

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen of the Leadership Council,

It is my honor and privilege and that of the Diaspora Division of Kenyans for Change to send you this message. The good news I bring to you today is that change is indeed coming to Kenya. Change is coming through those that are seated here this afternoon and all those out there that have had enough of failed leadership and failed policies. Policies that have put the self interests of the few before the commonwealth of the men and women that work hard to support this nation.

I am hopeful that a new era is being born and a new culture is slowly emerging. A culture that will respect every human that walks on our land, a culture that will afford help to those that need it most, a culture that promotes democratic ideals and reaffirms the fact that all men are created equal and therefore, entitled to certain inalienable rights. Among these rights are: Freedom, Justice, Security and the Pursuit of Happiness.

We are at a moment of great uncertainty. Our leadership seems to be at a tag of war, pulling the country in different directions. Families all across the country are struggling to meet their basic needs, food prices continue to hike, unemployment on the rise, insecurity at an all time high, and our country's political future is bleak. Our leadership has failed to deliver the promised change.

These are difficult times and I know many of us are losing hope. But I believe that we can steer ourselves out of this crisis, because the Kenyan spirit still lives in each of us. We are a people that have never stopped in the face of a challenge. Our country has faced many challenges in the past; however, in every challenge we have risen with a renewed sense of the true Kenyan spirit. We all have a role to play in securing a better future for our nation. We must all heed the call. Begin self reexamination to see what role you can play, what aspect of your thinking you can change and what value system you can adopt.

What Kenyans are yearning for now is not misleading charges and divisive attacks. They don't want to hear politicians attack each other – they want to hear how we're going to attack the challenges facing them and their families each and every day. What we need is honest leadership and real change, and that is why we formed ***Kenyans for Change***, an idea formed out of the spirit of oneness. Our message must not only focus on the problems facing the Kenyan people but also the steps necessary to solve them. The common mwananchi is finding it impossible to lead a normal life. This is a circumstance that we must never tolerate and hence the task ahead of us.

We know what the cynics will say, we've heard from them all our lives. These are the voices that will tell us -not just what we can't do -but what we won't do. They will say, "Kenyans won't come together, our allegiance doesn't go beyond our tribes, or our region, or our religion". This is the soft sell of the status quo, the voice that tells you to settle because settling isn't that bad after all. They will only be right if we let them. They will only defeat us if we forget that our unity is in our shared values, they will only win if we forget that we are more than they are.

At a defining moment like this, we don't have the luxury of relying on the same political games and tactics that have been used in the past to divide us from one another. With the challenges and crisis we face right now, we cannot afford to divide our country by tribe, class or region but find ways to unite for our common good.

We will champion policies that give power to the rightful owners, the Kenyan people. The bottom-up approach will ensure that every Kenyan, everywhere, has the chance to get ahead. Not just the person who sits in parliament, but the men and women who work to support this nation. If we've learned anything from our past, it's that we're all connected; we're all in this together; and we will rise or fall as one nation - as one people.

These are the steps that we must take - right now - to start getting our country back on track. We must put self-interests aside and work for our unity. We then must use our strength to ensure that the government and the political process serve the common good, rather than special interests. We must hold government officials accountable for working within the rule of law and under high standards of ethical conduct. We must build the necessary structures leading to a movement of historical proportions. Last but not least, we must commit towards the goal of redeeming this nation and turning its fortunes around. This can be done through innovative ideas and implementation of the same. ***Kenyans for Change*** must never be defined by the individuals that head the organization but by its vision, mission, values, and the Kenyan people.

My friends, if we can accomplish these steps, history will treat us with much more respect than it did those that preceded us. This is our challenge, this is our call, and this is our reason for coming together. I ask of you what's been asked of the Kenyan people in uncertain times throughout our history. I ask you to believe - to believe in yourselves, in each other, and in the future we can build together. Together, we cannot fail.

We in Diaspora look forward to a great partnership. A partnership based on principles, mutual respect, and a high level of integrity, leading to an equitable society. We are in this together and together we shall overcome. May God bless you and may God bless the Republic of Kenya.

Hebron Mosomi

Your fellow Patriot