti. He wants to transform Meru County through irrigation.

Kiraitu has tremendously supported expansion of quality education in Meru. He has built over 50 day secondary schools through CDF, and has played a key role in facilitating the opening of four Universities in Meru County.

Ten years ago Kiraitu and his wife Priscilla established a family foundation, the **Kiraitu Murungi Foundation** which supports bright Meru students to pursue higher education in National Schools. The Foundation is also engaged in activities to promote Kimeru history and culture, traditional dances, sports and upcoming Meru musicians.

Kiraitu sees politics as a powerful vehicle for social transformation. As Senator, Kiraitu will steer Meru County into greater heights of glory and prosperity.
1. The Senate

The role of the Senator is to protect the interests of the counties and their governments in the senate. This is the second time a senate is being created in Kenya. Senators will have the critical responsibility of representing their counties’ interests in the national government and also making laws affecting counties.

Senators will determine the allocation of national revenue among counties and exercise oversight functions over national revenue allocated to the county governments. Senators will also closely liaise with the leadership of their counties in implementation of development projects in the County and conflict resolution.

Kiraitu believes that with his long experienced the distinguished career as the Member of Parliament for South Imenti he has what it takes to be an effective Senator for the Meru County. Kiraitu is now well known all over Kenya, for his selfless, enlightened pragmatic and action-oriented leadership. He has metamorphosised from a human rights and political activist, into a mature, tolerant and committed, action-oriented development leader.

Kiraitu holds great promise and expectations for the Meru County. He believes that just like the Americans had The American Dream and a New Deal, time has come for Meru County to have The Meru Dream and a New Deal.
2. On Leadership

The destiny of the Meru people will be determined by the leaders we choose. Visionless, self-centered, opportunistic and ignorant leadership will trap the people of Meru in perpetual poverty and social backwardness.

Kiraitu believes that politics of cash-handouts, clan conspiracies, and personal rivalries have retarded development in Meru for many years. Kiraitu is convinced that time has come for Meru to embrace new politics of positive change and development. We have to embrace the politics of hard work, social harmony and material prosperity.

For Meru to make the quantum leap forward, we need incorruptible and committed visionary leaders capable of taking bold and even radical decisions to promote the interests of the Meru people. We need leaders who will define the agenda for the future and inspire our people for change.

Meru needs leaders who will serve all the people of the Meru County equitably, regardless of their economic or social status, clan or geographical divisions. We have to move as one people; the Meru People. We need leaders who will unite the people of Meru and re-energize them for a radical socio-economic transformation of the county.
Negative divisive politics, insults and empty rhetoric should have no place in Meru.

Kiraitu believes that Meru has lagged behind because we have not fully utilized our enormous intellectual resources. Our intellectuals still remain at the periphery or at the margins of our mainstream politics. To construct the new Meru, our political leaders must work with the intellectuals to create new political momentum, and a new call to action that will put Meru County on the critical path to modernity and prosperity.

Kiraitu sees the March 4th 2013 General Elections as the defining moment of the Meru County. It is a unique opportunity to mobilize the people of Meru towards unprecedented community renewal, social progress and material prosperity. For Kiraitu time has now come; to Make Meru truly Great!
“For the truth is that development means the development of the people. Roads, buildings, the increase of crop output and other things of nature is not development; they are only tools of development. A new road extends a man’s freedom, only if he travels on it”

(Julius Nyerere, 1974, Man and Development)

3. On Development

For Kiraitu Development simply means the development of the people. It means making people happy, rich and prosperous. Kiraitu believes in a people-based and people-centered development that relies primarily on action-oriented strategies, self-help and self-reliance. Kiraitu believes that the whole purpose of development is to enable the people to live better and more dignified lives. It is to enable the people meet their basic needs, eat better food, live healthier lives, increase their knowledge, enjoy their lives, and be happier human beings.

Kiraitu believes that the primary responsibility of development falls squarely on the shoulders of the people themselves. The people of Meru must take control of their own lives. He says that the people of Meru are nailed on the cross of poverty, and it is only the people of Meru themselves who will remove themselves from that cross.

