

PARLIAMENT OF KENYA
JOINT SITTING OF THE NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY AND THE SENATE

THE HANSARD

Eleventh Parliament - First Session

*(Eleventh Parliament established vide Legal
Notices 55 and 56 of 21st March, 2013)*

Tuesday, 16th April, 2013

*Parliament met at ten minutes past Three o'clock in the National Assembly
Chamber at Parliament Buildings*

ARRIVAL OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT

*[His Excellency the President (Mr. Kenyatta) escorted by the
Speaker of the Senate (Mr. Ethuro) and the Speaker of the National
Assembly (Mr. Muturi) entered the Chamber at fifteen minutes
past Three o'clock accompanied by the Maces of both Houses]*

[His Excellency the President (Mr. Kenyatta) took the Chair]

(The two Maces were placed on the Table)

PRAYERS

The Speaker of the National Assembly (Mr. Muturi): Order, hon. Senators and
hon. Members! It is now time for us to be led in prayer by our spiritual leaders.

*(Prayers were then said by the following spiritual leaders:
Rt. Rev. Archbishop Eliud Wabukala, Rt. Rev. Martin Kivuva, Rashid Ali Omar
and Mr. Siopin Lekoolool)*

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CHAIRS

**WELCOME TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT BY
THE SPEAKER OF THE SENATE**

The Speaker of the National Assembly (Mr. Muturi): Order! Order, hon. Senators and hon. Members! Your Excellency, it is now my time to invite the Speaker of the Senate, the hon. Ekwee Ethuro, to make his remarks.

(Applause)

The Speaker of the Senate (Mr. Ethuro): Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces, hon. Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta, His Excellency the Deputy President, hon. William Ruto, the Speaker of the National Assembly, my good friend and counterpart, hon. Justin Muturi, Deputy Speakers of the Senate and the National Assembly, hon. Senators and Members of the National Assembly, ladies and gentlemen, I feel greatly honoured and privileged to stand before you as Speaker of the Senate to welcome His Excellency the President, all our hon. Senators and hon. Members of the National Assembly of the Eleventh Parliament of the Republic, to this auspicious occasion in which we are holding the first joint sitting of the Houses of Parliament for purposes of the Presidential Address.

Before I make my welcoming remarks, you will indulge me to congratulate all of you as this is a newly elected Parliament, and through you, to congratulate all the people of Kenya for exercising their democratic right and civic duty of electing representatives of their choice. The prophets of doom were predicting chaos and violence. Kenyans demonstrated a rare sense of confidence and commitment in the electoral process by rising early in large numbers and queuing for long hours to give you their votes.

This resulted not only in preferred candidates that now sit in Parliament, but also in the county governments; they did this in style and conducted themselves peacefully before, during and after the elections.

Permit me also to congratulate you as the fourth President of the Republic of Kenya and your able first Deputy President of the Republic on your election, inauguration, and assumption to the highest calling in the land.

Your Excellency, the reconciliatory tone of your leadership so far is a clear indication that this country will do well under your leadership and that of your deputy.

(Applause)

I also wish to congratulate all hon. Senators and hon. Members of the Eleventh Parliament for their successful election. Let me also take this opportunity to convey my sincere salutations to the newly elected governors and their deputies and the county representatives in the 47 counties throughout our Republic. Of course, I cannot conclude these particular preliminary remarks without congratulating my counterpart, the Speaker of the National Assembly and his deputy, hon. Dr. Joyce Laboso, who actually got it all in round one.

On my own behalf and that of my Deputy Speaker, hon. Senator Kembi-Gitura and the entire leadership of the Senate and staff, we look forward to a fruitful engagement during this Eleventh Parliament of Kenya which has two Houses.

Your Excellency, hon. Senators and hon. Members of the National Assembly, in my native county of Turkana we have the *Ekicholo*, a two legged stool, which serves multiple functions. It is used as a seat when you sit down, a pillow when you sleep, a head rest when you take a siesta, and an arm chair when you relax. This two legged stool, the *Ekicholo*, reminds me of a symbolic representative of the nexus role played by parliaments in a democracy within itself and as a branch of Government.

Before the promulgation of the Constitution in 2010, the two legs depicted the Kenya National Assembly and the President, both of which constituted the Parliament of the Republic of Kenya. Then, however, one leg of the House was outside these precincts; it was specifically in State House. Once again, the stool is still two legged, but symbolises a new order where the National Assembly and the Senate constitute our Parliament. Both legs of the *Ekicholo* are now within the precincts of Parliament itself.

