



THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF KENYA (ACK)

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PRESS STATEMENT – EASTER MESSAGE ALL SAINTS' CATHEDRAL CHURCH, NAIROBI TOPIC: STEWARDSHIP OF PUBLIC RESOURCES

“Bible Verse John 15:13” (“Greater love has no one than this than lay down one’s life for his Friends”)

1.0 Preamble

Dear brethren as we celebrate this year’s Easter, I am happy with the peace that is prevailing in most parts of the country. However, as a nation we are still confronted with many challenges namely threatened cohesion at family and nation, weak institutions, corruption and political class not talking to each other. The Church stands to interrogate and guide those in leadership positions to exercise their God given mandate for the benefit of all Kenyans. The Anglican Church of Kenya remains vigilant in promoting human dignity as enshrined in the Kenyan Constitution and ensures governance systems are responsive to the needs of the taxpayers, who sustain the government and the society at large. I therefore seek to draw attention to the following national issues that need to be addressed with due urgency.

2.0 Corruption

Lack of accountability of funds in the National and County Governments is alarming. Accountability is a national value issue. The Auditor-General and EACC reports reveal how public funds are stolen through mega corruption scandals involving collusion of key players. Wastage through failure to properly account for revenue collected, unsupported expenses, weak maintenance of cash books and accounting records and poor management of resources are common occurrences yet offenders are not prosecuted nor is any meaningful action taken. Who will respond to the accountability questions raised by the Auditor General and other accountability institutions? Are we promoting a culture of theft and wastage of national resources? Saying that those entrusted with public funds management are irresponsible is a gross understatement. This vice has permeated all sectors of our economy and society and there is urgent need to tame it by the leadership and the general public. The stolen property must also be recovered and properly utilized for the benefit of all. The institutions involved in the fight must speed up investigations and prosecutions of those involved. We urge the general public to also avoid corrupt practices.

Another disturbing form of corruption is the mass examination cheating witnessed in our education system, this is the worst form because it destroys a whole society both now and in future. I note that over 5,000 students missed their examination results due to examination cheating in last year’s KCSE national examinations. This is only for those caught. What about those who were not? The older people involved in selling and buying exam papers for the children are teaching the children that the

only way to success is through stealing. No wonder a recent research report revealed that majority of the youths are ready to condone corrupt practices. This outcome is a confirmation of how low as a nation we are in up holding our Christian and National values.

I call on all citizens not to give up the struggle for a just and dignified life. We must follow our conscience, refrain from evil and do what is morally right. We must hold on to the hope, confidence and trust for a bright tomorrow and not resign to fate in apathy.

3.0 Strengthening Governance Institutions

Our constitution has created many good institutions of governance that as a nation we must respect and strengthen for them to deliver their mandate. However, in recent past, the performance of those institutions is found to be wanting and unacceptable. We note that the office of the Chief justice which is vital in our justice system will soon be vacant. Thus, we call upon the appointing authorities to ensure a proactive and smooth transition so that we can restore public confidence in the judiciary.

As we approach the 2017 general elections, I want to urge the politicians to be civil with their competitors and avoid hate speeches that would polarize the nation more particularly along tribal lines. We further urge the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to work extra hard to restore public confidence in the electoral process.

4.0 Multi-Party Politics

Whereas we have enjoyed the reintroduction of multi party politics, I am saddened that we seem not to appreciate the role of the government and opposition. I want to urge the government and the opposition to respect the role played by each other and talk to each other as we nurture our democracy.

5.0 Transition in the Anglican Church of Kenya

As you will recall, on 25th December 2015, I informed the church and the nation at large that the Anglican Church of Kenya would start the process of identifying my successor. I am happy to inform the church and the nation at large that the nominations of candidates started on 1/3/2016. The closing date for nominations will be 30/3/2016. The opening of nominations as per the church's constitution will be on Tuesday 5/04/2016. This is the date when we expect to know the candidates who have been nominated. The electoral college of the Anglican Church of Kenya is scheduled to meet on the 20/5/2016 to elect the 6th Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Kenya here at All Saints' Cathedral Church. My retirement service is planned for 8/5/2016 while the enthronement of the new Archbishop will be on Sunday, the 3rd of July 2016. We invite you to earnestly pray for this process so that God may give us a leader of his choice.

As I prepare to leave office, I wish to thank the Anglican Church of Kenya and the nation at large for partnering with us for the spiritual and social wellbeing of our beloved nation.

I want to wish you God's peace during this period when we celebrate sacrifices made by our Lord on the cross and remind all of us to seek God's Kingdom instead of seeking to amass earthly wealth.

5.0. Conclusion

I urge you, my fellow citizens, to put God first and neighbor second before yourself, to shun ideologies and practices that may destroy our nation and focus on those things that will unite us and foster peaceful co-existence in the nation.

God bless you.

**Signed by: The Most Rev. Dr. Eliud Wabukala, EBS
Archbishop of Kenya &
Bishop of All Saints' Cathedral Diocese**

Dated: 27TH MARCH 2016