



## Safina Party Presidential Nomination Acceptance Speech key highlights

March 21, 2022

Bomas of Kenya

Nairobi, Kenya

### **Together we will make seismic 'Itwika' change**

Mr. Party Leader,  
Entire Safina Party Leadership,  
Our Special Guests  
Our Wonderful Party National Delegates,  
Our Supporters across the Country,

I want to express my gratitude to the Safina Party Leader for his generous and inspiring introduction. I would also like to thank my dear wife Irene Nzisa and my children Wambui and Maina for standing with me through this journey. The entire Safina leadership fraternity, special guests led by His Excellency the Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, my good friend William Samoei Ruto, party members na wananchi wenzangu – Hamjambo!

I thank the delegates and party members for the honour bestowed upon me by nominating me as your presidential candidate. With humility, I accept your nomination.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

### **1. Accepting the Nomination and what it means**

- This is not just another Party National Delegates Conference – it is a day marking a turning of a new leaf for our country – A New Chapter
- When Party Leader and I held first discussion about my joining Safina Party and proposal to be the Party Presidential nominee, I fully understood the challenge and opportunity
- You have bestowed upon me a responsibility and duty not just to our resilient Safina Party but more critically, on behalf of millions of great Kenyans. We are ushering a new chapter for the country.
- I accept this task with a deep obligation, unshakable resolve and complete dedication, all the while being very aware of its burdens and decisive importance. Together we will build firm foundations for a better, proud and stronger Kenya

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- **Our Goal** is very clear: we are an instrument of transformational change – seismic change. We are ushering the **Itwika** in this country: a break from the old order of personalities, positions and unmitigated greed for power .
- It is our resolve to give to our country a different leadership, and cement progressive, irreversible gains in our governance and institutional arrangements – the system must be reset to ensure no one is left behind – every Kenyan, every community and every corner of this country must enjoy the fruits of our individual and collective sweat.
- We must have total victory on August 9, 2022 for us to achieve our goal.

## 2. Why Safina Party and My Candidature

- Safina Party has a storied history of being an instrument of real change even in the moments of adversity – it has been a shining torch even in the face of brutal authoritarian rule.
- I will stand for Presidency on a Safina Party ticket and create an alliance of all Kenyans. It will be an alliance for a different Kenya. A Kenya we need for all.
- This rigged and broken system of the privileged and entitled few is scared and threatened – manifesting in attacking, criminalizing and harassing innocent Kenyans.
- I could have decided to comfortably sit back and enjoy a relatively good life – my declared opponents, and the reluctantly exiting president are all old friends, and I could have forged self-serving alliances with fairly low risk and high personal benefit. However, lessons from my Party Leader here, SC Muite, Kenneth Matiba among other freedom fighters have shown that you will never have peace if the country is not just, fair and peaceful for every Kenyan – they courageously gave up their affluent lives to take to the street and lead the struggle for a healthy democracy and progressive constitution – not for themselves but for all Kenyans to be free, dignified and respected.
- My single-minded resolve is to serve our people, secure their human and economic freedoms, restore pride of country and set our uniquely gifted nation on a globally competitive economic track.

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### 3. Kenya – A Country of Firsts

- Kenya is a country of firsts – we waged armed struggle against British colonialism and grabbing of our land – we won.
- We fought single-party dictatorship – we won.
- We fought (in peace time!) for a new progressive Constitution that secured the rights and dignity of the common man – we won.
- Our courts been at the forefront of protecting the constitution from executive and legislative overreach and, in a landmark decision, nullifying a presidential election (a continental first!) – we won.
- We have the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, the irrepressible hero and sustainable development trailblazer, Wangari Maathai – we won.

### 4. Kenya – A Country in Peril

- Despite these significant national milestones, repeated governance failures mean Kenya is a country in peril.
- At independence we inherited a dangerous virus – it has been mutating in every election cycle since 1964 and taking different names, colours and shapes – the second generation of original virus is positioning itself to mutate into the third variant – it is another 60 years of slavery and deprivation in the making – **our future is bleak if this virus succeeds in mutating again.**
- **Our concern must be with future generations – the world is changing, what platform are we handing over to them?**
- **The old order must die. It must be wiped out. We must end transactional politics.**
- Our country has been **mortgaged to crippling debt** – killing economic productivity, incomes and opportunities, our young people have lost purpose, they cannot see the future, their dreams and aspirations have been shattered – **we must never pay a debt that has been borrowed and stolen – every cent should be accounted for forensically and independently.**
- While much is sometimes made of Kenya being the 6<sup>th</sup> wealthiest country on the continent, out of 17 million employed Kenyans, only 79,000 of them earn KES 100,000 or more – a paltry 0.5%. 53 out of 100 Kenyans cannot put food on the table, up from 38 in 2013 showing a further descent into poverty for the ordinary Kenyan. In February 2020, our Central Bank Governor faulted the country's economic structure which has been delivering growth without job creation or rising income. The 2020 National Census data puts the unemployment rate at a staggering 39% (over 5.4 million Kenyans are jobless – a continuing national socioeconomic disaster).

