

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AHEAD OF THE 2022 AUGUST POLLS



Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government, Dr. Fred Matiang'i, leads Senior Government officials at a press address during the strategic meeting to chart a way forward towards achieving an Elections Bila Noma, on 24th Jan 2022

Strategic Security Meeting

The NCIC Chairman Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia joined Cabinet Secretary for Interior and Coordination of National Government Hon. Dr. Fred Matiang'i CBS and other key players in the security sector for a strategic meeting to coordinate and chart a way forward towards achieving a peaceful electioneering period.

The forum brought together CS Dr. Fred Matiang'i and PS Karanja Kibicho, Director of Public Prosecutions Mr. Noordin Haji, the Inspector General of Police Mr. Hillary Mutyambai, Director of criminal investigations Mr. George Kinoti and other senior officials in the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government.

NCIC is working closely with the security sector in a multi-agency approach to realize an Elections Bila Noma.



Director of Public Prosecutions Mr. Noordin Haji (front) alongside other senior government officials during the security meeting held towards achieving an Elections Bila Noma, on 24th Jan 2022

BRAVO ! NCIC

Fourteen years since its formation, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission remains a cause for pride. This past year the Commission has experienced a remarkable upswing in its performance despite the catastrophic global pandemic and intensified elections campaign period.

Steered by the leadership of the Commission Secretary Dr. Skitter Ocharo HSC the NCIC has been able to offer diligent services allowing the commission to thrive in a number of thematic areas even as we trudge through the electioneering year. In the recently concluded 2020/2021 Values and Principles Evaluation report, the Commission not only outperformed its last years' score but also recorded the highest improvement in the overall index from 27.1% to 51.4% making it the MOST improved Government institution.

Over the years, the Public Service Commission (PSC), mandated to conduct annual evaluation on all public institutions, has been carrying out the exercise to ensure good governance, service delivery and accountability in all public institutions. In the report shared with the Commission, the institution excelled in the following thematic areas;

fln regards to service delivery improvement the commission recorded a score of 62.5%, a leap from last inancial years' 0%. This owing to the fact that the NCIC had already reviewed the service charter to Swahili and braille, targeting Kenyans from all walks especially persons with disabilities. The PSC were also happy to note that within the last one year the Commission had conducted Training Needs Assessment, adopted and implemented a sound Organizational Structure in line with Government requirement. The implementation of the Organogram has not only improved service delivery, but it has also paved way for succession planning as well as clear career growth for staff. This indeed is enviable improvement.



NCIC Chair Rev Dr. Samuel Kobia CBS, NCIC Vice Chair Comm'r Wambui Nyutu OGW, Comm'r Hon. Dorcas L. Kedogo, Comm'r, Hon. Eng. Philip Okundi, Comm'r Dr. Danvas Makori, Comm'r Hon. Abdulaziz Ali Farah, Comm'r Sam Kona and NCIC Commission secretary/CEO Dr. Skitter Ocharo, during the launch of the strategic plan 2022-2025 (Photo from the archive)

On good governance and accountability, the Commission scored 100% as a result of the code of conduct and ethics, induction manual in public institutions and induction of policy makers on Values and Principles in article 10 and 232 of the Constitution. The above-mentioned areas and many others have elevated the name of the Commission placing it among the most improved government institution in service delivery and governance. Arguably, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission has lived up to its name. This coming year the Commission will be no less active, with the elections drawing closer and greater call for peace across the country, the NCIC has enough to keep it busy. Kudos NCIC team!

“I HAVE MY LIFE BACK”, Says Ms. Adhiambo

Not only is NCIC a cohesion Commission, but a life-changing institution. Ms. Margaret Adhiambo Okwach was one morning elated upon receiving her hearing aid, and getting back her gift of hearing courtesy of NCIC Commission Secretary/CEO Dr. Skitter Ocharo, HSC and Human Resource Principal Officer, Caroline Gateru.

Ms. Adhiambo, who suffered hypoacusis since childhood, says, “A heavy load has been lifted off her shoulders.” According to Adhiambo – the longest serving employee of the Commission, there is nothing more gratifying than the feeling of being able to enjoy sounds, music and participating in discourses with people in her life.

