

KENYA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS



KENYA CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT

Waumini House, Westlands

P.O. Box 13475 - 00800, Nairobi

KCCB Office Line: +254 704 950 223

Email: kccb@catholicchurch.or.ke

secgeneral@catholicchurch.or.ke

Website: www.kccb.or.ke

Our Ref:

PRESS RELEASE

Your Ref:

Building a Kenya of Hope and Justice: Our Civic duty

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10)

We, the Catholic Bishops, gathered here at Donum Dei Spirituality Center Karen extend our Love to all Kenyans, asking for God's blessings upon you. As your shepherds we have taken time to review where we are as a country, and look forward to a Just, Peaceful and Prosperous Kenya!

We, as Bishops, mourn our elder brother Emeritus Bishop Philip Sulumeti, who has served the Catholic Church faithfully, with over 50 years as a Bishop. He is also recognized for his role as a champion in the journey of the Kenya Constitution (2010) making. We condole with the Bishop, the Clergy, the Religious, the family and the lay faithful of the Diocese of Kakamega. We pray for his soul and ask that God may reward his generous life and service with eternal happiness. May his soul rest in eternal Life.

1. Condolences to the Family of the Late Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga, CGH

Kenya continues to mourn the passing on of the late Rt. Hon. Raila Amolo Odinga, a gallant son of the soil and a statesman whose life embodied the struggle for democracy, justice, and unity. Through decades of selfless service, he contributed immensely to the expansion of the Nation's democratic space, defended freedom of expression, and championed devolution as a path to equitable development.

His vision for Kenya was bold and unyielding, one where prosperity, justice, and opportunity would thrive. In moments when he could have chosen division, Raila chose reconciliation. He forgave, embraced dialogue, and consistently fought for the peace and stability of Kenya. His courage and endurance in the pursuit of a just and united Kenya will continue to inspire generations.

INCORPORATING: THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE

1. Commission for Doctrine, 2. Commission for Liturgy, 3. Commission for Missions, 4. Commission for Pastoral and Lay Apostolate (Family Life National Office, National Youth Officer), 5. Commission for Inter-Religious Dialogue and Ecumenism (CIDRE), 6. Seminary Episcopal Commission, 7. Commission for Clergy and Religious (Liaison Committee), 8. Commission for Education and Religious Education (CIRE), 9. Commission for Promoting Integral Human Development-CPIHD (Catholic Justice and Peace Department, Catholic Health Department of Kenya, Caritas Department of Kenya, Refugees, Migrants and Seafarers Department), 10. Commission for Social Communications, 11. Council for Economy 12. Ad-Hoc Commission for AIDS Relief (KARP), 13. Canon Law National Office

"You shall be my Witnesses", (Acts 1:8) for the Sanctification and Salvation of all People.

May the Almighty God comfort his family, friends, and the millions who drew hope from his unwavering spirit. We entrust his soul to God, praying that he may find eternal rest in His presence.

2. Families in Distress

We also extend our condolences to the families of those who died in the Elgeyo Marakwet landslides and Kihoto floods in Naivasha. As we mourn those who died, we express our solidarity with all the families displaced and those who lost their loved ones, their property and livelihoods. We may need to review our speed in responding to these emergencies in order to save lives. May God console each of you. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

3. Appreciation for Positive Efforts

We note gladly that there is an ongoing process by the Teachers Service Commission to recruit 24,000 teachers. It is our earnest hope that this exercise will at the end of the day, have a meaningful impact. We further commend the stabilization of the Kenyan Shilling against the US dollar, and the continued investment in the country's infrastructure, especially in Roads. We also note the construction of many TVET colleges throughout the country, as we encourage our young people to take advantage of these institutions to get needed skills.

We thank God for the relative peace we have enjoyed this year in spite of the prevalent political tensions. As we make an evaluation, we would wish to express a number of concerns, for action by the Government and by the entire citizenry:

4. The Contested Newly Signed Laws

We raise serious concerns about the way the law on the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes (Amendment) Act, and the Land Amendment Act No. 21 of 2025, were crafted and enacted in a hurry. Kenyans have raised substantial concerns about the Amendments, which were signed into law.

We strongly recommend a necessary review lest they be abused to curtail the very freedom they ought to protect. Meaningful public participation would be necessary. The fears Kenyans have expressed regarding these new laws should not be brushed off. They deserve to be listened to and, where necessary, corrective measures taken. Specifically, it seems that the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes (Amendment) Act can

be used to silence government critics, to abuse the right to privacy, or even to manipulate the electoral process.

