



COHESION TODAY

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Community sensitization forums in Kisumu County

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission has instituted public engagements in various counties in a bid to promote peaceful coexistence and social cohesion amongst Kenyans ahead of 2022. The 2021 inaugural forum kicked off in Kisumu County from 26th to 29th January 2021. The forums, aimed at countering electoral violence and political intolerance, targeted journalists, bloggers, local peace actors, youth, and public transport operators.

While speaking during the event, Commissioner Eng. Phillip Okundi urged the journalists to desist from being used by politicians as a channel to push forward divisive politics. He further added that the “hustler vs dynasty” movement spearheaded by politicians in the country is a threat to the peace and calm the people of Kenya are enjoying and that the same narrative of the “haves and have nots” has been used to divide people in other parts of the world.

On her part, Commissioner Hon Dorcas Kedogo urged members of the public to shun divisive politics and embrace each other regardless of the disparities in social class and at the same time called upon leaders to tone down on divisive politics.

Misuse of social media to spread hate speech was also highlighted by NCIC’s Senior Legal Officer, Gitonga Mwikamba, who observed that the Commission has put in place measures to monitor hate speech in public meetings and social media while cautioning the participants that all perpetrators will face the full force of the law.

KASH Consortium Programs Director Eli Opondo, also in attendance, lauded NCIC for launching the Roadmap to Violence Free General Elections earlier enough, hence making it possible for other partners to participate in its implementation.

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Commission Secretary/CEO Dr. Skitter W. Mbugua HSC receives her certificate after completion of the Mwongozo Training for Public Officers in Mombasa

The Mwongozo Training for Public Officers

NCIC Commissioners participated in a Mwongozo training program whose aim was to build the capacity of the participants to effectively contribute to the achievements of NCIC's strategic objectives. The training, which took place in Mombasa County, drew participants from several government institutions. Participants were provided with a platform to engage directly with experts on the subjects and challenges they face as they steer their institutions on the aspects relevant to their mandates.

The Implementation Committee, in conjunction with State Corporations Advisory Committee (SCAC) and the Institute of Certified Public Secretaries of Kenya (ICPSK) in consultation with the World Bank, developed a Code of Governance for Government-owned entities (Mwongozo).

Formulation of an Inter-Agency Team for Peaceful 2022 General Elections

On 14th of January 2021, the Commission led by the Chairman Dr. Rev. Samuel Kobia and the Commission Secretary Dr. Skitter Mbugua, held a meeting with officials from the Independence Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), Ethics and Anti-corruption Commission (EACC), and Office of the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP) to deliberate on the idea of formation of an inter-agency team aimed at ensuring peaceful 2022 General Elections.

During the meeting held at the Sarova Stanley Hotel in Nairobi, Dr. Rev. Kobia stated that the purpose of the formulation of the inter-agency team is to synergize on matters related to elections and that each of the four agencies represented in the meeting have a particular role to play on the subject matter.



NCIC Director of Programs Millicent Okatch, giving her welcoming remarks to the Local Peace Actors, Journalists and Bloggers during the community sensitization forum in Kisumu County

The Code provides a framework embodying Board Charters, codes of conduct, and professional ethics among others. It also addresses matters effectiveness of boards, ethical leadership and good corporate citizenship.

The outcomes of the training include the ability of the participants to:

- i Know their role in the organizational setting and understand the scope of their responsibilities
- ii Properly advise their institutions in terms of strategy and good governance parameters
- iii Effectively handle board transactions
- iv Demonstrate ability to address challenges the organization faces in its day to day work and possible mitigating action points

The Chairman also indicated that the Commission has developed a guideline of the process through the development of a Roadmap to a Peaceful 2022 General Election. He urged the agencies to collectively contribute to a 'free, fair, credible, peaceful, and clean election'. In attendance were EACC Director of Leadership Ms. Lucy Kinuthia, EACC Commissioner Dr. Dabar A. Maalim, ORPP CEO Ms. Ann Nderitu, and IEBC Legal Counsel, Ms. Salome Oyugi.





NCIC Chairman Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia addressing the media, IEBC, ORPP and EACC officials during the formulation of the Inter-Agency Team for peaceful 2022 General Elections meeting held at Sarova PanAfric Hotel

National Security and Strategy Course for the Leadership of the National Assembly

On 26th of January 2021, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission's CEO Dr. Skitter Mbugua gave a presentation on National Values, Ethics and National Cohesion during a training course on national security and strategy for leadership of the National Assembly of Kenya.

The training, which spanned from 25th to 29th of January 2021 in Amboseli, brought together leaders and practitioners of various government departments to give presentations on their fields of speciality.

With examining the national values, ethics and national cohesion as the main and specific objective, Dr. Mbugua gave a detailed scope on:

- The source of national values, legal policy and institutional frameworks
- Citizenship, public service and national unity
- Strategies in promoting national unity and national cohesion
- Challenges and ethical issues on national unity and national cohesion in Kenya.

According to the CEO, national values is a representation of paramount morals upheld throughout a common cultural experience of the nation. Therefore, it is a fundamental belief of a nation guiding choices, actions, and behavior of its citizens. She added that national values exert influence on how individuals relate with one another.

Whereas the national cohesion entails the constructing of an integrated citizenry with a sense of belonging amongst its members, in the Kenyan context the CEO averred, national cohesion and integration is a process and an outcome of instilling and enabling all citizens to have a sense and a feeling that they are members of the same nation engaged in a common enterprise, facing shared challenges and opportunities.

Since the youth are the most involved and affected during chaos that may disrupt national unity and cohesion, unemployment, radicalization, inadequate empowerment and participation, crime, and drugs substance abuse among others are some of the challenges they face as highlighted by Dr. Mbugua. Other topics discussed during the training included security strategy formulation program facilitated by Dr. K Sagala and Kenya's Geostrategic importance in the region facilitated by Prof P. Kagwanja.



Photo source: Human Rights Watch

Pictorial



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(From Left to Right) Senior Communications Officer, Rosemary Were, Commissioners, Hon. Dorcas L. Kedogo, Hon. (Eng.) Phillip Okundi ,EBS, HSC, Kisumu Governor Prof. Anyang' Nyong'o and NCIC Programme Director Ms. Millicent Okatch in Kisumu County during the community sensitization forum for local peace actors, bloggers and journalists



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Commissioner Hon. Dorcas L. Kedogo receives her certificate after completion of the Mwongozo Training for Public Officers in Mombasa



3

Commissioner Dr. Danvas Makori(Left) receiving his certificate after completion of the Mwongozo Training for Public Officers in Mombasa



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NCIC Assistant Director Civic Education and Advocacy Department, Mr. Killian Nyambu, addressing the transport sector representatives in Kisumu



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Commissioner Hon. Abdulaziz Ali Farah (Left) receiving his certificate after completion of the Mwongozo Training for Public Officers in Mombasa

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