Kiraitu believes that Kenya doesn’t exist in a vacuum.
Your Kenya is where you eat and sleep. Kenya cannot be developed if your home is not developed. Kenya cannot be developed if Meru is not developed. The people of Meru must stand up and walk on their own feet. We must define our agenda and be agents of our own development.

Donors and other well wishers cannot develop Meru. The days we waited for outsiders to bring development to our people are long gone. We should not expect others to act instead of us. It is for us to think and act, and the time is now.

We have to sit down, talk, decide, plan and act. Kiraitu says development is like going to a toilet. You cannot send even your own wife or husband to go to the toilet on your behalf. **YOU HAVE TO DO IT YOURSELF!** There is no shortcut. We have to work hard. Even St Paul said that **those who don’t work should not eat!**

For Kiraitu meaningful development can only take place if people are empowered to generate their own incomes. He believes that we should teach people to fish, not to give them fish.

We have to be bold and courageous. We have to venture beyond day-to-day survival agendas. Kiraitu promises to fight against all forces of gravity to make Meru great. He believes that with its enormous resources; both human and natural, Meru should be unstoppable in its march to
riches, glory and prosperity.

Kiraitu categorizes the problems that beset Meru County into two; **Primary Problems** and **Secondary Problems**. Secondary problems are the by-products of primary problems. If you solve the primary problems, secondary problems are automatically solved. For instance, all the problems of school fees and medical bills are secondary problems. They can be automatically solved if the primary problem, **lack of money** is solved. Kiraitu emphasizes that the greatest challenge facing the people of Meru County today is lack of enough money. We have to increase the supply of money in our lives, because everything from birth to death requires money. We cannot hide from the objective reality.

Kiraitu believes that it is through boosting water, agriculture, education infrastructure, business, trade, and investment that we can stimulate economic growth and increase the supply of money into Meru.

### 4. On Water

Kiraitu believes water is everything. He promises to give water his first priority. Water lies at the centre of gravity in the struggle against poverty. The greatest lesson Kiraitu has learnt in his efforts to uproot poverty in South Imenti, is the transcendental effect of water. With water, there will
be money everywhere. The people of Meru need adequate water supply for their domestic, agricultural, commercial and industrial uses. You cannot talk about agriculture and food security without water for irrigation.

Kiraitu is determined to end the cycles of droughts, crop failure, famine and the culture of water poverty and helplessness in the semi-arid regions of the Meru County including; Buuri, Ruiru, Tigania West, Tigania East, and Igembe.

Kiraitu believes that he has a final solution to water poverty in the entire County. In the process of drilling for geo-thermal wells in the Rift Valley he discovered that although there may be no rivers above the ground, there is plenty of water everywhere under the ground, so long as you dig deep wells. Kiraitu will mobilize resources to introduce modern deep water drilling technology that will go beyond 300 meters, in the semi-arid areas of Meru to provide adequate water supply for irrigation and domestic use. Major boreholes and massive tanks will be provided in Igembe North, Tigania West, Tigania East, and Buuri Districts, to provide water in every home.

Although Meru County is blessed with many rivers and streams, Kiraitu believes these sources will dry up in future because of poor abstraction methods and our failure to protect the water towers and catchment areas.
We shall always have poverty and food shortages in Meru unless we improve our water usage methods. Kiraitu will mobilize resources to construct dams on all major rivers including; Mutonga, Iraru, Kithino, Thingithu, Mariara, Kathita and Thangatha among others.

Kiraitu believes that the greatest bottleneck to the supply of adequate water for irrigation in Meru is the chronic under-investment in water and irrigation projects. Whereas up to Kshs. 8billion is used to fund a single tarmac road in Meru, no water project has been funded in excess of Kshs.100million! Once elected Senator, Kiraitu will seek to mobilize at least Kshs. 1billion for bore-holes, dams and water projects in Meru County, every financial year.

5. On Agriculture

Kiraitu believes we cannot talk about poverty reduction without talking about agriculture. We have to work hard to improve our agricultural production. We have to improve our marketing systems for the benefits of the farmers. This is the only way we can develop and get out of poverty.