(Applause)

The Kenya Parliament has, therefore, come full circle; it has truly become a cornerstone of democracy. It remains central in the promotion and protection of democracy, manifests the diversity of the nation, represents the will of the people and exercises their sovereignty.

Your Excellency, hon. Senators and Members of the National Assembly, Article 1(1)(2) and (3) stipulates that all sovereign power belongs to the people of Kenya and shall only be exercised either directly or through their democratically elected representatives. We are the ones who are assembled here today. This provision reflects the division of roles in our Government in our governance structures and gives us the constitutional obligation. It will require co-operation and harmonious engagement between Parliament and the Executive and by extension the Judiciary.

Your Excellency, allow me to comment on the Kenyan situation that I believe your Government will be addressing itself to shortly, and bring this to Parliament for both Houses to legislate. The key challenges to development in Kenya still remain the same as at Independence when we had our first Senate. This is about poverty, disease, illiteracy and poor infrastructure. These have now been compounded by insecurity, rising unemployment, especially among the youth, negative ethnicity, corruption and poor service delivery. These have resulted into an unequal society and chronic underdevelopment in some parts of the Republic to the extent that some of these areas feel less Kenyan, and expressions like “*hapa na pale si Kenya*” or “I am going to Kenya” have, unfortunately, become part of our national discourse.

As Kenyans usher in new leadership, the country is pregnant with expectations. We want our country back to where it will not matter where one is born, what your surname is, and every Kenyan will be entitled to certain rights, especially the social and economic rights, as provided for in Article 43 of the Constitution; these are the right to food, education, medicine and shelter. These are just basic things for survival.

I note with gratitude Your Excellency that your address to the nation during the inauguration day on 9th April, 2013 captured the key policy guidelines that will address most of these challenges. Further, we are lucky as a nation to have a blueprint for development

that is, Vision 2030. Thus, one of our principal duties in leadership will be to manage the delivery of the programmes set out in Vision 2030, which set out the process of Kenya's modernization and realization of faster economic growth.

Once in a while, as in all democratic jurisdictions, tensions and even conflict may occur among the various arms of the Government, and even within each arm of the Government. The propensity for implosion cannot be underestimated. It will take all of us, both in Parliament and the Executive, the highest form of statesmanship and quality leadership to rise to the occasion and succeed as a nation.

To a large measure, the role of the Opposition in Parliament seems to have been limited, given the architecture, the spirit and the letter of the Grand Coalition during the Tenth Parliament. This role was left to a few Backbenchers, who often questioned certain aspects of impropriety and Government inaction. The full force of the Opposition was missing. Indeed, in the Eleventh Parliament, we expect to see a more robust and vibrant Opposition facing the Government Benches. Indeed, the Constitution has very deliberate provisions under Article 108(3) for the Leaders of the Minority Parties in Parliament to offer the much needed and legitimate Opposition within Parliament.

As the Speaker of the Senate, I promise to be true to the Oath of Office, which I recently took, and to observe the cardinal democratic principle that the minority will have their say as the majority have their way. I am conscious that Kenyans expect to see balanced, informed and robust debating chambers in both the plenary and the committee stages. For Parliament and the Executive, we have no choice but to co-exist as a matter of necessity. We have to collaborate and work together. The theory of government in our case has put us together to complement each other, accomplish the development tasks that we have given ourselves as a nation and provide quality and reliable services to fellow countrymen and countrywomen. Indeed, we do not have to look very far. The third stanza of our National Anthem states:-

“Let all with one accord
in common bond united
build this our nation together;
and the glory of Kenya,
the fruit of our labour
fill every heart with thanksgiving.”

On our part, as the Senate, we will play an integral role in the democratisation process as well as in safeguarding the devolution architecture, pursuant to our full mandate as set out in Article 96 of the Constitution. Chief among them is to represent the counties and to protect the interests of the counties and their governments.

May I also take this opportunity to assure Kenyans that the Senate they have given to themselves is here to stay, despite the unfortunate history of our first senate, which ceased to exist in 1966. The Senate now has been re-established in order to realise the aspirations of the Kenyan people to have a decent, balanced and equitable society. It will not die again; at least, not under my leadership.

Your Excellency, hon. Senators and hon. Members, in order for the Senate to assert itself and deliver on the promise of devolution, we will be calling on other stakeholders, especially the Executive and the development partners, to assist in mobilising the requisite financial, physical and human resources to adequately discharge this constitutional mandate. We will be responsible for the legislative mandate.