We have always called on the public, especially the youth, to use civil language when raising concerns online. Nevertheless, they should not be intimidated from expressing themselves as active citizens interested in their country's affairs.

Without careful and meaningful public participation, laws will be counterproductive, eroding public trust in the government. We recommend that the offending clauses be expunged and that specificity be provided on who the law targets. This would instill in the public an awareness that the law is meant to protect and expand their rights, enhance public order, and not to injure their freedoms.

The same can be expressed about the Religious Organization Bill. While certain legislation is necessary the Government should never be seen as attempting to regulate religion.

5. Restoration of Order in the Education Sector

The confusion in the education sector in the past few years is astounding. It would seem decisions have responded more to political expediency than the good of the learners. The rationale, choices and general development of the CBC that has now taken the CBE tag have been without clear guidance to the teachers, parents and students. This is a risk to the future of the children going through a system, with no clear end expectation. There is still contestation in the syllabus including the inclusion of the Religious Education.

Many rural areas are still experiencing a serious shortage of teachers. There should be equity in the distribution of the recruited teachers and these areas should be prioritized.

The schools, through their Heads, are expected to manage the ordinary running of the school, with capitation delays, no extra fees from parents, and threats that no student should be sent away from school for lack of school fees. We should not gamble with our children's lives.

6. Honesty and Fairness in SHA

The benefits of the new Social Health Authority (SHA) medical scheme has been greatly advertised. For sure, many people have received treatment under the new SHA coverage in many hospitals, for which we are grateful. However, the Medical Scheme cannot survive if the Health providers, that is, the Hospitals, are not timely and

sufficiently paid for the services they provide to the patients. We take exception to allegations of incompetence and fraud when we ask for our rights!

The lingering inefficiencies of SHH will eventually cost us dearly. We, the Catholic Bishops, still await the payment of all pending arrears owed to our hospitals, any other Faith-based hospital, and private hospitals across the country, which are unable to offer basic services due to unpaid or delayed payments. We ask that the matter of huge uncleared NHIF dues be fast-tracked and paid by Government. Many Faith-based Hospitals are on the brink of closing due to unpaid claims.

7. Encouraging Voter Registration

The period of the accelerated voter registration is with us. We encourage all, especially the youth, to take up the challenge to view voter registration and participation in the 2027 general election as a concrete, peaceful, and constructive way to shape Kenya's future through the electoral process. This also involves first the acquisition of the Identity Cards.

Lasting change is realized through both civic engagement and democratic participation. Every young person's vote is a voice of hope for a more accountable, inclusive, and compassionate Nation. We therefore strongly urge all eligible youth to register. Registering as a voter secures your voice and contribution, enabling Kenya to continue growing in Justice, Peace, and Unity. This is an important step in the process of setting right and rectifying the various Institutions and organs of Government.

We realize that the numbers of voter registration is still low. We encourage the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) to increase the number of registration stations even in the remote areas.

8. "Breaking the Chains of Corruption"

Reports from the Auditor General and other oversight bodies confirm that corruption is deeply embedded in government systems, crippling service delivery and undermining national growth. This reminds us that our biggest setback as a country remains the high level of corruption in many of our systems and at all levels of decision-making.

We still believe that together, we can break the chains of corruption. This begins with confronting the dangerous complacency that has allowed it to become normalized in our country. Despite frequent public outcry and our own repeated calls in the past

several years, we continue to witness that massive corruption in government goes on unabated.

To break this cycle, those entrusted with public office must lead by living with integrity and setting the tone for accountability. Further, every single citizen, whether in government, faith leadership, education, business, or the home, must act decisively to reject unethical and corrupt actions. We cannot condemn corruption publicly while tolerating it privately; integrity must be lived, taught, and defended with courage and consistency in all places.

Conclusion

We, the Catholic Bishops, reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the well-being of Kenya and its people. This Jubilee Year of Hope, invites us all, leaders, citizens, and especially the youth to rise to the challenges before us with renewed hope, fostering a Nation rooted in Justice, Peace, and shared Prosperity. May we heed the words of the Apostle Peter: *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"* (1 Peter 4:10). In this spirit, we need to work together to build a Kenya where every voice is heard, every right is protected, and God's grace flows abundantly for all.

We invite you all to continue praying for our country as we wish the whole country, a blessed season of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

God bless Kenya.

Signed by



Most Rev. Maurice Muhatia Makumba

CHAIRMAN OF KCCB/ARCHBISHOP OF KISUMU



Date 13th Nov. 2025.

NAME

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