

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF KENYA (ACK)

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PRESS STATEMENT -11/12/2016

TOPIC: THE STATE OF THE NATION: NATIONAL COHESION AND INTERGRATION

But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. (1Timothy 6:6-7)

Preamble

Dear Kenyans, in this festive Season. We take this opportunity to send greetings with a message of good will and hope to all Kenyans, our visitors and neighbors.

After carefully assessing and reflecting on the state of our Nation the Anglican Church is calling for urgent action in the following areas:

1. National Cohesion and Integration

Whereas there have seen efforts to unite Kenyans, we note with deep concern that there is deliberate effort by politicians to instigate conflict within and between Kenyan communities. Some politicians have been using a language bordering on hate speech, incitement of masses and mobilization of their communities to coalesce into tribal units in attempt to undermine and exclude others from campaigns for 2017 general election.

We would like to emphasize that Kenya belongs to all of us and we urge every politician to promote inclusivity at all levels of our society. We will only support leaders who promote national cohesion and integration guided by the principle of reconciling Kenyans to God, the creator of all.

2. Corruption.

We are concerned with wastage and theft of public resources as reported by various state organs. Ordinary citizens keep waiting for guidance on the measures to be taken to rectify the damage. One effective action is for His Excellency the President to urgently organize a meeting of Director of Public Prosecution (DPP), Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) and the Chief justice with the objective of formulating a clear action plan to implement the Multi-Agency Report and strategy on corruption. We further call upon the President to accelerate the 270 pending graft cases yet to be concluded, especially the NYS scam, Afya House scandal, CDF, County government related graft; and the list of 170 people mentioned in the President's speech in Parliament to the Nation in 2015. Further, any institution that is supposed to fight graft and is not adding value in the fight of corruption or not working should be abolished and functions transferred to a department in the office of the President. Corruption is vice that deprives the society quality service and we recommend that it

should be treated as economic treason with stiffer penalties to culprits. We urge politicians not to bring stolen money to church harambees.

3. Economy

We have noted with great concern the current state of the national economy. Most organizations and companies are laying off staff, many loans borrowed are in arrears or default and the public debt has increased significantly. Urgent measures must be taken to remedy the situation. Kenyans need to know what is being done at all levels of government on this.

Recognizing that the country has discovered more minerals, there is need to address issues of responsible extraction, transportation and usage, related pollution and equitable distribution of netted revenue with host communities among others.

4. Education

We commend and appreciate measures the government has taken to improve management of the education sector and urge that the reforms being undertaken are institutionalized. This is the sure way of sustaining and embedding the changes and reforms in our society. We further urge the government to focus more on quality education and on productive skills to enhance employability Kenyan's younger generation.

As we focus towards the change in the education system, there should be a clear paradigm shift with set targets and milestones of what the new education system should achieve to avoid drifting back to the flaws of the 8-4-4 system. Education should be an empowering tool for functionality in society and never an end to itself or a means of amassing certificates and wealth. The transition between 8-4-4 and the new system of education should be carefully thought out to avoid a mix that may disadvantage student in either system.

5. Labor disputes

We urge the government both national and county levels to put in place mechanisms of ensuring their staff are equitably remunerated so that they can serve Kenyans diligently and where there are disputes, doors should be opened for continued dialogue.

In Conclusion

Governments are set up to manage people's corporate resources using philosophical inclinations and policies in their party manifestoes. As we tend towards the 2017 elections, we would like to hear more of systems of governance and approaches to dealing with corporate responsibilities than name calling, public abuses and dances.

At independence we set objectives of eradicating ignorance, disease and poverty and famine. These are responsibilities of the central government and they should remain as such - to ensure that all Kenyans have access to quality education and healthcare, livelihoods and food.

We call upon all Kenyans to shun all activities, influences and opinions that are divisive, corrupting and ungodly and focus on embracing godly values that will cause us all to be at peace with God and our neighbors.

As we usher in Christmas, we wish you God's blessings, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017.

Signed on this date, 11th December 2016, Kericho.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jackson Ole Sapit', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**The Most Rev. Dr. Jackson Ole Sapit,
ARCHBISHOP OF KENYA, BISHOP OF ALL SAINTS' CATHEDRAL DIOCESE AND
BISHOP IN ORDINARY TO THE KENYA DEFENSE FORCES**