

KENYA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS



KENYA CATHOLIC SECRETARIAT

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Statement by the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB)

Protect Life and Prosper (Deut. 30,19)

1. Introduction

Dear People of God and all People of Goodwill,

“Peace be with you”. (John 20:19) We, the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops, gathered here in Donum Dei, Roussel House Karen today Thursday, 16th April 2026, bring you Easter greetings. May the joy of the Risen Christ strengthen you as committed patriots, and God-loving citizens.

In this press statement, we come before you acknowledging the many strengths we have as a Nation, while also admitting our failures and resolving to rise and walk together.

We thank God for the relative peace in our country, aware that many parts of the world lack this peace. We in particular pray for peace in the Middle East and anywhere else where people are suffering due to wars. Pope Leo XIV, while addressing the warring nations, has invited us to pray for Peace and build bridges of reconciliation. The voice of the Holy Father is the true voice of Peace. Dialogue should be given a chance. This war has caused a social-economic crisis, which has already trickled down to our Nation. We hope and pray that our Government will mitigate these effects.

Easter is a time for hope, **“and hope does not disappoint” (Rom. 5, 5).** We pray for God’s blessings, we hope for employment for our young people, we hope for a better economy, we hope for a better Kenya, we hope for a society where respect and honesty is upheld, where life is truly sacred.

2. Threats to the Sanctity of Life

*“Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter”
(Proverbs 24:11)*

Human life is a gift from God, to every human individual, to the family and to the Nation. No person has a right under any circumstances to take it away. Unfortunately, we have witnessed many occasions in our society and in our country where life has been trivialized.

The Shakahola and Kware deaths scandal are still fresh in our minds, where unimaginable killings were exposed. These reveal how weak our government surveillance systems and social vigilance have deteriorated. All these people who were killed and buried in mass graves come from families and neighbourhoods. Questions of how such things happened, without anyone noticing and reporting to the authorities remain unanswered. We are now witnessing a repeat of these episodes with new unexplained deaths. The discovery of bodies of men, women, and children in gunny bags in Binzaro in Kilifi, and now Kericho are deeply disturbing because they show the total disregard for the sanctity and value of human life (Cf. Ex 20:13; Dt 5:17).

The life of every Kenyan, is valuable and sacred. We in Kenya seem to have become insensitive to incidents of killings and the destruction of life. This is totally unacceptable and shameful. People are dying, and life seems to continue as if nothing has happened. Investigations on killings fizzle out very quickly and are easily forgotten. It is very sad that this happens because the victims were poor and seemingly unimportant.

This concern for value of life also raises our attention to a rise in human trafficking. Unfortunately, we are witnessing new forms that are becoming difficult to detect. Dear Kenyans, we must protect the weak especially children and the vulnerable. We ask the relevant authorities to heighten their vigilance and stop human trafficking.

Today life is being threatened daily by the increase in the number of road accidents. This Easter alone we have lost more than 50 Kenyans. Most of these accidents are happening due to reckless and careless driving, speeding and disobeying of the traffic laws. The impunity on the roads is caused first of all by the corruption of the police, who are meant to enforce the law, and secondly by the irresponsible behaviour of passengers in the vehicles, who easily accept the situation. We demand that the Traffic Police and the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) start doing their duty of vigilance and charge offenders in accordance with the Law. We call upon Kenyan commuters to be more responsible for their own lives, by challenging drivers and even refusing to travel, when vehicles are carelessly driven.

3. Political Intolerance and goonism

“No foul language should come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for needed edification, that it may impart grace to those who hear” (Eph 4:29).

The Political ecosystem is meant to ensure the space for the flourishing of the citizens' life, development of their welfare and well-being and peaceful coexistence.

We are disappointed and embarrassed over the recent grossly indecent public utterances of our national leaders and those in the opposition. This is totally unacceptable. In so doing the leaders disrespect the Kenyans themselves.

The office of the Presidency should always be respected, as it represents our Republic. It also calls for the dignity it carries, when addressing national issues. We therefore decry the shameful spectacle that we were treated to by our leaders recently. Respect for one another is mutual, and goes beyond political affiliation, and must never be devalued to shameful show of insults. We expect this respect for Kenyans, from all offices, by truly living up to the nobility of the responsibilities they bear.