Since his entry into Parliament in 1992, Kiraitu has been the voice, the eyes, and the ears of the farmers in Meru. As vice Chairman of the Coffee and Tea Parliamentary Association (COTEPA) Kiraitu was at the forefront of critical reforms in both the Coffee and Tea sectors, which
have greatly benefitted coffee and tea farmers in Meru. Kiraitu believes that time has come to move away from colonial agriculture, which emphasized cash crops for export and neglected our traditional food crop such as potatoes, bananas, arrowroots and yams.

Kiraitu is concerned that Meru people no longer have granaries; they rely only on the market. Kiraitu will support expansion of both cash crops, food crops and livestock farming.

Kiraitu has transformed the economy of South Imenti through bananas. Today, South Imenti is the leading banana producer in Kenya. He wants to expand bananas, dairy farming and fish farming in Meru County.

Kiraitu is particularly excited at the opportunity to transform Nyambene region by modernization of Miraa farming. Kiraitu will work with Miraa farmers, and Miraa traders to explore possibilities of expanding Miraa production and marketing.

Kiraitu will ensure more roads are tarmacked in Meru to improve the agricultural marketing networks. Kiraitu has campaigned for Isiolo Airport which will greatly enhance the export of Miraa to Somalia and beyond.

Kiraitu will support agricultural research and training to expand modern farming methods and techniques
including green-house farming and quality animal husbandry. Kiraitu wants to establish a Dairy Training School in Meru. The co-operative movement has been the backbone and the key driver of Coffee production and Dairy farming in Meru County. Kiraitu will work with leaders of co-operative societies to strengthen and expand the co-operative movement in Meru County.

Kiraitu will also attract private sector investors to add value to agricultural products, milk processing plants, fruit-juice processing plants, banana fiber factory and a fish processing plant. Kiraitu has already initiated a study for a banana wine in Meru. He will work with Miraa farmers to look into the possibility of establishing a Miraa processing and packaging factory in Igembe.

6. On Education

Education is a top priority for Kiraitu. He believes that the future of Meru lies in the tremendous energy and high aspirations of our Youth. The youth are the greatest natural resource of the Meru County. The purpose of education is to develop and mobilize this critical resource and equip it with the necessary skills for the modernization and economic transformation of the Meru County.

Kiraitu believes that education is not a privilege. It is a
fundamental human right which is protected by Article 43 of the Constitution. Every child in Meru must go to school. Free and compulsory primary school enrollment will be strictly enforced.

Free primary education and day secondary schools have greatly expanded access to education in Meru County. What is lacking is adequate facilities to improve the quality of learning in these institutions. Kiraitu believes that time has come for us to shift from **quantity to quality and from quality to excellence** in our focus on education. South Imenti has been No 1 in education in Meru County for many years.Kiraitu is determined to restore the glory of Meru as one of the leading counties in education in Kenya.

Most of the children leaving our primary schools score a mean grade of 250 in KCPE or below. The majority of those leaving our secondary schools score an average of D+ or below. The total number of all A’s scored in KCSE in all schools of Meru County is far less than the number of A’s scored in just one National school in Nairobi. **This must change.** Kiraitu will work with KNUT, KEPSHA, KUPPET, KESSHA and the Ministry of Education officials to improve the performance of Meru County in National Examinations.

Kiraitu will encourage the brightest students in Meru
County to join top professions such as Architecture, Medicine, Law, Engineering and Actuarial Science.

Kiraitu will ensure that special attention and extra-resources are allocated to the underperforming zones of the County. He will ensure that every district in Meru County has a centre of excellence at primary and secondary school level. He will ensure that every District has at least one university campus.

Kiraitu will promote ICT usage and internet connectivity in all secondary schools, colleges and Universities. He has already supplied electricity to most schools, which is a basic requirement for internet connectivity. Kiraitu will ensure that all secondary schools are supplied with computers to promote computer literacy for all students.

Kiraitu believes that inherited colonial elitist values in our education have made education “too certificate focused”. This colonial education has inculcated employment mentality in our people, which leads to disempowerment, apathy and helplessness especially among our youth.

Kiraitu believes that the youth of Meru must be hardworking, ambitious, and fiercely competitive. They should be distinguished by pursuit of excellence in all fields including music and sports. He will promote a culture of entrepreneurship, self confidence and self-reliance. He will work with youth leaders to critically examine the
problems of the youth and to seek practical solution to them.

