



# THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF KENYA (ACK)

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### ANGLICAN BISHOP'S PASTORAL MESSAGE TO THE NATION, 23<sup>rd</sup> JULY, 2021

"My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by<sup>[a]</sup> the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup> As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world"

John 17: 15-18 NIV

#### 1.0 PREAMBLE

We the Bishops of the Anglican Church of Kenya meeting at the All-Saint's Cathedral Church, Nairobi from the 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> of July, recognize and cherish the supremacy of God, and His Commandments as the moral compass for our Nation. We uphold our constitution as the sole guiding Instrument for governance and leadership of our Nation. We urge all Kenyans to honor God in word and deed and to respect our constitution, especially in the face of the social and economic crisis our Nation finds itself in, at this moment. We commit ourselves to continue to pray for the Nation. We have carefully deliberated on the national issues contained herein.

#### 2.0 FORTH COMING 2022 ELECTION

The Country cannot afford another disruption after Covid-19 and Locust invasions; especially so with the 2022 election just around the corner. As you will recall in our Easter Pastoral Letter, we were deeply concerned that the Independent Electoral Boundaries Commission (IEBC) is not adequately constituted one year before the election. We are encouraged that the process to have the electoral body fully constituted is progressing on.

However, in order to have peaceful and credible election, we urge that the following be addressed:

- (i) Elections must be held as stipulated in the constitution and those calling for postponement cease to do so.

- (ii) Proper preparations of the election be done by the IEBC and adequate resources provided for it.
- (iii) Roll out mass and proper voter registration so that all Kenyans eligible to vote are registered.
- (iv) Adequate Civic education be conducted to ensure informed decision making by the electorate.
- (v) Proper Covid protocols be developed to guide campaigns and other political activities and electoral processes during electioneering period and election date.
- (vi) Politicians engage in civil campaigns without raising ethnic tension.
- (vii) Strict adherence and enforcement of Chapter 6 of our constitution on leadership and ethics during this forthcoming election and vetting of candidates offering themselves for various electoral positions.
- (viii) That IEBC to ensure campaign financing is done in the right way possible to curb malpractices.

### **3.0 COVID-19**

We appreciate the management of COVID-19 Pandemic and thank the frontline staff for demonstrating high level of commitment. We appeal to Kenyans to maintain their guard in adhering to the guidelines to contain the spread of the virus. However, we are concerned that the political class have refused to adhere to guidelines leading to further spread of the virus during their meet the people tours. We appreciate government efforts to roll out COVID vaccination despite the global supply chain challenges. We call upon the government to invest more in the procurement of vaccines for mass vaccination. This is the sure way of reducing the risk from COVID-19 and ensuring that the economy is opened up quickly and Kenyans whose source of income was adversely affected can reconstruct their lives. We also urge the government to allow churches to open up for services since all through they have observed the guidelines. We affirm that our churches have the capacity to operate in strict compliance with the health protocol and guidelines. We also commit to encourage our congregations to go for vaccination.

### **4.0 HIV/AIDS MANAGEMENT**

We appreciate the US Government and Kenya Government for coming up with a solution to enable distribution of the life-saving ARVs to health facilities across the country which will enable people living with HIV to access the medication they need. And we are grateful that the ecumenical

organization, MEDS has been given the opportunity to serve in addressing the crisis as we complement government efforts.

## **5.0 NHIF REFORMS**

We acknowledge the government efforts towards reforming NHIF for universal health coverage. We appeal to Parliament to ensure adequate stakeholders' engagement and public participation to achieve broad based consensus on the proposed and necessary NHIF Act Amendments. We further appeal that the Faith based organizations representation should be retained in the reformed NHIF Board.

## **6.0 FOOD SECURITY**

We have noted that in most parts of the country there was less rainfall than expected. This has led to mass crop failure hence expected reduced harvest. We urge the government to put measures in place to ensure Kenyans do not starve due to lack of food or suffer due to high prices in coming months. We equally call upon Kenyans to ensure that all harvested food is well stored.

## **7.0 COMPREHENSIVE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH PROPOSALS**

We noted with a lot of concern Kenya government is about to sign the EPA partnership agreement to operationalize universal access to sexual and reproductive health commodities and health care services. The content of this agreement and proposed bills are inconsistent with the doctrine of the Church as they erode family values. We therefore urge the government not to sign or introduce such bills before proper consultations and public participation.

## **8.0 FAMILY**

We once again note with deep concerns the increased domestic based violence, killings of innocent people and suicide cases among young people. We urge families not to lose hope and advise families to seek counselling services and activate all social support system. We have recently witnessed a

growing number of institutions that offer basic mental support and we take the opportunity to encourage families to take advantage of such support.

## **9.0 THE ECONOMY**

Kenya's gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to grow by 4.5 percent in 2021, signaling a partial recovery from the COVID-19. But the outlook remains unusually uncertain and contingent on the course of the pandemic.

The prospects for Kenya's continuing recovery remains dim. The recovery is uneven across sectors with some still heavily affected by the pandemic. The progress of the vaccination effort will remain key in enabling improved economic environment. The best case is for adequate agricultural harvests and a pick-up in industrial activity aided by rising demand from the recovering global economy.

The bottom line is that most Kenyans have lost source of income. The government must come up with a long -term strategy to address the number of Kenyans who have ended up living below poverty lines and also create jobs for the many youths who are unemployed and are likely to be a threat to national security. We strongly urge the government to review the high taxations that have led to high cost of living.

## **10.0 CONFLICT MANAGEMENT**

We note with great concern that we have lost many lives in many parts of the country due to conflict. There is worrying rise in crime throughout the country and especially escalating tensions and conflicts in areas like West Pokot, Marakwet, Isiolo and parts of Samburu and Marsabit. We urge those engaged in conflict to embrace peace and resolve issues amicably. We call upon the government to involve religious leaders in conflict resolution and management in the hot spot areas.

## **11.0 PRAYER**

**Finally, we invite all of us to embrace the prayer of our risen Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.** "My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by<sup>[a]</sup> the truth; your word is truth. <sup>1</sup>As you sent

me into the world, I have sent them into the world". Let us join hands and make our country a better place to live in and one that we shall all be proud to bequeath to our Children. **Amen**

God Bless You. God bless Kenya.

Signed on this date, 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021

at the All Saint's Cathedral, Nairobi



**The Most Rev. Dr. Jackson Ole Sapit**

**Archbishop of Kenya, Bishop of All Saints Cathedral Diocese and Bishop In- Ordinary to the Kenya Defence Forces.**