



MEDIA BRIEF
**THE INAUGURATION OF STATE OF PEACE AND POLITICAL
DECENCY IN THE RUN UP TO THE 2022 GENERAL ELECTIONS**
FRIDAY 18TH FEBRUARY, 2022

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my distinct honor to host you here today as we launch our inaugural state of the peace briefing. As you know, elections in our country are known to bring heightened tensions. These tensions often spill over into violence and this is a situation that as a commission we find untenable. It is for these reasons that we as a commission have decided to walk with our fellow citizens in updating the nation every two weeks on the state of peace.

As the adage goes, forewarned is forewarned, so to be informed is to be forearmed. We must stay alert and vigilant in these times and you must allow us to inform you of various situations and places that are have tension or violence so that together we may ensure peace prevails.

As you all know we are a Commission dedicated to ensuring 2022 is an 'election bila noma' year. As such we will also update you on the various efforts being undertaken at all levels to ensure peace thrives. Indeed, we will update you on the **state of our elections road map, the state of the cases under investigation, those in court and those that have been determined by our courts. We will also give you a report on activities both concluded and those forthcoming.**

Finally, we will also update you on the status of various peace dialogues happening in places where ethnic violence has been reported so that you, the public and the fourth estate, are aware on what various communities have agreed on and we can collectively hold them to account.

These briefings will happen every two weeks starting from today. We hope that the media will partner with us to ensure the nation is informed and alert about keeping the peace. No matter what.

That said allow me to raise red flag and warn our politicians and the general public about.

They include;

- i. Ethnic balkanization and zoning of the country by politicians we have reiterated that no Kenyan should be barred from going anywhere in the republic to advance their political interests
- ii. Increased inflammatory attacks and hate speech by prominent political leaders
- iii. Misuse of social media platforms to perpetuate ethnic hate speech and incitement to violence. Since January 2022, hate speech on social media platforms has gone up by 20 percent
- iv. Increased level of incitements on ethnic lines
- v. Demonstrations/ hooliganism by followers of different political groups – with potential for political violence
- vi. Re-emergence of inter-communal conflicts that may lead to internal displacements in places such as Marsabit, Baringo, Elgeyo Marakwet, Turkana, Isiolo, Baringo, Lamu e.t.c.
- vii. Reawakening of organised criminal gangs and goons who may be used for intimidation, criminal activities such as robbery and ethnic violence.

- viii. Criminalizing of coalitions and politicians who decide to align themselves with different political formations which limits political freedom of choice. We should allow any person to make choices about what he or she wants to do with their vote and political affiliation.
- ix. Low voter registration especially among the youthful population which shows apathy and lack of inclusion of a large section of our society whose voices may not be heard. Self-Disenfranchisement by the youth is indeed worrying.
- x. Chest thumping among key coalition leaders that there is no way they will lose elections. This is a recipe for chaos if they lose because it may be perceived that they were rigged out.
- xi. Early campaigns and rallies that are impromptu and pose a security threat and disruption of business.
- xii. Lack of issue-based politics and agenda that unites Kenyans around ideas and not tribes
- xiii. The hustler versus dynasty narrative which is causing class friction and fear
- xiv. Amendments of elections and political party legislations that have triggered suspicion and mistrust of institutions.

Personal attacks on various candidates and their families especially dangerous as it normalizes personal attacks against opponents and therefore supporters of the other side. Leaders must be aware as they fight each other personally they are also encouraging their supporters to attack each other on a personal level and that fight may not just be words.

It is because of such personal attacks that we have seen an increase in hate speech. I therefore urge all politicians to practice caution in launching personal attacks against each other.

The Commission however, takes cognizance of the good efforts that contribute to cohesion;

- i. Certain leaders jointly condemning inflammatory statements that may divide Kenyans
- ii. Good will and support from the international community to realise a peaceful, free fair and credible elections
- iii. The multiagency approach to the management of elections

- iv. Existence off UWIANO platform for peace to push the agenda of peaceful elections

With these few remarks I thank you and now welcome some members of our commission to take you through an update on hot spots in the country followed by an update on our key initiatives that you may join and finally an update on investigations and court processes as they continue.