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- Kenyans talk about corruption daily – it is not corruption – it is State Capture. The State has been taken over by **economic terrorists**. State Capture has not only suffocated Kenyans, it has made it impossible for our small businesses to grow and thrive. State Capture has stolen our health, education, livelihoods and our social security.
- We have had a **parasitic, predatory and cruel leadership**, with no human face and no human value. We have suffered a chain of governments and leaders who are oppressive, don't care and have exercised very poor judgment. This is a leadership that has been cannibalizing and destroying our transformational 2010 Constitution so as to maintain the bloodsucking rigged system.
- Kenya is at a pivotal moment to imaginatively, and with a unity of purpose, redefine its economic and political landscape for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This is a defining moment for a permanent and decisive break with the past. **The country is in dire need of bold, visionary leadership that invests in the Kenyan people.**

## 5. Itwika: My Policy Direction

- The problems we face are the product of 60 years of political and governance failures – we cannot look to the same leadership that brought us here to get us out of this mess.
- **This is our Itwika moment** – in African culture, Itwika was a revolutionary call to change leadership from the one generation to another (when life became unbearable), from old leadership to new leadership, from old ways to new ways.
- We must think globally and act locally. **Tools of yesterday cannot meet needs of today and tomorrow.**
- **We have had National decline rather than National greatness.** Ours has been competition between private interests and public good. We have been glorifying creeping mediocrity, incompetence and theft. We must have a **breath of fresh air of progress and determined dedication** to our motherland. We must have a fundamental paradigm shift. Our domestic policy interests must inform our foreign policy pursuits.
- **We are in the midst of a historic and fundamental transition on the future direction of our country.** We must chart a new radical course. We are beyond the business-as-usual era. This is the moment for bold forward-looking leadership. We need to smartly invest in resilience, innovation, and competitiveness to meet needs of our Kenyan people and country. Our cornerstone responsibility is to the Kenyan people. We must meet the demands of all our people including respect for their rights and freedoms, identity, autonomy, decent work, and always uphold their dignity.



- Economic security is national security. We have an obligation to decisively address the systemic social and economic inequalities. To get there, fiscal sanity must be restored. We will fundamentally alter government macroeconomic policy and spending to reduce deficit and debt. We will adopt a zero-based budgeting system where tax expenditure is justified and accounted for. Fiscal and budget transparency to Kenyan people will be mandatory.
- We will partner with the private sector to develop a conducive environment for industrial growth and investments in manufacturing. We will bring down the cost of doing business, improve productivity and reduce the regulatory burden that stifles the growth of SMEs and other businesses. This will be a record-breaking period for attracting new productive investment into the economy.
- Our agriculture contributes 34% of country's GDP, yet its productivity performance remains dismal (only contributing 2% to Revenue; in contrast with Manufacturing which contributes 8% of GDP and 17.5% of Revenue) – we will revitalize our agricultural output and rural economy by adopting farmer-centered empowerment and integration of agriculture with processing and value addition enterprises. Not too long ago we were told that 2020 would be the year Kenya would be fully industrialized. We will significantly ramp up spending on research and development as well as field extension services. Our agricultural institutions both university and colleges will have direct link and partnerships with farmers for knowledge and production transformation. We will recover all our research land that has been grabbed.
- Cheap, reliable, clean and efficient energy is a key driver for economic productivity and competitiveness – we will guarantee energy supply that is secure, competitively priced, and environmentally friendly as a basic requirement for a competitive economy. Our energy security policy will be focused on four objectives: Secure, plentiful, diverse energy supply; Robust, reliable infrastructure; competitive and stable energy price; and environmentally sustainable energy production and use. We will also aggressively pursue opportunities presented by the global decarbonization agenda – including green hydrogen and its derivatives, battery storage and green manufacturing. Renewable energy will drive global economic development in the coming decades and Africa (with Kenya in the lead) is uniquely positioned to leverage this trend to achieve economic transformation.
- An efficient and effective transport system is vital for the economy. We will invest heavily in Countrywide transport and other infrastructure systems to enable new investments, trade links, access to markets, and job creation. Our cities transport problems are not only caused by poorly designed roads but also weak traffic flow management and lack of seamless modes of public transport. We will establish a

sustainable integrated urban transport system providing affordable, economically viable, people-oriented transportation systems.

