



ADDRESS BY DR. SKITTER W. OCHARO (PhD) HSC., COMMISSION SECRETARY/CEO, NATIONAL COHESION AND INTEGRATION COMMISSION, DURING THE LAUNCH OF THE 2020-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN ON 30TH JUNE 2021 AT THE BOMAS OF KENYA, NAIROBI

- **Our Chief Guest, Hon. Justice Martha Koome, EBS, Chief Justice & President of the Supreme Court of Kenya,**
- **The Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, Dr. Fred Matiang'i, EGH,**
- **Mr. George Kinoti, CBS, Director Criminal Investigations,**
- **The Chairman of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission, Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, EBS,**
- **NCIC Commissioners,**
- **Chairpersons and Members of Commissions and Independent Offices,**
- **Distinguished guests,**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen:**

Good morning! A very warm welcome to you all!

We are honored to have you all here this morning!

As a Commission, this launch marks a major milestone in shaping peace and cohesion in Kenya. Your presence not only reminds us of the task you have bestowed upon us as a Commission, but also of our partnership. This is

because we are aware the journey ahead is not one which any institution can walk alone in.

As Martin Luther King said , ‘Our survival depends on our ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant, and to face challenges of change’. **Ladies and Gentlemen**, these words have remained a source of inspiration and reassurance to us at the National Cohesion and Integration Commission.

The development of the Strategic Plan 2020-2025, was an odious task that we embarked on with zeal knowing that the nation depended on us getting it right. We took into consideration both the past and present and attempted as best as we could to forecast the future.

As you all know the NCIC has been providing a stable environment of peace and cohesion within which development thrives. Certainly, you will agree with me that development without peace is futile and peace without development is equally futile.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Strategic Plan articulates better than ever before how our mandate of promoting and facilitating equality of opportunities, peaceful resolution of conflicts and respect for diversity among Kenya’s can be coordinated and operational activities that can be implemented for greater impact.

The plan further underscores the Government's key priority areas outlined in the Big Four Agenda, Vision 2030, as well as international standards that include the African Union Agenda 2063 master plan, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in particular SDG No. 16 which speaks to Peace, justice and strong Institutions and all the related SDS. It is from this progressive and forward-thinking vision that our Five Year Strategic Plan has taken into consideration innovative strategies that will see the Commission take this country into greater heights.

I am sure you agree with me that hate speech and ethnic contempt has remained a thorn in the fragile social cohesion fabric of Kenya.

Hon Chief Justice,

We live at a time of technological change unprecedented in its pace, scope and depth of impact. The forces of hate have taken advantage of this and, hidden behind screens, they visit upon us, as crimes of hate and sow discord among our people. It forces us then to harness technology to stop these criminals against peace. Indeed, we must change exponentially and use the power of digital platforms to stop their misuse. To this end we are acquiring state of the art digital forensic. Further, we are forging strategic partnerships with Google, Facebook, and Twitter to counter hate speech narratives and fake information that may tear apart the social cohesion fabric. In short, digital space will no longer be a place where evil hides among us.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

NCIC acknowledges that prevention is better than cure. NCIC has enhanced its focus on Early Warning and Early Response systems through strategic partnerships with like-minded institutions. We are aware that by closely monitoring the nation and creating opportunities for Kenyans and our partners to raise the alarm, we will be able to stem violence. At the same time creating a rapid response capacity to stop a flare up is not only important but also life saving. To this end, the Commission has continued to work closely with the National Steering Committee on Peace Building and Conflict Prevention. Notably, the peace committees across the 47 counties have remained to be our mouthpiece, and our eyes and ears in areas where our presence is limited.

To realize peaceful 2022 General Elections, the Commission together with our partners, has revamped and strengthened UWIANO Platform for Peace. UNDP has particularly been vital in supporting this platform to ensure that more and more ordinary kenyan, peace actors and partners get involved. For NCIC to deliver a Just and Equitable Society Living in Peace, Unity and Dignity, we require an effective team. To this end we have restructured our institution by creating a more effective human resource that will deliver on these promises we are making to Kenyans.

I am also pleased to announce that we will be opening up 8 regional offices around the country that will bring our teams closer to the people and increase our service capacity.

Moreover, to improve customer experience and service delivery, we have revamped our website platform to ease interactivity with the users and get

feedback from the members of the public. I call upon the public to continue interacting with us through our website and social media handles as they are now more seamless in how they operate due to our state of the art digital control and communications room.

Distinguished Guests:

We acknowledge that national cohesion and integration is better achieved through synergies, collaboration and strategic partnerships. As such, we shall continue to strengthen the multi-agency approach to mitigate hate speech, incitement to violence, and ethnic contempt. During the five-year period, we have prioritized to continue working with the: Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC), National Police Service (NPS), Independent Electoral and Boundary Commission (IEBC), Office Director Public Prosecution (ODPP), Communication Authority of Kenya (CAK) Media Council of Kenya (MCK), and the Registrar of Political Parties (ORPP).

While we pledge to implement the strategies and activities that are laid out in the Plan, we are aware that resources are paramount. In this Strategic Plan, our resource gap is approximately Ksh. 1 billion per annum. We invite our development partners and all stakeholders to stand in the gap and help us bring peace and cohesion to our people. We can't understate how much help the international community and local peace actors have helped us now and in the past. It is our hope that we will further strengthen these partnerships and harness the goodwill you all have for the betterment of our society. In addition, the achievement of the ambitious targets in this Plan will

require sacrifice, self-discipline, determination, commitment, focus, integrity and a good dose of faith from all stakeholders.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Allow me to share my sincere gratitude to the staff and the commissioners of the NCIC for working day and night not only to have this strategic plan developed and launched but also in our everyday work of peace building. My colleagues and friends, I thank you and congratulate you for the far we have come and on the journey ahead for I have no doubt in your capacity and heart to deliver on these promises we make today.

Certainly, it is my pleasure to be a team player in the NCIC on this journey to achieve these strategic goals. We will keep Kenya at peace as she grows to greater heights. This is our COMMITMENT.

Asanteni sana!

May God bless us and bless our beloved Country Kenya.