

# THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART IN SWAHILI

Sisi, tulikusanyika katika Mkutano wa Kitaifa wa Katiba ya 2017, tukitoka katika sehemu zote za anga la kusini, tunatoa taarifa hii kutoka moyoni:

Makabila yetu ya Waaboriginal na Torres Strait Islander yalikuwa Mataifa huru ya kwanza ya bara la Australia na visiwa vyake vya karibu, na tuliimiliki chini ya sheria zetu na mila. Hii wazee wetu walifanya, kulingana na hesabu ya utamaduni wetu, kutoka kwa Uumbaji, kulingana na sheria ya kawaida tangu zamani za kale, na kulingana na sayansi ya zaidi ya miaka 60,000 iliyopita. Uhuru huu ni wazo la kiroho: uhusiano wa mababu kati ya kiunga hiki ni msingi wa umiliki wa udongo, au bora, ya enzi kuu.

Haijawahi kuachwa au kuzimwa na inashirikiana na enzi kuu ya Kifalme. Je! Inawezaje kuwa vinginevyo? Kwamba watu walimiliki ardhi kwa milenia sitini na kiunga hiki kitakatifu kinatoweka kutoka kwa historia ya ulimwengu katika miaka mia mbili tu iliyopita?

Mabadiliko ya katiba na mageuzi ya kimuundo, tunaamini enzi hii ya zamani inaweza kung'aa kupitia kama onyesho kamili la utaifa wa Australia.

Vivyo hivyo, sisi ndio watu waliofungwa zaidi katika sayari hii. Sisi sio watu wahalifu wa asili. Watoto wetu wametengwa na familia zao kwa viwango ambavyo havijawahi kutokea. Hii haiwezi kuwa kwa sababu hatuna upendo kwao. Hizi zinapaswa kuwa tumaini letu kwa siku zijazo. Vipimo hivi vya mgogoro wetu vinaelezea wazi hali ya muundo wa shida yetu. Hii ndio adha ya kukosa nguvu. Tunatafuta mageuzi ya kikatiba ili kuwapa watu wetu na kuchukua nafasi stahiki katika nchi yetu. Tunapokuwa na nguvu juu ya hatima yetu watoto wetu watafanikiwa. Watatembea katika ulimwengu miwili na utamaduni wao utakuwa zawadi kwa nchi yao. Tunatoa wito kwa kuanzishwa kwa Sauti ya kwanza ya Mataifa iliyowekwa katika Katiba. Makarrata ni kilele cha ajenda yetu: kuja pamoja baada ya mapambano.

Inachukua matarajio yetu ya uhusiano wa haki na ukweli na watu wa Australia na maisha bora ya baadaye kwa watoto wetu kwa kuzingatia haki na kujitawala. Tunahitaji Tume ya Makarrata kusimamia mchakato wa kufanya makubaliano kati ya serikali na Mataifa ya Kwanza na ukweli -kuelezea juu ya historia yetu. Mnamo mwaka 1967 tulihesabiwa, mnamo 2017 tulihitaji kusikilizwa. Tunaacha kambi ya msingi na kuanza safari yetu katika nchi hii kubwa. Tunakualika utembe nasi katika harakati za watu wa Australia kwa maisha bora ya baadaye.



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# THE ULURU STATEMENT FROM THE HEART

## IN ENGLISH

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tribes were the first sovereign Nations of the Australian continent and its adjacent islands, and possessed it under our own laws and customs. This our ancestors did, according to the reckoning of our culture, from the Creation, according to the common law from 'time immemorial', and according to science more than 60,000 years ago.

This sovereignty is a spiritual notion: the ancestral tie between the land, or 'mother nature', and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who were born therefrom, remain attached thereto, and must one day return thither to be united with our ancestors. This link is the basis of the ownership of the soil, or better, of sovereignty. It has never been ceded or extinguished, and co-exists with the sovereignty of the Crown.

How could it be otherwise? That peoples possessed a land for sixty millennia and this sacred link disappears from world history in merely the last two hundred years?

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

Proportionally, we are the most incarcerated people on the planet. We are not an innately criminal people. Our children are alienated from their families at unprecedented rates. This cannot be because we have no love for them. And our youth languish in detention in obscene numbers. They should be our hope for the future.

These dimensions of our crisis tell plainly the structural nature of our problem. This is *the torment of our powerlessness*.

We seek constitutional reforms to empower our people and take a rightful place in our own country. When we have power over our destiny our children will flourish. They will walk in two worlds and their culture will be a gift to their country.

We call for the establishment of a First Nations Voice enshrined in the Constitution.

Makarrata is the culmination of our agenda: the coming together after a struggle. It captures our aspirations for a fair and truthful relationship with the people of Australia and a better future for our children based on justice and self-determination.

We seek a Makarrata Commission to supervise a process of agreement-making between governments and First Nations and truth-telling about our history.

In 1967 we were counted, in 2017 we seek to be heard. We leave base camp and start our trek across this vast country. We invite you to walk with us in a movement of the Australian people for a better future.



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