

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

THE HANSARD

Twelfth Parliament – Second Session

*(Special Sitting of Parliament convened via Kenya Gazette Notices
No.3550 of 20th April 2018 and No. 3551 of 17th April 2018)*

Wednesday, 2nd May 2018

*Parliament met at seven minutes past three o'clock in
the National Assembly Chamber at Parliament Buildings*

ARRIVAL OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT

*[His Excellency the President (Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta) escorted by the
Speaker of the Senate (Hon. Kenneth Lusaka) and the Speaker of the National
Assembly (Hon. Justin Muturi) entered the Chamber at seven minutes
past three o'clock accompanied by the Maces of both Houses]*

[His Excellency the President (Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta) took the Chair of State]

*(The National Anthem of Kenya and the
Anthem of the East African Community were played)*

(The two Maces were placed on the Table)

PRAYERS

CONVOCATION

CONVENING OF SPECIAL SITTING OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE
THE ANNUAL STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS BY
H.E. THE PRESIDENT

The Speaker of the Senate (Hon. Kenneth Lusaka): Your Excellency, Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces, the Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Justin Muturi, Hon. Members of Parliament, Article 132(1)(b) of the Constitution of Kenya requires the President to address a Special Sitting of the Parliament of Kenya once every year and at any other time.

Further, Article 132(1)(c) requires the President to, among others, once every year, report, in an address to the nation, all the measures taken and the progress achieved in the realization of the national values set out in Article 10 of the Constitution. In addition, Article 240(7) of the Constitution requires the President, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the National Security Council (NSC), to report to Parliament annually on the state of the security of the Republic.

In this regard, pursuant to Article 132(1)(b) and (c)(i) and (ii) of the Constitution and Senate Standing Order No.22(1) and (2), upon a request by His Excellency the President vide letter reference No. OP/CAB.1/40 dated 9th April 2018, I gave notice of today's Special Sitting to the Hon. Senators by Gazette Notice No.3551 which was published in the *Kenya Gazette* on 17th April 2018.

Accordingly, Hon. Members, this Special Sitting is properly convened.

The Speaker of the National Assembly (Hon. Justin Muturi): Your Excellency, Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces, the Hon. Speaker of the Senate, Sen. Kenneth Lusaka, Hon. Members of Parliament, Article 132(1) of the Constitution of Kenya requires the President to address the nation once every year.

In this regard, pursuant to provisions of Article 132(1)(b) and (c)(i)(ii) and (iii) of the Constitution and the provisions of Standing Order No.22 of the National Assembly Standing Orders, by Gazette Notice No.3550, which was published in the *Kenya Gazette* on 20th April 2018, I gave notice of this Joint Sitting of all Members of the National Assembly. Accordingly Hon. Members, this joint Sitting is properly convened.

Your Excellency, it is also a custom of Parliament to recognise invited guests seated in the Speaker's Row. I, therefore, wish to recognise the following guests in this order: The Deputy President of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. William Ruto.

(Applause)

The Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Justice David Maraga, the Governor of the Nairobi City County, Hon. Mike Mbuvi Sonko, the Governor of the Kajiado County Government, Hon. Joseph ole Lenku, Former Speakers of the House of Parliament: Hon. Francis Xavier ole Kaparo and Hon. Kenneth Otiato Marende, who are all seated in the Speaker's Row.

Your Excellency, of special mention today and also seated in the Speaker's Row is a guest of our Parliament, His Excellency, Hon. Said Buhaja, the Speaker of the National Assembly of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria.

(Applause)

May I also recognise former Clerks of the National Assembly; Mr. Japhet Masya and Mr. Justin Bundi. They are all in the Speakers Gallery.

(Applause)

Hon. Members of Parliament and invited guests, it is now my singular honour, pleasure and privilege to invite His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces to address this Joint Sitting of Parliament.

Your Excellency.

(Applause)

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

EXPOSITION OF PUBLIC POLICY

His Excellency the President (Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta): Hon. Speakers and Hon. Members of Parliament, I begin by saying that today is a profound honour for me to deliver the first State of the Nation Address of my second term in office. However, I wish with your joint permission that before I proceed any further, let me, at this early juncture, pay tribute to the late Hon. Kenneth Matiba whose patriotism inspired greatly the Constitution under whose authority we meet today.

