## GLOBAL SECURITY FOR AFRICA

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## RETHINKING LABOUR LEADERSHIP: PUTTING WORKERS ABOVE PERSONAL AGENDAS

As a nation, we really need to acknowledge the incredible contributions of our workers and their leaders who tirelessly fight for the rights and well-being of employees. Their hard work has pushed for fairness in the workplace and made sure that workers' voices are heard. However, I can't ignore the reality that some labour leaders intentionally stir up unnecessary conflicts, often for their own personal gain or that of their group. These actions could lead our country into avoidable labour unrest.

I firmly believe that we need to take three urgent steps to tackle this issue.

- First, we should reform how we choose union leaders, prioritizing transparency, merit, integrity, and accountability over popularity or political connections.
- Second, we need independent oversight from neutral organizations, like the Labour Commission or reputable civil society groups, to ensure that union elections are free from any manipulation.
- Third, all labour leaders should undergo mandatory training in negotiation, conflict resolution, and ethics, supported by a strict code of conduct that includes clear penalties for any misconduct.

In my view, safeguarding the dignity of workers means having leaders who prioritize the collective good over their own ambitions. By improving how we select leaders, enhancing oversight, and building the ethical skills of union leaders, we can not only protect workers' rights but also maintain national peace and social stability.

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