In conclusion, Your Excellency, I wish to sincerely welcome you to the Senate, which is part of this joint sitting. We will be able to give the force of law to the policies and programmes that you will be unveiling today. Article 94(5) states that no body other than Parliament has the power to make provisions having the force of law in Kenya.

From the above, it is very clear that the Executive and Parliament are, therefore, duty bound to work together in the common endeavour to serve the people of the Republic of Kenya. Therefore, there is a lot of work ahead of us. Kenyans want the promise of the new Constitution; equitable development and quality services like yesterday, and not tomorrow. We all need to play, and indeed must play, our respective roles in the fulfillment of those aspirations. I have no doubt in my mind that we will succeed as one nation; *Insha Allah!*

Thank you and God bless Kenya.

(Applause)

WELCOME TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT BY
THE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Speaker of the National Assembly (Mr. Muturi): Your Excellency the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces of the Republic of Kenya, hon. Uhuru Kenyatta and hon. Members, it gives me pleasure to welcome His Excellency and all hon. Members of the Eleventh Parliament to the Official Opening of our Parliament, the citadel of our democracy.

I wish to take this earliest opportunity to congratulate Your Excellency for being elected the fourth president of the Republic of Kenya. I also wish to congratulate the Deputy President, hon. William Ruto, who is seated on the Speaker's Row, and, indeed, all hon. Members of Parliament. To you all, congratulations!

First and foremost, I wish to thank all Kenyans for participating peacefully in the just concluded general election. That exercise showed maturity and the deepening of our democratic culture. This has, indeed, restored and redeemed our standing in the community of nations.

Your Excellency, I also wish to congratulate your foremost competitor, the former Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga, and the former Vice-President, hon. Kalonzo Musyoka, for providing the opportunity for political competition and being worthy competitors in the just concluded Presidential election.

Today's sitting is historic in many ways. It is the first time we are having a joint sitting of the National Assembly and the Senate, under the bicameral system re-introduced by the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. Today's sitting is also significant because we are together assembled as two Houses and as legislators from diverse backgrounds,

representing the various sectors of our society. Today, we demonstrate that we are operating under our new Constitution. It is truly a day to celebrate.

Your Excellency, it is a moment of great inspiration for us to have you in this House to address the nation on the Government's policies and the legislative agenda for the Eleventh Parliament. We are very eager to listen to you, because from your Address, Kenyans will know the political philosophy and the economic strategy of the new Government of the Republic of Kenya, which you lead. Before I invite you to talk to us, allow me to make some brief remarks.

Hon. Members, there is no doubt that Kenya and all our institutions, Parliament included, are at the threshold of a new dispensation – indeed a new chapter. I would like to borrow words from hon. Mwai Kibaki, your predecessor, in his inaugural speech on 30th December, 2002, as follows:-

“Our country is going through a critical moment. The task ahead is enormous. The expectations are high, and the challenges are intimidating.”

However, I want to assure you that the encouraging thing is that Kenyans are fully behind the Government in its effort to change things for the better. We are aware that for the first time, the Executive is not part of the Legislature. We are separated in a new system of checks and balances. It is my hope that we shall all work together in the Committees with mutual respect and co-operation among the three arms of the Government, and with all the oversight institutions established by the Constitution.

Hon. Members, know that this is a new legislature with new structures and new ways of working. Our Legislature is now bicameral. Our committee system has changed. The Budget-making role of Parliament has been strengthened. The role of Parliament in international relations and security is larger. The systems of oversight have been overhauled to bring on board the participation of the citizenry. It is in our interest to understand and get used to these new ways of working.

Therefore, as a Parliament, we must use this opportunity in our history to play our rightful roles in renewal of our country. I urge you all to approach your responsibilities with dedication and a sense of purpose for the common good of the Kenyan people. Failing this, our relevance will be called to question.

Your Excellency, a quick glance at the membership of the Eleventh Parliament gives me pleasure to report that there is an increase in the number of professionals from various backgrounds. There are Members with impressive track records in public and private life, who have voluntarily abandoned their careers to join this august House. In addition, there are more women and youth in this Parliament than ever before in the history of our country.

(Applause)

Equally, there are more persons with disabilities and minorities who are represented now. Given this scenario, we should look forward to more robust and informed debates. As a Parliament, we shall endeavor to foster good working relations with your Cabinet Secretaries in their new roles as we shall ensure they are constantly held to account in the running of their Ministries, departments and agencies.

