



COHESION TODAY

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Kenya Editor's Guild Breakfast Meeting

Since inception, the Commission has made significant contributions towards the realisation of a cohesive and integrated society by putting in place a myriad of strategies across counties and the nation at large. However, the media continues to label the Commission as the 'Hate Speech Commission', thereby impacting negatively on its brand.



NCIC Chairman, Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia giving remarks during the NCIC-Kenya Editors Guild breakfast meeting.

In a bid to change the said narrative, the Commission held a meeting on 2nd March 2021 at Serena Hotel with members of the Kenya Editors' Guild with the aim of: sharing the Commission's mandate and Roadmap with the media, discussing the Commission's challenges to achieving its mandate and exploring areas of collaboration and contribution of the media to national cohesion and peaceful co-existence in Kenya.

During the consultative forum, the following outputs were achieved :

1. Enhanced awareness among editors/news gatekeepers on NCIC's mandate
2. Consensus on ensuring accurate and conflict-sensitive reporting reached
3. Strategic partnerships and networks with key media gatekeepers established

While the media was concerned about NCIC's laxity to take firmer actions on hate speech offenders, NCIC encouraged the media to give blackouts to hate speech offenders and step up their reporting in a conflict-sensitive manner. Both NCIC and the Kenya Editors' Guild were enthusiastic about partnering and collaborating in various ways to ensure Kenya becomes a united, cohesive, and integrated society.

DIAR Awards

The National Diversity and Inclusion Awards and Recognition, popularly known as DIAR holds annual award ceremonies to celebrate companies, government agencies, CSOs, NGOs, CBOs and individuals who champion diversity and promote inclusion in the workplace and a socially cohesive society. The Commission supported the 3rd Edition of the DIAR awards that attracted the participation of leading brands and personalities, inspiring action towards making inclusion an everyday reality.

Held at the Sarit Expo Centre on 12th March 2021, the awards gala dinner recognized, celebrated, and awarded various champions of diversity and inclusion in Kenya.

Speaking during the event, NCIC Vice Chairperson, Commissioner Wambui Nyutu, OGW stated that the concept and objectives of the National Diversity and Inclusion awards and recognition project resonates very well with NCIC's role and key mandate, which is to promote national identity and values to mitigate ethno-political competition and ethnicity motivated by violence.



NCIC Vice Chairperson, Commissioner Wambui Nyutu, OGW giving her speech during the DIAR Inclusion and Awards gala dinner

The event not only inspired a sense of patriotism, respect, and appreciation of cultural and ethnic diversity for lasting peace and cohesion, but also created a platform for collaboration in driving the diversity and inclusion agenda in Kenya.

New NCIC Offices Groundbreaking Ceremony

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission officially rolled out the commencement of fit out works for its new offices at the Britam Towers, Upper Hill, Nairobi. The ceremony that took place on 2nd March, was convened by the Commission Secretary, Dr. Skitter Mbugua, HSC, who stated that the current progress is courtesy of the wisdom of the Commissioners, who were inspired by the need to address the challenges being faced at the Commission's current offices.

Dr. Mbugua further averred that with the current developments, the staff will enjoy a better working environment to enable them fully deliver the Commission's mandate to the people of Kenya.



Commissioner Dr. Danvas Makori (right) receiving the project's documents from the project manager, Mr. Wafula Kucha. Overlooking is the CEO Dr. Skitter Mbugua, HSC

Commissioner Dr. Danvas Makori, the committee chair overseeing the relocation from KMA Centre to Britam Towers, thanked all stakeholders involved in the project stating that the relocation is one of the steps taken by NCIC to rebrand. He further added that he expects the contractors to do a great job within the stipulated time.

The NCIC offices will be located on the 17th and 18th floors. Key important features of the building include a 24-hour security surveillance, maximum natural ventilation and light, as well as facilities that are friendly to people with disabilities such as assisted bathrooms and elevators that have the ability to recognize wheel chairs.

It is envisaged that the new offices will be ready within 45 days.

Narok County Peace Summit

NCIC in partnership with FHI 360, held a series of peace summits that brought together various stakeholders including women, youth, persons living with disabilities, and political actors within Narok South and Narok North. The forums that span from 8th to 11th March 2021, were aimed at enhancing the capacity of various actors in fostering peace and resilience within their spaces.

Speaking to political leaders, NCIC Commissioner Sam Kona noted that political power is the biggest problem not only in Narok County, but in Kenya at large. He urged politicians to embrace dialogue whenever there is a problem to avoid any conflicts.

