



# COHESION TODAY

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## NEW DAWN FOR NCIC AS SHE LAUNCHES STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025



Deputy Chief Justice Hon. Lady Justice Philomena Mwilu, Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government and NCIC Chairman Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia were among the dignitaries present during the launch of NCIC Strategic Plan at the Bomas of Kenya on 30th June 2021.

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission has been encouraged to deepen engagement with the Judiciary for greater efficiencies and better outcomes for Kenyans. During the launch of the NCIC Strategic Plan 2020-2025 at the Bomas of Kenya on 30th June 2021, leaders from various Government institutions, development partners were among other dignitaries who applauded the Commission for developing clear roadmap towards the attainment peaceful coexistence in Kenya.

The Deputy Chief Justice Hon. Philomena Mwilu congratulated the Commission and

called on all like-minded institutions to support NCIC. She said, "Constructive independence is vitality important aspect of our Constitution democracy. Investigators, prosecutors, judges and magistrate, corrections officers were all indispensable links in the same justice chain." She encouraged the Commission to work with the Judiciary Committee on Elections (JCE) ahead of the 2022 General Elections. Since resolution of disputes particularly those relating to hate speech, violence, incitement to violence and intolerance, the judiciary plays a key role in maintaining and



Deputy Chief Justice Lady Justice Hon. Philomena Mwilu unveils the NCIC 2020-2025 Strategic Plan on 30th June 2021



NCIC Chairman Rev Dr Samuel Kobia, Vice Chairperson Commissioner Wambui Nyutu OGW, Commissioners and NCIC Commission Secretary pose for a group photograph after the Launch of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025 at the Bomas of Kenya on 30th June 2021

enhancing social cohesion through upholding the rule of law.

“I am confident that the Strategic Plan will facilitate a just, peaceful and suitable society living in peace unity and dignity,” said the Cabinet Secretary Hon. Dr. Fred Matiang’i. I am proud of the work you are doing as a Commission towards bringing peace especially in parts of Rift Valley such as Narok and Nandi-Kakamega border counties among other regions.”. He called on all Kenyans to work together to ensure peaceful electoral processes ahead of the 2022 General Elections. He said, Kenya's social media would not be shut down over hate speech. “However, we will be very ruthless when it comes to those who interfere with other's freedom. We will not hesitate or be intimidated by pressures or complaints from anybody,” he warned.

In his speech, Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia said the Commission was working closely with other Government agencies that included EACC, NPS, ODPP, ORPP among other key stakeholders to ensure mitigation of hate speech and ethnic contempt ahead of the 2022 General Elections. He called on all Kenyans to rise up to the occasion and be part and parcel of the execution of the Strategic Plan. Rev. Kobia disclosed that the strategic plan is based on intensive introspection and analysis that made it possible to determine what and how the Commission inputs on Kenya’s search for a just, participatory and cohesive society living in an ethnically, racially and religiously diverse context.

While addressing the meeting, the Commission Secretary Dr. Skitter Ocharo thanked all the stakeholders for their input in the development of the Strategic Plan. She reiterated the Commission’s commitment towards delivering peaceful electoral processes. On her part, the Commission Secretary/CEO Dr. Skitter Ocharo zeroed in on the need for peace because development without peace is inevitable.

### Kenya: Church and Politics



NCIC Chairman the Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia addressing delegate in the “Church and Politics Summit” held at Movenpick Hotel in Nairobi from June 16-18 2021.

Church leaders from across Africa say they intend to pursue a biblical approach to politics. At the “Church and Politics Summit 2021” held at Movenpick Hotel in Nairobi from June 16-18, clergy of various denominations, Christian business leaders, heads of theological schools, current and aspiring politicians, student leaders, and concerned citizens declared that they would create meaningful dialogue between the Christian community and the political marketplace to address challenges facing the continent.

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission Chairman Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, rallied the church to hold the political elite to account. He said, “Politics is too important to be left in the hands of politicians. The church cannot keep quiet while the political class is mistreating the masses or when the masses are misbehaving. The best leaders listen to the biblical instructions on the fair administration of nations through just rule,” he said. “Politics can be eventful, painful, and uncertain,” said the Rev. Dr. Lazarus Chakwera, President of Malawi and a Pentecostal

theologian. “But the conviction that God calls one into politics will keep them going. We are missionaries in the political arena where harvest is bountiful, and the workers are few. Let us get out of our comfort zone and be found faithful.”

