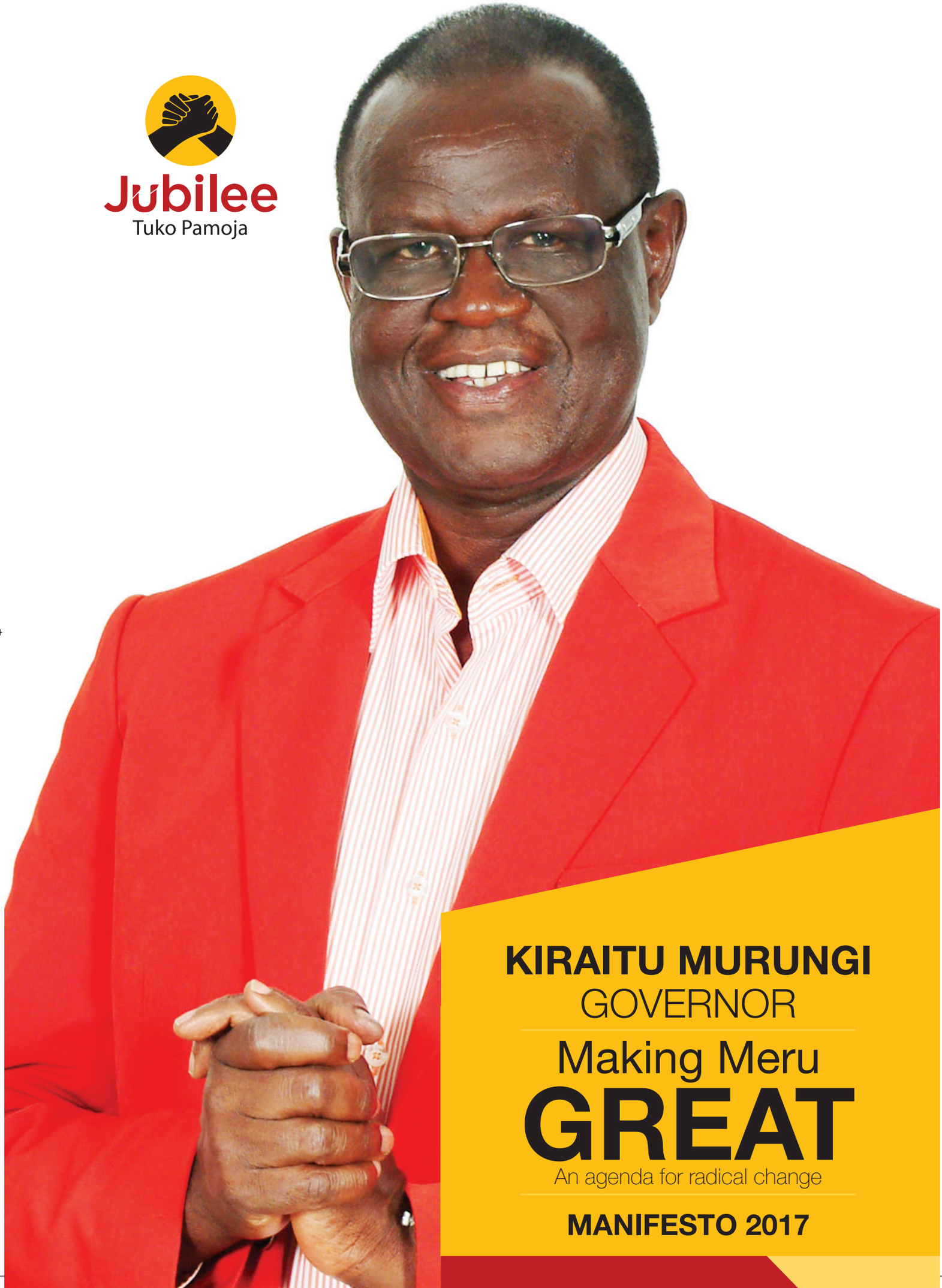
Jubilee
Tuko Pamoja



KIRAITU MURUNGI
GOVERNOR

Making Meru
GREAT
An agenda for radical change

MANIFESTO 2017

Kiraitu Murungi • Manifesto • 2017.indd 1 7/5/17 9:50 AM

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Realising the Meru Dream

The great people of Meru County, we have the privilege of placing before you our Manifesto. It highlights the policies and programs that we intend to put in place in order to *Make Meru Great.*

We want to *Make Meru Great* because the current County Government has failed us miserably. It has been 5 years of disappointments and broken promises.

We need to address the various challenges facing our people. Key challenges include INSUFFICIENT WATER for agriculture and domestic use; POOR ROAD NETWORK that hinders transportation of people and their goods; High levels of UNEMPLOYMENT among the youth; INEQUITABLE distribution of resources; POVERTY and FOOD INSECURITY contributing to increased suffering of our people. These challenges are the result of poor political and economic leadership.

We shall transform our governance system to create an equitable, rich and prosperous Meru.

WHO IS KIRAITU MURUNGI?

