

# KARISA J. FAGIO

GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATE — KILIFI COUNTY, KENYA — 2027

*“From the village, for the village — a leader born of struggle, proven by service”*

<b>CONSTITUENCY</b> Kilifi North, Kilifi County	<b>EDUCATION</b> BSc Biochemistry JKUAT, 1994	<b>CURRENT BASE</b> Monrovia, Liberia (returning 2026)	<b>CAMPAIGN</b> Operation Mwangaza wa Kilifi 2027
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## CANDIDATE STATEMENT — A LIFE BUILT FOR THIS MOMENT

**I am not a politician who discovered Kilifi at election time. I am Kilifi.** I was born in a humble village in Malindi to parents who never stepped inside a classroom. I lost my father at the age of seven — the same year I began Standard One at Mijomboni Primary School, in the very first class to navigate the then-uncertain 8-4-4 curriculum. My mother, barely literate, was left alone to feed and raise six children with no income, no land title, and no safety net.

*I know what hunger feels like. I know what it means to chase bursaries from office to office just to stay in school. I know what it costs a child to watch a mother cry over school fees.* These are not stories I read in a policy brief — they are the story of my life. And they are the story of hundreds of thousands of Kilifi families today.

Against every odd, I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Biochemistry from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology in 1994 — while simultaneously supporting my mother and funding my younger siblings' education from whatever savings I could scrape together as a student. That same relentless determination has defined every chapter of my life since: as a professional who has advised heads of state; as a civic campaigner who fought for Kilifi's girl child; as a farmer advocate who built value chains with his own resources; and as a candidate who stood against entrenched power in 2007, losing the Malindi parliamentary seat to the very man now serving as Kilifi's Governor.

**Kilifi does not need another politician. Kilifi needs someone who has lived its pain, understands its potential, and has the technical knowledge, international exposure, and moral conviction to transform it.** I am asking for your support — not as a favor, but as a shared investment in the future of every child in this county.

## PERSONAL PROFILE

<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Karisa J. Fagio</b>	<b>Year of Birth:</b> 1970
<b>County of Origin</b>	Kilifi County — Kilifi North Constituency	<b>Community:</b> Mijomboni Village, Malindi
<b>Current Location</b>	Monrovia, Republic of Liberia (returning to Kenya, 2026)	<b>Position Sought:</b> <b>Governor, Kilifi County 2027</b>

## VISION & GUBERNATORIAL AGENDA FOR KILIFI COUNTY

### "A KILIFI WHERE NO CHILD STARTS LIFE WHERE I DID"

*A prosperous, equitable Kilifi County where every citizen — farmer, fisher, student, woman, and young person — lives with dignity and opportunity, served by accountable leaders who are answerable to the community.*

#### PILLAR 1: AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION

As Chairman of the Kilifi Cassava Value Chain (2022) and Lead Agricultural Consultant in Liberia, I bring hands-on, evidence-based agricultural transformation expertise. I will establish 7 sub-county agri-resource centers, revive extension services in every ward, revive cotton farming, develop cashew, mango, coconut, pineapple, oranges, and cassava, and vegetables value chains with a very strong presence of value addition, to boost primary producers and farmers income as well as creating thousands of employment opportunities for the youth and women in addition to introducing crop insurance for smallholder farmers.

#### PILLAR 3: EDUCATION FOR ALL — NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

Having educated myself through bursaries and holiday jobs, and having funded my siblings' schooling from a student's pocket, I understand education poverty from the inside. I will establish an Exclusive Academic Fund Kitty to enable every son and daughter of Kilifi to access education at all levels wherever they are. A complete ECDE centers network in all 35 wards convenient for supporting early childhood education, launch the Kilifi Girls' Education Initiative, support a dedicated Boys Education program and enhance

#### PILLAR 2: BLUE ECONOMY — BAHARI YA KILIFI

Kilifi's 210km Indian Ocean coastline is the most underdeveloped economic asset in Kenya. I will establish 5 modern fish landing sites, form county-supported fishing cooperatives prioritizing women and youth, invest in seaweed and oyster farming, launch mariculture programs, and mandate that 50% of blue economy licences go to women and youth under 35.

#### PILLAR 4: YOUTH & WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

My 'Niche Nikomae' campaign (2018–2022) fought teenage pregnancy and saved thousands of girls — funded entirely from my personal savings because I believed in those girls. As Governor, I will institutionalize this commitment: a County Youth Enterprise Fund, women's business cooperatives, TVET centers in every constituency to generate a reliable workforce for our revived industries and the newly established value addition setups, and a structured employment pipeline through the blue economy and industrial sectors. TVETS to customize training programs with an emphasis of supplying the workforce needed to boost the Economy of Kilifi County.

free school feeding program presenting schools as a readily available next door market for farm produce. No Kilifi child should drop out for lack of fees.