- Kenya has a huge digital and technology divide – internet broadband accessibility and affordability has the potential to be an equalizer in the country. We will end internet broadband inequality by making digital technology affordable and accessible for Instagrammers and Tik-Tokkers to generate their own content so that the world is downloading them instead of them downloading the world.
- Our National Security and Defense policy must be smart, efficient and effective. We must make our defense and security institutions and policies more transparent, accountable and subject to rigorous civilian oversight including building healthy civil-security relations. Our Defence and Security expenditure will be overhauled to reflect smart investments in equipping and building capabilities including technologies to deter our adversaries, defend our people, interests, and defeat threats that emerge. Budget expenditure and policy transparency will be institutionalized. We will develop legal protocols for our defense institutions to partner with private sector in scientific and technological research and development for both civilian and military use. We will invest in the people and their families who serve us in defense and security institutions.
- Skilled human capital is vital to achieving a globalized, democratized and competitive economy while transforming human lives. We will overhaul the national education policy with the aim of guaranteeing equitable access to the highest quality education for all learners and bridging the gap between current learning outcomes and future challenges while recognizing the need to keep up with a rapidly changing world. Our children will never again sit on stones or learn in dilapidated classes. We will invest in public schools' infrastructure, equipment and teaching personnel transformation. There will be high standards of education quality assurance, monitoring and accountability.
- Now I want to talk to the women and youth of our wonderful country. Gender parity and youth inclusion is a fundamental principle of sound governance, fairness and equity, and economic performance. We will advance gender equality, and women's empowerment as part of our broader commitment to inclusive economic growth and social cohesion. There will be a fair chance and equal opportunities for all gender and generations. As I have said earlier, this is time for the 76% of our population below 37 years. We will keep the promise to this generation.
- We will fundamentally change the character, structure and work ethic of the civil service. It must become a service-oriented engine. We will enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion, and prioritize flexibility while improving training across our civil service workforce. We will provide our civil service with the cutting-edge technology they

need, while encouraging new organizational structures and a culture of innovation required to address today's complex challenges. We will enforce professional integrity, accountability, and transparency. We will reform, restructure and realign our agencies, departments, interagency processes, and a whole of government organization to reflect the new reality. One example is the introduction of commercial ambassadors...

- Our world is interconnected and interdependent – it is our priority to strengthen regional and global cooperation as a major platform for trade, shared security, and a more consequential voice in regional and global institutions. Our foreign policy interests must be guided by our domestic needs with cooperation and partnership based on equality and mutual respect.
  - Ladies and Gentlemen:
  - What I am committing to today is to lead an economic revolution that will secure irreversible gains for our people. A Revolution that will be guided by 3 Rs– Rescue, Reform and Repositioning – allowing our people to take off and conquer.
  - We have heard our competitors referring to impending earthquakes, which in turn cause tsunamis, and in turn cause flooding. Safina is the Ark that will carry God's chosen people to the promised land.
  - When Noah was 600 years old, God released the rains that lasted for forty days and nights, causing the Flood. Noah and his wife, sons, and their wives, along with the animals he had taken aboard the ark, were spared the Flood and survived. But every living thing outside of the ark was destroyed in the waters of the Flood.
  - The Flood symbolizes the turbulent times and challenges the country is experiencing due to the greed and selfish decisions of leaders who lack vision for the future of the country. These decisions have led to the current sorry state of the nation characterized by high debt, joblessness and high cost of living.
  - Let me announce here today that those who have played a part in the destruction of the rule of law, economy and livelihoods will one day be brought to book and held accountable.
  - We can no longer stand by and watch passively – the current social contract has failed and collapsed. As stewards of the people, our leaders have abused the responsibility vested in them at the expense of the citizens. A new social contract and covenant must be established for Kenya to move forward to greatness.
  - As I conclude, I wish to state the following:
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- As Safina, we commit to renew the social contract with the people of Kenya.
  - We will rebuild trust and social cohesion – a break from the past.

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