A humble Family Man

Kiraitu Murungi was born during the start of the Mau Mau struggle in 1952 and grew up in great poverty with his mother Anjelika in a detention camp where he had to sleep in the open for over a year in a state of near-starvation. 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.

A Statesman

Kiraitu Murungi is one of the greatest sons of Meru. He has had an extraordinary career as a Law teacher, a Lawyer, a Human Rights Activist, a Member of Parliament, a Party Leader, A cabinet Minister and a Senator. He has distinguished himself as a visionary and credible political leader. He is a passionate social organizer who has made enormous contribution to Kenya's national and political development. Indeed, during the Kenya@50 celebrations in December 2013, Kiraitu was among the Fifty (50) prominent Kenyans who were honoured with the Jubilee Award for exemplary contribution to public affairs in Kenya.

The People's Lawyer

Kiraitu studied law at the University of Nairobi where he obtained both a Bachelors and a Masters degree. 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.

His law firm, Kamau Kuria, Kiraitu and Ringera Advocates, was the first one to represent political detainees during the single party regime and went on to become the most famous and successful constitutional litigation law firm in Kenya. He is currently the Senior Partner at Humphrey & Company Advocates LLP in Nairobi.

Focussed and development oriented

As a Member of Parliament for South Imenti, he worked very hard to empower the people by supporting local development programmes. He has supported the youth to start many programmes and he has been at the forefront of introducing income generating projects. Kiraitu Murungi has worked with the youth since he was first elected to Parliament in 1992.

Over the years he has struggled with youth poverty, apathy and despair 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 expand and replicate these programs at the County level.

Through his family foundation, the Kiraitu Murungi Foundation, he has supported bright Meru students to pursue higher education in National Schools. The Foundation is also engaged in the promotion of Kimeru history and culture, traditional dances, sports and promising Meru musicians.

He accelerated expansion of agricultural production through irrigation and expanding the service sector base in his constituency to empower the youth.

Visionary leader

Kiraitu joined Parliament at the height of the agitation for multi-party democracy in 1992. As an MP, he transformed his constituency, South Imenti, into an economic giant, making it one of the most prosperous rural area in Kenya. His constituents affirm that he is a visionary, a great political leader, a teacher and a passionate organiser who led the constituency into great transformation in terms of roads, agriculture, education and youth programs.

Kiraitu was a key pillar in the government of President Kibaki where he 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 was also a member of the National Economic and Social Council which crafted Kenya's economic blue print, the Vision 2030.

As the Minister for Energy, Kiraitu radically transformed the energy sector. He pioneered the rural electrification program which has connected most urban centres, secondary schools, health centres and other public facilities to electricity. 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.

What does Kiraitu Murungi stand for?

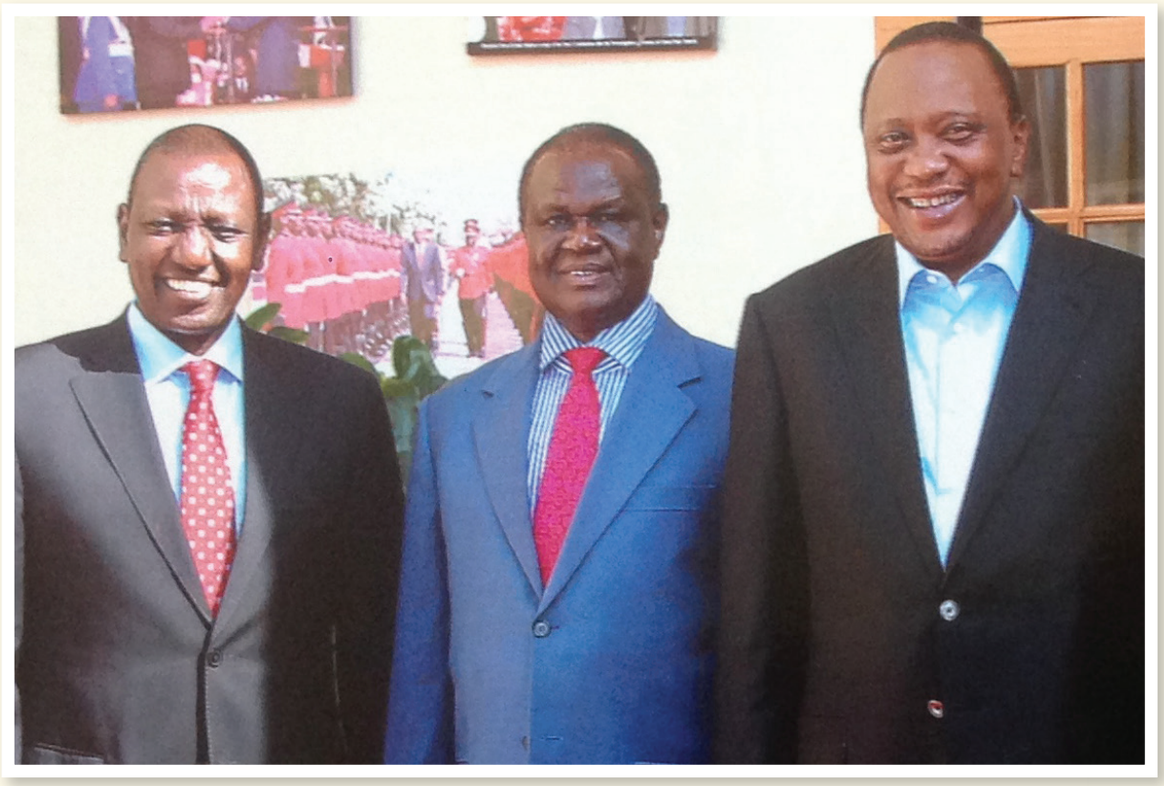
Kiraitu believes that the whole purpose of **development** is to enable the people to live better and more dignified lives. He believes that leaders should guide their people to meet their basic needs, eat better food, live healthier lives, increase their knowledge, enjoy their lives, and be happier human beings.