(Applause)

Let us all resolve to emulate the example he set and his desire for a strong, prosperous and inclusive Kenya.

Hon. Speakers, it is right and fitting to look back on the achievements of the 11th Parliament before setting out our plans for this Parliament. The 11th Parliament was charged with the task of implementing our new Constitution, making enabling laws to create institutions which the new constitutional order called for.

There is no doubt, walking this part of the journey has not been easy but, what is encouraging is that we have made significant progress in implementing the new Constitution. The laws were passed, the counties established and, as such, the new constitutional order is in place. I take this opportunity to thank your predecessors for discharging their duty so well.

Now Hon. Speakers, let me congratulate your Members, both the newly elected and the returning ones for winning the trust of the Kenyan people.

(Applause)

Hon. Members, you and I owe our presence here today to Kenyans who chose us to represent them. The trust they have bestowed on us is sacred, but we must always remember that as leaders we do not serve only those who voted for us. We serve all Kenyans as required by our Constitution.

Hon. Speakers and Members, the Constitution that brings us here for this Address is a guide, an instruction and a tool to help us craft the Kenya that is freer, fairer, wealthier and more united. Indeed, today, let us consider whether we have preserved, protected and honoured it. I believe we have. Our constitutional order is stable. It is secure and it is growing in strength. Devolution is no longer a baby. It is now an established framework for governing and delivering public services. Five years of establishing the county governments have taught Kenyans what they want of devolution and how to get it. Overall, the Government, that is, both levels of the national Government as well as our new county governments, is becoming more responsive to the needs of Kenyans, as we all hoped it would when we passed the new law.

Hon. Speakers, there is no doubt there have been some challenges in the use of public resources, with some individuals fraudulently and corruptly diverting public resources to benefit themselves, but we are building preventive tools and ways for citizens to become more involved in reporting graft.

My administration, I must emphasise, despite these challenges, has remained committed to the implementation of devolution. We are today far above the 15 per cent threshold for resource allocations to our counties as provided for by the Constitution. From an allocation of Kshs210 billion in the Financial Year 2013/2014, we now stand at Kshs327 billion for the Financial Year 2017/2018, an increase of 56 per cent in five years. I also recently signed the Division of Revenue Bill 2018, which sets aside Kshs372 billion for counties in the coming Financial Year 2018/2019. The national Government, also during that period, complemented county service delivery in the reporting year by injecting Kshs9.6 billion for the Managed Equipment Services, Kshs5.2 billion for free maternity and Kshs900 million for user fees.

Moreover, Kshs2 billion was distributed to 11 counties from the Equalisation Fund to improve services. In addition, and in the spirit of upholding devolution, my administration further decentralised service delivery by initiating the “Huduma Mashinani Programme”. This programme brought vital services from registration services such as identity cards to the NSSF and NHIF Services, amongst others, closer to the people. Kenyans believe in devolution, and my administration has matched that belief with strong and tangible support for it.

Hon. Speakers and Hon. Members, I now turn to the urgent matter of how we live our constitutional values as a people, before I report on their expression in governance. Kenya is a country of God-fearing and generous people. In our moments of need, we are kept going by the compassion and empathy of our countrymen and countrywomen. Indeed, it goes without saying that most of us are honest to a fault, and intolerant of the fraudulent. In our private lives, we live together, whatever corner of the country we call home, whatever language we speak and whatever faith we subscribe to.

In other words, the Kenyan people are ahead of us, their leaders. This must change. Leaders at every level of Government must demonstrate a desire and commitment to serve and, in particular, we must all maintain the highest level of integrity. Those days when one could enjoy public goods without fear that action will be taken against you are gone. Indeed, to demonstrate this point, last year, ill-gotten public assets valued at approximately Kshs500 million were recovered and civil proceedings were instituted for the preservation and recovery of other assets valued at more than Kshs6 billion.

To deepen good governance, we have continued to digitise key services to seal loopholes used for fraud. Indeed, I do expect that the new officials whom we have worked together to put in office, both in prosecution and in investigations, will bring cases against all, including the powerful and privileged, to show Kenyans that none of us are above the law.

