

AFRICAN UNION

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Statement

We have been following with considerable concern the deadlock in the National Assembly of Kenya regarding the designation of the Leader of Government Business in Parliament and the nomination of the Chairperson of the House Business Committee.

We welcome yesterday's ruling by the Speaker of the National Assembly, Hon. Kenneth Marende, which should unblock the impasse and enable Parliament to continue the important business of the people. We applaud the Speaker for his wisdom and statesmanship.

We urge Kenya's leaders and all Members of Parliament to put aside their partisan considerations and place the interests of the people first. It is imperative that they recapture the spirit of reconciliation and healing needed to build a democratic, stable, peaceful and prosperous nation.

Issued by: Mr. Kofi A. Annan, Mrs. Graca Machel and President Benjamin Mkapa.

29 April 2009