Dr. Ron Sider, a member of the advisory board at Christians for Social Action, urged Christians across Africa to draw lessons from the United States in the wake of last November’s heated general election. He said, “Our Declaration of Independence affirmed that everyone has been made in God’s image. The church was, in the 19th century, at the forefront of ending slavery. At the start of the 20th century, the church supported trade unions and workers’ rights. In the 1960s, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other church leaders backed the civil rights movement. On May 27, 2003, President George W. Bush — who is an evangelical — signed legislation authorizing the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

into law, in the process touching millions of lives across Africa.” Dr. Sider noted the church’s quest for a biblically balanced agenda in the American public square had been hampered by the failure on the part of White Anglo-Saxon Protestants to recognize people of color as brethren in Christ, coupled with an unwillingness to listen to each other and initiate conversations across the political divide.

As a keynote speaker, NCIC Chairman Rev Dr. Samuel Kobia focused on the role of the church in promoting peace and cohesion in the country. In his remarks, he said peace is an instrument of economic propensity and that the church should not keep quiet while politicians misbehave. He further said that the church is a mountain where politicians should run to for solutions. Speaking in the same conference Archbishop Antony Muheria said that acceptance of mediatory functions largely depends on the credibility of mediating party. Therefore it is paramount for the church as a mediator to work on its credibility. The event brought together key stakeholders including; Prof PLO Lumumba, Bishops from different churches among others to discuss on the matter church and politics.

## Domestication of the African Union Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy Framework



Kenya delegates led by Mr. Peter Thuku, Secretary Peace building and Disaster Response and NCIC Commission Secretary Dr. Skitter Ocharo HSC during the the second Partner States Experts' meeting on Domestication of the African Union post Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy Framework held Tanzania's capital in Dar-es-salam from 2nd-5th June 2021.

**K**enya is among the countries that attended the second Partner States Experts' meeting on Domestication of the African Union post Conflict Reconstruction and Development Policy Framework held Tanzania’s capital in Dar-es-salam from 2nd-5th June 2021. The Kenya delegates were led by Mr. Peter Thuku, Secretary Peace building and Disaster Response. The NCIC Commission Secretary Dr. Skitter Ocharo HSC represented NCIC.

Briefly, Africa has made significant progress during the past decade to address the many conflicts and crises facing the continent. Notwithstanding this progress, however, enormous challenges are yet to be met if the countries and communities concerned are to reap the benefits of the peace and stability brought about by the resolution of conflicts. The recovery, reconstruction and development challenges involved are complex and, as such, require determination, long-term commitment, the mobilization of massive resources, as well as cooperation and close coordination at all levels. Undoubtedly though, the achievements made to-date need to be consolidated further hence the development of the AU Policy on Post Conflict Reconstruction and Development

(PCRD) is witness to the resolve and commitment of the AU to comprehensively and decisively address the recovery and reconstruction needs of countries and communities emerging from conflict.

The Policy is a comprehensive document that provides a broad template for the planning and implementation of integrated strategies and programmes. Key Scholars and stakeholders from across the region have reiterated on the importance of embracing diversity, inclusion and National Unity in line with the National Cohesion and Integration Act of 2008. At the National Cohesion and Integration week and Conference held in Karatina University from 26th to 28th May 2021 various Scholars, academicians professionals, peace actors, politicians, Researchers, student leaders, and concerned citizens vowed to promote respect for culture, religion and other forms of diversity.

**Karatina University: The National Cohesion and Integration Week**

The Commission is participating and supporting the National Cohesion and Integration week and International Conference at the Karatina University, Nyeri County. The conference, held from 26th to 28th May 2021, was anchored in the National Cohesion and Integration Commission Act section (25)(e) that seeks to promote respect for culture, religion and other forms of diversity in the society.

**The objectives of the conference were to:**

- Promote peace building and conflict resolution through integration and cultural interaction
- Provide a forum for scholars to interact and exchange ideas on cultural diversity
- Examine issues of cohesion, integration, and cultural diversity locally, regionally, and globally; and to
- Disseminate and share current knowledge on cohesion, integration, and cultural diversity



NCIC Vice Chairperson, Commissioner Wambui Nyutu, OGW giving a keynote address during the conference

Speaking during the forum, NCIC Vice Chairperson, Commissioner Wambui Nyutu, OGW emphasized on the role of universities in promoting culture, cohesion and integration in Kenya. According to her, ‘universities are expected to play a significant role in the development of cultural values not only through formal education, but by also opening up opportunities for informal and non-formal engagements. Universities are vital for creating cohesive and tolerant communities’.