Kiraitu Murungi believes that **politics** is a vehicle for social and economic trasformation. Politics offers many opportunities for real change, community empowerment and development.

He believes in consultative **political leadership**. He advocates for strong, committed visionary leaders capable of taking bold and even radical decisions to shape the future and inspire the people to become active agents of their own development.

Why the Governor position

In the 2013 General Election, Hon. Kiraitu Murungi won the Meru County Senate seat. He had great expectations for Meru County. He saw devolution as a unique opportunity for leaders to work together to unite the people of Meru. Unfortunately the current County government



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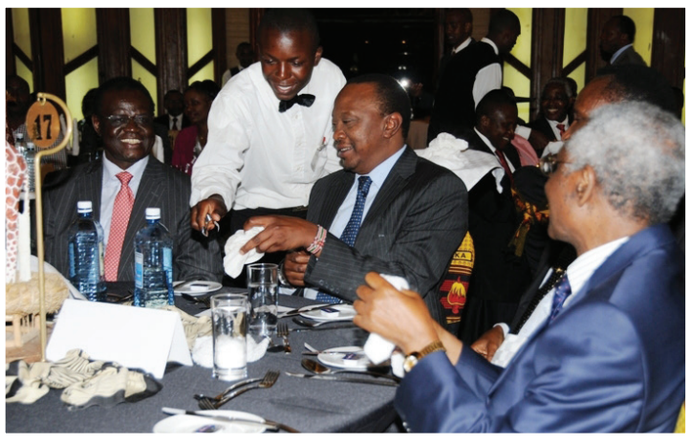
has let people down: It has become a major obstacle to the development of the Meru County.

Kiraitu understands how to transform a society. He feels that the opportunity to make Meru Great has been sabotaged through dictatorship, wanton misuse of public funds, corruption, nepotism and lack of public participation. This is why he is presenting himself and his team to transform the County.

Kiraitu believes time has come for Meru County to have The Meru Dream and a New Deal.

The current County Government has failed the Meru people. It has failed to develop a vision for the Meru people. It does not consult the Political leadership, the Meru professionals, the Academia, Entrepreneurs, Youth, Women and Persons with Disabilities – they have all been ignored and made mere spectators in their own County.

Kiraitu will introduce radical shift to the governance system in Meru County. He will introduce new levels of devolution and avenues for deliberations where people will be able to work together to make Meru Great.



Titus Ntuchiu, Kiraitu's Running Mate

Service with a smile

One of the most noticeable things about Titus Ntuchiu is his permanently jovial mood. The man from Mwithanga village in Nkomo Ward, Tigania West constituency, is indeed one of the most friendly people you will ever meet.

Ntuchiu has been an inspiring personality ever since his days at Mwithanga Primary School, where he studied before joining Kagumo High School for his secondary education. He later went to the University of Nairobi for a Bachelor of Commerce degree, later enrolling in the same university for a Masters in Business Administration (Strategic Management) degree.

Working Life

After his first degree, Ntuchiu started working for the Government of Kenya at the Treasury, but soon left to join the insurance industry. From a management trainee he rose to the position of General Manager by the age of 28. He held this position for eight years before venturing into private business. As his colleagues at AA Insurance will confirm, under his leadership the company experienced immense growth.

Titus Ntuchiu teamed up with three other friends and founded Stantech Motors, a market leader in the motor vehicle repair, servicing and sale industry in Kenya. Stantech Motors is a franchise holder for famous international vehicle brands namely Chery Tiggo, Grand Tiger, JMC and Sino-Truck. Other than Stantech Motors, Ntuchiu and his partners have established two other companies, Four M Insurance Brokers Ltd and Four M Autoparts Ltd which are all very successful.

Under his stewardship as an Executive Director, Stantech Motors Ltd was voted number 10 and 14 in two consecutive years in the Top 100 SMEs in the Country. The same study undertaken by Nation Media Group and KPMG has also placed Ntuchiu at the top among managers and directors in the country. In 2012, Stantech Motors Company grew its annual sales turnover to over 1.2 Billion Kenya shillings.

