

PRESS STATEMENT ON THE STATE OF THE NATION

(FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

Narc Kenya is concerned with the unprecedented levels of corruption bedeviling the jubilee administration and the accompanying failure or refusal by the administration to effectively act on them. Corruption has almost received the official seal as the jubilee way of doing business. The NYS scandal which has revealed massive siphoning of public funds by known individuals is yet to be acted upon. So far no arrests and or prosecutions have been made and unlike the earlier cases the responsible Cabinet Secretary has not taken political responsibility.

The latest corruption scandal to come to light relates the Youth Fund and just like the NYS one involves siphoning of public funds. We believe this pattern is a fair representation of the state of affairs within the government where it appears there is a looting spree.

Public funds continue to be mismanaged /wasted through unnecessary foreign and local travel by the national and county governments, as well through exaggerated pricing in procurement of goods the best examples being the El Niño, soap pricing, the exotic Bungoma wheelbarrows, to mention but a few.

The EuroBond money was irregularly deposited in an off shore account and disbursed without the requisite authorization from the controller of budget. Kenyans have not been sufficiently briefed on whether this offshore account was interest earning and if so how much interest was earned. Secondly there has not been strict accountability and openness on the whereabouts of this money and if utilized the specific projects.

Clearly something is terribly wrong and the government is unable to properly explain.

Under Article 201 of the Constitution there must be openness, and accountability including public participation in financial matters. Article 206 of the Constitution requires all monies raised or received on behalf of the National Government be deposited into the Consolidated. Rebuttals in public fora by high ranking government officials and parliamentarians do not satisfy this principle, the treasury CS must give a proper explanation that accounts for every cent of these funds and be open about the movements of this money including any interest accrued and any balance available

and its whereabouts. There must be consequences for failure to observe financial procedures as stipulated in the Constitution and other statutes. The public has a constitutional right to know.

Parliament whose role is to be a watchdog has been emasculated through carrot and stick method and may be largely mistaken for a jubilee apologist or praise choir. The EACC was literally disbanded and is just a pale shadow of what it should be , the Police reforms have slowed down to a halt and corruption is back , the Judiciary has been greatly undermined by open display of impunity by the Executive and Legislature who only choose to obey orders favourable to them. On their part, both the judiciary and parliament have contributed to being undermined by engaging in corruption and other malpractices.

The burden of corruption and mismanagement has resulted in rise of the cost of living and high interest rates, overburdening the weak and vulnerable and threatening livelihoods

Hate speech is on the rise aided by impunity and double standards in application of the law. As citizens we must not keep quiet as our nation slides towards the cliff time to act is now.

We therefore call upon the Executive

To apply the law equally on all without fear or favour

To support and strengthen the law enforcement agencies by ensuring appointments and dismissals are strictly within the law and based on merit rather than political expediency to inject life into and complete the long overdue police reforms

To support and strengthen the other arms of government namely parliament and the judiciary to play their roles effectively, noting that the smooth functioning of the state depends on each of the three arms being effective

To order a thorough audit of the NYS, youth Fund, women fund, Uwezo fund.

The Auditor general, controller of budget and other independent offices must be supported and not undermined in the performance of their duties

To immediately seal the loopholes that encourage the financial hemorrhage

The executive must lead the way on promoting National cohesion and respect for the rule of law and institutions

It is time for a bipartisan National conference to mobilize the nation on the way forward.

Signed:

Dr. Ambrose Nzomo

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