“I have always felt lonely among my friends and colleagues as communication has been a great challenge. I’m happy all that is now in the past”, said the Senior Office Assistant.



Dr. Skitter Ocharo HSC, NCIC Commission Secretary with Margaret Adhiambo upon receiving her hearing aid on 3rd Feb 2022

During her meeting with the CEO, the ecstatic Adhiambo expressed her joy saying, “I now have my life back, I feel like a long-lost part of me has been restored. You have changed my life. May God bless and reward you Madam CEO”

She thanked her colleagues, especially Ms. Beth Nzilani and Ms. Mary Waloga, who have been of great support to her. She also expressed her gratitude to Ms. Caroline Gateru, the Principal Human Resources Officer and Ms. Elizabeth Wainaina, the Administration Officer, who directly helped her acquire the hearing aid.

Adhiambo, now a better interlocutor, looks forward to better fun-filled days ahead.

Elections Bila Noma: Conflict Hotspot Mapping Exercise

With six months to the August polls, NCIC has developed several strategies towards ensuring a peaceful electoral process, among them conducting a Conflict Hotspot Mapping exercise across the country. The exercise seeks to map out the likelihood of election violence across the country. As such, NCIC invited peace ambassadors and peace actors in general, to help analyze and understand the context of various communities, counties, regions, and country, and subsequently develop preventive and response strategies that would lead to the realization of an ‘Elections Bila Noma’.



NCIC officials engage participants during the conflict mapping exercise in Meru County, on 15th February 2022

Specifically in line with NCIC’s Roadmap to a violent-free election, the Hotspot Mapping Exercise aims at enhancing substantial capacities on early warning and early response ahead, during and after the 2022 General Elections. Through this exercise, NCIC hopes to build productive partnerships through synergies, particularly with Kenyans– now, during and beyond the imminent elections.

The Commission acknowledges that the lack of trust that exists between the public and government institutions is one of the biggest roadblocks to a peaceful 2022 general election. Through this study, and the recommendations targeted at preventing and mitigating electoral violence as shall be proposed by all the players, to break this barrier and give space for interventions that would forthwith realize an Elections Bila Noma.

The Commission is cognizant of the fact that challenges of securing a **VIOLENT-FREE ELECTION** are enormous, but through actions such as this, it remains confident that this task can easily be achieved, especially through sharing of ideas, challenges, and most importantly, solutions to the issues that ail us as a country, especially around electoral cycles.



NCIC Commissioner Dr. Danvas Makori addressing participants during the conflict mapping exercise in Kitui County, on 16th February 2022



NCIC Commissioner Hon. Dorcas Kedogo addresses the audience during the CMD/NCIC partnership conference on 31st Jan 2022

Centre for Multiparty Democracy Kenya Partnership

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission has called on political parties to embrace issue-based politics and tame their straying members in order to attain violent free elections. Speaking in a conference targeting political parties, state and non-state actors. The two-day conference held on 31st January 2022 aimed at preventing and mitigating violence ahead of the 2022 General Elections. The Commission Vice Chairperson urged the political players to sign the Political Decency and Peace Charter to enhance accountability. Addressing the same meeting convened by the NCIC, Center for Multiparty Democracy Kenya and the International Republican Institute, Commissioner Hon. Dorcas Kedogo encouraged political players to desist from spewing hate and inciting communities against each other, especially on social media platforms.



NCIC Vice Chair Comm'r. Wambui Nyutu, OGW gives her address during the CMD/NCIC partnership on 31st Jan 2022

MoUs with Global Peace Foundation and Mercy Corps

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) signed Memoranda of Understanding, with Global Peace Foundation and MercyCorps. These partnerships are aimed at aiding the Commission's efforts to deliver a peaceful electioneering period scheduled to take place on the 9th of August 2022. The signing of these MoUs signaled a relationship of mutual benefit by building linkages and synergies of both institutions in the realization of their respective mandates.

Speaking during the exercise, the Commission Secretary/CEO Dr. Skitter Ocharo lauded the Global Peace Foundation and MercyCorps for their strong interest, and unwavering support for the Commission.

