

**A CALL TO NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT**  
**28<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

We gathered here to empathize with Kenyans of all walks of life who have lost their loved ones, those who have been injured, maimed and lost property.

**The situation**

Kenyans went through an election in August 2022 and the outcome of the Presidential election was contested. The aggrieved parties proceeded to the Supreme Court where the election results were upheld.

On the other hand, Kenyans constitution gives the rights to express themselves on any issue with a caveat that it needs to be peaceful. Accordingly, both parties are perfectly right in what they are doing. Even further the situation in the country is truly difficult. The cost of living is beyond manageable levels for most Kenyans and therefore the populace is within their rights to complain bitterly and call for their voices to be heard.

We sincerely admit that there are those of us who would want us to talk about high cost of living and they are right because they are Kenyans.

There are others who would want to talk about how legitimate the president is in power and that no one should interrupt or interfere, and they are right because they are Kenyans who are guided by the constitution.

There are others who want to talk about the dispute that the opposition leaders have about the elections, and they are right as they are Kenyans seeking their constitutional right.

**The Reality**

What we are now dealing with is beyond who is right or wrong. It is whether we will have a country tomorrow. You can only enjoy legal or constitutional rights in a country that exists. You can only do business and invest in a country that functions as a country.

What we have witnessed in the recent past threatens the existence of Kenya as we know it. We know what looks like a political contest can quickly degenerate into a full-scale breakdown of law and order such as the Invasion of Private Properties which leads to anarchy.

we have seen people being asked to alight from public vehicles to present their IDs which may lead to ethnic profiling which may result to a repeat of 2007/2008 scenario: We have seen the stress in the political system where no one truly knows how to resolve the prevailing situation; We have seen partisan security services; We have seen banditry in six counties which has been very difficult to deal with; We have seen unconstitutional pronouncements by state officers; Kidnappings are still taking place and extra judicial killings are still happening: A Church and a mosque was burned in Kibera yesterday.

Of course, Kenyans have a right to picket, demonstrate peacefully as per the constitution.

On the other hand, Our economy is going through unprecedented stress and need to be fixed. There is serious unemployment and high cost of living. The depreciation of the Kenya shilling, and high taxation is not helping the already bad situation.

The totality of all these recent events is adding fuel into fire.

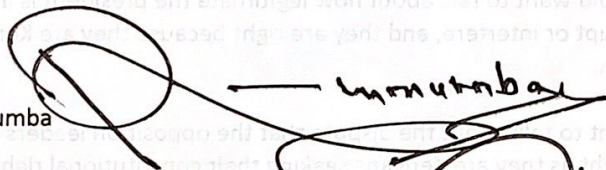
**Suggested Way Forward**

- We humbly appeal upon every Kenyan to take individual responsibility that leads to peace and tranquility.
- Call for a national engagement not just a dialogue. An urgent National Conference that brings together all sectors of the society to deliberate on the current situation and the Kenya we want.
- We join with other Kenyans of goodwill in the process of reconciliation and finding solutions to the problems affecting the country.
- We urge the Executive, the legislature and The Council of Governors to convene an urgent meeting to address the prevailing challenges particularly the cost of living.

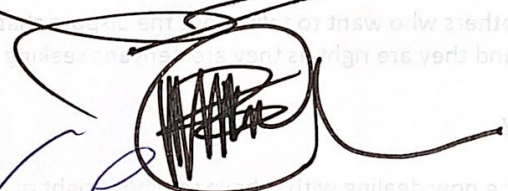
In conclusion, we sincerely urge the Azimio Coalition to consider calling off the weekly demonstrations and give room for national engagement.

Signed


Prof. PLO Lumumba



Phillip M.A. Kisia



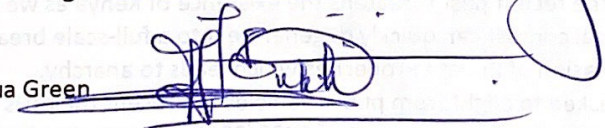
Charles K. Wambugu



Dr. Charles Maranga



Dr Isaac Kalua Green



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