

TALKING POINTS FOR H.E. KOFI ANNAN

Agreement signing event

Harambee House, Nairobi

28 February 2008

Our work on the governance structure for Kenya was successfully completed today.

I'm pleased to be able to tell you, and all the citizens of Kenya, that the two parties this afternoon completed their work on Agenda Item 3, How to Overcome the Current Political Crisis.

In the signed document which we will make available to you shortly, you will see that the Government/Party of National Unity and the Orange Democratic Movement agreed to a formula that includes:

[Outline the highlights of the agreement.]

I want to commend all those whose efforts have made this possible. They kept the future of Kenya foremost in their sights and reached a common position for the good of the nation.

Let the spirit of healing begin today.

In all successful negotiations, there is give and take. Invariably, some supporters on each side feel that their negotiators gave too much. To those people in Kenya, I would say this: compromise was necessary for the survival of this country. Support this agreement, for it is key to the unity of Kenya, it is the foundation for national reconciliation and it is the springboard to economic recovery.

This is important not just for Kenya, but beyond. It will help restore Kenya to its rightful place as a leader in this region and on this continent.

We will now begin work on Agenda Item 4, Long Term Issues and Solutions, including constitutional reform, addressing poverty and inequity,

and land reform. These issues, of course, underlie the tragic events that followed the December 2007 elections and must be addressed once and for all.

I am confident that if we work hard, we will very soon be able to see a successful conclusion to the talks on the long term issues. I am committed to make that happen.

Today we reached an important staging point, but the journey is far from over. The real challenge now is for President Kibaki and the Honorable Raila Odinga to work together to heal and reconcile this nation, working jointly to implement the reform agenda on which they agreed and sustaining that effort until the job is done.

But the job of national reconciliation is not for the leaders alone. It must be carried out in every neighborhood, village and hamlet of the nation.

I call on all Kenyans to support this process so that Kenya can once again be a moral inspiration and an economic engine for Africa.

I will now take your questions.

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