Dr. Skitter averred that to attain success in its endeavor to deliver on its mandate, NCIC had achieved a number milestones including: Strengthened peace-building, national values and cultural systems in institutions of learning; Influenced the Cohesion and Integration Agenda in Public Institutions; Enhanced inter and intra communal relations through dialogue and mediation processes; Promoted Compliance and Enforcement of Hate Speech Law; Strengthened Early Warning and Early Response Mechanisms for peaceful elections; and Increased the generation of knowledge on cohesion issues through research.

The Commission Secretary was however keen to mention that despite the aforementioned achievements, the Commission had encountered several challenges including: Budgetary constraints; Limited understanding of the Commission's mandate by the Kenyan public; Limited resources to ensure sustainability of community social contracts and peace agreements; Multiplicity of drivers of conflict and violence; the Statutory nature of the Commission; and the Slow judicial process.

“These partnerships are specifically key for the Commission as it implements its Elections Bila Noma Roadmap.

It is key to note that the delivery of a peaceful electoral process cannot be achieved by one. Partnerships such as the ones These partnerships are specifically key for the Commission as it implements its Elections Bila Noma Roadmap. It is key to note that the delivery of a peaceful electoral process cannot be achieved by one. Partnerships such as the ones being formalized this morning will go a long way in assisting the country realize a peaceful electioneering period.” Added Dr. Skitter.

The MoU envisaged the two institutions collaborating in the following three main areas; Civic Education and Advocacy, Reconciliation and Integration; and Information sharing and awareness creation. The areas of cooperation are however not limited to the aforementioned.



NCIC Commission Secretary/CEO Dr. Skitter Ocharo and Global Peace Foundation Executive Director Daniel Juma Omondi sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions. Present in the meeting is the Director Research and Knowledge Management, Ms. Millicent Okatch and Principal Legal Officer, Mr. James Wanyande on 2nd February 2022.

NCIC to Collaborate with Kenyans of Goodwill

On 31st January 2022, gospel artist/song writer, Emmy Kosgei paid a courtesy call to the Commission Secretary/CEO, Dr. Skitter Ocharo HSC. During the visit, the gospel artist presented a proposal to the Commission on clearly thought-out strategies that would involve a wide array of artists to drive the peace agenda ahead of the August polls.

The Commission has continued to invite Kenyans of goodwill, especially those in high positions of influence to join in campaigning for an Elections Bila Noma, as well as use their positions to advocate for responsible politics.



NCIC CEO Dr. Skitter Ocharo HSC alongside Deputy Director Mr. Killian Nyambu engaging Gospel Artist Emmy Kosgei during her courtesy call to the Commission on 31st January 2022.

Kenya Vision 2030 Dialogue Forum

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission has continued to forge strategic collaborations in its path to chart a way forward towards delivering an Elections Bila Noma. On the 26th of January 2022, the Commission took part in a dialogue forum convened by Kenya Vision 2030 secretariat and Office of the Registrar of Political Parties as one of the key partners spearheading the Elections Bila Noma campaign, to deliberate on the role of political parties on national development. Representing the Commission in the forum was Ms. Nancy Mulu, Senior Program Officer, who called upon all political parties to take lead in combating hate speech and political intolerance, while rallying their members to embrace divergent views from opponents, considering that their positions and status allows them to influence a wide audience.



NCIC Senior Program Officer, Ms. Nancy Mulu during the political party's dialogue forum on 26th Jan 2022.

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National Council of NGOs meets NCIC CEO

In line with NCIC's Roadmap to a peaceful election dubbed Uchaguzi Bila Noma, the Commission through the office of the Commission Secretary Dr. Skitter Ocharo HSC held a meeting with the National Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to explore areas of collaboration ahead of the August polls.



Commission secretary/CEO Dr. Skitter Ocharo HSC with members of the National Council of NGOs during a courtesy call at the NCIC offices on 26th Jan 2022

Strategic Partnership with NCIC and the European Center for Electoral Support together with Elog Kenya

On 17th January the Commission Secretary Dr Skitter Ocharo HSC met the European center for electoral support officials to discuss areas of partnership in conducting the Electoral Political Economy Analysis (EPEA) that seeks to identify underlying factors, values, ideas regarding electoral processes with focus on electoral integrity.



