On Tuesday 27th September 2016, the Archbishop, The Most Rev. Dr. Jackson N. Ole Sapit hosted Anglican bishops in a one day capacity building workshop. The workshop’s aim was to educate the bishops on their roles and that of the church especially in governance and the upcoming general elections. In under a year, Kenya will be holding National and County elections for all political offices. In the past, political elections in Kenya have been disputed and at times have turned violent where lives and property worth billions of dollars have been destroyed.

Early this year, the country witnessed violent confrontation where lobby groups, opposition political leadership and other stakeholders were protesting against the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), the national electoral body, for the way they handled the 2013 general elections. The narrative has been that the electoral body was compromised and is therefore ill prepared to handle future
elections. In the workshop, the church leaders:

1. Were sensitized on the ongoing process of electoral reforms and the church's role in the preparation of 2017 national elections.

2. Offered to be peace champions in their respective administrative and political Counties.

3. Agreed to come up with a strategy for participating and conducting multi-sectoral forums on electoral reforms at National and County level.

4. Were trained on standards of corporate governance, stewardship and management.

5. Reflected on theology and stewardship of church resources, corruption and accountability.

6. Were sensitized on the National and County level tax regimes, its impact and compliance requirement for church institutions.

7. Agreed to come up with action plans for institutional stewardship of church resources in their respective diocese and departments.

The meeting took place at ACK Guest House Nairobi. The workshop preceded the annual Provincial Synod where a comprehensive press statement was issued.

A section of the bishops’ listening attentively to the presentation

Another matter attended to during the workshop was induction of the newly elected bishops. The Prelates were educated and informed of their administrative and canonical duties.

Among the facilitators were experts on governance, strategy and electoral matters. ADS Kenya hosted the event.
The Anglican Church of Kenya has voiced out its position on the issues currently affecting the Church and Nation. Each of the issues is addressed in turn;

1. **2017 General Election**: ACK calls upon the government, opposition and other relevant stakeholders to adequately prepare for the upcoming 2017 National elections. The ongoing electoral reforms should be completed and a new electoral body speedily put in place for purposes of preparing for the upcoming elections. This will promote public confidence on the electoral outcome. The Church cautions political leaders to avoid any form of hate speech that would lead to loss of lives and destruction of property.

2. **Education**: The Church supports the ongoing reforms in the education system with hope that it will restore Christian and societal values. It is the Church’s position that the next curriculum should be market-driven and centred on character formation. It is also the position of Anglican Church of Kenya that religious studies are retained in the curriculum. On the other hand, the church is apprehensive about the introduction of comprehensive sex education and is opposed to its introduction in the education curriculum.

3. **Judiciary**: As the country heads to the general elections, the judicial system should be on standby so as to solve any electoral disputes that may arise. The church notes with appreciation the ongoing recruitment of the next country Chief Justice, his deputy and the judge of Supreme Court but calls for speedy conclusion of this matter so that the new officers are able to take their new roles in time and in readiness for the next election. The Church calls upon the Judicial Service Commission, the Parliament and the President to fast track the nomination, vetting and appointment processes.

4. **The Marriage Act**: It is the position of Anglican Church that the government should review the marriage Act. The Act has made Christian marriage expensive and cumbersome, by introducing unnecessary bureaucracy.