(Applause)

The Government shall be held to account from your commitment to implement the Constitution, your support to the devolved system of Government and in the fulfillment of your undertakings to the people of Kenya in the elections concluded recently. You can count on the support of these two Houses to help realize these two goals.

Your Excellency, I need to observe here that we must all strive to strengthen our political parties and to instill party discipline. Strong political parties mean strong democracies; strong democracies mean good governance. Good governance is essential for the development of our nation. It is for this reason that our Constitution has firmly anchored political parties as key institutions in our public governance structures; specifically in Part 3 of Chapter 7, Articles 91 and 92.

Last, but not least, Your Excellency, I would like to thank the former Government headed by the now retired President Mwai Kibaki for the support it continually gave the Parliamentary Service Commission (PSC). We are all hopeful and actually trust that your Government will continue to give support to the PSC to enable it fulfill its mandate of providing facilities to the hon. Members for the efficient and effective functioning of Parliament.

(Applause)

Your Excellency, we shall expect your Government and this House to be the glue that holds the people of Kenya together; to constantly work on a long term national cohesion project and to see to it that the marginalized, the minority groups and the vulnerable of our society can seek hope in our governance.

Finally, it is now my great pleasure and privilege to invite His Excellency the President to address the House.

(Applause)

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

EXPOSITION OF PUBLIC POLICY

His Excellency the President (Mr. Kenyatta): The hon. Speaker of the Senate, the hon. Speaker of the National Assembly, hon. Senators and hon. Members of Parliament; it is a great honour to address this opening session of Parliament combining both Houses. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate hon. Members and hon. Senators on your election and nomination to both the Senate and the National Assembly.

My congratulations also go the Speakers of the Senate and the National Assembly together with their respective deputies on their elections, leaders of the Majority Party and the Minority Party as well as their respective deputies on their own election. I want

to especially congratulate the record number of women in both Houses, an indication of Kenya's commitment to achieving gender parity and equality. I also commend the last Parliament for the passage of numerous Bills and for meeting constitutional deadlines. I take this opportunity to wish all hon. Members of the Eleventh Parliament the very best as you steer the legislative policy agenda of this august House over the next five years.

Hon. Members and hon. Senators, we all participated in an electoral process in which we campaigned in different counties and constituencies; contesting for different seats and campaigning as members of different parties and coalitions. Today, we come together with a single purpose; that of promoting the welfare of Kenyans, protecting their rights and giving voice to the many and varied interests of our people. We are here, not for ourselves, but as representatives of the people.

We, today recognize that we sit under the banner of a new Constitution; a Constitution that the people of Kenya approved as the supreme law of the land. As law-makers, our first duty is to be law-keepers, subject to the Constitution. I urge all of us to remember that each of us is obliged by virtue of citizenship and the trust placed on us by the people to respect, uphold and defend our Constitution; each of us is bound by a solemn oath, to bear true faith and allegiance to the people and the Republic of Kenya and to faithfully and diligently discharge our duties. These duties are conferred upon us by our Constitution. This is the oath of office we took before God and our fellow citizens.

Hon. Members and hon. Senators, my Government looks forward to working with both Houses to implement our agenda and I look forward to your support. Although we may not agree from time to time, this should be in an atmosphere of mutual respect and consideration. We should be able to hold different viewpoints without being enemies. In that spirit, I pledge that my Government will partner with both Houses and, indeed, both sides of the divide in the work of implementing the national agenda and transforming this nation. The role of a vibrant opposition is vital to the effective functioning of our Government. I welcome and respect that role. I look forward to all the hon. Members of both Houses holding my Government to account.

(Applause)

Our Constitution envisages a lean and effective Government. This involves not just reducing the number of Ministries, but restructuring the entire Government and changing how it works. We will streamline the agencies of Government to end the confusing and wasteful overlap of responsibilities and create a Government that is fit for the 21st Century.

(Applause)

Hon. Members and hon. Senators, the world is fully engulfed in deep economic crisis, made worse by the recession in the West and also rising costs in the East. However, here in Africa, our economies continue to grow as a young, educated and vibrant population makes its appearance on the economic stage. While our financial and ICT sectors are strong, our agriculture, manufacturing and transport sectors that should be

driving export-led growth are under-performing. As a nation, we still face the challenges of slow growth, unacceptably high levels of unemployment and pervasive poverty.

