

Starving Kenyans are paying for the luxuries of a few politicians.

The 2008-2009 budget was passed by MPs without discussions. It reflects a bad and wasteful government that has stopped caring for the people despite the many hardships that they continue to endure.

The cost of living is so high that 80% of Kenyans cannot afford even one meal a day. Most Kenyans are casual workers who earn as little as Kshs100 a day yet maize flour alone costs over Kshs 100 for a 2kg packet. The price of cooking oil, kerosene, electricity and transport is three times what it was last year.

Instead of reducing spending to ease the burden for Kenyans, the government will spend Kshs 7 billion to buy and fuel big cars. Less than Kshs 1 billion will be used for relief food for starving Kenyans. The Cabinet Office with only 237 employees will get Kshs 4 billion but the Ministry for Cooperative Development which serves millions of Kenyans will only get Kshs1 billion. Each month, Kshs 102 Million will be spent on household and press service for Kibaki, Raila, and Kabingo which is more than the **Funding for roads nationwide**.

Vice President Kalonzo will get Kshs 100 million for travel this year while people are starving in Ukambani. Prime minister Riala's household funding is more than the money allocated for slum upgrading.

The government has allocated Kshs. 3.4 billion for the import of maize so that the prices come down. Unfortunately, the maize is given to the well-connected business people who sell it at high prices, meaning that our taxes are corruptly used to make a few very rich while we continue to struggle. Right now there is a shortage of maize-flour. How can that be, if the government has imported Kshs. 3.4 billion worth of maize?!

Politicians don't care that 1.5 million Kenyans are starving. Thousands of poor people are dying of hunger. Millions are struggling to survive under great difficulty. To fund-raise for campaigns, both Kibaki and Raila collected billions from their friends. We remember when Kibaki's friends each paid Kshs1million each for lunch. Raila's friends abroad were also paying millions to dine with him.

If both Kibaki and Raila cared about our dying children, they would raise funds for food. But even if they don't care, **we can afford to feed the hungry from our taxes if the government stops wasting our taxes on buying and fueling big cars.**

If MPs and Judges pay taxes, there will be more money for food and medicine for all. If the maize purchased is not sold corruptly, the cost of maize-flour will be Kshs 30 only. If we stop spending billions on corrupt deals we can remove taxes on all fuels.

A litre of petrol will cost only Kshs 45, Kerosene will cost Kshs 25 per litre, electricity prices will fall by 65% and factories won't close down. Unemployment will reduce.

Over 71% of the money the government is wasting comes from ordinary Kenyans through VAT and income tax. The government has removed all taxes for goods and services used by the President. Is this fair?

Join the Partnership for Change in demanding equal treatment for all Kenyans

“Kenya is not free. But freedom is not free either

No outside force is coming to give oppressed Kenyans the freedom that Kenyans so much want. Kenyans will have to learn how to take that freedom themselves. Easy it cannot be.

If Kenyans can grasp what is required for their own liberation, Kenyans can chart courses of action which, through much travail, can eventually bring Kenyans their freedom. Then, with diligence Kenyans can construct a new democratic order and prepare for its defense.

Freedom won by struggle of this type can be durable. It can be maintained by a tenacious Kenyan people committed to its preservation and enrichment.”

Partnership for Change.