



PRESS STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
7th September, 2021

POLITICAL INTOLERANCE

On 2nd of January, 2021 a group of rowdy youth blocked Senator Gideon Moi from accessing a part of Nandi. This incident was taken with cheers from one side of the political divide and with jeers from another.

On 27th of January, 2021, a clash between H.E. Raila Odinga supporters and the supporters of the Deputy President in Githurai led to injuries of a few people and further showed how intolerant we can be in our politics.

This past weekend, the 5th of September, 2021, we saw DP William Ruto's motorcade stoned in Naro Moru and being blocked from accessing a church in Kieni, Nyeri County. This is clearly therefore a worrying trend that is forming.

The NCIC would like to remind Kenyans that all politicians have a right to spread ideas to all parts of the country. This is the best way for us as a nation to weigh our options as we approach 2022. We must as early as now reject these acts of intolerance which if not checked will degenerate into violence.

It is with this in mind that we would like to warn politicians who have decided to lock their regions and make them unapproachable for their competitors to be ashamed of themselves and that we will be filing criminal charges should we find any of them responsible for such acts of intolerance. As well they must control their supporters because they too will face the full force of the law.


However let us not forget that we have seen great crowds cordially receive different leaders in different regions and we congratulate the politicians who have embraced unity despite political competition.

We must remember that it is trends that will make things better or worse in the run up to the 2022 elections. If we make a trend for tolerance then we can be sure our nation will be peaceful. If however we focus on intolerance or indeed abuses like the recent regrettable comments by an MP who used unprintable abuses in reference to the President then we are headed in the wrong direction.

We must therefore condemn in the strongest terms these acts of intolerance and the use of abusive language on the national stage. As the NCIC in conjunction with the DCI we are looking into these matters with the view of filing criminal charges against the people behind these regrettable and barbaric acts.

Our hard won democracy has been slowly but steady maturing. Embracing political decency by the political class will be a block towards the building of democratic culture. Political thuggery and intolerance on the other hand is a strong road block towards that noble goal. We have been there before in 2007/2008 when the country came close to the brink of precipice. As NCIC we will spare no efforts in helping the country to never get back to that route.

In its Roadmap to Elections Bila Noma NCIC plans to soon inaugurate national symposia series as a platform for national dialogue on all critical issues that will promote a peaceful electoral process in the run up to, during and after 2022 elections.



Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, CBS
COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

7th September, 2021