The critical success factor in promoting educational excellence in Meru County will be the teachers, the lecturers and the education administrators. We have to take interest in the lives of these people as they have their own unique challenges and aspirations. We cannot hope to achieve educational excellence with underpaid cynical, frustrated and demoralized teachers. Kiraitu will work with education fraternity and motivate and inspire them with energy and enthusiasm as they take education in Meru to greater heights.

7. On Entrepreneurship, Business and Investments

Kiraitu believes that to create wealth and employment, Meru must have a vibrant commercial and industrial sector. The Meru people are usually embarrassed to talk about money. We have to change this attitude about money. We cannot ignore the centrality of money in our lives today. After everything is said and done, we must talk money.

In Meru County, we have to aggressively pursue making money wealth and property as important goals. We have to increase the wealth and material prosperity of the Meru
County, even as we seek spiritual blessings.

Most Meru people are trapped in the culture of employment. We must get our people out of this trap. Very few people get rich out of employment. The richest people in Meru, those who own airplanes; are the white farmers in Buuri. Who has employed them? It is not enough for the Meru elite to be good in English, Mathematics and Chemistry. It is necessary to learn how to make money and to manage it. Kiraitu believes that time has come for Meru people to **THINK BIG**.

We have to move Meru from a medieval peasant subsistence economy into a modern industrial economy where people make lots of money, and enjoy a high quality of life.

Kiraitu will work with private sector and expand the savings and credit co-operative societies to mobilize both local and foreign private capital to open up business and investment opportunities in Meru County. He will support creation of Meru Development Bank and Meru Industrial and Commercial Corporation to provide venture capital and to support industrialization of Meru.

Apart from improving the investment and business climate, Kiraitu will work to promote urbanization and industrialization in Meru. Meru cannot prosper in darkness. Kiraitu has a plan for universal electrification of the towns, markets and villages in Meru County.
Kiraitu will work with other leaders to expand coverage of tarmac roads, water, sewerage and housing in all our towns so as to make them; vibrant industrial, business, residential, cultural, and recreation centers.

8. On Youth Poverty and Unemployment

Kiraitu believes that work and employment are critical in meeting the biological, social and economic needs of every human being. However, unemployment remains a permanent national crisis. In Meru County even our educated youth cannot access ‘our very competitive job market’. Many of our youth graduate from the Universities into the streets.

Kiraitu believes that even with excellent educational qualifications not all the educated youth will find jobs in the formal sector. The majority of our youth will be employed in the informal business and agricultural sectors. The only way we can significantly reduce youth unemployment in Meru County is through accelerated expansion of agricultural production through irrigation and expanding the County’s industrial and service sector base.

Education has become a major psychological burden to our youth. There is no shortcut. The youth have to work on any available jobs. We have to put an end to unrealistic dreams and academic arrogance.
Kiraitu will be working with youth leaders in the county to expand youth employment through youth-led labour intensive road construction, irrigation and environmental conservation projects. He will also work with education fraternity and other leaders to expand ICT, Science and technical training in polytechnics, schools and universities in Meru County to train highly skilled manpower for jobs in the County and abroad.

9. On Women

Women are critical to the building of a happy, healthy and wealthy society. The new constitution has liberated the women of Meru from decades of discrimination, exploitation, social oppression and political exclusion. Our rural women have been reduced to beggars despite their hard work. They have only played marginal cheering and singing roles in our politics.

Kiraitu believes that time has come for the Meru women to move from the footnote to the centre of the page. Kiraitu has consistently supported the economic empowerment and political visibility of women. South Imenti has more women chiefs than any other district in Meru.

Kiraitu will work with women leaders through; Meru County Women Forum, *Maendeleo ya Wanawake,*
Council of Catholic Women, the PCEA Women’s Guild, the Methodist Mothers Union and other women organizations to ensure that the constitutional rights of the women of Meru are fully implemented.

Kiraitu will especially work to ensure that the one-third rule is observed in all the structures of the Meru County to ensure that women are not excluded from the power game. Kiraitu will also work with women leaders to facilitate public education for the economic empowerment and political visibility of the women of Meru. Kiraitu will support the women of Meru to reject the backward culture of salt-and-sugar politics, begging and handouts which have been used to trap women in a vicious cycle of poverty and social backwardness. Kiraitu will support innovative ideas and strategies which will propel the women of Meru into greater economic heights and social prosperity.