We have also watched with consternation as political goons disrupting meetings and desecrating places of worship, making utterances that demean the dignity of high public offices. We continue to see and hear abuse, insults and messages of hate hurled by our political leaders at each other. We cannot afford to degenerate into the primitive culture of goons, but rather must uphold righteous leadership in democracy.

We particularly are appalled by the patronage system and culture that does not respect human life, that is promoting goonism and recruiting of youth into criminal groups. The proliferation of the culture of goons, used to intimidate, bring disruptions in meetings, and even kill, can only thrive if it is sponsored and protected by powerful individuals. These goons work for their paymasters who can easily be identified by our criminal investigators. Moreover, it is happening in the sight of those in charge of security in our country and even our law enforcers.

We still have unresolved events and circumstances where we lost many of our young Kenyans. Our young people are still living in the trauma of abductions and life threats. We must ensure that all Kenyans enjoy their personal freedom and do not live in the fear of any threats to their lives or freedom. However, we as Kenyans must also use our freedom responsibly. The issue is not only about compensation but respect and protection of the lives of our young people.

We remind our leaders that Politics and leadership are not entitlement, but an obliging responsibility and service to the people. Therefore, public figures have a moral obligation to be civilized in their language and to remain constantly aware that the children and young people are watching. Being right before the law is not enough in leadership. Our country deserves respectful, empathetic, temperate, balanced, and noble leadership that honors the very citizens who gave leaders their mandate (Cf. Lk 12:48).

We reiterate our long standing position that all our liturgical functions and our Catholic Churches, are sacred places and moments of worship, and not arenas for political activity. Our Churches remain open to all, irrespective of their political affiliation, for prayer and worship.

4. Our Health Care concerns are about Saving Lives

A major support for human life is the care we give to those suffering illnesses. Care for life in such critical moments is paramount. This is what is threatened by the delay in payments to Faith Based health facilities. While we appreciate the positive signs that the Government made with some payments to faith-based hospitals done in the last weeks, our Catholic hospitals debts still stand at over Kshs 5.7B including rejected and returned claims. This excludes the aged NHIF debts of 3.3B.

The SHA scheme is meant to work seamlessly for all players so that patient care is assured. However, this is not the case. The overall performance remains poor. The Parliamentary report on SHA by the Departmental Health Committee makes it clear that the scheme has serious shortcomings. The role of Digital Health Authority (DHA) in the SHA processes concerning the rejected and returned claims need to be clarified.

We believe it is within the power of the government to look into this problem and provide a long lasting solution, as this situation undermines the protection of human life and dignity. We should not continue going in circles at the expense of human life in need of medical care. The government should therefore act with great urgency to address the SHA structural deficits, significant underfunding, and operational deficiencies, including technological system downtime.

5. The Competency-Based Education (CBE) Challenges

“Train the young in the way they should go; even when old, they will not depart from it” (Prov 22:6)

Our learning institutions are privileged places where we nurture the life of our children. In them we instill the value and respect for life and human dignity that underpins the society. The justification for phasing out the 8-4-4 system was that it was too theoretical and therefore did not adequately prepare learners for social and job market demands. Now that CBE has been implemented up to Grade 10, we have lessons to draw from previous attempts to introduce a new education system.

First, we cannot place our children in a constant mode of experimentation. The government has all the technical expertise it needs, both locally and internationally, to have streamlined the implementation of CBE, long before rolling it out. The system seems poorly thought-out and is being poorly implemented. What is obvious is that there was little study, design and thinking-through of the entire CBE system.

Secondly, CBE was introduced on the justification that it would prioritize practical skills, creativity, and critical thinking. As we have come to know it, CBE is capital-intensive. It requires more teachers, equipment and financing.

We implore the Ministry of Education to urgently constitute a multi-sectoral team to study, properly evaluate and design in an understandable and overt manner how the CBE system can properly operate. The rightful role of the Sponsors in our institutions should be guaranteed so as to defend ethical and value content in the education system. We raise serious concerns that there are efforts to undermine and diminish the role of the sponsor in the institutions.