I welcome Commissioner,

NCIC has designed a 13 variable risk matrix to identify counties that are likely to witness election related violence. As a result, 23 counties have been identified as conflict hotspots including *Kisumu, Uasin Gishu, Nakuru, Mombasa, Nairobi, Migori, Kericho, Isiolo, Lamu, Bungoma, Kakamega, Vihiga, Trans Nzoia, Marsabit, Kiambu, Nyamira, Homa Bay, Nandi, Bomet, Murang'a, Kirinyaga, Garissa, Siaya.*

The risk factors the Commission is closely watching out for include;

- i. County being perceived as a hotspot area
- ii. A History of election related violence
- iii. Informal settlements, at risk, vulnerability, large populations, potential flash points
- iv. Multiethnic counties/ areas/ cosmopolitan areas
- v. Organized criminal gangs
- vi. Fake news, propaganda and disinformation
- vii. Potential for hate speech - Links to key dominant political leaders
- viii. High security threats/ ongoing conflicts/ insecurity likely to be exacerbated by 2022 politics
- ix. Cross-border areas with divergent political affiliations
- x. Contestation during part primaries/ nominations
- xi. Potential to spill over to or ignite other areas
12. Areas with low trust in judiciary/ court processes
13. Pre-existing local capacity to manage violence/conflict

Update on Various Peace Initiatives

The Commission is currently undertaking several peace initiatives to address some of these issues;

- i. In collaboration with the members of the UWIANO secretariat, we are revitalizing the UWIANO platform for peace to mitigate electoral violence across counties. A strategy for the period 2022 – 2023 has been launched.
- ii. Currently undertaking countrywide conflict hotspot mapping to identify areas that are likely to witness election related violence. In addition, the mapping will ascertain factors that are likely to trigger violence and proffer recommendations that can prevent and mitigate violence
- iii. The Commission has planned to implement targeted peacebuilding campaigns in all the former eight regions. The campaigns will target local peace structures, youth, women, the ordinary citizens. Various platforms and approaches will be used such as town hall meetings, barazas, sports, arts, enter-educate and dialogue and mediation forums.

- iv. Plans are underway to hold a National Symposia for elders from all ethnic groups. Regional forums will also be conducted to ensure that the elders add their voice in calling for peaceful elections.
- v. Documentary production on hate speech to create awareness amongst Kenyans while informing them on the negative consequences of hate speech
- vi. Commission currently monitoring different rallies depending on availability of resources.

Update on the Roadmap to Peaceful Elections

Since the launch of the roadmap in 2020, the Commission has made tremendous gains in realizing its objectives. The roadmap focused on five key strategic areas; ***Building Trust; Resisting Violence; Selfless Leadership; Elimination of Hate Speech and the Disruption of Violence.***

Some of the key achievements made;

- i. Revitalized multi-agency task force to combat hate speech. i.e. Ministry of Interior, the Office of the Attorney-General, the

Inspector General of the National Police Service, the Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission, the National Steering Committee on Peace building and Conflict Management and the Directorate of Criminal Investigations in enforcing the rule of law.

- ii. Published list of fame and shame in the media. Guidelines for naming and shaming hatemongers are being developed
- iii. Have trained local security actors in Uasin Gishu, Nakuru, Kilifi, Nairobi, Mombasa and other counties on hate speech management. Over 200 National Government Officers, members of peace committees have been trained, with the support of the GIZ Civil Peace Service and Swedish Embassy through UNDP
- iv. Engaged with the political class to embrace nonviolence means to resolve conflict. Through the support of the Swiss Embassy, we have promoted Peace and Political Accountability among Political Leaders and Political Parties in Eight counties (Nyeri, Uasin Gishu, Nairobi, Mombasa, Garissa, Kisumu, Kakamega and Embu) reaching 662 persons, among these, 300 being aspiring political leaders. All the 662 persons signed and committed to the Peace and Accountability charter.

- v. Plans are underway to conduct a forum with high level leaders and presidential aspirants to commit to the peace and accountability charter. In addition, the intervention will be rolled out across the 47 counties
- vi. Strengthened dialogue and Mediation mechanisms to counter electoral conflicts. In collaboration with our partners, we are preparing a list of Eminent Kenyan personalities to constitute a mediation team to mediate political conflicts
- vii. Training representatives of local peace structures such as peace committees, council of elders on ADR to assist in the resolution of local level conflicts. So far, over 100 actors have been trained in Njoro, Molo, Nandi, Kakamega, Kisumu and Kericho, with the support of GIZ Civil Peace Service
- viii. Conducted 9 community dialogue forums and peace processes: Baringo East Peace and Security Meeting, Garreh and Murule Community Peace Process, Tugen and Pokot Leaders' Meeting, The Samburu North Peace Process, The Banisa and Takaba Sub Counties Peace Dialogue Forum, The Malkamari Peace Process, The Samburu County Peace Process, Upper Baragoi Peace

Dialogue Forums, The Marakwet East Sub County Peace process and Tiaty Peace process among others.