Through the Chief Justice who is with us today, I also urge the Judiciary to do their part to ensure that orders are not frivolously used by individuals to avoid justice. I also urge you, Hon. Members, to give us the legal tools we need to win the war against the lords of graft.

Having made these efforts, I want to repeat what every Kenyan in their heart of hearts knows – that we must come together to fight this vice if we are to conquer it. The Government and the private sector also, must report fraud and protect whistle blowers without the slightest hesitation. Kenyans, on their part too, must report any crimes they may come across.

Families must feel ashamed by one of their members becoming involved in corruption and they must insist on the upholding of their name as a family. Teachers as well as parents must

explicitly teach our children the value of honesty and the concept of honour. It is only by coming together in this way as a people, that the values in our Constitution will take life in the governance our country. That is how we will manage to position Kenya to join the league of prosperous nations.

Hon. Members, these constitutional advances must, of course, be paid for, so it is natural to turn our attention to the economy. Where goals are concerned, I believe all of us, irrespective of our political persuasion, are in broad agreement. Kenyans want to see lower costs of living. They want jobs for their sons and daughters, affordable food on their tables and to see broad and inclusive prosperity. These goals are reasonable and some of them are constitutional requirements in their own right.

None of us in this august House will have forgotten that last year was an election year or that our region was severely affected by drought. It is encouraging to note that despite those challenges, our economy remained resilient. Our real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 4.9 per cent in 2017 which was much higher than the 3.6 per cent for world real GDP and 2.6 per cent for Sub-Saharan Africa. Even more encouraging was the performance of our tourism sector. Tourism earnings grew by 20 per cent, which was proof that even when our politics were at their hottest, Kenya kept its visitors' confidence.

(Applause)

We remain on course to meet the tests that Kenyans set for us, but we must admit that we still have a very long way to go and deeper reflection is, therefore, called for. If we were to create the jobs for which Kenyans long, we need investment. When I took office in 2013, my administration promised and delivered in many instances, the most aggressive surge of infrastructure development in Kenya's history. We know that without radical renewal and improvement of our infrastructure and connectivity, we could not hope to attract the investment that we need to create jobs and prosperity and most of all, to beat poverty.

Many of you will recall the success of that first phase of development when we started to build the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) after the 11th Parliament was sworn in. By the time Members returned home to ask voters to renew their mandate, we had brought the SGR to Nairobi. Currently, less than a year since the first train left Mombasa for Nairobi, nearly 700,000 passengers have taken the Madaraka Express.

(Applause)

On the cargo side, I am pleased to state that as promised, the SGR cargo services were up and running on 1st January 2018, with an initial monthly load of 22,345 metric tonnes rising to an impressive 213,559 metric tonnes per month as of the end of April 2018. That is not all. I have already launched the second phase of the SGR project which runs from Nairobi to Naivasha and negotiations are in progress for the financing of the Naivasha-Malaba line. In short, I can report that last year, we completed the most ambitious infrastructure development in Kenya's history since the old railway was built.

Hon. Members, it was, of course, not the only ambitious work in infrastructure that we undertook last year. Hon. Members will also remember that we opened Terminal 2A at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) some time ago. We would almost certainly have earned less revenue from tourism this year had we not made that investment. You might also recall the

expansion of the Last Mile Connectivity, which has brought electricity to 72 per cent of households up from 27 per cent in 2013. I am particularly proud of the success for I know its transformative power and I have seen for myself that on the day a family first switches on a bulb in their homes, their entire lives change.

When I assumed office as President, we promised to tarmac 10,000 kilometres of road across the country. We are on target having completed 3,000 kilometres to date and with a further 5,000 kilometres under construction. Among the many roads we have completed, I just want to mention one, namely, the Isiolo-Moyale Road, which is part of the Trans-African Highway Corridor running to our border with Ethiopia. This road is transforming the economy of the people of Isiolo and Marsabit for the better.

(Applause)

Our people from that part of the country can now easily travel to their national capital, Nairobi, in a matter of hours, contrary to the past when they used to take days. They now feel that they have a reason to be part and proud to be called Kenyans. These investments in infrastructure laid the firmest foundation for the broad and shared prosperity that Kenyans expect. This term, with your support, we must complete them.