6. Corruption, Greed and Impunity

Corruption continues to be a major threat to human life in our country. We Kenyans seem to have normalized greed and corruption. We no longer want to oppose it, or at best we passively accept it. Once more, we call upon all Kenyans that we “must break the chains of corruption”. We must continue to act, at the level of citizens and Christians, so that theft, lies, dishonesty, bribery remain clearly as ugly and evil actions. These are above all, sins against God. Normalizing these evils easily contribute to the impunity of corrupt actions.

At the level of Government, this leads to cartels, culture of kickbacks, siphoning of public funds, and stealing of public land and property.

We are appalled that only recently some powerful individuals conspired to dispossess Catholic sisters of their land in Karen and other cases of dis-appropriation of land owned by faith based institutions in the country.

We see no serious commitment or intent to fight the monster of corruption. The goodwill to fight corruption from the top is wanting yet Kenyans continue to pay taxes faithfully (Cf. 1 Tim 6:9-10).

We Kenyans must make up our minds, beginning from the very grassroots, to root out and refuse to be part of this axis of evil. Only we, as citizens acting together, will be able to break the chain of corruption as scripture reminds us: *“Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.”* (1 Corinthians 16:13) If we keep our faith, there is hope that we can overcome impunity, corruption, and the spirit that discourages us from doing what is right.

7. The Defense of the Institution of Marriage

Our families are the cradle of life, and the base of a stable and balanced society. That is why we must defend the Institution of Marriage, and seek to promote and facilitate the establishment of stable unions.

For some time now, we have been experiencing difficulties in the legal process of civil registration and legalization of marriage. The process of notification, obtaining certificates has become unnecessarily arduous. The clearance process is slow and at times insensitive to the time and dates set. Moreover, we are now experiencing a shortage of marriage certificates.

These conditions have discouraged many from contracting marriage, as the statistics show. This is bound to cause a moral dent to the society, and risks depriving the weaker spouses of their legal rights.

We as a country must protect and promote the institution of marriage as provided in the Constitution of Kenya (Article 45). When our families and the institution of marriage are strong, our society thrives.

8. Voter Registration

“But select capable men from all the people—men who fear God, trustworthy men who hate dishonest gain—and appoint them as officials...” (Exodus 18, 21)

In the light of the 2027 General Elections, we wish to remind Kenyans who have not registered as voters, to do so.

A voter's card is your only voice in determining our leadership, and an essential tool, in improving government service delivery.

This is not only a right, to determine the direction of leadership of this country at all levels, but a citizens duty. That is why we encourage all Kenyans to ensure they are fully registered as voters.

We particularly appeal to our young people to make all efforts to get a voters card, after getting your Identification Card (ID). This is one way of voicing your concerns by the choices you will make for a better Kenya. Take your civic mandate seriously and register in readiness to vote next year (Cf. Prov. 29:2). Don't let anyone or anything discourage you from getting a voters card!

Conclusion

We believe the strength of our Country is the Faith in God of the people of Kenya. That faith can bring from all of us the courage and energy to overcome the evil trends, and help us bring out the good ones. This is the message of the Risen Christ who conquers evil and death and brings about the victory of life, goodness and joy! We can conquer the threats against human life! We can build a better society where dignity of life is cherished and respected.

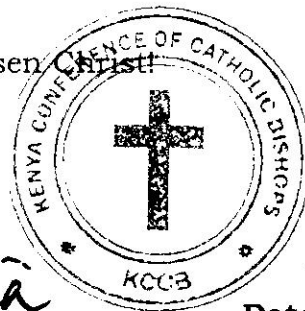
You, our young people are our hope, and we look forward to your focused energies in doing good. We pray for you and support you even in these difficult times. Do not lose hope!

As pilgrims of hope here on earth, we look forward to joining hands as one people and one country in uplifting one another at all times. The challenges before us are surmountable when we remain united. We invite all Kenyans and all people of goodwill to continue praying for our country and our leaders, so that justice, peace and protection of life will always flourish.

We wish you all the Blessings of the Risen Christ!

Happy Easter!

God bless Kenya.



Signed by:

**Most Rev. Maurice Muhatia Makumba
CHAIRMAN**

KENYA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

Date: 16th April 2024

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