A history of community Service

Aside from having a stellar career in the private sector as one of the best managers in the country, Ntuchiu is also a man of the people who has been at the frontline of numerous community development projects and ventures. Perhaps most remarkable of all his achievements in the service of the community is his work at Miathene Boys Secondary School as its Board Chairman. Before he took over in 2006, the school had a student population of about 360 with double-stream classes and a serious deficiency of facilities. By the time he left in 2015, it had an enrollment of over 1000 students. Under his management the school acquired two school buses, a double-storey administration block and five-stream of classes. The school mean score rose from 5.8 to 8.9. In 2014, it was Number 2 in Meru County with 124 students out of 129 attaining the minimum university entry mark.

Ntuchiu's other noteworthy contributions to community development include chairing the development committee of Kimachia Secondary School. Through his guidance as the chair of Kimachia's development committee, the school improved learning facilities by putting up new classes and an administration block and increasing student enrolment impressively.

Mwithanga Primary has also benefitted from his vast experience in management. He took over as its patron to save the school which had been coming last in the district due to a number of challenges. As its patron, the mean score rose from 170 to over 300 with a 100 per cent transition rate from primary to secondary school. In 2014 he single-handedly funded the electrification of the school, long before the government announced plans to connect primary schools to the grid. In 2015 Mwithanga Primary school was ranked number 1 among public primary schools in Tigania West sub-county.

Always a helpful hand

Through his vast network of friends and within his own businesses, Titus Ntuchiu has managed to find employment for countless young people. He has helped others acquire admission to medical training institutes and teacher training colleges. He has participated in many fundraisers to help construct churches and schools in many parts of Meru County and indeed in all the wards of Tigania West constituency. He also pays school fees for many students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Ntuchiu, a staunch Christian, is a member of St. Stephen's Methodist Church, Amwari-Meru and Ruaraka Methodist Church, Nairobi.

Keen to make Meru Great

Ntuchiu has not been involved in active politics before although he has always strived to help Tigania and Meru people pick virtuous leaders.

When he was approached by the political and religious leadership of Meru to serve as Meru's Deputy Governor under Kiraitu Murungi, he took it as a welcome challenge and answered the clarion call to help Meru County using his vast knowledge and experience in management.

No doubt under Kiraitu and Ntuchiu, Meru will become Great.

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MERU COUNTY

Jubilee
Tuko Pamoja

OUR PROMISE TO THE PEOPLE OF MERU

1. We promise visionary leadership and all-inclusive governance system

The new government of Meru County under Kiraitu Murungi's leadership will be accessible to all; It will be consultative and involve the people and their leaders in decision-making, right from the Ward to County level. Kiraitu will deal ruthlessly with all forms of corruption to ensure that the people get value for their money. We shall ensure each constituency gets atleast one CEC Member, one Chief Officer and one Director.

We will establish the following institutions to provide space for consultation in decision making and implementation of programs and projects:

Meru Economic and Social Council (MESC)

We will establish a high level advisory body comprising eminent persons. This Council will provide the Meru County government with expert advice on economic and social matters. This will be done with a view to fast tracking the economic and social development of our County.

Specifically,

i. The Meru Economic and Social Council (MESC) will create a forum in which different stakeholders in Meru County can discuss and identify policy issues and give recommendations on how the county government can implement the policies.

ii MESC will develop a vision 2030 and flagship projects for Meru County.

iii. MESC will also develop and recommend to the Meru County Government policies that will promote social equity, economic growth, employment creation and reduce poverty;

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iii. MESC will mobilize knowledge and technical resources from relevant networks including research and educational institutions and Private Sector for accelerated development of the County.

Meru County Development Board

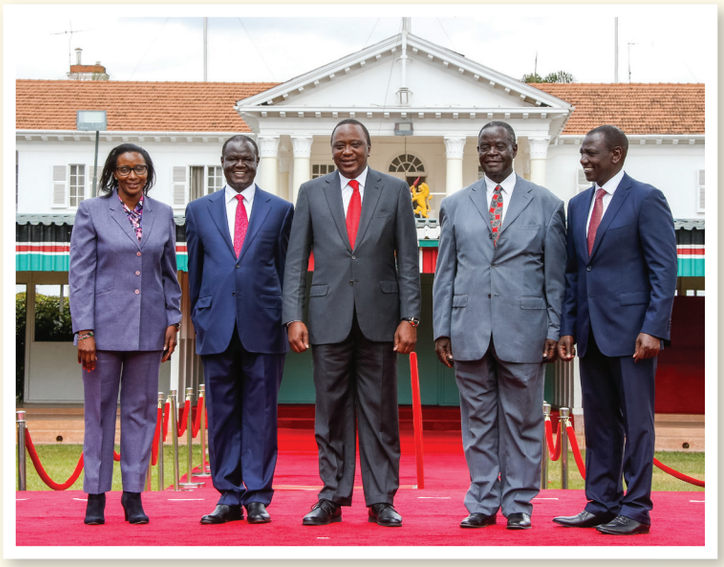
Our government will create strong community voices. We will establish a community-driven approach in which people choose their own development priorities and participate in the management and implementation processes.