He further added that the same way the country has a 'Roadmap to a violent-free 2022 election', it is high time for Narok County to adopt theirs and have a roadmap to a peaceful Narok before, during, and after the 2022 General Elections.

With the pledges made by Olpusimoru and Narok South of five-seven years and seven-ten years of peace

respectively, Commissioner Kona averred that if this happens, Narok will move from a culture of violence to a culture of peace and serve as an example for other counties to emulate.



Commissioner Sam Kona during the political parties' forum in Narok

Speaking during a public meeting at Sogum grounds, he asked the public to seek help from the Ministry of Lands to authenticate the legitimacy of their title deeds to sort out land conflicts being witnessed in the sub-county. The forums established consensus amongst all participants to uphold peace for the goodness of the larger Narok County.

Town hall Baraza Meetings between Community Members and State Agencies

The Commission held Town hall/Baraza Meetings for open discussions between the members of the public and State Agencies in Kisii and Bomet Counties.

Held from 16th to 19th March 2021, the meetings were aimed at discussing and developing strategies for embracing diversity and inclusivity, as well as, national cohesion and integration ahead of the 2022 General Elections.



Commissioner Dorcas Kedogo addressing participants at Ufanisi Resort, Kisii County

Speaking during the event, Narok County Commissioner, Mr. Evans Achoki assured the participants that all the resolutions especially concerning land injustices will be sorted in due time and urged each one of them to respect each other's property.



Narok County Commissioner Evans Achoki speaking during the summit at Mara Frontier Hotel, Narok

Speaking during the barazas, NCIC Commissioner Dorcas Kedogo implored upon the participants to resist violence and incitement from politicians who exploit them for selfish political gain. Instead, citizens were encouraged to report complaints and issues that may cause harm and diminish their rights as citizens.

The barazas were complimented by plenary sessions geared towards deducing the role of Faith Based Organizations, youth, women, the public transport sector, civil society organizations, Government Agencies, and peace actors in promoting peaceful elections in Kenya. While members of the public appreciated their role in peace building, they also pointed accusing fingers at political leaders for creating and perpetrating violence by paying jobless youth as little as 50 Kenyan Shillings

The summit provided an opportunity for the review of successes and failures of peace interventions and provided space to enhance and strengthen collaboration and cooperation of security and peace actors.

Narok North Deputy County Commissioner, Mr Mutuku Mwenga, while counting the gains made so far, lauded the multi-agency approach that has been put in place to stop cattle rustling in the County.

His Narok South counterpart, Deputy County Commissioner, Mr. Felix Kisalu, invited MCAs from his sub-county to sit together and find a solution on inter-communal clashes being witnessed for sustainability.



Mr. Kilian Nyambu, NCIC Assistant Director Civic Education and Advocacy Department giving a presentation on the Roadmap to a Violence-free 2022

to disrupt their opponent’s political rallies long before the election dates.

To ensure elections are conducted peacefully in Kenya, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission has formulated a strategy dubbed ‘The Roadmap to Peaceful 2022 General Elections’. The Guideline rallies all peace stakeholders to synergize towards realizing a peaceful 2022 plebiscite. The peace barazas as one of the strategies for citizen empowerment, brought together a cross-section of residents selected from different sectors in the mentioned counties and their local leaders including politicians, county and national government officers, as well as opinion leaders.

‘Sports for Peace’ Sensitization and Empowerment Youth Forums in Nairobi’s Informal Settlements

In a bid to strengthen solidarity among the youth and enhance their ability to counter electoral violence and political intolerance ahead of 2022, NCIC held a series of ‘Sports for Peace’ forums in Nairobi’s informal settlements.

The forums, which span from 16th to 19th February 2021, were held in Mathare (Undugu grounds), Mukuru kwa Ruben (Ruben Stadium), Kibra (Ligi Ndogo grounds), and Kawangware (Riruta Stadium) bringing together a cross-section of participants drawn from government, CSOs, CBO, private sector, and community members including youth, artists, mama mbogas, gatekeepers, bodabodas, ex-convicts, among others.



4B vs Napolio football teams from Mathare participating in the sports for peace activity at Undugu grounds

The forums utilized participatory processes by allowing the participants to soccer, which incorporates the ingredients of social cohesion including values of teamwork, fairness, discipline, and respect. At the same time, the participants engaged in dialogue and identified several challenges towards the realization of a peaceful election in the various sub-counties.

