



**REMARKS BY REV. DR. SAMUEL KOBIA
CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL
COHESION AND INTEGRATION
COMMISSION, AT THE LAUNCH OF THE
NCIC'S ROADMAP FOR A PEACEFUL 2022
GENERAL ELECTIONS ON 10TH DECEMBER,
2020 AT KENYA SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT
(KSG)**

As I stand here, I know the question that lingers in everyone's mind: As we promise today an election bila noma, will we deliver? Isn't the NCIC still a toothless bull dog? Well, CS Matiang'i, PS Kibicho, your excellences, ladies and gentlemen **the NCIC is a new organisation**. My recent appointment as the Chair, as well as my fellow commissioners' appointments is testament that the President is committed to a more peaceful nation, and based on the hard work and dedication I have seen in this commission I can assure you, **NCIC has turned a new leaf**.

Not only is this a new commission, with new commissioners but our CEO is also new having been in the office less than two weeks. We are a new team of **new brooms** and we intend to and are indeed, **sweeping clean.**

What we are launching today is the culmination of not only years of my own personal experience in peace building, but also borne from the fact that as commissioners we have spent a year going around the country listening to Kenyans and what they have to say concerning peace. We have realised that Kenyans are peaceful people. As a people we are however victims of incitement, victims of an irresponsible political class that casts us as both villains and victims in a nefarious game of political musical chairs.

As a commission we will be **the keeper of truth and virtue.** Our oath is to ensure that Kenya and Kenyans are peaceful and the days where this commission was silent when the politics of hate, division, **us vs them** was loud is over. We will fulfil our mandate without fear or favour and we will call out political players who use their platform to incite us to violence. Dear Kenyans you have my pledge

and that of my fellow commissioners that **we will not be silent anymore.**

What is more is we have realised that Kenyans don't know each other that well. We operate from **assumptions, stereotypes** and **hyperbolised tales** about each other. We must break this reality, we must create for ourselves a better understanding of each other and this commission will endeavour to do so. Not only will we aim to create peace where there is conflict but also to create knowledge and understanding where there is ignorance and fear. We want to make interculturalism a reality in Kenya. We want to see a **mugithi** night in Kisumu and an **ohangla** night in Kitui or Mathioya. We need to integrate as a people and this is something this commission is committed to. We will spare no efforts in transforming a culture of violence to a culture of peace.

For us to integrate there is a need to foster forgiveness and an alternative dispute resolution technique. To achieve this my office is speaking with the DPP to create a plea bargain mechanism where those who come out to make peace, return property gained from violence or simply to confess what is on

their guilty conscience can receive a route to freedom, healing and reconciliation. We need more Kenyans, like the brave Kenyans who shared their stories today, to live without fear or further prosecution. As I have said before, these people who suffer violence are often both villains and victims. Suffering at the cruel hand of fate and irresponsible leadership.

As a commission we will be the **custodian of national values and ethos** as spelt out in Article 10 of the Kenya Constitution 2010.

Finally ladies and gentlemen, one of the things that we suffer from as a society is the fact that **we have more educated Kenyans than we have responsible Kenyans**. Our customary rites of passage into the responsibilities of eldership have been erased. We have the right of passage for our boys into adulthood but we no longer make elders. People who are given the responsibility to shepherd the nation in a responsible and communal angle. We are looking to create a curriculum to form and grow the next leaders of this nation who are committed to **cohesion, integration, ethics and shared prosperity**.

With those many remarks I only have one request to ask of you. We need you, each and every one of you to partner with us ili:

1. Tuaminiane
2. Tuwache nuksi
3. Tuwajibike
4. Tuwache chocha
5. Tuzime noma

Ili sote tukiuke tabia mbaya za vita na rabsha.