NCIC representatives engaging members of ECES and ELOG Kenya at the NCIC boardroom on 25th Jan 2022

In the same breadth and in partnership with the European Center for Electoral Support, NCIC engaged Elog



NCIC Deputy Director Dr. Sellah King'oro along with other NCIC staff engaging the ELOG and ECES team at the NCIC boardroom on 25th Jan 2022

on an electoral political economic analysis that scrutinizes the current electoral environment to identify dynamics of guaranteeing electoral integrity ahead of the August polls.

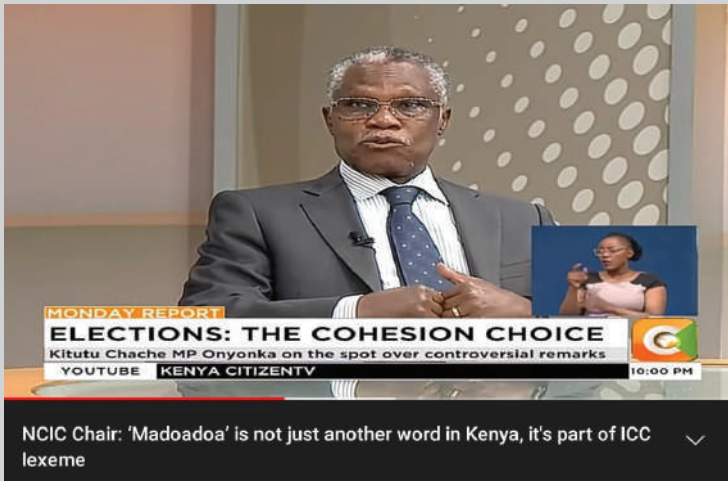
NCIC IN THE MEDIA

In a bid to popularize the Commission's Roadmap towards an Elections Bila Noma, NCIC engaged the public on various forums including via mainstream media. On 10th Jan 2022, NCIC Chairman Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia joined Citizen TV Presenter Trevor Ombija on the Monday Report program to stamp the stand of the Commission on the ongoing hate speech and incitement remarks, especially on the 'madoadoa' remark made by Meru Senator Mithika Linturi in Uasin Gishu county.

The Chairman categorically expounded on the issue of Senator Linturi's remarks, saying his case held more weight due to the context and place these remarks were made. He went ahead to address the claims that NCIC was using double standards when dealing with hate speech case.

On this, the Chair noted that, 'Looking at the list the Commission has dealt with, involving those accused of hate speech, it cuts right across both political divides. We have dealt with people according to how and the context within which they have expressed hate speech'.

Rev. Dr. Kobia also added that the use of the term 'madoadoa' in Eldoret and Uasin Gishu at large evoked memories of the 2007/2008 post-election violence, terming it as part of ICC lexeme. He assured the public that NCIC shall continue to discharge its mandate without fear of intimidation and interference.



NCIC Chair Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia CBS during an interview at Citizen TV on 10th Jan 2022

On 25th January 2022, NCIC Commissioner Hon. Eng. Philip Okundi was invited for a live interview on KBC TV, with the News-check programme.

During the interview, the Commissioner expounded on the looming issue of hate speech-related cases, while addressing political intolerance as an element for hate speech. He used the opportunity to explain the NCIC Roadmap, while assuring Kenyans of a peaceful electioneering process.

“We are monitoring potential causes of violence between persons across the country, including among various clans with the aim of addressing the root causes of hate speech, negative ethnicity and violence,” said the commissioner while expounding on the Commission's efforts to monitor hate speech. The Commissioner went on to add that NCIC has marked hot spot areas likely to violence, as well as increased sensitization programs in the said areas.

He urged Kenyans to restrain from engaging in explosive politics, calling them to maintain peace and ignore influence by politicians to engage in violence.

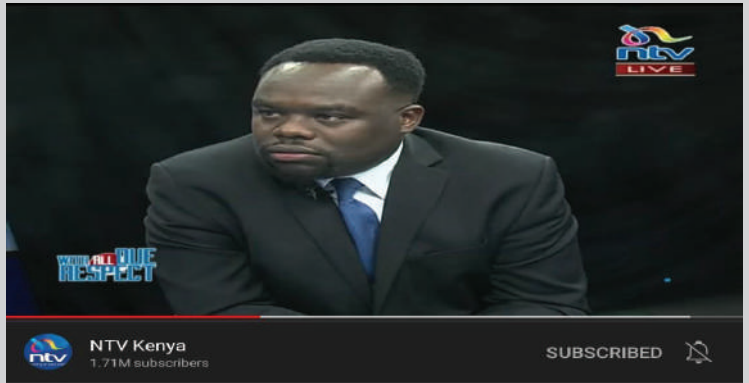


NCIC Commissioner Hon. Eng. Phillip Okundi during the KBC TV interview on 25th Jan 2022

On the same breadth, Commissioner Dr. Danvas Makori received an invitation to NTV's With All Due Respect programme by James Smart on 11th January 2022.