My Government's goal is for Kenya to become a middle-income country within our generation. This means attaining and sustaining double digit growth. The kind of growth rate that will, if we are prudent managers, lead to a better quality of life for Kenyans; as skilled Kenyans are able to find decent jobs and many are lifted out of poverty. This growth will be delivered if we pursue the right combination of policies with a steady hand and determination.

As a priority, we must exercise prudent management of public finances, especially our wage bill. Today, Recurrent Expenditure is reaching unsustainable levels, squeezing out resources meant for development. We must keep the public wage bill in check. In the current Financial Year, for example, the total estimated wage bill is Kshs458 billion. This wage bill, at slightly over 12 per cent of our GDP, is well above the internationally accepted standard of 7 per cent and accounts for almost half of the revenue collected by the Government. This is unsustainable and poses a serious threat to the funding of important development projects, and has the potential to severely affect the country's economic prospects.

All arms of the Government must set the example and lead the way in bringing this wage bill down. Our focus, both as the Executive and the Legislature, must be on reducing the cost of living and making Kenya much more competitive thereby increasing opportunities while improving the standard of living of our people. Indeed, that shall be the centre-piece of our Government. We need to spark an industrial revolution in our country. Within the next few years, we must add value to our produce and manufacture here in Kenya the finished goods that we increasingly use in our homes and businesses.

We must establish a first class logistics hub covering transport, roads, railways, waterways, pipelines, ports, storage and energy.

We must invest and modernize our agriculture and open up, at least, one million acres of new land through irrigation in order to end food insecurity.

We must drive growth by diversifying our exports, adding value, creating new products and opening up new markets.

We must seal the leakages in our revenue collection system and extend the tax base.

We must drive up value for money from our public procurement, so that we get what we pay for.

We must create a business climate that encourages innovation, investment and growth.

We must reduce the cost of the ordinary households' basket of goods, including food, housing, energy and transport.

We must deepen our relationships with our regional partners in order to expand our markets, create jobs and boost growth.

We must invest in our greatest capital resource - our young people and provide social protection for every Kenyan.

Our overall goal, hon. Members and hon. Senators, is the transformation of our economy, so that our exports compete across the world and drive the growth necessary to

create jobs for our youth and lift ten million of our brothers and sisters out of poverty by 2017.

Hon. Members and hon. Senators, we envisage a Kenya where every citizen is free to be the very best that they can. Where everyone can fulfill their potential regardless of where they come from, what circumstances they were born into or what community they belong to. That is why my Government will build our work on nine key pillars.

The first one is transparency. We will run an honest and transparent Government with public services that are open and accountable to the people who use them while supporting the counties to deliver on the promise of devolution. We will work with the Judiciary in fast-tracking and deepening the reforms that are in progress to secure access to justice for all Kenyans and promote a society where every person enjoys equal protection of the law. We will strengthen the criminal justice system and promote the rule of law.

I will act swiftly to end the scourge of corruption. Corruption makes our country less attractive as an investment destination. It limits access to much needed services, stifles efficiency and eats away at our public values. I believe that power is exercised more transparently when it is closest to the people. For too long, decision-making has been concentrated in the hands of a few in Nairobi. Devolution is central to my Government's vision for Kenya. Devolution is not optional it is a constitutional duty, one shared by all of us. Mechanisms for resolving the minor administrative challenges are already in place because my Government is committed to devolution in full.

In protecting the gains of individual rights and freedoms and enhancing transparency and accountability, we will also promote a vibrant civil society enabling them to gain access to public resources while taking legislative measures to ensure transparency, accountability and openness in their work. We will champion the rights of all Kenyans, preserving and defending them, not only through good governance and respect for the rule of law, but also by extending the rights to social protection. We will expand the pension system, so that our citizens enjoy dignity in old age.

Our Government is committed to ensuring that our citizens live, work and worship in peace.

Last year, we did deploy our Defence Forces to Somalia in order to deal with a terrorist organization that showed disregard for the sanctity of life, disrespect for human rights and contempt for the law. In doing so, we demonstrated to our citizens and to the world that we will deal decisively with any external threat to our citizens. The threats to internal security still remain. We will deal with those threats with the same single-minded resolve; the same commitment to protect our citizens.

My Government will improve security at our frontiers and progressively improve the ratio of police to citizens across Kenya by bringing it closer to the United Nations ratio of one police officer for every 450 citizens.

