



THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF KENYA (ACK)

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Press Release

“TOGETHER NOW FOR A BETTER FUTURE”

PREAMBLE

We, the Archbishop, Bishops, Clergy and the Laity representing the Anglican Church of Kenya meeting at the All Saints’ Cathedral Multi-Purpose Hall on the 2nd and 3rd March, 2011, deliberated on the desired future of the Anglican Church and the nation at large. We meditated on Jeremiah 29:11 where God assures His people: *“For I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future...”*

After some deep reflections and open discussions, the Church decided to rally around the theme: **TOGETHER FOR CHRIST** in this decade (2011-2020). We purpose to actively participate in the ongoing education debate and engaging intentionally in programs that will address peace building and conflict management with a deliberate focus on the youth.

MESSAGE TO OUR NATIONAL POLITICAL LEADERS

The Church observes that the implementation of the National Constitution is a priority that must be put above political campaigns for 2012 general elections. Instead, our politicians should commit themselves to working towards ensuring an equitable distribution of resources and the strengthening of institutions that will ensure good governance and put a stop to the relentless pursuit for power. All potential politicians need to internalise the heavy responsibilities of leadership and be accountable to the nation.

We urge all our national leaders to focus on keeping Kenya united especially as we move towards 2012 general elections by desisting from dividing people along ethnic lines or running into ethnic enclaves for support in political contests. To this end, we urge the two Principals to rise above personal interests and focus on national issues by ensuring continuous and meaningful consultations.

Our national leaders need also to put every effort in fighting corruption that threatens to erode gains made in national reforms. All public servants implicated and charged with corruption, impropriety, neglect, abuse of office or any other scandal must step aside.

We urge Members of Parliament to use their time in Parliament in conducting mature, issue-based debates and avoid running to the media to air their views when there are fall-outs. Further, politicians need to recognise that national issues are not party issues thus politicisation of national issues should be avoided.

The Church further observes that Kenya's Vision 2030 which provides direction on the nation's development agenda from 2008-2030 needs to bring out clearly moral and spiritual values as fundamentals to national development.

The Church notes with a lot of concern that some of our political leaders have been misleading the nation with their careless utterances. We want to remind them that they have a responsibility to be role models to everyone in the Kenyan society, especially the youth. They ought to conduct themselves in a dignified manner as they discharge their official duties in and out of Parliament and respect the codes of conduct that govern various institutions.

We call on our national leaders to take into account the voice of the Church that represents a large percentage of the Kenyan society especially in policy formulation and implementation.

RESPONSE TO THE CURRENT DROUGHT

The Church, while appreciating efforts by the relevant Government Ministries, observes that a lot still needs to be done. The Government and Kenyans as individuals and communities must prioritise the mitigation of the effects of climate change. This calls for putting in place and supporting appropriate policies for the mobilisation of resources to help in the alleviation of the suffering of those who are in drought-stricken areas in Kenya.

MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF KENYA

There is a growing realization that winning the war against corruption will not be just confined to the top leaders. The realities of 2003 are still fresh in our minds after it became evident that the fight against this vice was more intense when the Kenyan public took it seriously. To this end, we encourage all Kenyans to once again take the fight against corruption seriously and personally. In order to achieve this, every Kenyan must support the institutions and structures that have been put in place to fight this vice. Similarly, we encourage all the people of Kenya to take up an active role in monitoring the expenditure of public funds through social audits, especially in the newly created county structures as well as in the existing decentralised funds like CDF and LATF.

With regard to education we affirm that all children belong to Kenya and that there are no "private children". We must therefore be careful to guard against potential discrimination during Form One and any other intakes. We urge the Ministry of Education to embrace a long-term solution of improving the quality of education in public schools. This will go a long way in ensuring a level playing ground for all as they transit to higher levels of education.

We now have a new constitution that belongs to all the people of Kenya irrespective of how they voted at the national referendum in August last year. The Church encourages all Kenyans to respect our new constitution and to keep the government accountable in its implementation.

In conclusion, as the Church commits to the theme, **TOGETHER FOR CHRIST** in this decade, we urge our fellow Kenyans to promote national unity and to put adequate effort in the implementation of the new constitution for posterity of our nation.

Thank you and God bless.

THE MOST REV DR. ELIUD WABUKALA
ARCHBISHOP OF KENYA &
BISHOP OF ALL SAINTS' CATHEDRAL