The Commissioner emphasized on the Commission's chief mandate as a peacebuilding and reconciliation body, rather than as an investigator. He also cited the issue of separation of power, keenly pointing out that government bodies work as a unit to ensure convictions for law-breakers.

Dr. Makori also added that in its quest to provide equal opportunity for all, NCIC has been holding grassroots meetings with the people, to establish the root cause of inequalities.



NCIC Commissioner Dr. Danvas Makori during the NTV interview on 9th January 2022.

NCIC step up Measures to curb Hatespeech

Between the months of December 2021 and January 2022, the attention of the NCIC was drawn to reckless remarks. The Commissioner went on to add that NCIC has marked hot spot areas likely to violence, as well as increased sensitization programs in the said areas.

He urged Kenyans to restrain from engaging in explosive politics, calling them to maintain peace and ignore influence by politicians to engage in violence. 2. On January 8, 2022 at a rally in Eldoret,

Senator Mithika Linturi made incitement remarks where he used the word madoadoa to refer to opponents' supporters. Madoadoa has a pejorative connotation in the country that evokes dark memories of the horrific incidents of the 2007-2008 post elections violence.

3. While addressing residents in Kipsigis on 8th January 2022 Senator Aaron Cheruiyot used derogatory terms referring to Kesses MP Mishra Kiprop saying he doesn't belong to the Kalenjin community hence had no right to hold a political position there.

4. While addressing residents of Kisii, Kitutu Chache South MP Richard Onyonka made i

4. While addressing residents of Kisii, Kitutu Chache South MP Richard Onyonka made insightful remarks that could potentially evoke violence.



Senator Mithika Linturi awaiting a court ruling at a Nakuru Court on 26th Jan 2022

These politicians have since been summoned by the NCIC to appear before the Commission and record statements as well as follow other investigative procedures. Some of the cases are in the courts awaiting further action.

The NCIC has however taken several measures to curb and contain hate speech including; These tremendous efforts to curb hate speech and the efforts include:

- NCIC has proposed amendments in the NCI Act. These amendments such as among other things the penalty to hate speech, tackling hate speech on social media and admissibility of electronic evidence. NCIC urges parliament to give due consideration to the proposed amendments.

The Multi-Agency is chaired by the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government. Department of Justice), Office of the Inspector



Senator Aaron Cheruiyot appearing before NCIC for questioning on 12th Jan 2022.

Inspector General of Police (IG) and Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission;

- Formation/establishment of Special courts to handle hate speech cases, an idea which was welcomed by the judiciary and will soon be taking effect. Government. Department of Justice), Office of
- NCIC is working on formalizing the guidelines to be used when coming up for the wall of shame and wall of fame.

Hate speech is the precursor to violence and has [been] every electioneering year in this country.



PHOTO SPEAK



NCIC Commission Secretary/CEO Dr. Skitter Ocharo HSC alongside Global Peace Foundation and Senior NCIC officials pose for a photo after signing an MoU on 2nd February 2022



NCIC Deputy Director Research Dr. Sellah King'oro addressing participants in Uasin Gishu County during the conflict mapping exercise on 15th February 2022.



NCIC, ORPP and Vision 2030 officials during the Kenya Vision 2030 dialogue forum at the Crowne Plaza hotel, Nairobi on 26th Jan 2022.



NCIC Commission Secretary/CEO Dr. Skitter Ocharo HSC alongside other NCIC officials pose for a photo with Gospel artist Emmy Kosgei during a courtesy call at the NCIC offices on 31st Jan 2022.



Commission secretary/CEO Dr. Skitter Ocharo HSC with members of the National Council of NGOs during a courtesy call at the NCIC offices on 26th Jan 2022.