I have already spoken about the Big Four Agenda in other forums. It deserves me talking about it, not least because I will rely on you to pass the legislation upon which it depends, but most importantly to convince you to join me as agents of the desired change. I wish to speak on the reasoning that informs this agenda. If you leave the House with a clearer idea of your role as leaders in this development programme, I will be amongst the happiest of men.

When we conceptualised about the Big Four from discussions that we held with Kenyans about their problems and prospects, particularly as we went about seeking their support, they were very clear on what priorities they would want us to focus on. Kenyans want their families kept safe from the catastrophic bills from medical care. They want skilled jobs, especially in manufacturing. They want to be food secure and they want dignified, affordable homes. I believe that the Big Four serves each of those.

By providing affordable universal healthcare, we will quite simply save lives. Already, extensive work has been done to bring access to quality and affordable health services. In our previous term, we increased health facilities from 9,000 in 2013 to 11,000 in 2017. Our National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) coverage widened from a membership of 3.8 million in 2013 to 7.2 million currently.

We expanded NHIF coverage for expectant mothers and raised deliveries by skilled attendants from 44 per cent in 2013 to 66 per cent in 2017. Access to antiretroviral (ARV) drugs by expectant mothers has significantly increased. Currently, 94 per cent of HIV positive expectant mothers attending ante-natal clinics across the country access ARVs. Mother to child HIV transmission has consequently fallen.

As a result of other various health intervention programmes, including the mosquito net programme, incidences of malaria have dropped from 11 per cent to eight per cent. Infant mortality has fallen from 52 per 1,000 to 39 per 1,000 live births. Under five years mortality came down from 74 per 1,000 to 52 per 1,000. Maternal mortality dropped from 488 per 100,000 to 362 per 100,000. Despite the improvements we have recorded, there is no doubt that we still have a long way to go. We need to, in particular, take steps to improve on immunisation through much closer collaboration between the national Government and county governments.

With regards to immunisation, since devolution, it has dropped from 90 per cent to 70 per cent. However, after the Devolution Conference of last week, I am happy to inform you that county governments are keen and willing to work with the national Government towards putting together a programme to up our immunisation to where we were, if not better. During the period, we have also addressed the medical needs of older persons and persons with severe disability by extending the National Hospital Insurance Fund (NHIF) coverage to 42,000 of them.

While we are working to deliver food security, we are taking steps to help Kenyans impacted by the long drought that had hit the country. The Hunger Safety Net Programme is cushioning Kenyans against hunger. Through it, cash was transferred to vulnerable households in most parts of our arid and semi-arid areas, giving them the choice of where and how to spend their stipend. This method not only aids farmers and markets, but also restores the dignity of Kenyans who once upon a time were asked to stand in a line in the hot sun for a few “*goro goros*” of pre-determined foods.

Hon. Members, with respect to housing, it is worth noting that demand for decent homes far outstrips supply, particularly in the low-cost and affordable segment. A decent roof over one’s head is the most tangible symbol of a decent life and it should be a critical part of a family’s wealth. The new housing programme that we have developed has been designed to incorporate the private sector so as to properly respond to this demand. We expect hundreds of thousands of affordable homes to follow across the country, accompanied by a surge in both jobs and incomes.

Indeed, Hon. Speakers, my dream is one day – hopefully in the not-too-distant future – every Kenyan will have the pride of owning a decent home that will be within the reach of every Kenyan of medium and modest incomes.

(Applause)

Families will have the capacity to retire in the evenings to clean, well-organised and hygienic homes and Kenya will go to sleep knowing that all its citizens have a sound roof over their heads. This dream is going to become a reality only if we all join hands to eliminate the barriers to its realisation through legislation and new policies to incentivise, especially the private sector.

Hon. Members, turning to security, I can say without fear that we are safer and stronger as a nation than we were when I spoke to this House last. Our alliances are strong and growing stronger. Kenya has become indispensable to the international community’s pursuit of stability and security, environmental protection and of a global community able to respond to large-scale crises when they come.

My administration continues to treat its responsibility to protect Kenyans and their property from crime, terrorism and other forms of insecurity as its core obligation. In the year under review, the country beat back challenges to security. Indeed, the general election was more secure than most in the past. Regrettably, we had to respond firmly to deliberate disruptions of the process, to the destruction of property and to isolated attempts to cause chaos. In every case, the disciplined services of our Republic did their duty. I commend all of them for their dedication.

