



THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF KENYA (ACK)

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The Anglican Church of Kenya

A MESSAGE TO THE NATION BY THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF KENYA

PREAMBLE

The House of Bishops of the Anglican Church of Kenya met on Thursday July 18th, 2024, and prayerfully reflected on the state of the nation, discussed current crisis, and took inspiration from the word of God based on Psalm 145:4 *"One generation shall praise your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts."*

As a church, we made the following commitment:

We repent of all our shortcomings and commit to always speak against sin and evils of all kinds. We equally call upon all national leaders to also repent. Let us all translate our faith commitments into action. As a church, we commit to uphold accountability and defend the pulpit from abuse of all kinds.

Dear Kenyans, based on our discussions and reflections, we would like to make the following prayers, and this call to the nation.

1. **Commending the Youth:** We commend the young people and support their clamor for accountability, good governance, equal access to opportunities and delivery of services. Standing with them, we say no to a culture of impunity, corruption, continuous violence, tribalism and poor services in essential sectors like health and education.
2. **Honoring the lost and the injured:** We remember all who died during the current protests and convey our deepest condolences to their families and friends. We also pray for quick recovery to all who are injured and stand with all who are mourning the loss of their loved ones and loss of property.
3. We are dismayed by the **police brutality, arbitrary arrests** and demand an end to extra-judicial killings and use of excessive force against peaceful protesters. We also call for immediate arrest and prosecution of top officers who issue orders to kill. The rule of law must apply across the board.
4. In the same vein, we demand that **abductions must stop** and those **held in police custody must be released immediately**. In this regard, let the police be allowed to enforce the law and order without political interference. The emerging trend of arresting or abducting of Kenyans who hold contrary opinions must stop.

5. Freedom of speech must be upheld by the government and all law enforcement agencies, and interference with media and intimidating or harming of journalists must stop.
6. Whereas **we appreciate the Gen-zs** and commend their cause, we, nevertheless, appeal to them to give the government time and chance to implement the changes that are demanded. Please desist from actions that will jeopardize the very future that you are fighting for. We as a church will monitor and report the progress made in the implementation of those demands by the government.
7. We **appeal to protesters** to suspend protests and give government time to attend to the raft of demands some of which the president has begun to address –including firing most cabinet secretaries, signing the IEBC amendment bill 2024 into law, and resignation of the inspector general of police, among other commitments.
8. **Rule of law** – We urge both the government and the protesters to uphold the law and avoid any action that may lead to chaos and cause further suffering of the people. Let the police provide protesters with security and manage protests in a professional manner without resorting to the use of life bullets or teargassing peaceful protesters and arbitrarily arrests.
9. Genuine protests have been infiltrated by opportunists who have used the protests as a cover to destroy properties, shut down business, curtail movements and create fear and anarchy. This undesirable turn of events must not be given a chance. Destruction of property and looting must stop.
10. Government must act swiftly and **implement the raft of measures**, which are demanded by the protesters and the general public, including:
 - a) cutting government expenditure and wage bill, reducing the size of government and prioritizing essential services,
 - b) to ensure no capital flight and syphoning of public resources,
 - c) to freeze both local and foreign accounts of all corruption suspects and cause audits of such accounts.
 - d) reining in corruption, including at County levels and reviving programs that will help lower the cost of living and spur growth in the economy.

In view of these measures, the government must come up, in the next one week, with an implementation matrix of these demands, and make it available for public scrutiny and monitoring.

11. There is much talk about creating employment for the youth. Let this be backed up with genuine action. We ask the President to lead his government to develop and implement a Marshall Plan to address the 5-E youth agenda of Employment, Enterprise, Education, Empowerment and Engagement.
12. Also, we demand that the government must stop further **imposition of taxes and levies**. Especially the recently introduced housing levy and the just increased fuel

levy must be withdrawn. Tax paying Kenyans do not see value for money in these schemes.

13. We appeal directly to the President to **withdraw the Current University Funding Model**, which has made higher education inaccessible to many deserving and needy students. We recommend a thorough review of the funding model to ensure it is inclusive and promotes equity. Many young people are on the streets because they cannot access education or are unemployed.
14. **IEBC Amendment Bill and Cabinet Dissolution:** We appreciate that the IEBC Amendment Bill 2024 was signed into law. We also support the decision to dissolve the Cabinet. Going forward, let the president heed the voice of Kenyans and appoint, to both the commission and the cabinet, men and women of high integrity and competence. Let merit and proven track record be the criteria for these appointments. Rewarding political allies and cronies must be avoided at all costs.
15. **Prioritize Key Sectors** such as health, education, and agricultural sectors which are ailing. Corruption, under funding and misallocation of resources are killing any meaningful service delivery. The suffering of Kenyans trying to access basic services like health care, especially cancer patients and those with terminal illnesses, is unacceptable. Similarly, our farmers face poverty due to policies favoring cartels, and the education sector struggles with issues like withdrawal of health insurance to high school students, reduced or consistently delayed capitation, and chronic teacher shortages. We call for comprehensive reforms in these sectors and an urgent audit of the performance of all who are charged with the running of these critical sectors.
16. We see the **current crisis** not as a revolution, but an evolution – **an opportunity for reforms and transformative change**. The president should take this as a chance to fix all that is wrong with our governance. We call for less talk and more action. Let us not call out each other in public barazas and trade blames but be seen to take right actions and turn this into an opportunity for reforms. It will be helpful if all **political rallies and meet the people tours are suspended** so that all get busy with fixing the problem at hand.

17. To All Kenyans:

Let us all work together towards a Kenya where justice, integrity, and inclusivity reign supreme, and where the aspirations of each Kenyan, especially our youth, are considered and where all can meaningfully participate in creating the Kenya we want. Let us promote an all-inclusive engagement and support a rebirth of Kenya that serves all, not one that works like a limited company serving a collusion of political elites.

18. To the Church in Kenya

We, the Anglican Bishops, call upon all Christians and ACK Churches to dedicate the coming Sunday, July 21st, 2024, for prayers, repentance and fasting. Let us unite in prayer for our country to peacefully navigate through this crisis and return to normalcy.

As we pray, let us uphold the rule of law, work for peace and unity of all Kenyan people even as we demand for good governance, accountability and effective service delivery.



Signed on the 19th July, 2024 at the All Saints Cathedral, Nairobi.

The Most Rev. Dr. Jackson Ole Sapit

Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Kenya

Bishop of All Saints Cathedral Diocese

Bishop -in- Ordinary to the Kenya Defense Forces