

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, It's indeed a great honor and privilege for me to be speaking to you today while representing the Diaspora Division of Kenyans for Change. I bring greetings and a message of solidarity from the Diaspora.

Over the last few months, we have seen our network of change agents grow and we have been able to inspire many. The fundamental mission of those who have dedicated themselves to public life is to mobilize the national will toward great public purposes. For a long time, we have all sought to better and advance our own individual destinies but I believe that we can all achieve that if we first share a commitment to our national destiny. We have set out broad objectives for Kenya and today is a step towards that process.

There is no doubt in my mind that we are blessed with a great country, a country with great people, great land and natural resources among many others. I believe that this county called Kenya has great potential that is yet to be unlocked.

Kenyans for Change being an idea center and a catalyst for change, I believe that the ideas we will bring forward will stimulate a healthy and active debate about the future of our nation. All efforts must lead to transformational change. Let there be no doubt, however of the ultimate objective: a Kenya that seizes this moment in time to make history: a country that does so by achieving great things thus laying a foundation for generations to come.

Allow me to briefly talk to you about the politics of achievement:

After years of often wrenching and difficult change, Kenya and Kenyans are seized with a rising confidence. We have before us an environment of historic possibility- a unique window of opportunity during which we can translate recent gains into lasting national advantage. As Kenyans for Change, you and I, must provide a path to new hope, prosperity, security and opportunity for all. In short, we can make this great nation even greater by uniting for a common purpose.

To do these, the following must take place.

In the words of Nelson Mandela, We must believe in the power that we have and the hope that is created by what we do.

We must build trust with our fellow Kenyans and that trust can originate from our shared values and beliefs while ultimately holding each other accountable.

We must also put self aside and put the interests of our country first.

We must also be true to our mission of uniting all Kenyans and to rally a nation to its unfulfilled promise. We must help show the way and shape the future.

If we can achieve the above objectives, then we will have passed the true test of leadership.

We can all agree that our country faces many challenges today. We still lack visionary leadership, we lack good and accountable governance, we lack ethics within our government, and our ways are not reflective of a country that's on the path to prosperity. Impunity and corruption are still rampant in our society, Our infrastructure though having made some progress still needs more attention, Our security still leaves a lot to be desired, Unemployment especially within the youth is extremely high.....and the list goes on.

Times such as these create opportunities which can be seized upon in a conscious and deliberate effort to make a brighter future.

It is a matter of political will- the choices of a people and their leaders to turn historic circumstances into transformational change. We need leadership to build on new confidence. Such times present us with two options:

Sit back and hope that the external tides of technological progress, economic growth and global development will bear Kenya along to a tolerable future.

The second option is for us and Kenyans to set a much more ambitious path, to aim for a destination well beyond the point we could reach by simply riding the tide.

I believe we can and must choose the latter option, a path dedicated to achievement and strengthening the social foundations of Kenyan life. Building a truly 21st century economy; and ensuring a place of influence and pride for Kenya in the world.

I am glad that we are now addressing issues within our constitution and charting a new way forward. Nevertheless, I also believe that a new constitution by itself will not change Kenya. Our attitudes as a people must also change (Civic Education). Our leadership must also change and we must reinvent government so that is more accountable, efficient and responsive to the tax payers who work hard to support its existence.

I hope that each one of you has had the opportunity of visiting our new website. As we define our change agenda, central to our change message, we must advocate for the following;

Accountability in our Government

The rule of law

Ethics in Government

Electoral reforms

Media and Democracy

We spent most of this year building a foundation for the movement. We can all agree that a house is only as good as its foundation. It has been time well spent. Now we must shift focus to the real work ahead of us. The task of spreading our message, building networks with like minded citizens, building resources for the movement, streamlining our message and providing a clear vision leading to transformation change.

Let me thank the Leadership that each one of you has provided in your various departments. I believe that you are the TEAM to usher in a new Kenya. You have often heard me say that, "We cannot expect the very people that put us in this predicament to get us out", In his address to the Ghanaian assembly, Barack Obama said that "This is a moment of new promise; only this time we have learnt that it will not be giants like Nkrumah or Kenyatta who will determine Africa's future. It will be you and the people you represent. Above all it will be the young people brimming with talent and energy and hope". If the meetings we held during the week are anything to go by, then we have the team. Let us therefore search within ourselves and if necessary vet for visionary and progressive leadership. That is what Kenya needs and that is what we must provide.

I am excited at the possibilities and opportunities that lie ahead of us. I look forward to a long lasting partnership for change. When it's all said and done, let's look back and say that it was worth it. Ladies and gentlemen, Change has already begun!

Thank you, God bless you and may God Bless Kenya.

Hebron Mosomi

K4C Diaspora Chair.