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PRESS STATEMENT

LAUNCH OF HATELEX: LIST OF WORDS CATEGORIZED AS HATESPEECH

As the apostle James correctly opines, James 3:5 AMPC
[5] Even so the tongue is a little member, and it can boast of great things. See how much wood or how great a forest a tiny spark can set ablaze!

Our tongues may be small members of the body but they do certainly cause unspeakable trouble both in our homes and in our societies. We know tongues have ruined marriages and caused wars.

As students of history we also know that every serious genocide, tribal clash or ethnic cleansing has always been led by using words to dehumanize a people. More than bullets it is words that set the ground for ethnic disquiet.

It is with this crystal clear understanding that we chose to create a list of words that we know are problematic in how they are used in the 2022 campaigns.

These are not words that we have chosen because we felt like, but rather they are words we have listed because we followed conversations and how those conversations have been framed towards violence.

Mission: *To promote national unity, equity and the elimination of all forms of ethnic discrimination by facilitating equality of opportunities, peaceful resolution of conflicts and respect for diversity among Kenyan communities.*

Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, C.B.S.(Chairperson)

Commissioners: Hon. Abdulaziz A. Farah, Hon. Eng. Philip O. Okundi, Hon. Dorcas L. Kedogo, Mr. Sam Kona,

Dr. Danvas Makori, Ms. Wambui Nyutu, OGW.

Commission Secretary/CEO - Skitter W. Ocharo, PhD, HSC

We are fully aware that politicians will try to say that we are targeting their slogans, but this isn't about slogans but rather how those are used and what is currently obtained.

Any word here listed is a word that has been used as a tool to rally hate against a group of people. We will not sit and twiddle our thumbs as words are used to ignite our country.

As we read out these words we urge you to not look at it with typical political exuberance but with soberness. Politicians must remember that though it is easier to mobilize via division it is much more noble to mobilize by unity and bridging the divides that can form between us.



Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia CBS
Chairman
National Cohesion and Integration Commission

8TH APRIL 2022

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