10. **On Roads**

Kiraitu believes that an efficient network of roads is critical for the economy to achieve high rates of sustainable growth. Some major roads in Meru County have been tarmacked through the efforts of Kiraitu Murungi; however, Meru is still home to some of the worst roads in Kenya.

With Kiraitu’s political support the Ruiru Isiolo, Isiolo-Muriri, Meru-Mikinduri-Maua, Meru-Githongo-Marimba-Chogoria, Marimba-Mitunguu and Ena-Ciakariga, roads
have been tarmacked, and the Ciakariga-Gaitu-Meru (Mati) road, is being tarmacked.

A large segment of our roads that are impassable during the rainy season. Poor roads result in losses due to wastage and increased transportation costs of farm products like Tea, Milk, Miraa and Horticulture thus affecting our competitiveness.

Kiraitu will work with other leaders to mobilize funds for construction of the remaining main roads. He will put special emphasis on the maintenance and rehabilitation of urban and agricultural roads.

Through the South Imenti Youth Company, Kiraitu has mobilized the Youth in South Imenti to make many roads in South Imenti through labour intensive methods. Kiraitu will utilize the money being used to enrich a few contractors to employ the youth to make our roads and thus reduce youth poverty.

Kiraitu will work with Meru University of Science and Technology to explore the possibility of building permanent roads with stones without any tarmac using ancient Roman technology, the way Julius Caesar did in Europe many centuries ago. With all the stones and unemployed youth at home, Meru should have all weather roads in every village.
11. **On Health**

Kiraitu believes that a Country’s productivity is dependent on the health of its people. We cannot develop Meru County with unhealthy, sickly, dying or dead people. The role of good health in promoting economic and social development must be appreciated. Meru County requires a well articulated, targeted and managed health sector policy.

There have been improvements in provision of health services particularly in the last one decade following the introduction of the CDF, BUT many challenges remain. These include; high costs of medical care, emphasis on curative as opposed to preventive health care, low ratio of medical personnel, poor environmental health, prevalence of preventable diseases, poorly equipped health facilities and inadequate and poorly-paid medical personnel.

Kiraitu will give priority to accessibility of health services. Kiraitu will push for an increased investment in the health sector as well as increased funding to all the dispensaries, health centres and hospitals in Meru County. He will also push for elevation of key hospitals in Meru such as Maua Hospital, Meru Hospital and Nkubu Hospital to become referral hospitals.
He will ensure that a vigorous public health campaign is launched to reduce the prevalence of preventable and lifestyle diseases such as Malaria, dysentery, diabetes, high blood pressure and HIV/AIDS.

Every Mzee has one ailment or another. They cannot afford drugs and Medical treatment. Kiraitu will support comprehensive medical insurance cover for all people over 70 years old in Meru County. Even with the best medical care, we shall all age and die one day. The biggest headache for our old men and women over 70 years is poor health.

12. On Tourism

Few destinations in the World can match the scenic beauty and the cultural diversity of Meru. The world famous Joy Adamson brand is a product of Meru National Park. The second highest mountain in Africa Mt. Kenya, which gives this country its name, is in Meru. We have a rich history, cultural heritage, songs and dances, which should be revived and packaged for cultural tourism.

There is enormous tourism potential. Meru National Park is larger than Maasai Mara. Beyond traditional wildlife and scenery tourism new forms of tourism such as conference tourism, golf tourism, cultural tourism, sports tourism, eco-tourism, and fishing tourism will be opened
up for the benefit of the Meru people. Kiraitu will work with other Meru County leaders to develop and implement a Tourism Development master plan for the Meru County. This will include an annual Meru Cultural Festival, development of hotels and bed space in Mt. Kenya National Park and the Meru National Park, Expansion of the Meru Museum, the Njuri Ncheke Cultural Centre and development of new cultural sites such as sacred Lake Nkunga and the King Muuru.

Kiraitu will mobilize resources to develop the necessary tourism infrastructure including; security, roads, telecommunication, hotels and airstrips and to aggressively market Meru as a world-class tourist destination.