This Parliament must progressively put in place measures that will strengthen our Police Service. We must afford them the dignity that is due to any citizen who risks their life in the line of service to the people and the nation- protecting our lives and property. In view of this, we will probably equip each police unit in order to increase effectiveness

and ensure their rapid response to incidents of crime. This will also include working to ensure that their welfare is protected.

The next pillar we will build on is job creation. Forty per cent of our population is currently without work. Among our youth, unemployment is as high as 70 per cent. For far too long, this our greatest national resource has received insufficient attention and the energy and time of our youth have been wasted through alcohol and drug abuse. We will put measures in place to harness the time and talents of our youth in order to grow our economy.

We will consolidate and harmonize the youth and women's funds to ensure these funds are easily accessible to citizens at the constituency level through basic models on the Constituencies Development Fund (CDF) framework.

(Applause)

In line with our policy of streamlining Government, we will combine the bodies that promote Kenya in all aspects of our economy; to create a single agency with a rich expertise and profile to represent and promote our country abroad; attracting trade and investment tourism from across the world. In that regard, our embassies and missions will be re-modeled to market Kenya in their respective countries and get linked directly to this new trade promotion service with perhaps one of the best tourism destinations in the world, we must increase this sector's contribution to our Gross Domestic Product (GDP). We must also increase investment and its infrastructure capacity and marketing capacity as well. Our aim is to double the level of tourism arrivals in our country to three million visitors per year by 2017.

(Applause)

As leaders who are committed to transforming Kenya's economy, we must promote investments in the emerging industries. My Government will foster the sports and entertainment sectors, establishing a National Lottery Scheme to support both of them. We will also seek, in consultation with the county governments, to provide for the building of sports stadia in five main towns across our country.

(Applause)

Kenyans who have received international recognition and nomination for international awards have shown that investing in the arts and entertainment sectors, will not only create jobs, but will boost tourism and promote our culture around the world. To that end, we will legislate to increase local content to 60 per cent from the current 40 per cent in local TV channels.

Hon. Members and Senators, we must deliver on Vision 2030 and continue to build our nation's infrastructure; roads, railways, houses, ports, schools and hospitals. Through projects such as Lamu Port-Southern-Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (LAPSET), we will drive economic growth, job creation and deepen our links with regional partners. In

particular, our nation is in desperate need of new housing. To meet the shortage, we need to construct 250,000 houses annually, but at the present we build only 50,000 houses per year.

When it comes to transport, we need a new mass transport and commuter networks in our cities and long distance connections to our regional neighbours as well as improvement of local roads so that our people can move freely across our nation. However, in order to achieve this, we need to take measures to increase the pool of domestic capital available for infrastructure development and attract even greater levels of foreign direct investment as well.

A Government's main focus should be on the efficient provision of services to the people not merely the ownership and management of assets. To this end, my focus is to achieve efficiency and effectiveness in the services delivered by my Government. This Government will ensure food security by investing and modernizing the agricultural sector. Through improved financing, irrigation, research and development and the return of extension services, we will enable farmers to move from subsistence to commercial farming.

We will support the National Land Commission and fund the adjudication and titling of land, assisting them in their endeavour to promote land ownership as a factor of production and thereby enhance food security.

This Government is committed to ensuring the highest attainable standard of health. Our policy aims to ensure that all Kenyans have access to well equipped health facilities and well trained and motivated healthcare workers, in addition to developing systems to support and expand healthcare and improved sanitation. Working with county governments, we will progressively roll out our commitment to provide free primary healthcare to every Kenyan by 2020, starting with children, persons with disability, pregnant women and breast feeding mothers.

Hon. Members and Senators, my Government will also focus on education. We all understand that education and employment are interlinked. We are in a global economy that is knowledge-based and technology-driven. My Government will propose a Sessional paper that will provide for an increase in the number of institutes of technology in every county and end the current practice of transforming middle level colleges to universities.

(Applause)

My Government has committed itself to delivering on the promise of free laptops for Standard One children starting next year. Some have said that this is too ambitious - I say that we cannot afford to leave any of our children without the tools to compete in the digital age. Yes, indeed, our ambition is great, but the scale of that ambition is the only one sufficient to meet the scale of our nation's challenges. As such, I call upon both Houses to work with me to ensure that in future the laptops we provide are assembled here locally.

