



PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

3rd FEBRUARY, 2021

DESIST FROM DIVISIVE POLITICS AHEAD OF THE 2022 GENERAL ELECTIONS

In recent months, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission has witnessed a distending disregard for adherence to national values and tolerance – a trend that is inherently disturbing. With over 15 months to the next General Elections, we are not just concerned that the political temperature is hastily rising, but that the country continues to be subjected to premature campaigns, sometimes accompanied by violence as was witnessed in, Burma Market, Githurai In Nairobi. The commission condemns the event in Kisii where senior citizens fight in public.

In the recent past, we have noted with concern, political factions, especially from *Kieleweke and Tangatanga*, engaging in vicious and selfish rhetoric. We are saddened by acts of violence and negative political rhetoric by some politicians and their followers. We condemn the toxicity of these baseless acts and take this early opportunity to remind politicians witnessed fighting and insulting each other in public, that **THIS IS AN INSULT TO KENYANS WHO VOTED FOR YOU! We hereby call the Youths to resist been recruited by politicians as goons and warn them that they shall be held**

accountable to their violent actions. The goons cannot hide in an anonymity! We shall go for them; you can run but not hide. Those who are using the vulnerable youths, We are watching you.

We expect that political parties, as the vehicles of representative democracy, should play critical roles in making representative democracy a reality, key of which is to integrate the diverse groups into a cohesive nation. We can upon the political parties to take action to the leaders who contravenes the code of Conduct.

With just over a year to go before the country's next polls, we are greatly concerned that the current political climate can be likened to that which preceded the electoral violence in 2007/2008. In fact, the current negative discourse is slowly, but stealthily planting visceral dislike, mistrust, and animosity among a people who have co-existed peacefully - a situation likely to heighten perceptions of ethnic inequality and exclusion in this country.

To those propagating hate speech and incitement to violence on social media and other platforms - **BE WARNED** – as we will not condone any form of hate speech, dangerous speech or whipping of emotions. We have a sophisticated technology that is able to fish out and therefore we shall bring you out.

We are working together with other multi agencies; IEBC, EACC, Registrar of Political Parties, DPP and DCI to work in concert in

dealing with those creating violence and undermining cohesion, harmony and peace in the country. We are convening a National Symposium to have Kenyans discuss issues that will lead to a peaceful process towards elections 2022.

Pursuant of NCI Act 2008 Section 26 (2, b) Shall publish the names of persons or institutions whose words or conduct may undermine peace and harmony.

The list of Shame and Fame is now up, and the first person is **Mr. Mohamed Abdikhaim** Osman (MP Fafi) and **Ms. Charity Gathambi** (MP Njoro) on the list of Fame and on the list of shame are **Mr. Johana Ng'eno**, **Mr. Mike Sonko**, **Mr. Simba Arati** (Dagoretti North MP) and **Mr. Silvanus Osoro** (South Mugirango MP)

Fellow Kenyans, there is more that unites us than divides us as a people. We MUST rise up now and refuse to be divided. We urge you to imbibe positive values as stipulated by our Constitution, as well as embrace attributes of tolerance towards each other. We refuse to go back to the old days...**NOT NOW, NOT IN 2022, NOT EVER!**

GOD BLESS KENYA



REV. DR. SAMUEL KOBIA

CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL COHESION AND INTEGRATION COMMISSION