### **PILLAR 5: ANTI-CORRUPTION & TRANSPARENCY**

I have never held county public office. I carry no baggage of corruption, no patronage debts, and no financial interests that conflict with public service. I will introduce independent county audit committees, public procurement transparency, quarterly public budget reviews, and a whistleblower protection ordinance from day one.

### **PILLAR 6: INDUSTRIALISATION & DONOR RE-ENGAGEMENT**

My international consulting experience — across multiple countries and development organizations — gives me unique access to donor networks and investment pipelines. I will develop a Kilifi County Industrial Park, establish agro-processing clusters, restore donor confidence through transparent governance, and attract Special Economic Zone status to the county.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

<p><b>2024 – Present</b> <i>Joseph Nyuma Boakai Foundation   Monrovia, Liberia</i></p>	<p><b>Lead Consultant, Agricultural Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serving as principal technical advisor on agricultural development strategy for the Foundation established by the current President of Liberia, Joseph Boakai</li> <li>• Advising the Liberian Government on key agricultural investment and development initiatives, directly influencing national policy and funding allocation</li> <li>• Facilitating engagement between the Government and international development organizations to mobilize funding for rural and agricultural programs</li> <li>• Demonstrating at an international level the capacity for evidence-based policy advisory, multi-stakeholder engagement, and development programming — skills directly transferable to the Kilifi Governor's office</li> </ul>
<p><b>2022 – 2023</b> <i>Kilifi County Cassava Farmers &amp; Processors Association   Kilifi, Kenya</i></p>	<p><b>Chairman, Cassava Value Chain</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spearheaded county-wide cassava value chain development, organizing smallholder farmers, processors, and market linkages</li> <li>• Advocated for improved inputs, storage, and market access for cassava farmers across Kilifi County wards</li> <li>• Ran program largely self-funded from personal business savings, demonstrating personal commitment to Kilifi's agricultural sector beyond political ambition</li> <li>• Built foundation for a scalable agro-processing model that can be institutionalized at county government level under a Fagio administration</li> </ul>
<p><b>2018 – 2022</b> <i>Kilifi County Girls' Empowerment</i></p>	<p><b>Founder &amp; Campaign Director — 'Niache Nikomae'</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Founded and personally funded a county-wide campaign against teenage pregnancy titled 'Niache Nikomae' ("Let Me Grow Up")</li> </ul>

<p><i>Initiative   Kilifi, Kenya</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Campaign directly reached thousands of vulnerable girls across Kilifi County schools and communities between 2018 and 2022</li> <li>• Contributed measurably to the reduction in teenage pregnancy rates in Kilifi County during the campaign period</li> <li>• Partnered with community leaders, schools, religious institutions, and health workers to deliver a multi-pronged behavior change program</li> <li>• Demonstrates the candidate's personal conviction that social transformation does not wait for a government title — action precedes office</li> </ul>
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<p><b>1994 – Present</b> <i>Various Organizations   Kenya &amp; International</i></p>	<p><b>Biochemist &amp; International Development Professional</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 30 years of professional experience in biochemistry, agricultural science, and international development across multiple countries</li> <li>• Extensive international travel and professional engagement spanning Africa, Asia, Europe, and beyond — providing rare first-hand exposure to diverse governance models, development frameworks, and political systems</li> <li>• Built technical expertise in food systems, agricultural development, scientific research, and project management applicable directly to Kilifi County's development priorities</li> <li>• Professional career funded personal support to mother and siblings throughout university years and beyond, demonstrating lifelong commitment to family and community responsibility</li> </ul>
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<p><b>2007</b> <i>Kenya National Democratic Alliance (KENDA)   Malindi, Kilifi County</i></p>	<p><b>Parliamentary Candidate — Malindi Constituency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contested the Malindi Parliamentary seat under the KENDA party platform in the 2007 General Elections</li> <li>• Ran against and lost to Gideon Mung'aro — the same individual who currently serves as Governor of Kilifi County</li> <li>• The 2007 campaign marked the beginning of a sustained 17-year engagement with Kilifi County politics, civic education, and community mobilization</li> <li>• Losing that election did not extinguish the commitment — it deepened it. The determination to serve Kilifi County has only grown stronger with each passing year of witnessing unfulfilled potential</li> </ul>
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## EDUCATION & ACADEMIC JOURNEY

**A Story of Determination That Kilifi's Children Deserve to Repeat**  
*My educational journey — from a fatherless child in Mijomboni village to a university graduate supporting his own family — is not a background detail. It is the central qualification for leading Kilifi County. I have personally navigated every barrier that Kilifi's children face today. As Governor, I will dismantle those barriers.*

<b>1990 – 1994</b>	<b>Bachelor of Science — Biochemistry</b>	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture & Technology (JKUAT), Kenya
<b>1986 – 1989</b>	<b>Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE)</b> <i>Day student — living at home, self-funded through bursaries and holiday work</i>	Gede Secondary School, Kilifi County
<b>1978 – 1985</b>	<b>Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE)</b> <i>Pioneer class of the 8-4-4 curriculum   Lost father aged 7 in 1978, the year I started school</i>	Mijomboni Primary School, Malindi, Kilifi County

