



THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF KENYA (ACK)

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   The Anglican Church of Kenya

PRESS RELEASE

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF KENYA HOUSE OF BISHOPS STATEMENT ON THE STATE OF THE NATION.

We, the Bishops of the Anglican Church of Kenya met on the 14th of March 2023 to pray together and reflect on the word of God for encouragement, guidance and inspiration. The words of Jesus as recorded in the gospel according to John 4:14 provided the focus of our reflection:

“Whoever drinks the water I give, will never thirst.”

We note with deep concern that our world is desperate, thirsting for true satisfaction in the face of multiple hardships. The myriads of problems facing Kenyans call for concerted efforts and sustained interventions to mitigate the effects of various prevailing conditions causing sufferings to millions of Kenyans.

1. **The prevailing drought and famine** have continued to ravage communities on unprecedented scales, destroying age old resilience mechanisms and adaptations, robbing millions of their livelihoods and reducing them to utter poverty. We appeal to His Excellency the president and his government to:
 - i. Upscale, as a matter of emergency, the ongoing drought intervention efforts and prevent further loss of lives in the regions most affected.
 - ii. Put in place both short and long-term measures to solve the perennial problem of food insecurity in the country, beginning with a recovery plan for the most affected populations who need urgent assistance to rebuild their lives.

iii. Give priority to the implementation of the government's economic recovery plan and with urgency work on reducing the high cost of living, the unemployment crisis for the youth of the country, and the cost of doing business exacerbated by the run away cost of fuel and electricity.

2. **Heightened political temperatures** in the country is not good for economic recovery, national cohesion, local businesses, foreign investment and tourism. We appeal to His Excellency the president to:

i. Provide leadership and reach out to various political divides and embrace dialogue to avoid politics of confrontation. It is incumbent upon the government of the day to govern with equity and fairness in serving all Kenyans.

ii. Correct the impression that public appointments are a preserve of only those who are deemed to have a 'shareholding' in the government. Whereas, we all belong to Kenya, Kenya is not a property of any one individual or community, and we must be governed according to our constitution and the rule of law.

3. **State of Education** – the worrying state of our education should be addressed with the seriousness and the urgency it deserves. We are particularly worried about the slow implementation of CBC, and the seemingly unending teething problems. Let the concerned line ministries and government agencies put their acts in order and see to it that the education of our children do not continue to suffer.

4. **Planned Protests** – Whereas we recognize the role of the opposition in our public affairs, to our political leaders in the opposition, especially Hon. Raila Odinga, Hon. Martha Karua and Hon. Kalonzo Musyoka, we urge you to:

- i. Reconsider your planned rallies and demonstrations, which if sustained will only compound our economic hardship by interrupting businesses and stoke political tensions.
- ii. If opposition is about the wellbeing of the nation, play your part by holding the government accountable in ways that do not have to add more suffering to Kenyans who already are struggling with too many problems.

5. **Banditry** – we commend the government for taking a firm action to deal with the banditry menace, which has continued to cost Kenyans lives and visited untold suffering on innocent members of the public who reside in the affected areas. Sadly, the progress of the government operation seems to be slow and thus far yielding very little results. While we appreciate the presence of the security forces on the ground, various incidents of attacks are still being reported. It seems the said bandits are not deterred and continue to operate with impunity, at least in some areas. We appeal to the government to:

- i. strengthen the operation and end the continued suffering of those affected
- ii. address the root causes of these perennial conflicts including under development of the affected areas.
- iii. provide immediate psychosocial support as well as programmatic interventions to help the affected communities to rebuild their lives, communities and livelihoods.

6. **Foreign Influence:** We are deeply concerned with the foreign influence targeting our collective values, moral norms, cultural and religious beliefs. We are pained to see how these influences are perpetuated immorally through our schools and other institutions to introduce orientations and lifestyles, which are countercultural. We are particularly concerned about the LGBTQ agenda, and the imposition of it on the country under the guise of human rights. We believe this agenda is detrimental for family life and undermines the long-term wellbeing of society. We urge those entrusted with the interpretation and application of our laws to exercise their responsibilities with diligence and impartiality.

For the House of Bishops signed 15th March 2022 Nairobi:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. Sapit', written over a horizontal line.

The Most Rev Dr Jackson Ole Sapit

The Archbishop of Kenya, Bishop of All Saints Cathedral Diocese

And Bishop in the Ordinary to the Military Episcopate