(Applause)

Going forward, I commit again to strengthening their capacity to keep the peace because without peace, our desire for a better Kenya will remain a mere wish. I have further empowered the National Administration Services, from the Regional Commissioner down to the Assistant Chief, to supervise security operations, coordinate the work of the national Government in the counties and to improve our engagement with county governments as we serve Kenyans right across the country.

Hon Members, the concerted and coordinated response by our disciplined services means that terrorists have had less room to target our people. There have been fewer and less lethal attacks in Kenya today even as terrorist groups elsewhere damage democracies. I once again commend the diligent men and women from our multiple agencies, who detect and prevent attacks. They have kept Kenya safe, and sometimes paid the highest price for our safety. May God comfort the families of the men and women we have lost, not just in the fight against terrorism, but in every effort to defend Kenya's sovereignty and security. However, even as I say so, we cannot rest for the threat is ever present and all Kenyans must constantly be on the alert.

At this point and moment, I also recall with great sadness, the tragic loss of one of our Principal Secretary, Ms. Mariamu el Maawy, to the consequences of a terrorist attack. I pray that her family, friends, and colleagues may be comforted. I also pray too that this nation never forgets the selfless public service she gave to it.

(Applause)

For all that, I repeat here what I have said elsewhere, that ultimately, security will be found and sustained largely by transforming our politics, and in revitalising the spirit of patriotism and responsible citizenship, for even though our democracy has become more competitive, and Kenyans have grown freer in the multiparty era, that liberty has come with a price. All of us have endured an almost permanent state of political campaigning which has divided Kenyans sometimes very tragically as in 2008.

That disunity, fellow Kenyans, is a direct threat, not just to our freedom and not just to our prosperity, but also to our nation. Beyond terrorism, we remain vulnerable to other security threats. Many of them - from terrorism to trafficking - range across our borders. So, we cannot be self-absolved. We must be our neighbour's keeper no less than our brother's. The same principles that guide us at home must also govern our relations with our neighbours.

We defend democracy abroad as we do at home; we want for others the peace that we enjoy here: We are grateful for the solidarity extended us by our brothers and sisters on the continent. So we offer it to others in return. I believe last year's events showed the soundness of these principles.

Our region is not at peace. Somalia remains troubled, unfortunately, largely by foreign agents who weaken its government, who divide her people, and who threaten to reverse the gains we have all so painfully won under the African Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Through it all, we remember that our brothers and sisters in Somalia want to prosper and we equally prosper if they are safe.

(Applause)

It has been our policy then and now to help them regain the peace and prosperity they once knew. We worked and continue to work to secure foreign funding and to support commensurate

to Somalia's challenges; we helped, and will continue to help the people of Somalia to build a strong and stable government.

Indeed, that is why, only a few days after I spoke to this House last year, it was my pleasure to welcome President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed in March of 2017, where we laid plans for a renewal of relations between our two nations. An early outcome of our agreements that day was a resumption of direct flights between Nairobi and Mogadishu and Members may be sure that more agreement will follow.

I cannot also at this juncture resist mentioning a visit to Somalia in the first quarter of last year during which I had the opportunity to speak to our soldiers deployed there. Their courage and their devotion to their mission were extraordinarily inspiring. I ask you, Hon. Members, as I have done in the past, to keep our men and women in uniform in your prayers and in your deliberations and to devote yourselves as wholeheartedly as they have to our region's peace and, therefore, security.

If Somalia remains unsettled, let us admit that South Sudan remains in crisis. Thousands have died while hundreds of thousands more have been displaced. In the year since I last spoke to the House, we and neighbouring countries have hosted hundreds of thousands of South Sudanese refugees and we have joined friends and partners to help those still suffering inside that country. Equally, we have lent our support to the multilateral peace process and we continue to urge the leaders of South Sudan to put the interests of their people and motherland above their own. As we have in the past year, Kenya stands with the people of South Sudan in their search for lasting peace.