Our government will establish an all-inclusive Meru County Development Board which shall consist of;

- The Governor and the Deputy Governor,
- The Senator,
- Members of the National Assembly,
- County Women Representative in the National Assembly,
- Speaker of the County Assembly,
- National Government representatives and
- The County Assembly leadership offices.
- Prominent men, women and youth leaders

Sub County Development Boards

Further down there will be Sub-County Development Boards which shall consist of;



- The Member of the National Assembly representing the sub-county;
- The sub-county administrator;
- The Deputy County Commissioner;
- All the Assistant Deputy County Commissioners in the sub-county;
- All the ward and town administrators in the sub-county;
- Four male community leaders;
- Four female community leaders;
- Four youth community leaders;
- One person representing persons with disabilities; and

- Departmental heads of the national and county government.

Ward Development Boards

There shall also be Ward Development Boards which shall consist of;

- The member of the county assembly in the ward;
- The ward administrator;
- The nominated members of the county assembly registered as voters in the ward;
- The Assistant Sub-county Commissioner;
- All the chiefs in the ward;
- All the village administrators;
- Four male community leaders;
- Four female community leaders;
- Four youth community leaders;
- One person representing persons with disabilities in the ward;
- Departmental heads of the national and county government in the ward.

These Development Boards shall provide a forum for consultation between different county leaders and coordination and harmonisation of county development plans and projects.

They will be responsible for producing the County Development Plans. The Board will also consider and adopt county integrated development plans and annual budgets.

The County Development Board will be receiving submissions and observations from the Ward development Boards. These submissions will be used to identify the needs of each Ward.

Development projects will be owned and jointly implemented by local communities and their leaders. Only large projects and those cutting across different sub-counties will be implemented by the County Government.

Equitable Distribution of Resources

We will guarantee equitable distribution of resources throughout the County and ensure equal treatment of the pople of Igembe, Tigania and Imenti.

We will ensure that each constituency (Sub-County) and each Ward gets its fair share of resources. Half of the County revenue will be retained at the County level for various flagship projects while the other half will be distributed equally in all the wards.

We expect that every ward to get a minimum of Kshs 100 million for its own projects within five years.

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2. We promise to provide water in all the wards

We are determined to end 'water poverty' in Meru County by providing water to all areas and all households.

We will introduce modern technology to help us have at least 5 (Five) boreholes in every ward in the semi-arid areas of Buuri, Tigania West, Tigania East, Igembe Central, Igembe North and Igembe South. These will complement other available water sources.

i. We will cooperate with the National Government to ensure the construction of dams on all major rivers such as Urra, Mutonga, Iraru, Kithino, Thingithu, Mariara, Kathita, and Thangatha, among others;

ii. We will collaborate with the national government to conserve and protect the water towers in the county including Mt Kenya, Imenti forest, Nyambene Hills and many other sources of water in the County;

iii. We will ensure that there is sufficient water for our farmers to carry out irrigated farming instead of always being at the mercy of the vagaries of weather.

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3. We promise to improve agriculture for food and cash for all households

We will invest at least 20 per cent of the County Revenue in Agriculture to ensure that Meru County is food secure and that households have sustainable incomes.

We will establish Meru County Agricultural Development Board charged with the duty of increasing household incomes by:

i. Reviving coffee production;
ii. Introducing macadamia farming alongside Coffee to increase household incomes;
iii. Establishing banana factories;
iv. Establishing potato factories;
v. Intensifying and expansion of dairy farming;
vi. Empowering fish farmers and establishing a fish factory;
vii. Introducing bamboo farming along with other new high-potential crops
viii. Expansion of grape farming, particularly in the Nyambene area
ix. Initiating avocado and mango processing plants;
x. Supporting miraa producers with extension services to improve production;
xi. Establishing miraa marketing system to ensure there is more money to farmers;
xii. Initiating Miraa processing and value addition through research;
xiii. Introducing additional farming like dairy husbandry in Miraa growing areas;

