PASTORAL MESSAGE TO THE NATION BY THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF KENYA

THEME: Treasure in Jars of Clay

Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 4: 7-18 Christian witness carry the healing power of Christ to a broken weakening society

1.0 Preamble

The Anglican Church of Kenya Provincial Synod meeting at All Saint's Cathedral, Nairobi from the 21st to 23rd September 2021: Christian witness carry the healing power of Christ to a broken weakening society carefully prayed, reflected and resolved on many issues that the Country is currently facing. These issues are as highlighted in the foregoing sections.

2.0 COVID-19 Pandemic

As the Church, we note with gratitude and with thanksgiving to the Almighty God for protection that He has granted us in Kenya. We commend our medical staff and experts for enabling us to manage this Pandemic amidst unsurmountable challenges they encountered to manage and care for patient from ever-mutating challenges. We call upon the County and National governments to provide equipment and related supplies to manage the pandemic. We equally commend the majority of Kenyans for ensuring that they observe the COVID-19 guidelines. We urge everyone to continue ensuring that they are safe by strictly adhering to the prevention protocols. We further urge all Kenyans to take the opportunity to go for vaccinations. It is important that we all take our responsibility seriously. The Church is availing spaces for mass vaccinations. We urge the government to organize
the economy in such a way that Kenyans do not suffer at this period of the pandemic.

3.0 Early warning as we approach the 2022 General Election

We are pleased to note that since our last pastoral letter to the nation dated 23rd July 2021, the Government has fully constituted the IEBC. We now call upon the electoral body to ensure that preparations for the election in 2022 are well organized through proper civic education, mass voter registration, monitored campaigns and transparent tallying of the results at all levels. The Anglican Church is ready to roll out civic education in our dioceses in partnership with the government. As for the politicians, we note with deep concern the mobilization of voters along tribal lines and other forms of exclusion. All aspiring candidates must ensure that as they campaign, their approach should be driven by inclusivity. Any form of exclusion in our country is likely to breed violence. We further urge aspiring candidates to adhere to electoral laws and NCIC to be vigilant, proactive and impartial at all times this will ensure the campaigns are civil. This will ensure responsive and peaceful campaigns.

4.0 Family and Mental Health

We have noted with deep concern the challenges facing our families in the country. There is upsurge of mental breakdown, depression, suicide homicide and many forms of domestic violence that threaten the family fabric. As such, the Anglican Church, has resolved to redesign and promote counselling programs at the local church and at the parish levels; as well as rolling out support mechanisms to address this silent and saliant national threat associated with mental health challenges. We call upon the government to fund and invest in mental health facilities and programs. Equally, we call upon all institutions to prioritize this area with expertise and resources urgently for action.
5.0 Youth
The majority of Kenya's population is youth. All institutions should be redesigned in ways and means that will empower the youth towards gainful engagement. The youth are yearning for role models. The Anglican Church will intensify mentorship, coaching and role modelling programs for the youth. We encourage them to develop sense of purpose and direction. We urge all in positions of leadership to mentor young people and support their growth. They need to acquire knowledge and skills that will make them employable. The youth should therefore shun companies that will destroy their lives through drugs, betting and engagement in other forms of social ills. Let us mentor and bequeath our youth with enabling sustainable legacy.

6.0 Economic models
Since independence the country has made greater strides in economic development as witnessed especially in infrastructure, education and health. However, the begging question still remains why are Kenyan's poor? The answer lies on how we manage our economic and public affairs. Kenyans are poor because of corrupt practices meted by some of us through the importation of cheap produce and counterfeit. For example, agriculture being the mainstay of our economy. It is disheartening to note that after farmers plant their crops and they are just about to harvest, some leaders import cheap produce that cause glut in the market hence lowering the prices to the extent that the farmer is not able to sell the produce at competitive prices. There are cases where farmers after borrowing money to invest in their farms, they end up losing their land to banks since they are unable to repay their loans owing to poor returns.

In addition, we also note similar malpractices in the manufacturing sector. These include the importation of cheap counterfeit products which have
equally created unfair competition to our manufacturers making them incur heavy losses. We call upon government institutions and agencies, technocrats and entrepreneurs to promote economic models that will make Kenya attract direct foreign investors and empowerment of all Kenyans to get involved in personal meaningful development. Kenyans are hardworking. What they need is support from government agencies, technocrats and entrepreneurs to be committed to empowerment programmes. Through Anglican Development service we shall organize a symposium on economic empowerment.

7.0 High Cost of Living
Due to the impact of COVID-19, the majority of Kenyans have been pushed to live below the poverty line. This has been worsened by constant fuel price increases that have further pushed the cost of living up. We call upon the government to cushion many poor Kenyans from hardship caused by the high cost of living such as tax relief.

8.0 Sanctity of Church Institutions
Kenyans are worshipping community. Places of worship are reserved for worship. Whereas all our churches welcome all worshippers, in the recent past we have witnessed cases where politicians want to assume the role of the clergy as well as turn the pulpit as arena for negative and divisive politics. We appreciate that every Christian has a right to attend worship without fearing that their places of worship will be converted for political campaigns. We reiterate that the church is a holy place and should be treated as such by all. Let us all honor God our maker by respecting places of Worship and giving due respect to the different roles of pews and pulpit.
9.0 Education and the Sad call for Scrapping of Christian Religious Education

Our National anthem is a prayer to Almighty God and we are a God-fearing Nation. We note with great concern a letter circulating addressed to the Director of Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) reference religious education reforms in Kenya by and signed by President of atheists in Kenya society calling for the abolition of Christian and religious studies. We condemn this proposal and urge the government not to allow such organizations agenda. As ACK, we will not allow such a move in our sponsored schools. As for school leadership, well running and management we urge the Ministry of Education and Teachers Service Commission to consult the sponsors before deploying the Principals.

10.0 Prayer

Dear God, a nation that honors you is blessed. Lord, as we come before you to honor your holy name as a nation, we humbly ask you to prosper our economy, families, and relationships with other countries. Open up financial doors and supply us according to your riches in glory so that we thrive in our lives. Help our leaders to engage in bilateral relationships with the right nations. Let them also engage in treaties that align with your Word and your will. We pray to you dear Lord to wipe out the Covid pandemic which has devastated many homes and families. In Jesus' name, Amen

God bless you. God bless Kenya.

Signed on this date, 23rd September 2021 at the All Saint's Cathedral, Nairobi

The Most Rev. Dr. Jackson Ole Sapit
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