

**PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT OF A PRESS CONFERENCE  
BY THE KENYA NATIONAL DIALOGUE AND RECONCILIATION**

**Nairobi Serena Hotel**

**Monday 4 February 2008**

[The following opening remarks were made by H.E. Kofi Annan as Chair:]

**ANNAN:** I am pleased to announce that the two teams here—actually I was going to put them all in one team, and in a way we have been working like a team. We worked very effectively and constructively because everyone knows what is at stake and why we should work seriously, expeditiously to try and resolve the issues at hand. Today we dealt with humanitarian issues and how we should do everything possible to assist those affected. We will make available the full text of the agreement signed by each member here at the podium but let me give you a few highlights:

On the humanitarian crisis, the parties agreed:

--to assist and encourage displaced persons to go back to their homes or other areas and to have safe passage and security throughout;

--to augment current efforts at providing basic services for displaced people, including food, water, sanitation and shelter both to those in camps and those in affected communities;

--to provide medical assistance with special focus on women, children and people living with HIV and AIDS in displaced camps and to ensure that all children have access to education;

--to expeditiously operationalise the Humanitarian Fund for Mitigation of Effects and Resettlement of the Victims of Post-2007 Election Violence by establishing a bi-partisan multi-sectoral board with streamlined procedures to disburse funds rapidly.

On promoting reconciliation, healing and restoration they agreed that:

--joint peace rallies should be convened by all leaders of political parties to promote peace and reconciliation;

--all-inclusive reconciliation and peacebuilding committees should be established. These committees should involve the provincial administration,

council of elders, women, youth and conflict resolution/civil society organisations;

--a Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission that includes local and international jurists should be established; and

--United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights investigatory teams should be welcomed and encouraged.

In addition, the teams request the speaker of Parliament to urgently convene a meeting of all members *kamukunji* (in informal session) so that the committee has the opportunity to bring them up-to-date and to brief them on the progress of the National Dialogue and Reconciliation.

They asked the Panel of Eminent African Personalities (I feel awkward saying that) to provide periodic joint briefings to his Excellency President Mwai Kibaki and The Honourable Raila Odinga.

And finally, regarding implementation of these resolutions, the teams recommend weekly progress reports on implementation to be made to the committee by the relevant parties or institutions.

[Mr. Annan then passed the microphone to a member of the opposition Orange Democratic Movement (ODM), who made remarks. He then gave the microphone to a member of the Government/Party of National Unity (PNU), who made comments.]

**ANNAN:** Thank you very much. Let me say that with the work we have done today, we have completed work on the agenda, the road map, which we gave you last week and the program to combat violence and today we have given you the work and the program we have for humanitarian action to assist IDPs [Internally Displaced Persons] and the least fortunate.

Tomorrow we begin our work on the political issues, the crisis arising out of the December 2007 elections. That is going to take hard negotiations, understanding, give and take. But I can tell you that with the work we are doing and the way we are approaching it, I am extremely proud of the ladies and gentlemen participating in the work of the Kenyan Dialogue and

Reconciliation process. They have tackled this as mature leaders and individuals who are focused on the future of the nation and the needs of the people. And it is in that spirit that I hope we will proceed tomorrow. And at the end of the day, I hope we would have proven that institutions are more important than any individual. We need strong institutions, strong democratic foundations and I hope we will be able to give you that.

Thank you. We'll take your questions.

[A journalist then asked why the Government had objected to the selection of South African businessman Cyril Ramaphosa as mediator for the Dialogue, and that question was answered by a member of the Government/PNU team.]

[Mr. Annan was then asked about the degree of control that the Government has over the country, given the violence that is taking place.]

**ANNAN:** I think they are in do have considerable control, but they are not in control of every little hamlet in the country. We have discussed the need for enhanced security and protection of the population. I have had the chance of

discussing it with both the Government and the opposition, and we have been assured enhanced measures [are being taken] to protect the population. When these things begin, it is extremely difficult to bring them under control but they must be brought under control.

The Government and the opposition and their representatives are here discussing the future of this country, discussing how we resolve these issues peacefully and then [how to] come with measures that will help us get to where we want to be. And I also hope that as we go forward and tackle some of the political issues, and give assurance to the people that we are not only trying to put a band-aid on the issues but we are looking at the root causes, and that we are going to come up with a solution that will stand the test of time. It will also help diffuse the tensions.

I appeal to all Kenyans, as I have done in the past, to desist from revenge, from taking the law into their own hands and to accept they have their elected representatives here in this place taking part in the Dialogue and Reconciliation process and who are determined to find solutions.

Yes, the police are overstretched, and the government will have to find creative measures, additional measures, of protecting the people. And I have been told certain measures are being taken. But I don't think that in this society--yes there is violence--or in any other can politicians control every little corner. But what is important is to ensure that law and order is maintained and the individual has freedom of movement, his rights and property are protected, and I think this is the effort that is going on now and what is happening with this body is part of that effort.

[A journalist then asked about the internally displaced, and was answered by a member of the Government/PNU team. Mr. Annan was then asked about the Government's objections to Mr. Ramaphosa as mediator and about follow up to the recommendations.]

**ANNAN:** Let me take your first question first. Obviously, I am bitterly disappointed because we had identified a very good man. But as the statement makes clear, a mediator needs to be able to work with both sides and both sides must be willing, be prepared to work with the mediator. Cyril is an outstanding mediator; he understands the situation and he is going back home to carry on his other activities. We are back searching for a negotiator

or mediator or whatever you want to call him or her. I would hope that the Eminent Persons will be able to spend as much time here as possible. But the whole idea of getting the mediator--first the mediator and then the deputy mediator--was to ensure that the negotiations can go on continuously and that there will be no break on the account that there is no one here to chair the meeting.

Because I cannot assume--or let me not speak just for myself. As Panel Members, we have so many other responsibilities, so we were structuring the negotiations in such a way that we can bring in people who would assist us and ensure continuous negotiation. So we are back to the drawing board and I hope we will find someone soon. Even if we find someone, he or she may not be as ready and as concerned as Cyril Ramaphosa was and drop everything and say this is urgent; Kofi, Graça [Machel], Ben [Mkapa], we are here to help; we must do whatever we can to save Kenya. And I hope we will find somebody like that, but at this stage I have no one in mind.

I think there was a second part to your question.

[The journalist reminded him of her question on implementation.]

**ANNAN:** I think we've made it clear that the political leaders are responsible [for some things while] others are [the responsibility of] governmental institutions. And we are going to do a matrix indicating all the actions required, with who is responsible for performing and also indicate time lines. And as you have noticed, we ask for weekly progress reports so that we can monitor and follow up what is happening.

And we also promise that this process will be transparent and that's why we are sharing our decisions and recommendations with the public at large, because this is not an issue for the political leaders or for us; it is for the public; it is for the Kenyans; it is for the civil society, business, and we want them engaged and to understand where we are coming from and what we are trying to do.

**QUESTION:** [unintelligible]

**ANNAN:** I am aware of what the Government/PNU have said and what ODM have said; but we are in negotiations. There are negotiations outside

and negotiations inside at the negotiating table. And what is important is to try and bridge the gap and I think we are determined to do that.

Thank you very much.

\* \* \*