

I have the Midas Touch - Integrity
By Miguna Miguna, May 8, 2017

Nairobi is in a total mess. It's messier than it was in 2012. It's no longer the "Green City in the Sun" of the 1970s.

Nairobi is an over-crowded, filthy and mired in grand corruption. The cartels have usurped power, sabotaged devolution and rendered residents destitute. Elected leaders with a mandate to deliver basic services to the people have transformed themselves into merchants of impunity; superintending over graft, malfeasance and misfeasance in public office and abuse of power.

Nairobi has no public recreational facilities – gardens, parks and swimming pools. With the exception of Uhuru Park, there are hardly any green spaces in the city. Nearly all public land has been grabbed, mostly by those holding public office.

The outgoing Governor, Evans Kidero, has publicly confessed that 1,800 parcels of public land have been stolen under his watch. The Auditor General has stated that Kidero himself cannot account for more than 293 parcels of land. More than Shs.20 billion of public money that he had a positive duty to protect and utilise for service delivery has vanished. That's more than Shs.200 billion-worth of public assets that have been stolen under Kidero's watch.

With Gidion Mbuvi Sonko threatening to turn Uhuru Park into a huge Matatu Terminus if elected, even Uhuru Park is under serious threat. Sonko's qualifications are limited to his public confession that he is a "big thief;" his lengthy criminal record; allegations of drug peddling; crazy hair dos; underworld bling; chaos; violence; harassment; threats and thuggery.

When one flies into Nairobi, the only distinctive feature - unlike cities in Europe, North America and Asia – is that the city is immersed in blanket darkness from the sky.

Ordinary citizens might have resigned themselves to the darkness and drudgery of life in Nairobi, however, we cannot ignore the fact that it's the decades of poor, unethical and unaccountable leadership that has directly resulted in the widespread poverty, exploitation, drudgery, darkness and graft. In turn, these have resulted in rampant criminality, thuggery, lawlessness and disorderliness.

For four successive years, Nairobi has had the dubious distinction of having one of the worst poverty indices globally. It ranks at the very bottom of major cities. The quality of life – child mortality, healthcare services, education, employment, transportation, environmental sustainability, pollution, security, emergency services – name them – are the worst in the world.

Nairobi residents haven't seen the benefits of devolution. For more than four years, Nairobi has literally ground to a halt.

Although billions of tax payers' funds have been allocated for job creation, the provision of clean, running water, solid waste management system and infrastructure development including

housing, county roads, healthcare services, transport and firefighting services and disaster management, both Kidero and Sonko cannot account for those funds.

With a population of 6 million people, it's unacceptable that more than 75 per cent of Nairobians who pay taxes live in filthy, overcrowded and unhealthy slums. These are tin shacks without basic amenities such as sanitation, plumbing, running water and roads.

Decaying garbage is all over the city. The term "solid waste management system" is alien to most Nairobians – and none of my opponents are speaking about it.

Residents don't have adequate, clean and reliable water despite Nairobi having regular and adequate rainfall. Water, like oxygen, is the most important basic necessity for human existence.

In its most recent study, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural (UNESCO) found that Kenya receives enough rainfall annually to cater for more than 233 million people. The only reason Nairobians don't have adequate water is due to the failure by our leaders to plan, collect, store and supply water to the citizens.

Nairobi's traffic gridlock is horrendous, resulting in tens of billions of shillings "man-hours" lost in traffic gridlocks, annually.

Only 2.1 million Kenyans are gainfully employed with 11 million in informal sectors like *Jua Kali*. About 96 per cent of Nairobians, most of them productive, educated and skilled youth, are jobless. Instead of creating economic and financial empowerment of the youth, both Kidero and Sonko have made them dependent on handouts and therefore vulnerable to manipulation.

Nairobi is the financial and economic engine of Kenya. It controls about 60 per cent of Kenya's GDP. It's the seat of both the national and county governments. It's the heart of the country without which it collapses and dies.

To break the vicious cycle of poor leadership, poverty and decay, Nairobians must elect visionary leaders of integrity with concrete policies and programs to solve the problems. We cannot afford another five years of corrupt, incompetent, inefficient and unaccountable leaders.

My two opponents – Kidero and Sonko - have presided over the mess. Five years after being elected, they haven't unveiled any policies and programs. They have no manifestos.

The Auditor General, the EACC, Kenya Revenue Authority and NGO Board have published a litany of indictments against Kidero. He has stashed tens of billions of shillings of our money in the more than 15 bank accounts which were frozen and are under criminal investigations. Kidero's personal foundation was recently deregistered for engaging in money laundering. It, too, has billions of shillings of our money.

Kidero's Chief of Staff, Wainaina, is facing serious fraud charges in court yet he hasn't been fired. Kidero's Chief Financial Officer, Kiamba, is being prosecuted for stealing more than Shs.2.3 billion in two years.

Hawkers have taken over Nairobi's CBD. The "Kanjos" under Kidero have become death squads which routinely extort, torture and extra-judicially kill hawkers without any punishment.

Amidst all these, Mbuvi, who is supposed to protect devolution and ensure that Kidero delivers services, has never uttered a word at the Senate. He is ranked among the worst performing senators. Rather than initiate an impeachment process against Kidero for the well-documented ills, Mbuvi has physically assaulted Rachel Shebesh and fought Kidero.

Leaders are elected to deliver. They cannot delegate their responsibilities to unelected people, especially when the delegating authority doesn't understand both his functions and those he is delegating them to. After 55 years of poor, unaccountable and corrupt leadership, Nairobians deserve a leader with a crystal clear vision, policies and programs together with a commitment for delivery.

I am that leader.

Unlike my opponents, I've fought against the one party dictatorship. I helped draft the Constitution that brought devolution. I've never been involved in any corruption. I've never given or received a bribe. I've never grabbed land. I've practised law in Canada as a Barrister and Solicitor in good standing for more than 23 years.

As the senior-most adviser to the Prime Minister of Kenya and a Joint-Secretary to the Permanent Committee for the Management of Grand Coalition Affairs for three years, I was never involved in corruption when junior officers and civilians were. I'm competent and incorruptible.

I've unveiled a comprehensive manifesto with concrete programs for the elimination of corruption; protection of public resources; job creation through massive infrastructure development including the replacement of slums with modern, humane and affordable housing, a solid waste management system, a light rail system, a subway system; the construction of wider and straighter roads controlled by smart lights and the removal of all roundabouts; the building of walkways, bicycle lanes, over passes and underpasses in all residential areas; the restoration of all grabbed public land; the provision of gardens and parks for recreation in all areas; and the building of modern and affordable markets for hawkers to sell their goods. Healthcare, trade, agriculture and emergency services will also be provided to everyone.

The current constitutional dispensation is a pure presidential devolved system. Consequently, I don't need any political party machinery to govern. The MCAs only legislate and provide oversight. They will pass by-laws as I govern with my cabinet and the county civil service. As long as my administration upholds the constitution, laws and delivers services, the MCAs will have no grounds to interfere with my administration. If they refuse to pass my budget, they won't have any funds for themselves and their wards.

Ultimately, I'm determined to bring an ethical and orderly transformation to governance and service delivery, growth and prosperity to the city. As an independent governor, I'll not be

fettered by party cronyism. I'll make Nairobians economically and financially independent and prosperous. I'll succeed because I've the software of leadership – the Midas Touch - Integrity.

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