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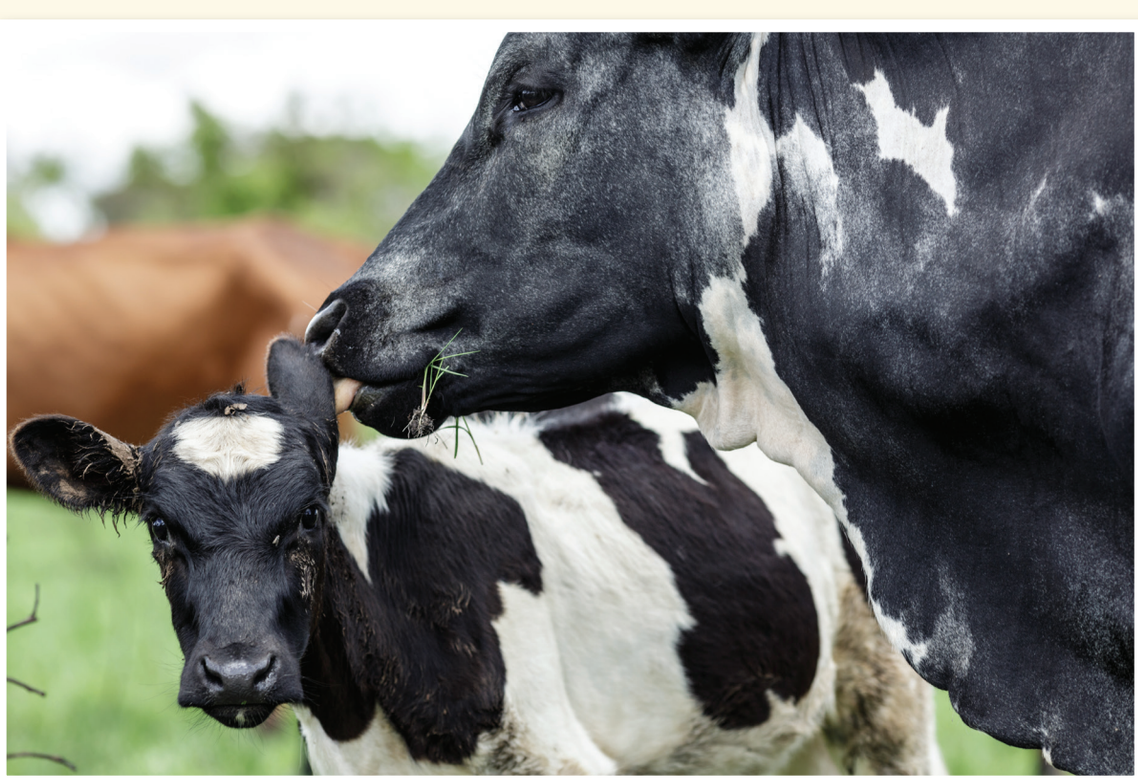
xiv. Encouraging traditional food crop production such as potatoes, arrowroots and yams in order to ensure we are food secure;
xv. Working with National Government agencies to provide security and water in grazing areas;
xvi. Improving livestock production and marketing



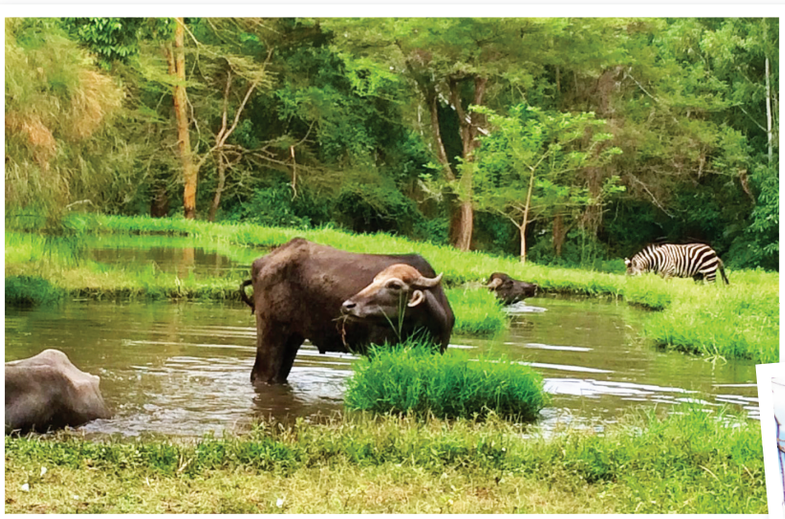
4. We promise to develop world class tourism in the County

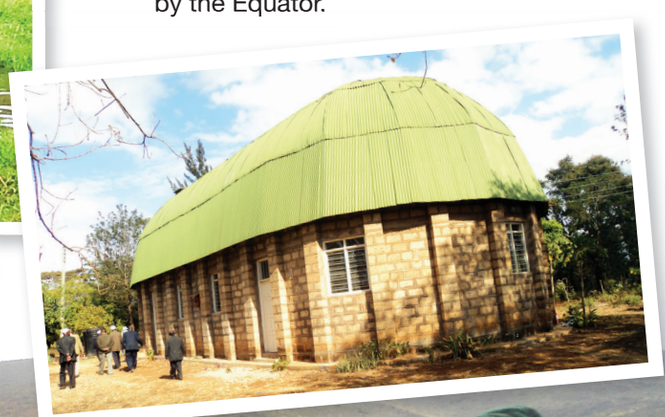
Meru County is rich with diverse cultural practices and natural features that spell great potential for the tourism sector.

From the culinary arts to cultural sites Meru National Park and the great Mount Kenya, Meru has a lot to offer the world.

We will aggressively market the County as a world-class tourist destination and also:

i. Launch Meru Cultural Festivals to celebrate and showcase our wonderful heritage;
ii. Establish the Njuri-Ncheke Cultural Centre at Nchiru to collect and display artefacts and teach unique Ameru traditional values;
iii. Create tourism facilities and infrastructure around the Meru National Park and other sites near the Isiolo Resort City;
iv. Build a five-star Tourist Hotel at the Meru National Park;
v. Open up and aggressively promote mountain tourism to take advantage of Mount Kenya;
vi. We will exploit the unique potential offered by the Equator.





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5. We promise first class education for all our children

We believe that time has come for us to shift from quantity to quality in education.