Through the theme ‘Promoting National Cohesion and Integration: Our Cultural Diversity, Our Heritage, Our strength’ the conference brought participants from various African countries including Israel, Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, and Kenya, among others. The target audience included the academia, youth/students, researches and scholars.

Also in attendance from NCIC include the Acting Director Programmes, Dr. Sellah King’oro and

**Kajiado County: Sensitization Forum**

NCIC Assistant Director for Civic Education and Advocacy, Mr. Killian Nyamambu. Since the onset of multiparty politics, elections in Kenya have been highly competitive and polarized. Kenyan politics have been characterized by politics of ethnicity and balkanization resulting to ethnic tensions and conflicts. Political exclusion is one of the key factors that has entrenched the culture of violence in electoral processes in Kenya. As an institution mandated with the task of promoting national cohesion and integration, the Commission has therefore

developed some strategies to effectively mitigate and respond to violence ahead of, during and after the elections as well as employ long-term conflict prevention. The NCIC seeks to rally Kenyans to learn to be tolerant of divergent views, whether political or ideological irrespective of our ethnicity, religion, sexuality and race and in order to ensure peaceful 2022 general elections.

In this regard, the Commission conducted a sensitization forum between the local peace actors and state agencies from Kajiado County on peace building strategies, countering electoral violence and political intolerance. The two day activity was undertaken on 9th June, 2021 at Elatia Hotel, in Kajiado South sub-county; and on 10th June, 2021 at Ngong' Bounty Hotel in Kajiado North sub-county. The event was attended by among others, officers from IEBC, Directorate of National Cohesion, National and County Government. NCIC and its partners took part in the discussions in light of the upcoming general elections of 2022.

During the forums, participants built consensus on the need for maintaining peace within their spaces in the pre, during and post-election period. Participants also shared best practices and strategies on ways to ensure management and prevention of elections violence are upheld. They pledged to continue undertaking self-initiated forums to drive the peace and cohesion agenda.

### **Sensitization Forum for Peace Champions during the COVID – 19 Dialogue Platforms.**

**N** IC envisions a Kenyan society whose values are harmonious and non-discriminatory for peaceful co-existence and integration. Through the interventions of the Commission over the years, Kenyans have been empowered to promote peace building and conflict transformation through direct engagement, partnerships, public awareness and outreach, advocacy among many other strategies. The Commission has particularly endeavored to invest in the youth by socializing them on the principles of non-violence and national values in building a peaceful and cohesive multi-ethnic nation.

Consequently, NCIC in partnership with the



Commissioner Hon Dorcas Kedogo join youth for a traditional dance during a sensitization forum implemented jointly with KNATCOM in Kisumu County.

Kenya National Commission for UNESCO (KNATCOM) convened the third National Workshop on Culture Heritage and Cohesion. The workshop brought together young people drawn from 38 different counties across the Country. Among other topics tackled the Commission emphasized on the role of the youth in Countering Political Intolerance and Electoral Violence, Self-regulation and Debunking of Hate Speech on Social Media platform, Understanding the 1972 Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and Understanding the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

### **Kajiado County: Amani Club Launch**

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### **NCIC AND LEGISLATORS TRAINING AHEAD OF THE GENERAL ELECTIONS**

**W**ith the General Elections less than 12 months away, Kenya is set to become the second country in COMESA, after Zambia to undergo structural vulnerability and resilience assessment as part of capacity building to prevent occurrence of conflicts. In preparation, a Kenyan delegation comprising members of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) led by Chairman Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia and the Parliamentary Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunities led by Hon. Prof. Zadok Ogutu attended five-day training on the COMESA/Africa Union Structural Vulnerability Assessment and Resilience framework in Livingstone Zambia.

Speaking at the opening of the training, NCIC Chairman Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia said violence has become a common means of expressing opposition and dissent on most issues especially in Africa where there are young democracies." One of the identified roadblocks to violence free elections in Kenya was inadequate or total lack of immediate interventions to curb escalation of violence," Rev. Kobia said. He further added that with violence by establishing a robust election early warning and rapid response system that will tap into the existing sub- system across the country.