- ix. Strengthening the NCIC social media monitoring unit through technical expertise and acquisition of software
- x. Trained journalists and bloggers from various counties on hate speech, ethnic contempt and peaceful elections
- xi. 32 counties ethnic and diverse audit were conducted and validated, the exercise targeted employment organs in the county government which include the office of the governor, the county public service board and the county assembly service board.
- xii. Hate speech management on social media and Public Spaces
- xiii. The Commission is continuously monitoring hate speech incidences both in public and social media platforms.

Hate Speech on social media

Social media monitoring

- 34 forums and pages are being monitored closely in the main social media pages.

Cases Under Investigation

There are 49 cases under different stages of active investigation,

- 22 cases at Communication Authority (CA)
- 2 cases from cybercrime Unit
- 25 cases for statement recording and further evidence to be collected

One file has been forwarded to the ODPP for review.

- Njenga Mungai

Files returned from ODPP with recommendations

- 1 file directing the commission to proceed with conflict management strategies in accordance with the NCIC mandate

A total of ten (10) cases are currently pending before various courts in the country.

1. ACCUSED: FRED MUGA SHIAMI

OFFENCE: Hate speech

CR/CF NO.: CR.141/348/17, CF.1467/17

STATUS : awaiting communication from Milimani law court

2. ACCUSED: HON. LEDAMA OLEKINA

OFFENCE: Ethnic contempt

CR/CF NO. : cr.141/117/2020, cf.740/2020

STATUS : Mention on 28th March 2022 at city court

3. ACCUSED: MATHEW NJOROGE

OFFENCE: Ethnic contempt

CR/CF NO. : CR.141/299/17, CF.1253/17

STATUS : PBC Milimani. Next hearing Accused requested to have matter settled out of court. Seeking legal advice .

4. ACCUSED: DAVIS MANYARA NJUKI

OFFENCE: Hate speech

CR/CF NO.: CR.790/570/2017, CF.2422/2017

STATUS : Pending direction from Nakuru court on conciliation date to be confirmed.

5. ACCUSED: DENNIS KIPTOO MUTAI

OFFENCE: Ethnic contempt

CR/CF NO.: CR.741/16/19, CF.233/2019

STATUS : Warrant of arrest in force. New mention date to be confirmed by Kericho law court.

6. ACCUSED: HON. JOHANNA NGENO

OFFENCE: Ethnic contempt

CR/CF NO.: CR.701/304/2020, CF.3014/2020

STATUS : next hearing to be communicated by Nakuru court

7. ACCUSED: HON. JOSEPH SAMAL LOMWA

OFFENCE: Ethnic contempt

CR/CF NO.: CR.421/168/2021, CF.E513/2021

STATUS : PBC – Hearing on 21/02/2022 at Isiolo court

8. ACCUSED: HON. SAMSON CHERARGEI

OFFENCE: Ethnic Contempt

CR/CF NO. : CR.141/452/2019, CF.2022/2019

STATUS : Case at Milimani law court, next hearing on 22nd and 23rd June 2022

9. ACCUSED: SHADRACK KIPTOO SIGEI

OFFENCE: Ethnic contempt

CR/CF. NO.: CR.760/269/18, CF.1319/18

STATUS : Pending direction from Nakuru court on conciliation
date to be confirmed

10. ACCUSED: CALEB OMBIRO

OFFENCE: Ethnic contempt

CR/CF NO. CR.641/379/2020, CF.1633/2020

STATUS : next hearing on 5th April 2022

Matters pending for conciliation

- His Excellency Governor Amason Kingi
- Her Excellency Governor Charity Ngilu
- Mr. Davis Manyara
- Mr. Matthew Njoroge
- Mr Ambrose Lasoy

Recent summons

1. Hon. Mithika Linturi
2. Hon Aaron Cheruiyot
3. Hon Jematia Sergon
4. Mr. Abubakar Amana
5. Mrs Annie Kihara
6. Hon Richard Onyonka to appear next week

7. Mr. Abdi Mohamed to appear next week

8. Hon Kareke Mbiuki to appear in march

Summoned and failed to appear

1. Hon Gladys Wanga

2. Senator Cleophas Malala

**REV. DR. SAMUEL KOBIA, CBS
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN
NATIONAL COHESION AND INTEGRATION COMMISSION**

DATED: FRIDAY 18TH FEBRUARY, 2022

END