(Applause)

Our eighth pillar is extending basic services such as water and electricity to every Kenyan. We will increase, year on year, the number of people who have access to clean water and sustainable supply of electricity until we achieve the goal of providing access to water and electricity to all Kenyans. Improving the supply and quality of water is central to a range of our policy goals, it will help to open up more land for farming; it will improve the health of our citizens, it will help provide security, especially in Northern Kenya by ending a perennial source of conflict and will protect and indeed enhance our biodiversity.

Hon. Members and Senators, Kenya has been a victim of perennial droughts and floods. Every other year, we have either drought or floods. This cycle has adverse effect not only on our food production, but on our infrastructure and our economy as a whole. We have commissioned already the relevant Ministries to work out a framework for building dams and pans for water retention on a mass scale. Various agencies of Government will employ our youth to start this construction immediately. We have the equipment, the knowledge, personnel and the will to carry out this endeavour.

Hon. Members, Argentina is a middle income nation with the same population as Kenya. It has 24 megawatts of electricity capacity while Kenya has just 1.5 megawatts. Energy drives the economy and we will, therefore, promote investment in the new forms of energy generation such as solar, wind and geothermal plants as well as oil, gas and coal. The energy market must be liberalized and opened up to new sources of investment so that we can expand generating capacity, extend our transmission network, improve the consistency and quality of supply and lower the overall cost of energy for the Kenyan citizen.

This Government will focus on changing Kenya's place in the world. The nature of our relationships, hon. Members, is already changing. We are already deepening links with our regional neighbours. We are partnering with our African brothers and sisters to bring peace and stability across our continent. We are seizing the opportunity of our times to drive the world and place Kenya and Africa at the heart of the global economy. My Government will continue this process by ensuring that we move beyond traditional diplomacy towards a new engagement that is based on our economic interests.

Hon. Members, the clock has officially begun counting down on the life of this Parliament. In less than five years from now, we will be evaluated based on how we dealt with the crucial issues facing this country. Today, I am outlining a broad legislative agenda for this session of Parliament. This agenda contains the Bills and Sessional Papers that I would wish you to consider. They constitute a promissory note on the pledges we have made and the reforms that the Kenyan people have voted for. First and foremost, my Government is committed to the speedy completion of the unfinished business of implementing our Constitution. The Fifth Schedule of the Constitution dictates that the remaining legislation should be enacted not later than 27th August this year. I will, therefore, send to Parliament Bills to entrench civil liberties and protect the freedom of the media; support the county governments; enable the public to fully participate in decision-making at the county and national levels; reform campaign finance; and ensure diversity and gender balance in the county assemblies. I will also propose the Division of Revenue Bill and the County Allocation of Revenue Bill which as per the Constitution,

must be approved by April 30th. I urge Parliament to act swiftly in their consideration of these measures so that we can meet our constitutional obligations.

Finally, as part of our commitment to the implementation of the Constitution, we shall continue to review current legislation to ensure compliance with constitutional provisions. We shall move to engage in urgent consultations with the relevant constitutionally mandated bodies, relevant line ministries and State departments, to prepare proposals, to align them to the letter and spirit of the Constitution.

These shall include legislation and amendments touching on the National Police Service; national Government co-ordination; county governments and devolution; medical supplies management and education management, amongst others.

There is much to do beyond the implementation of the Constitution. I am proud to have submitted to the electorate the most detailed, specific and comprehensive manifesto in Kenya's history. That manifesto was endorsed by the people of Kenya and I intend to fulfill those promises. My Government will, therefore, move to propose our legislative agenda in line with the commitments of the Jubilee manifesto. I will bring forward measures to protect the family and improve the quality of life for the Kenyan people. Furthermore, we will seek to entrench the rights and freedoms that are the hallmarks of a truly democratic society by proposing The Access to Information Bill and The Data Protection Bill.

This Government is for all Kenyans whether they live here at home or abroad. We recognise the Diaspora's contribution to the economic life of our country but more than that, they are members of the Kenyan family. We will, therefore, institute measures to facilitate their fuller participation in public life.

I will act decisively to boost development and harness our potential for growth. Specifically, my Government intends and will present measures to promote and enhance the tourism sector; review and amend the Public Procurement and Disposal Act to establish a legal obligation on Government to buy Kenyan first and create procurement quotas for our youth and women.

We intend to bring legislation which will bring together the separate funds for youth and women and create a powerful new fund that is administered at the constituency level, legislation to promote and regulate the minerals and mining industry, promote, expand and modernize the agricultural sector and enhance food security, review the laws covering companies and other associations to improve the business environment, reduce red-tape and provide a predictable regulatory framework for business. We will facilitate the participation of the Diaspora in the Kenyan public life.