### **SOCIAL COHESION INDEX**

The Commission is mandated to facilitate and promote equality of opportunity, harmony and peaceful coexistence in Kenya. The Commission is working towards preventing and mitigating election violence in 2022's general elections. In this regard, the Commission is laying ground for an assessment of Social Cohesion in Kenya. The Commission met relevant stakeholders from Universities, CSOs and government agencies on developing a methodology and

implementation matrix for the Social Cohesion Index (SCI) as part of wider peacebuilding efforts to identify the drivers of disintegration, and to understand the points where targeted actions could make a difference. The two-day workshop took place in Kajiado County on 24th and 25th June 2021.

The exercise resulted in a consensus on the need to develop another Social Cohesion Index for Kenya and solicited commitment of support to the process from partner agencies in the implementation cycle. The existing dimensions of Kenya's SCI include shared prosperity, equity, peace, diversity, identity, trust and reciprocity. The prioritized indexes include social media, education, technology and religion. The Index will inform policy makers and other stakeholders of the status of cohesion in Kenya especially as the country is heading to an electioneering period.

### **TRENDS OF ELECTION VIOLENCE IN POST-INDEPENDENT KENYA**

**E**lections in Kenya have become synonymous to violence since the 90s. The existing concern is that the 2022 General Election draws several parallels to the 2007 one. It is therefore vital for the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), which is mandated to maintain peaceful coexistence, to make interventions that can forestall or mitigate potential violence that can emerge from these circumstances. The Commission undertook a scan of dynamics surrounding pre-independence era and elections since 1963 to the year 2020 with the aim of identifying conflict triggers and predictive trends for electoral violence in the country. The Commission invited practitioners in the electoral process to participate in validating the report on the trends of post-election violence in post-independence Kenya on 28th and 29th June 2021 at the Smith Hotel, Kajiado County.

The report also generates predictive trends for 2022 election process by identifying potential triggers including politics of betrayal, intense local level political competition, underprepared IEBC, role of media, inclusivity, ethnic antagonism among others and makes key recommendations towards achieving 'Elections Bila Noma' in 2022.

Down Memory Lane

TODAY IN HISTORY



July 23, 1994: Outspoken Anglican Bishop Henry Okullu (left) retires after erstwhile Provost Francis Mwai Abiero was elected to take over at Maseno South Diocese. Bishop Abiero told the diocesan electoral college of 92 clergy that he would follow Bishop Okullu's 'nyayo' and "fight for justice and welfare without fear". Here, Bishop Okullu confers with Ms Rose Waruhiu and Rev Sam Kobia – members of a task force on ending politically motivated tribal clashes at a symposium in 1992. COMPILED BY ANNEL NJOKA

LETTER OF THE DAY

Why is banned 'motivation' levy still charged?

The impunity by some defiant school heads to continue charging parents the outlawed 'remedial tuition' or 'motivation' levy is absolutely counter-productive to the spirit of access to affordable universal education to every Kenyan child irrespective of their

subsidised fee guidelines for the various categories of public secondary schools. Things like 'motivation' or 'remedial tuition' fees were, therefore, outlawed.

Subsequent enforcement of the directive under the Cabinet Secretary at the time, Dr Fred Mat

arimani. Supposedly, it dates back to Form Two, and is usually imposed on parents and subdivided into three tranches of Sh7,500 per year until Form Four.

If, indeed, the parents were for this illegitimate levy, how come

count fit in government audits? Let the CS, Prof George Magoha, save poor students and parents from exploitation by the few tricksters in public schools.

Anthony Keya, Kericho

Photospeak



NCIC led by Chairman Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia pose for a group photo during the Strategic Plan 2020 to 2025 launch at the Bomas of Kenya on 30th June 2021



NCIC conducts community engagements to foster peaceful coexistence among Kenyans



PLO Lumumba addressing an audience during the Karatina University conference



NCIC Vice Chairperson Commissioner Wambui Nyutu OGW implores on higher learning institutions to inculcate national values among learners towards attaining a cohesive Kenya.



NCIC Chairman Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia welcoming chief guest, Deputy Chief Justice Philomena Mwili at the NCIC Strategic Plan Launch



# WE HAVE MOVED



## OUR NEW LOCATION

Britam Towers, 17th Floor  
(24th Floor Temporarily)  
Hospital Road, Upper Hill



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EXCEPT FOR OUR PHYSICAL  
LOCATION, ALL OUR CONTACTS  
REMAIN THE SAME