



**TALKING NOTES FOR DR. FRED MATIANG'I, EGH,  
CABINET SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND  
CO-ORDINATION OF NATIONAL GOVERNMENT  
DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE NATIONAL  
COHESION AND INTEGRATION COMMISSION  
STRATEGIC PLAN 2020-2025 ON 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2021 AT  
THE BOMAS OF KENYA, NAIROBI**

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- **Our Chief Guest, Hon. Justice Martha K. Koome, EBS  
Chief Justice & President of the Supreme Court of Kenya**
- **The Chairman of the National Cohesion and Integration  
Commission, Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, EBS**
- **NCIC Commissioners**
- **Chairpersons of Commissions and Independent Offices,**
- **Director of Criminal Investigations Mr. George Kinoti,  
CBS**
- **Development Partners**
- **Members of the Fourth Estate**
- **Distinguished Guests**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good morning!

1. It is my great pleasure to join you today on this important occasion that marks the launch of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission Strategic Plan 2020-2025. I

congratulate the Commission for coming up with an elaborate Strategic Plan that will transform the peace and cohesion agenda in Kenya. I have perused through the Plan and I'm satisfied that it is well thought out and clearly outlines the approaches the Commission, on behalf of the Government, will use in delivering on its mandate in the next five years. I am greatly impressed by the quality of the ideas put in this Plan.

2. Since inception, NCIC has done tremendous work in this country. We are particularly happy with the work you are doing in Northern Kenya, parts of Rift Valley especially Narok County where we have witnessed successful programmes that have registered relative peace in the county among other regions. Congratulations! I am, confident that the Plan will play an important role in the realization of our national aspiration of attaining a just and equitable society living in peace, unity and dignity.
3. I equally note with satisfaction that the Strategic Plan is aligned to key policy instruments including the Vision 2030, the Big Four Agenda, Africa Agenda 2063 and the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Certainly, this is a clear demonstration that the

Commission is responsive to the dynamic needs of our society.

4. I further note with appreciation that the Plan focuses on key drivers of conflict including ethnic discrimination in public institutions; calls for peaceful coexistence between and among ethnic communities; seeks to root out hate speech, ethnic contempt and ethnic based political violence. I therefore commend the Commission's efforts in monitoring and regulating hate speech, ethnic incitement, propagation of fake news and misinformation.
5. As you are all aware, General elections provide an opportunity for citizens to elect those leaders that they feel will change their lives. Elections are not a moment to perpetuate ethnic politics, hatred and to champion personal differences. It is a time where Kenyans are given an opportunity to determine the leaders who will help shape their destiny.
6. However, a review of the current political dynamics as reflected in the recently concluded by-elections, point to possible conflict and electoral violence in 2022. As

Government we are concerned about intolerance especially in the social media and vernacular FM radio stations. While the Government remains committed in ensuring Kenyans enjoy their fundamental rights and freedoms as enshrined in the constitution, we cannot renege on our responsibility of enforcing the law. We also call upon all Kenyans to remain responsible in all their engagements across all media platforms.

7. All peace-loving Kenyans desire to participate in mature politics that are development driven. As a country, we need leaders who inspire conversations that deepen our people's confidence in the Government of the day.
8. This calls on all of us to work together to ensure that this does not come to pass. We must say "*Never Again*" to electoral violence and as such we must proactively resist prophets of doom who may want to plunge this country into chaos.
9. In this regard therefore, there is need for enhanced cohesion and integration initiatives including monitoring of conflict early warning signs, to provide real-time

response; and, rejuvenation of local peace structures to spearhead community peace building.

10. I wish to assure the Commission of My Ministry's support and commitment to ensure that you deliver on your mandate. In this regard, I urge the Commission to continue working with National Government Administrative Officers across all cadres; and, national security agencies in the 47 counties. I encourage other Government agencies to collaborate with the Commission in discharging its mandate. I equally urge Kenyans to exercise a culture of tolerance and diversity. We are never going to agree on all things at all times. Our opinions are always going to be different, but we should learn to appreciate diversity of opinion.

11. In conclusion, I thank the Commission led by the Chairman Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, the management and staff of NCIC and all the other stakeholders who took part in the process of developing the Plan. I urge you to give your best in the implementation of the plan.

12. With these few remarks, Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to once again congratulate the National Cohesion and Integration Commission for launching their Strategic Plan 2020-2024.

**Thank You and God Bless Kenya.**

**FRED MATIANG'I, PhD, EGH**  
**CABINET SECRETARY**