

## **TALKING POINTS FOR H.E. KOFI ANNAN**

### **Agreement signing event**

### **Harambe House, Nairobi**

**28 February 2008**

**Kofi Annan:** Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen, as I announced earlier today, we do have a deal, thus our work on the governance structure for Kenya has successfully been completed today. I would want first to thank President Mwai Kibaki and Honorable Raila Odinga for the leadership and the determination they have shown through out this crisis and their determination to get to a solution. I would also want to thank the chairman of the African Union and President of Tanzania, President Kikwete for joining us over the last two days and of course my eminent panelist, former president Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania.

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 Political Crisis.

In the signed document which we be released shortly, you will see that the Government/Party of National Unity and the Orange Democratic Movement agreed to a formula that includes the following key items.

There will be a Post of Prime Minister of the Government of Kenya with authority to coordinate and supervise the execution of the functions and affairs of the Government of Kenya. The Prime Minister will be an elected Member of Parliament and the Parliamentary leader of the largest party in the national assembly or of the coalition if the largest party doesn't command a majority.

Each member of the coalition shall nominate one person from the National Assembly to be appointed a Deputy Prime Minister. The Cabinet will consist of the President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister, two Deputy Prime Ministers and other ministers.

The removal of a Minister of the coalition will be subject to consultation and concurrence in writing by the leaders. The Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Ministers can only be removed if the National Assembly passes a motion of no confidence with a majority vote.

The composition of the Coalition government will at all times take into account the principle of portfolio balance and reflect their relative parliamentary strengths. The coalition will be dissolved if the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament is dissolved or if the parties agree in writing or if one coalition party withdraws from the coalition.

The National Accord and Reconciliation Act shall be entrenched in the constitution. We have asked the Attorney General working with one or two people from both teams to work on the act and constitution amendment as quickly as possible. Having agreed on the critical issues above the parties have decided that they will take the process to parliament as quickly as possible and parliament will convene at the earliest moment to enact this agreement. It will be in the form of an Act of Parliament and the necessary amendments to the constitution.

We believe by these steps we can together in the spirit of partnership bring peace and prosperity back to the people of Kenya who so richly deserve it. Let me also say that I commend all those whose efforts have made this possible, whose efforts have brought us here this afternoon, 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 toady, let it begin now. 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 will say this, compromise was necessary for the survival of this country.

Support this agreement for it is the key to the unity of Kenya. It is a foundation for national reconciliation and it is a spring board 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 the region and on this continent. We will now begin our work on agenda item four, long term issues and solutions including constitutional reforms, addressing the poverty and inequity and land reform.

These issues of course underlie the tragic events that followed the December 27<sup>th</sup> elections and must be addressed once and for all. I will be convening the mediation team tomorrow at ten to begin their work on item four. 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 and I am committed to work with you and the panel's team to ensure that this happens. Today we have reached an important stage in the talks but the journey is far from over, in fact it is only beginning.

The real challenge is now for President Kibaki and Honorable Raila Odinga to work together, to heal and reconcile this nation. Working jointly to implement the reform agenda on which they have agreed and sustaining the effort until the job is done. But the job of national reconciliation and national reconstruction 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. Let me assure that your friends in Africa and international community are all behind you. They are waiting for us to settle this situation, to make peace and they will help us reconstruct. They will help us with the settlement and return of the internally displaced, they will help us with the heavy agenda that we have whether it's for reform, economic development, creating jobs for the poor, ensuring that there is equitable access to opportunities. The world is with you, you are not alone and please don't believe that the world is here to interfere. They are here as friends, they love Kenya, they love Kenyans and they want to work with your leaders to get Kenya to where it ought to be. Thank you very much.