Hon. Members, we are the stewards of our environment, holding in trust this earth for future generations of Kenyans. We have a sacred duty to protect it, our wildlife and our landscape. That is why I will propose legislation to strengthen the protection of the environment. That will include Bills to overhaul our nation's environment, management and conservation, improve and expand water management and water harvesting, promote the expansion and management of our energy and petroleum sectors, reform the regulation of mining, minerals and resource exploitation to increase the participation of Kenyans in this sector, respond to the urgent threat posed by climate change and to protect our nation's wildlife and flora.

While in the last ten years our country has seen major developments in our national infrastructure, too few Kenyans feel the benefits in their day to day lives. It is time, hon. Members, for all Kenyans to share in the fruits of our prosperity. I will, therefore, bring forward for your consideration Bills to improve the quality and access to education, expand and promote maternal, child and primary health care services, promote and expand both arts and entertainment sectors and to establish a national lottery.

Hon. Members, my Government is determined to provide solutions to land issues so that land once again, can be seen for what it is, just one factor of production among many. We will propose Bills that seek to address eviction and resettlement of Internally Displace Persons (IDPs) and squatters, management and adjudication of community land, and leasing and public asset management. Other areas in which I will be proposing Bills for your consideration include the future of State Corporations; improving coroner services and regulating the private security industry.

Hon. Members and hon. Senators, our work begins with immediate effect. Within the next 100 days, with your approval, we will release the money already allocated to stock health centres and dispensaries with drugs and equipment; abolish fees that are currently charged for using public dispensaries and health centres; abolish all charges for women giving birth at public hospitals; present legislation for this Parliament to pass to ensure that no child is out of school or a training institution until they reach the age of 18; establish a framework to ensure that every child entering Class One next year does so with a laptop; and establish a framework for youth and women to access interest free loans at the grassroots.

Hon. Members, if we implement the measures that I have outlined today, I am confident that we shall support our children and our families, honour the hopes of our fore-bearers and secure the future of Kenya. I, therefore, urge all Parliamentarians to prepare themselves for the work that is ahead.

I welcome and urge all citizens to take their place in the legislative process – as agents of accountability. As per our Constitution, all sovereign power belongs to the people of Kenya and I, therefore, say, fellow Kenyans - this is your Government. These are your elected representatives. We are here to defend your rights. If we act together, remaining steadfast in our deliberations, I am confident that our prospects will be limitless.

May you remain firm in hope; true to your oaths, unfettered by self-interest; undaunted by challenge; undistracted by success and unyielding in service. May you be instruments to bring peace where there has been strife; security where there has been fear; unity where there has been division and prosperity where they lack, until the dream for one indivisible, democratic and sovereign nation is realized in accordance with our Constitution and national aspirations.

God bless the citizens of this Republic and God bless and guide this Eleventh Parliament as you pursue the noble goals outlined above.

Mungu awabariki. Asanteni sana. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

The Speaker of the National Assembly (Mr. Muturi): Hon. Members and hon. Senators, it is now my pleasure to invite the Speaker of the Senate to make his closing remarks.

The Speaker of the Senate (Mr. Ethuro): Hon. Members and hon. Senators, I suggest that you should be upstanding.

(Hon. Members and hon. Senators stood up in their places)

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker of the Senate (Mr. Ethuro): Hon. Senators, it is now time to adjourn the Senate. The Senate is adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, 17th April, 2013 at 9.00 a.m., at the Senate Chambers.

The Speaker of the National Assembly (Mr. Muturi): Hon. Members, while still upstanding, I wish to announce that the National Assembly is adjourned until Wednesday, 17th April, 2013 at 9.00 a.m.

DEPARTURE OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT

The Speaker of the National Assembly (Mr. Muturi): Hon. Members and hon. Senators, it is now time for His Excellency the President to take his leave. Hon. Members and hon. Senators are requested to remain upstanding and not join the queue until His Excellency the President leaves the Chamber.

His Excellency the President will be followed by the Speaker of the National Assembly and the Speaker of the Senate, the Supreme Court Judges and the Spiritual Leaders. Thereafter hon. Members and hon. Senators are all invited to proceed to the Parliament Courtyard for a reception.

Thank you.

*(Hon. Members and hon. Senators rose in their places while
His Excellency the President left the Chamber)*

Parliament rose at 4.25 p.m.