



**PRESS STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

31ST JULY 2020

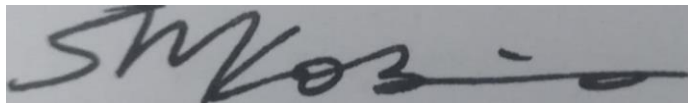
STOP HATESPEECH AND INCITEMENT TO VIOLENCE

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) is concerned with the intensified hate speech and incitement on social media in Mandera and Marsabit counties. The online conversation bordering hate speech has continued to threaten the fragile cohesion fabric in the counties and its environs. This has further strained the peaceful coexistence between two communities.

Therefore, we warn all the perpetrators, that the Commission is closely monitoring all the social media platforms for hate speech. Consequently, individuals identified shall be responsible and charged in court. While Article 33 of the Constitution guarantees freedom of expression, it does not extend to incitement to violence, hate speech or advocacy of hatred that constitute ethnic incitement, vilification of others or incitement to cause harm.

Subsequently, such remarks in the social media tend to inhibit the attainment of harmonious relationship between ethnic communities in these regions. NCIC will not relent on the peace processes recently gained in these regions. We shall continue working closely with all the stakeholders to restore peace and calmness in Mandera and Marsabit Counties.

We continue to urge residents of the two counties to remain calm and restrain, from any acts of animosity and retaliation towards each other while embracing tolerance. The Commission will continue working with law enforcement agencies to ensure calmness and a peaceful cohesive society.



REV. DR. SAMUEL KOBIA

**CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL COHESION AND INTEGRATION
COMMISSION**