Elsewhere in our region, there is better news. In the East African Community, we are growing closer by the day despite challenges. Last year, I had the opportunity to open our borders to our brothers and sisters from the region who now have the freedom to live and work in Kenya more easily than they ever have and they can now partner with us in the task of building a free, united and prosperous community. That openness to our brothers and sisters is proof of our commitment to the unity, not just of the region, but also of the entire Continent.

For years, all sorts of barriers, legal and custom wise, have delayed Africa's progress and prosperity. Indeed, in the African Continental Free Trade Agreement that we signed in Kigali a few weeks ago, we now have, at last, a real chance of opening up the continent's trade, once and for all. If we succeed, then trade, goods and services will flow across Africa, not outside it and this in turn will bring jobs, skills, and unity. That we are so close to a final agreement now shows the vision of our generation of African leaders, among whom we must count you, Hon. Members of this House, for ratifying the Agreement without delay. I can only hope that every African nation will show the same foresight that you, our Hon. Members, have displayed and I say to you; *asanteni sana*.

Thank you very much.

(Applause)

It remains to remind Members also that in the last year, since I reported, Kenya has earned her designation as a United Nations Service Centre and I single out just two aspects as a consequence of this. First and simply, it means jobs and training for a good number of our young people and; second, it brings the United Nations (UN) closer to Kenya and Africa. And this development, Hon Speakers, is a good and a very clear example of Kenya's continued recognition in the family of nations. The truth is that in 2017, we defended the values that we

cherish: African solidarity, peace, prosperity, the rule of law between nations and we grew in the respect of our partners and friends abroad.

Therefore, it is quite clear that Kenya today is freer, safer, more prosperous, and held in much higher regard than it has ever been. We give thanks for these achievements, but we also recall that the truest measure of a nation's strength is the character and unity of its people. The framers of our Constitution were wise to ask all of us to reflect annually, on the character of our people and on our adherence to the precepts of the Constitution.

And the precept of precepts, the animating value of our Constitution is unity. We all take pride in our diversity, as we say in the very preamble of our Constitution, and we are determined to live as one sovereign people, undivided. These are words of great beauty; whether we have let them guide us throughout the last year is the big question.

Hon. Members, let us allow ourselves to cast our minds back to last year's political competition. Kenyans cast their votes twice in peace. In the end, I believe, the result reflected the will of the people and respect for the law of the land and our institutions held firm.

To our Judiciary, I can only ask that their independence be joined to even greater effort on their part to ensure that their arm of government attains the highest standards of conduct and integrity, and that they will never lose sight of the interdependence of all arms and levels of government.

(Applause)

Hon. Members, again, we also learnt a hard truth. Neither peace nor unity is given; we must work for it. I say so because I believe last year taught us that, if we do not put an end to unrestrained political competition, it will put an end to Kenya. You saw what happened. In the heat of the campaigns, words of anger, malice, and hatred were spoken. Politics was no longer a debate between opponents on issues; it was a clash of irreconcilable enemies.

You all saw the consequences: lives were lost, property destroyed, our unity sapped. I want to be clear here: never again should a Kenyan life be lost for politics' sake; never again should Kenyans' property be destroyed on account of politics.

(Applause)

But that will not just happen on its own. All of us and in particular we leaders, have to admit that we failed in our duty to preserve the unity of this country last year, and we must make amends.

First, I pray that all of us will spend the days and weeks after this address repairing the bonds that frayed last year. Let us apologise for our words, and for the anger and malice that Kenyans heard.

From Mandera to Maseno, from Mbita to Mvita, from Lodwar to Lunga Lunga, let us shake hands and embrace our neighbours and let us celebrate the diversity that is God's gift to us.

(Applause)

(Hon. Babu Owino walked to the podium and shook hands with the President)

(Laughter)

Let every leader in the country reach out to our sons and daughters and remind them that they have to forge a Kenya that speaks gently, that criticises constructively, and that embraces and respects dissent and competition as healthy and civilised ways of collaboration. Since leadership is best done not by exhortation, but by example, let me do as I have asked you all to do today and say that if there is anything I said last year that hurt or wounded you, if I damaged the unity of this country in any way, I ask you to forgive me and to join me in repairing that harm.

Hon. Speakers, I am not the only leader who deeply felt the need to restore unity: the Right Hon. Raila Odinga did so too.