We will co-operate with the National Government to improve Education infrastructure and academic performance in our schools

i. We will help school boards of management to establish FOSAs - Former Students Assosciation, Mentorship, Alumni, and other support associations in their respective schools to be involved in guiding improvement of the learning infrastructure and environment in our school;
ii. We will establish a well-resourced Meru Education Fund (MEF) with a minimum of Kshs 100 million to provide bursaries to the poor, needy and bright students, which will be administered through the Ward Development Boards;
iii We shall establish Genius Scholarships for all top students in Meru County.
iv. We will expand Technical and Vocational Training (TIVET) through establishment of at least one TIVET center of excellence in every sub-county;
v. We promise free ECDE education for all the children of Meru County;
vi. We will provide free milk and meals for all ECDE Children in the County;
vii. We will co-operate with the National Government, parents associations and Former Students Associations to provide food for all school children.

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6. We promise to improve the roads in all Wards

We will rehabilitate and maintain existing and neglected County roads and bridges

We will establish Meru County Roads Board which will-

i. Ensure that all County roads are motorable;
ii. Lobby the National government to construct and maintain all the national government roads in the County;
iii. Ensure all county roads are properly constructed and well maintained;
iv. Use labour intensive methods to ensure all feeder roads and agricultural roads are permanently maintained;

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7. We promise better health care services for all

We shall create the Meru County Health Board and Sub-County Health Boards composed of health practitioners and community leaders. The Boards will be charged with:-

i. Investing in public health education and preventive healthcare;
ii. Improving working environment for health sector personnel;
iii. Consulting and engaging with Doctors and other Health workers to ensure better working conditions;
iv. Ensure there are adequate drugs in all health centres and dispensaries;
v. Establish an ICU and Cancer Unit at Meru Level V Hospital and make it a top teaching and referral hospital;
vi. Support all privately funded health facilities to improve their services.

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8. We promise to modernize all towns

We shall ensure that all our towns and urban areas are properly planned.

i. We will create Town Councils and Management Boards comprising the local business community who will be in-charge of town management, ensuring that revenue collected in each town is retained for its development;
ii. We will improve and expand infrastructure; roads, water, electricity, fibre-optic and security in all our towns and urban centres;
iii. We will provide sewerage systems in our big towns such as Meru, Maua, Mikinduri, Timau and Nkubu;
iv. We will strive to create dust free towns and markets by paving walkways and bicycle lanes which will also ease traffic congestion and ensure safety of pedestrians;
v. We will encourage private investors to build modern business premises in our towns.

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9. We promise to promote entrepreneurship and attract private investments to the County

We shall create a conducive business environment and promote entrepreneurship and investments in Meru County.

i. We will work with the private sector and expand the savings and credit co-operative societies to mobilize capital to open up business and investment opportunities in Meru County;
ii. We shall create space, zones and conducive environment for hawkers, boda boda riders, small traders and kiosk owners to do their business in peace;
iii. We shall minimize red tape levies and taxes that discourage business;
iv. We shall encourage public-private partnerships projects in the County;
v. We shall seek and support manufacturers and industrialists for processing agricultural products

10. We promise to empower the youth of Meru

We shall promote a youth development programme which will promote local and international exchanges through education tours, attachments, internships and job placement.

i. We shall establish a powerful, well-resourced Ministry of Youth, led by the youth, to promote their empowerment and self-development and provide an enabling environment for youth talent and sports development;
ii. We will establish the Meru Youth Service (MYS) with branches in all sub-counties and employ thousands of our youth in labour-intensive rural roads programmes, afforestation, urban beautification, environmental conservation and water projects;
iii. We will create a Meru Youth Development Program (MYDP) which will generate ideas, analyse problems and propose solutions and help in implementing these proposals to empower the youth;
iv. We will further support the creation of companies in every Ward and Sub-County that will get a share of the 30% of County contracts earmarked for the Youth, Women and people living with disabilities;
v. We shall support and promote the entertainment industry in Meru, which will provide employement to youths, artists, musicians etc.

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11. We promise to empower our Women

We shall support our women to create, healthy and wealthy households and society.

We will treat women with the respect and dignity and make them positive agents of development by being equal partners in the Development programs.

i. We will create a Ministry of Gender to fast-track programs that will ensure political visibility and socio-economic empowerment of women;
ii. We will ensure that the one-third rule is implemented in the country government and provide for inclusion of women in senior leadership positions;
iii. We will support women entrepreneurs by providing them with credit facilities and assisting them market their produce;
iv. We will support women-owned companies and enterprises by ensuring that they benefit from the 30% of the procurement value set aside for Youth, Women and PWDs;
v. We will remove women from culture of dependency and abolish all forms of discrimination against women.

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12. We promise to uplift Persons Living with Disabilities

We will treat PWDs with dignity and make sure that they participate in the leadership of Meru County at all levels.

i. We will create a special program for supporting PWDs engaged in business, agriculture and other economic activities to ensure that they benefit sufficiently;
ii. We will create a special program for supporting PWDs in Meru County to ensure that they are not discriminated in any form whatsoever;
iii. We will ensure that PWDs benefit from their fair share of the County Government procurement and contracts pursuant to 30% set aside for Youth, Women and PWDs;
vi. We shall ensure free medical care for all PWDs.

