PRESS STATEMENT

FROM THE ACK PROVINCIAL SYNOD

HELD AT ALL SAINTS CATHEDRAL, NAIROBI

29 SEPTEMBER 2016

A LETTER TO THE NATION

"Bible Verse Luke 4:18 Proclaiming the truth in Love"

Preamble

The Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK) is committed to promoting a just and cohesive society where all citizens enjoy their constitutional rights while living in peace, love and unity.

The Standing Committee of the Synod on behalf of the ACK Provincial Synod (the supreme governing body of the Church) meeting at the All Saint’s Cathedral in Nairobi on 29th September 2016 have reflected and deliberated on various national issues affecting the Church and Nation.

We wish to state the following:-

2017 General Elections

The Anglican Church of Kenya commends the National Government led by HE Uhuru Kenyatta and the opposition led by Hon. Raila Odinga and his coalition partners for working hard to resolve the tension that had built up in the country in the clamour for electoral reforms. We also commend the IEBC Commissioners for taking a bold step and agreeing to a negotiated process for their transition so as to rebuild public trust and confidence in the electoral body. We urge the government and outgoing commissioners to expedite severance negotiations to allow for the swift establishment of a new Electoral Commission that will adequately prepare for the 2017 elections. We encourage transparency and integrity in the procurement, testing, and verification of the electronic equipment and systems.
As we move towards the 2017 elections, we as Anglican Church of Kenya leaders urge all politicians to conduct themselves in a mature, non-violent manner and avoid any forms of hate speech. This is the only way of avoiding violence that could lead to loss of lives and destruction of property.

The ACK will promote peaceful and orderly elections by participating in civic education, encouraging voters to register and in observing the conduct of the general elections as observers.

Education
The Anglican Church of Kenya supports the on-going reforms in the education sector that will make our education system produce well-formed graduates, restore values and skills in the education pillar, and drive socio-economic transformation in our country.

We would like to have an education system that is meaningful and enshrined in faith-based values in all disciplines of learning. We emphasise the need for religious subjects at all levels of learning, especially at ECD and lower primary.

This Church reaffirms her support for the religious leaders who presented a memorandum to the Government on the need to retain Christian Religious studies in our school curriculum and especially their objection to comprehensive sex education.

We commend the examination reforms being undertaken by the Government led by Education CS (Dr. Matiangi) and urge the Ministry of Education to establish an exam system where everybody gets what they are worth and what they have worked for.

Judiciary
We commend the nomination process of the Chief Justice and urge the successful candidate to expedite the delivery of justice to the citizens especially in clearing the backlog of cases and, fighting corruption in the judiciary. We will support the new CJ in restoring public trust and confidence in the justice system in the country.

The Marriage Act
We petition the government to review and de-gazette regulations that make Christian marriage expensive and cumbersome. We believe this will enhance the institution of marriage.
Conclusion
The Anglican Church of Kenya will continue to pray for the peace and prosperity of Kenya and call upon our leaders to embrace justice and mercy.

May the Lord bless Kenya,

Signed on 29 September 2016

The Most Rev. Dr. Jackson N. Ole Sapit
Archbishop of Kenya, Bishop of All Saints' Cathedral Diocese & Bishop –in- Ordinary of the Kenya Defence Forces