The sensitization forums are in line with the Commission’s efforts in promoting the roadmap to a peaceful 2022 General Elections both nationally and at the grassroots level. There was increased understanding on cohesion issues among the participants, as well as a commitment for maintaining peace in the pre and post electoral period.

Africa Scouts Day, 2021

In commemoration of the Africa Scouts Day 2021, NCIC held a two-day series of peace events that brought together women leaders from Mt. Kenya region and youth from various counties. The trainings that span from 12th to 13th March 2021, were aimed at enhancing cohesion, political tolerance, and enhancing peaceful coexistence during the electioneering period. According to Commissioner Hon. Dorcas Kedogo, women are not only the voice of reason right from their homes, but key peace agents and peace ambassadors in other spaces, hence contributing to a violence-free country.



Women leaders during the training workshop in Nyeri County

At the same time the Commission held a sensitization forum with the World Parliamentary Union (WPUK) youth in Nyeri County, and enhanced their resilience in ensuring they are not negatively used for political gain both in the pre and post electoral period. Participants' knowledge on peacebuilding and cohesion was enhanced, as well as consensus to maintain and preach peace in the electoral period achieved.



Commissioner Hon. Dorcas Kedogo in a group photo with the scouts and the scout leaders during the training workshop

moral obligation regarding individual responsibility for others before thinking of oneself.

Ubuntu brings the human face to every aspect of life. As Kenyans gear up for 2022, they have a twin responsibility of embracing Ubuntu, and using the values of Ubuntu to influence their speech, actions, and engagements.



Time has come for us to start celebrating ethos, heroes and champions

Ubuntu: I am because we are

As the institution mandated to ensure peaceful co-existence among Kenyan communities, the Commission took Kenyans through the concept of Ubuntu, a notion advanced to connote 'being self because of others'. During the K24 morning show held on 24th February Nairobi, NCIC demonstrated the significance of uniting the country towards a common good in a bid to ensure peaceful co-existence.



We better live together as brothers or perish together

During the interview, NCIC Assistant Director for Research, Policy and Planning, Dr. Sellah King'oro underscored the significance of Kenyans embracing and believing that the common bonds within them are more important than any individual divisions including of tribe, religion, or race. On his part, NCIC Assistant Director for Civic Education and Advocacy Killian Nyambu maintained that Ubuntu as a concept embraces the values of ethos, while at the same time imposing a sense of

Fifth National Student Leaders' Conference

The Commission, in partnership with the Kenya School of Government held the fifth national Student Leaders' Conference under the theme, 'Youth, Governance, Political Participation and Transformational Thinking'. The forum, held on 24th and 25th February 2021, was aimed at building the resilience of university students against political incitement and reinforcing their tolerance to the diversity of opinions and political pluralism throughout the pre and post-election period.



Ms. Olive Metet MPRSK, Assistant Director Corporate Communications addressing student leaders

While speaking to the student leaders, Assistant Director Ms. Olive Metet urged them to form Amani Clubs in their institutions as a way of creating spaces for dialogue, reconciliation, and exchange of cultural knowledge aimed at enhancing peaceful co-existence. The forum drew over 70 students and university deans from 24 public and private universities in Kenya. Best practices for prevention and management of electoral-violence within and without universities were shared, as well as consensus for maintaining peace within their spaces reached.



University students and specifically student unions are a key target for politicians due to their influential position, numerical value and ease of access

Ethnic and Diversity Audit of County Governments

In a bid to examine one of the obstacles to an effective and efficient public service, the Commission conducts regular audits in public institutions of Kenya. Having commenced the collection of ethnic audit data for county governments in October 2020.

The Commission is in receipt of data from 13 Governor’s offices, 18 county public service boards, and 30 county assemblies.



Commissioner Hon. Eng. Philip Okundi with NCIC Staff during the ethnic audit validation forum with the County Public Service Board members, Mombasa County.

Resulting the analysis of this data, the Commission engaged several counties to verify the data and seek the challenges as well as measures put in place to address the state of affairs with the aim of enhancing efficacy within the County Public Service and establishing best practices. The Commission has since visited Kericho, Uasin Gishu, Nandi, Meru, Isiolo, Embu, Mombasa, Kwale, and Kilifi counties for purposes of Validating Ethnic and Diversity Audit Data. The Commission conducts ethnic audits as a due diligence mechanism for establishment of a Public Service that enjoys public confidence and trust. The baseline study was conducted in early 2016.

