



REMARKS BY REV. DR SAMUEL KOBIA CBS, CHAIRMAN NATIONAL COHESION AND INTEGRATION COMMISSION DURING A MEETING WITH VIJANA BILA UKABILA ON MONDAY 9TH AUGUST 2021 NCIC HEADQUARTERS BRITAM TOWERS, NAIROBI

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Today we are supremely honored to welcome the Vijana Bila Ukabila Peace Initiative. Theirs is a critical contribution to elections Bila Noma (which is the NCIC's road map towards a peaceful pre and post election period); in walking from Eldoret to Mombasa these young men from diverse backgrounds have clearly demonstrated not only courage but also the dire need for Kenya to drop negative ethnicity. Nyinyi ndio mayouth man tunahitaji, vijana bila ukabila ndio wataleta elections bila noma.

It is because of this that I encourage Kenyan youth to emulate VBU Peace Initiative. Youth have the power to change this nation for indeed it is youth who are the majority and it is the youth who are also used to cause violence. This simply means that if the youth vote for the right leaders, shun violence and tribalism then Kenya would find instant peace and prosperity. Yaani vijana waamke nawaache kutumika vibaya, wasilete noma na vurugu mtaani.

We also urge all politicians to act like leaders and totally avoid tribalism, hate speech, and planning and executing violence. They should borrow a leaf from these young men and women who have taken time to ensure that the message of a more cohesive and peaceful society is what reigns supreme in Kenya. We can not overstate how vital it is for Kenya to be peaceful so that it can prosper.

Ladies and gentlemen, today being exactly a year to the 2022 elections, we must redouble our efforts to ensure a peaceful transition for our country it is in this vein that we are announcing that, in keeping with our election Bila noma road map, we are going to have every politician sign a political decency charter that will constrict them to act in a decent and civil manner. We need a political leadership that sets an example just as these young people have done today. This will also mean that the presidential candidates will sign the same charter committing themselves to the path of peace and decency in speech and action.

It is not all gloom and doom though, since we announced the creation of the walls of fame and shame and enhanced our surveillance we have noted a decline in hate speech, this is credit to Kenyans at large who have embraced a more cohesive and peaceful narrative but also to the political class that have heeded our call for peace and cohesion. We congratulate them and urge us all kuendelea hivyo hivyo.

We emphasize again that we will not tolerate hate speech and war mongering from anyone in these coming elections and indeed any other moving forward. We must remind all and sundry that we will ensure that they face social consequences by listing them on the wall of shame, we will pursue political consequences by ensuring hate mongers can not run for political office and finally we have enhanced our investigation and litigation capacity to ensure that the criminal consequences also follow swiftly.

It is for this same purpose that we will engage the VBU in our “youth to youth” encounters country wide so that they may effectively share with our youth on their journey and the need to rid ourselves of tribal and pecisive politics.

Finally we would like to declare the VBU as NCIC Cohesion Champions as such the vijana bila ukabila initiative are now candidates for the NCIC’s wall of Fame. I thank you all.