Kiraitu has supported construction of a road to climb Mount Kenya by car up to 13,000 feet. To attract high end tourists, Kiraitu will mobilize private sector investors to accelerate construction of 5 star hotels in Mt. Kenya National Park and the Meru National Park, and a 18 hole golf course in Meru County.

Kiraitu will encourage domestic tourism in Meru, and mobilize the Meru investors to take advantage of the emerging economic opportunities in tourism, by owning some of the tourist facilities to be constructed in the Meru County.
13. On Peace and Security

Security is a must. There can be no development in Meru without peace and security. There have been cases of insecurity in Meru County largely emanating from land/boundary conflicts between different sub-tribes of Meru, especially where land adjudication and demarcation of boundaries has not been completed. Resource conflicts and cattle rustling by the Borana and Samburu in Meru North, has resulted in loss of human lives and livestock and there have been isolated cases of robbery and theft in both rural and urban centres, including armed robbery. Some of the insecurity is politically instigated.

Kiraitu will ensure that cattle-rustling in Meru North as firmly dealt with. A special County Police Unit will be set up for this purpose. Kiraitu will work with other Meru leaders to ensure that the land/boundary disputes are resolved in a fair and transparent manner that will ensure justice to all the parties. Prompt action will be taken to speed up processing of the titles deeds especially in Tigania, Buuri and Igembe.

Kiraitu will work to strengthen Njuri-Ncheke, to more effectively play its role of bringing unity peace and reconciliation to all the people of Meru. Kiraitu is deeply aware of the important roles that the provincial Administration, the County Commissioners, the D Cs,
D.Os, Chiefs, Assistant chiefs and Area Managers play in ensuring peace and security in the County. Kiraitu will mobilize national resources to facilitate provincial administration, the police and the courts to be more efficient in crime prevention, detection, prosecution and punishment.

Kiraitu believes that security cannot be left to the police alone. He will encourage local communities to set up an effective community policing system and work with provincial administration to encourage continuous dialogue and public awareness on peace and security. Kiraitu will mobilize resources to build more police posts, and to install street lights in all our major towns to improve security.

14. On Political Identity and Culture

Meru was at the fore-front of the *Mau Mau* struggle. Despite our numerical strength, Meru people have usually played sub-ordinate support roles in the politics of the country. The continued existence and survival of the Meru community as a distinct separate community with its own unique history, language and culture, is under constant threat from more dominant forces. Culture is not just about song and dance, it’s about values. Time has come for us in Meru to ask ourselves, **Who are we? What do we stand for? Where have we come from? Where are we**
headed to?

Kiraitu believes that time has come for the Meru community to stand up and be counted as equal stakeholder in Kenya. We don’t need anybody else to speak for us or act on our behalf. We have our own mouth and a voice to speak for ourselves.

We know what we want. We are tired of being assumed and taken for granted. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. Politics is a struggle for limited resources. It is about who gets what, when and where. The Meru people must organize themselves for this struggle. We must demand our just, rightful share of national resources including top government positions and development resources.

Cheap, Short-sighted, self-centered “transport and soda” politics, and divide-and –rule politics have relegated Meru people to “hewers of wood, and drawers of water” in Kenyan politics. Kiraitu has said that the days of naïve, foolish and food-loving Meru’s are long gone. The time for carrying bags for others is gone. We must now carry our own bags, and start the journey to the top.

Kiraitu believes that just as the Meru’s made the difficult journey to escape oppression by Nguu-Ntune in Mbwaa, 500 years ago, time has now come for Meru’s to start another journey to chat their own political course and destiny. It is time for the Meru people to empower and re-
energize themselves for this journey.

The BUS is our vehicle for this journey. As the Party leader of the Alliance Party of Kenya, “The BUS”, Kiraitu is determined to change Meru politics for good. The BUS has been overwhelmingly accepted as the preferred political vehicle that will unite and articulate the interests of the Meru people. With Kiraitu as the driver there is no doubt the BUS will take the Meru people on their journey to unprecedented growth, glory and prosperity.

Forget the Skeptics and the Critics

There is No Doubt That Together We Shall Make Meru Great!!

Let’s Turn Out And Vote in Large Numbers On 4th March 2012.

With Kiraitu, The Future Of Meru County is Very Bright.