Sensitization forum for women

NCIC, as the institution responsible for ensuring peaceful co-existence among Kenyan communities, participated in a joint sensitization forum for women in Nyamira and Kericho counties. Held in conjunction with the Council of Governors, the forum brought together over 200 women from the said counties with the aim of enhancing their participation in elections and peace processes.



NCIC staff inspecting the products at the exhibition during the women sensitization forum

While sensitizing the participants to engage in peaceful electoral processes, Senior Programme Officer Ms. Munini Mutuku, urged them to embrace tolerance and rise above negative ethnicity especially during the electioneering period. While confirming their bid to co-existing as two warring communities, the participants exchanged farm and other produce, as part of a peace dividend programme.

The following outputs were achieved :

1. Increased understanding on peace and cohesion
2. Consensus to maintain peace between Kisii and Kalenjin communities prior to, during and after the 2022 elections reached
3. Economics sustainability between the Kalenjin and Kisii communities enhanced

Observation of By-elections

Kenya has had a history of violence around elections since the advent of the multiparty system. Elections are some of the most complicated activities in Kenya, as the process has an increased risk of electoral violence and increased tension, posing a threat to the cohesion fabric of the country.

Although the next General Election in Kenya is scheduled for August 2022, a series of seats fell vacant either through resignation or natural attrition, prompting the country to undertake by-elections in various parts of the country. In a bid to ensure public confidence in the honesty of the electoral process, the Commission participated in observation of the elections in several counties including Uasin Gishu, Makueni, Nakuru, Kakamega, and Machakos.



Members of the public queuing at Kitise Primary School, Makueni County

Specifically, the observation process was aimed at enhancing deterrence of manipulation and fraud, or expose such problems if they occur; and creating confidence in the electoral process to promote sound democratic practices that enhance peaceful co-existence. Although the process was smooth in most of the counties such as Makueni, a few cases of missing names, insecurity, electoral malpractice, and violence were reported and acted upon by the responsible authorities.

The Commission issued a press statement that named

and shamed the identified perpetrators, while summoning at least 10 politicians who were considered 'purveyors of hate and ethnic contempt'.

The event not only inspired a sense of patriotism, respect, and appreciation of cultural and ethnic diversity for lasting peace and cohesion, but also created a platform for collaboration in driving the diversity and inclusion agenda in Kenya.

NCIC Crowns the youngest Peace Ambassador



<https://youtu.be/eAFSwODIyVA>

The Commission celebrates Dennis Lang'at, the 13 year old crowned peace ambassador, whose encounter with Rift Valley Regional Commissioner, George Natembeya went viral. This occurred at the backdrop of a series of interventions by NCIC through the support of FHI 360 that sought to restore lasting peace in Narok County. Through the Commission's interventions, a life is transformed. Lang'at becomes the world's youngest peace ambassador.

TAKING ACTION FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S WELL-BEING

WASH UP.



MASK UP.



BACK UP.



Pictorial



NCIC Chairman Rev. Samuel Kobia, the CEO Dr. Skitter Mbugua HSC, and Millicent Okatch Director Programs, in a meeting with the donor working group on elections.



NCIC Chairman, Rev. Samuel Kobia during the NCK executive committee meeting on peaceful 2022 elections.



Commissioner Hon. Dorcas L. Kedogo addressing participants of the sports for peace forum at Undugu grounds Mathare



NCIC Commission Secretary, Dr. Skitter Mbugua, HSC giving her remarks during the NCIC-Kenya Editors Guild breakfast meeting



Commissioner Hon. Dorcas L. Kedogo and women leaders during the training workshop for women leaders from the Mt. Kenya Region



Killian Nyambu, Assistant Director Civic Education and Advocacy receiving the HSC award on behalf of the CEO



Ms. Munini Mutuki, Senior Programs Officer Civic Education and Advocacy Department climate setting and giving remarks during the townhall and Baraza Meeting between community members and state agencies on 18th March 2021

Pictorial



Commissioner Hon. Dorcas L. Kedogo with Bomet County officials in a sensitization forum



NCIC staff, Roselyne Kamau administering a questionnaire to an IEBC official



Nakuru Senator Hon. Susan Kihika, adorned in NCIC branded mask



Ex-convicts, who are now reformed, sharing their experiences while in prison at the Riruta Stadium during the sports for peace forum



Jane Anyango, Founder/Director of Polycom Development Project addressing participants of the sports for peace forum in Kibra- Ligi Ndogo Grounds

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