

# Debt is Poverty! Debt is Slavery! Refusing to Pay is Justice!

**18.8 Million Kenyans are living in abject poverty (56% of the total population)**

**And yet... in the 2005/06 Budget the Ministry of Finance has proposed spending**

**Ksh. 112 billion on Debt Servicing (22% of the total budget)**

**as compared to Ksh \* 96 billion on education,**

**\* 30 billion on health care,**

**\* 28 billion on roads, and**

**\* 10 billion on water**

**Also, despite it being thought that a majority of the Total Debt Stock (Ksh. 707 billion) is suspect,**

- Kenya has repaid over US \$51 billion for the US\$17 billion it originally borrowed from external creditors;
- Current MPs voted down the opening of the Debt Register to public scrutiny;
- The Kenyan government recently took no unified position on the international scene to ask for debt cancellation on your behalf

**As a result, each Kenyan continues to bare a international debt tag of approximately Ksh. 25,000.**

**Perhaps it is time to ask yourself, is your government really serving YOU?**

**Dear Mr. President Mwai Kibaki,**

**Honourable Members of Parliament**

I am writing today to encourage you to officially acknowledge that the very act of servicing our debts is severely hindering our development and is a source of our poverty and oppression. I ask you do every thing possible to rectify this problem.

I suggest:

- 1.) Opening the Public Debt Register to public scrutiny and publishing its contents;
- 2.) Taking further steps to drastically reduce the domestic debt stock;
- 3.) Provide an annual comprehensive financial report of public income and expenditure;
- 4.) Creating legislation which establishes monitoring mechanisms that will:
  - ⇒ Guarantee that loans are approved by the Kenyan people before they are contracted on their behalf, and
  - ⇒ Facilitate a transparent use of development funds;
- 5.) Demanding that all those who have siphoned public funds return them immediately with apologies to the nation;
- 6.) Cooperating with debt campaign groups in refusing to pay external debts that cannot be proven to be legitimate; and,
- 7.) Establish a public monitoring mechanism to control how the money saved from debt cancellation or repudiation is used.

**Finally, please stop using my tax money to continue servicing debts, which have done nothing to improve my quality of life.**

Most sincerely,

*See signatures overleaf*

*To be presented to: Hon. President Mwai Kibaki through Hon. David Mwiraria, Minister of Finance and The Honourable Members of Parliament through Francis Ole Kaparo, the Speaker of the House.*

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*Please return to your place of receipt not later than May 8<sup>th</sup> 2006*  
**Debt is Poverty! Debt is slavery! Refusing to Pay is Justice!**