(Applause)

So let me praise the statesmanship he showed when, on 9th March this year, he and I publicly committed to reconciliation, with the Kenyan people as our witnesses. When we met earlier in the year, we agreed to work together to strengthen the unity of our country. We hoped to emphasise that collaboration comprises both competition and disagreement. We did not immediately solve all Kenya's most pressing problems, nor did we see eye-to-eye on every proposed answer. It is important to emphasise that unity does not necessarily mean unanimity.

The Rt. Hon. Raila and I stood together, not because we agreed on every item of politics or policy, but because we agreed that Kenya is greater and belongs to all of us.

(Applause)

None of us is less or, for that matter, more Kenyan than his brother or sister. All of us are entitled to be heard; all of us are entitled to our fair share of Kenya's resources; and all of us are entitled to a government that honours its commitments.

Kenyans reacted with a surge of optimism to our meeting because they wanted a return to unity. Our handshake invited Kenyans to rediscover what they had known all along: when all the politics is said and done, we are each other's keeper and we are stronger together. If Kenya is to remain strong, we must also change our approach to political competition. We are proud, and I believe it is rightly so, of our cultural heritage. But, it does not follow that our ethnic identity should also be our political identity. We have done just that for half a century and it has brought us close to very near complete ruin. Too many of us have manipulated our ethnicities to seize power and then exploited it to avoid accountability.

Fellow Kenyans, we cannot afford another 50 years of our farmers struggling to make a living; of families without proper sanitation; or of families bankrupted by healthcare costs. In this generation, we need to change so that our children can grow to adulthood in a totally different Kenya.

(Applause)

Hon. Members, together as leaders, we must demonstrate that we are truly Kenyan citizens. We must do this for our country; not for ourselves. That has been and remains my vision throughout my remaining time as President. I believe that vision is within reach of all of

us. All we have to do is to look up and grasp it. To see it, all the leaders seated here can help by showing our fellow Kenyans a better way.

As leaders, let us learn that we can criticise one another constructively. Let us, as leaders, teach our fellow Kenyans to adore hard work and reject the easy shilling. Let us teach our fellow Kenyans to preserve the unity of this house called Kenya. We have inherited this house from our fathers and founders. If we do this, I believe, you the leaders of today will have the eternal gratitude of the Kenyan people and of those born years from now into a Kenya whose politics revolve around service delivery.

Hon. Speakers, *kwa hayo machache na mengi*, nasema: It is now my honour to present three Reports to this House as obligated by our Constitution; namely:-

- (1) The Report on all the measures taken and the progress achieved in the realisation of National Values;
- (2) The Progress made in fulfilling the International Obligations of the Republic; and
- (3) The State of Security.

Thank you and may God bless you all. *Asanteni sana.*

(Applause)

(His Excellency the President handed the Reports to the Speaker of the National Assembly)

Where are the other copies? *Wajua haya ndiyo mambo yanaleta shida, halafu inasemekana hatutaki* Senate.

(Applause)

(His Excellency the President handed the Reports to the Speaker of the Senate)

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker of the Senate (Hon. Kenneth Lusaka): Order! Hon. Members, Let all of us be upstanding. Your Excellency the President, the Rt. Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly and Hon. Members, we have come to the conclusion of business today. It is now time to adjourn. The Senate stands adjourned until Tuesday, 8th May 2018 at 2.30 p.m.

The Speaker of the National Assembly (Hon. Justin Muturi): Hon. Members, we have come to the close of business for today. The National Assembly stands adjourned until 3rd May 2018 at 9.30 a.m.

(Loud consultations)

Yes. It is 3rd May 2018. Are we not having a Morning Sitting? Hon. Members, you know I always keep these things close to my heart. I know the House Business Committee passed a resolution that there will be a Morning Sitting tomorrow at 9.30 a.m. Therefore, you know your Speaker always has these things at his fingertips.

As you know, it is allowed for His Excellency the President to interchange between English and Kiswahili. So, he was not out of order.

(Laughter)

Therefore, this House stands adjourned. Every Member and our guests are invited for a cocktail at the Courtyard of Parliament.

**DEPARTURE OF HIS EXCELLENCY
THE PRESIDENT**

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

Parliament rose at 4.17 p.m.