13. We promise to promote Kimeru culture, traditions, songs and dances

i. We will establish the Njuri-Ncheke Cultural Centre;
ii. We shall create an annual Meru Cultural Festival to showcase Kimeru culture, music and dance;
iii. We shall support Kimeru Institute to promote Kimeru language especially in the diaspora.

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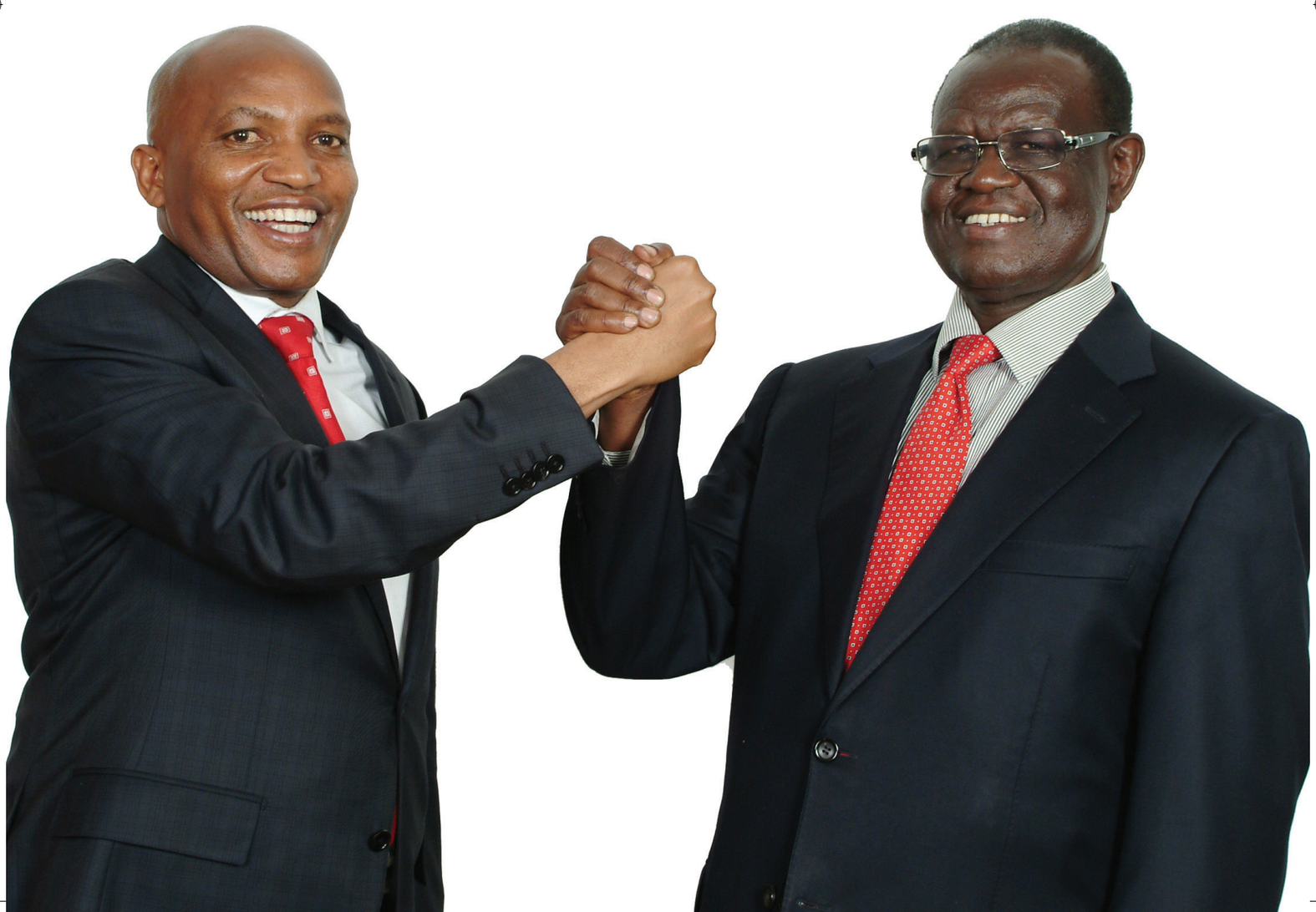
14. We promise to improve environmental conservation

Meru County faces enormous challenges including drying of rivers, depletion of soil nutrients and imminent desertification as a result of various adverse activities.

We will protect our forests and promote agri-forestry across the county in order to improve our forest cover, protect our water towers and protect the wildlife natural habitat.

i. We will introduce bamboo farming to boost the forest cover on our hills in Nyambene, Buuri and elsewhere;
ii. We will promote afforestation through utilisation of the Meru Youth Service;
iii. We will promote agri-forestry to increase the supply of wood resourses in the County.

“We shall empower our people to uproot themselves from poverty, and create wealth and prosperity to make Meru Great”

- Kiraitu Murungi and Titus Ntuchiu