## CIVIC LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY SERVICE

<p><b>Political &amp; Electoral Engagement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2007 Parliamentary Candidate, Malindi Constituency under KENDA — ran a values-driven campaign against entrenched incumbency</li> <li>• Engaged in continuous active civic education in Kilifi County from 2007 to present, building grassroots democratic awareness</li> <li>• Co-architect and Chairperson of the Campaign Governing Council for Operation Mwangaza wa Kilifi — the county-wide democratic renewal initiative targeting all positions in the 2027 elections</li> <li>• Sustained 17-year political engagement with Kilifi without holding office — demonstrating commitment that is not driven by personal gain</li> </ul> <p><b>Girls' Education &amp; Social Justice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Founded and led 'Niache Nikomae' — a self-funded community campaign against teenage pregnancy reaching thousands of girls in Kilifi County between 2018 and 2022</li> <li>• Campaign saved thousands of girls from early pregnancy and premature school dropout, making a measurable impact on a social crisis with zero public funding</li> <li>• Demonstrates moral leadership: acting on conviction before having institutional power or resources</li> </ul>	<p><b>Agricultural &amp; Economic Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Served as Chairman, Kilifi County Cassava Value Chain Association (2022–2023) — organizing farmers and processors without county government support</li> <li>• Self-financed value chain development activities, demonstrating personal investment in Kilifi's economic transformation beyond political ambition</li> <li>• Currently advising the Government of Liberia on agricultural development through the Boakai Foundation, demonstrating senior-level policy influence</li> </ul> <p><b>International Engagement &amp; Advocacy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extensive travel and professional engagement across multiple continents, providing first-hand experience of diverse governance systems, development models, and agricultural innovations</li> <li>• Experience working with international development organizations, bilateral donors, and multilateral institutions — critical for restoring donor confidence in Kilifi County</li> <li>• Has represented Kenya in professional and civic capacities internationally, building a network of global contacts that will serve Kilifi County's development agenda</li> </ul>
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## WHY KARISA J. FAGIO IS THE RIGHT LEADER FOR KILIFI NOW

<p><b>LIVED EXPERIENCE</b></p> <p>The only candidate who has experienced Kilifi's poverty firsthand — as a fatherless village child who built his way to university. Cannot be bought or bribed away from the people's interests.</p>	<p><b>TECHNICAL EXPERTISE</b></p> <p>BSc Biochemistry + 30 years in agricultural science, development consulting, and international advisory roles. Understands both the science and the economics of Kilifi's key sectors.</p>	<p><b>ZERO CORRUPTION RISK</b></p> <p>Never held county public office. No history of misappropriation. No patronage debts. Will enter the Governor's office with clean hands and a clear conscience.</p>	<p><b>INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS</b></p> <p>Currently advising a sitting African President's Foundation. Extensive donor relationships and development organization contacts ready to be deployed for Kilifi's benefit from day one.</p>
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## A PERSONAL CALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT

### THIS IS NOT AN ORDINARY CANDIDACY. THIS IS A RESCUE MISSION.

I am not standing for Governor because I want a title. I am standing because I have seen — up close, from childhood — what Kilifi's people suffer when their leaders betray them. I have spent 17 years in the trenches of civic activism, political campaigning, agricultural development, and girls' empowerment — most of it at personal cost. I have not waited for power to do good. But I now recognize that without the power of the Governor's office, the scale of change that Kilifi needs cannot be achieved.

The 2027 election is not just another election. It is a generational decision about whether Kilifi County will continue to be governed by the same networks that have failed its people for decades — or whether a new, accountable, community-endorsed generation of leaders will finally be given the chance to transform this county's extraordinary potential into real lives improved.

**To potential supporters, donors, civic partners, and every Kilifi citizen reading these words:** I am asking for your support not as charity to a politician, but as a shared investment in the children, farmers, fishers, women, and young people of Kilifi County who deserve better. Every contribution — financial, organizational, professional, or simply your vote — goes directly toward rescuing a county that has waited too long for leaders who truly serve.

*I was the child who had no one. I became the adult who created opportunity for others. As Governor, I will build a Kilifi County where no child has to go through what I went through — and where every family has a genuine chance at a dignified life.*

**"KILIFI YETU. KESHO YETU."**

*(Our Kilifi. Our Tomorrow.)*

## REFERENCES

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*Professional and character references available on request, including senior officials within the Government of Liberia, agricultural development organizations, Kilifi County civic leaders, and former academic supervisors.*

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### **KARISA J. FAGIO**

Gubernatorial Candidate | Kilifi County, Kenya | 2027 General Elections

Chairperson, Campaign Governing Council | Operation Mwangaza wa Kilifi

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