THE ADDRESS ON THE STATE OF THE NATION, 15TH AUGUST 2017
ANGLICAN CHURCH OF KENYA HEADQUARTERS, NAIROBI.

"Bible Verse 1 Corinthians 1:10 (NIV) I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.

Preamble

Dear Kenyans, this statement is a follow up to our pastoral letter, dated the 30th July 2017. We called upon all Kenyans to go out and exercise their constitutional right and obligation to vote for their leaders peacefully. We are happy that eligible Kenyans went out in large numbers. This is a confirmation of the strong patriotism ingrained within us, manifesting our unity as patriotic, peace-loving citizens of Kenya.

As a nation we need to think collectively as one people and to remain united as we take our strategic position on the African continent. Our evolving democracy is currently under attack and we have to do everything possible to defend it.

Our National Anthem is a Prayer addressed to God of All Creation. It calls us to unity of purpose in carrying out our national goals and aspirations. May God strengthen us individually and collectively, while we actively participate locally, nationally and regionally. We must venture as a united nation.
a) Judicial Guidance

Recognizing the concerns and grievances raised by candidates for various elective posts. The Judiciary provides guidance on all matters pertaining to the rule of law. We urge all leaders to refer any of their concerns to the relevant judicial authorities, in order to ensure orderly and sober resolution of any disputes pertaining to leadership and governance at both local and national levels.

b) The Post-Election Situation and Violence in different parts of the Country

We note with a lot of concern that there have been incidents of violence in different parts of the country since the declaration of results on the 11th of August 2017. The Kenya National Human Rights Commission (KNHRC), a government mandated body revealed that by the 13th of August 2017, they had recorded deaths. While the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) also recorded injuries in Mathare, Kawangware, Kibra, Kisumu, Migori, Siaya and Homa Bay. As of today, there is tension in the country and even though citizens are slowly returning to work, normalcy in some of the above mentioned areas has not been restored fully.

As a church we are concerned that the security forces used excessive force including breaking into people’s homes. We are saddened by the recent killing of Moraa Nyarangi, an 8 year old girl who was playing in the balcony of their house in Mathare, we send our condolences to the families of all those who have lost their lives in the recent violence. The use of excessive force on protestors is unacceptable given the constitutional right of every Kenyan to protest peacefully. We therefore
urge the Government of Kenya to lead the process of healing the nation by promoting national cohesion and inclusivity rather than violence so far witnessed.

c) The Agenda of Post-election audit, review and reforms
As a country we must take seriously the audit, review and reforms needed to take the country forward. This is the only way that Kenya can normalise elections so that election times does not become a season of killings, tension, anxiety and near shut down of the economy. It must be remembered that the 2013 post-election Audit, review and reform did not extend beyond the IEBC itself. So only IEBC conducted an audit while excluding the other stakeholders including political parties. This must never be allowed. We call for a creation of an independent body to carry out this audit. We are concerned with the recent reports that two national NGOs have been deregistered. These are the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) and AFRICOG. We condemn the deregistration of these civil society watchdogs and urge the government to review these decisions.

d) Inclusivity, Cohesion and Integration of Kenya
We advocate for the inclusivity and cohesion of all Kenyans as one Nation, across the multiple identities of race, ethnicity, age, gender, religion, profession, trade or political leaning. On the basis of this understanding we continue to engage other stakeholders in the quest for the national cohesion that all leaders ought to demonstrate and exemplify.
e) National Healing and Reconciliation

We therefore urge all leaders to start a process of healing, reconciliation and integration of our society in all spheres of life. We commit ourselves to facilitate post-election reconciliation, integration and cohesion - alongside others with this goal as a priority. As we embark on this, we notice Kenya has an estimated youth population of 12.5 million who need urgent attention in terms of employment and other programs both in the short run and long-term.

f) Peace and Coexistence

We urge Kenyans to embrace the national values as postulated in the national anthem. These are justice, peace, national unity, liberty, economic prosperity. For ourselves, and our descendants, we must all appreciate, defend and cherish our Motherland, the Republic of Kenya.

God Bless You, God Bless Kenya.

Signed on 15\textsuperscript{th} of August 2017 at Anglican Church of Kenya headquarters, Nairobi.

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The Most Rev. Dr. Jackson Ole Sapit,
ARCHBISHOP OF KENYA,
BISHOP OF ALL SAINTS' CATHEDRAL DIOCESE &
BISHOP-IN-ORDINARY TO THE KENYA DEFENCE FORCES