



**PRESS STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
4th OCTOBER, 2020**

**RISING POLITICAL TEMPERATURES AND INTOLERANCE CAUSING DIVISION
AMONG KENYANS**

We, the leadership of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission pass our sincere condolences to the families and friends of the individuals who have lost their lives in Murang'a County earlier today.

We express our collective outrage at the rising political temperatures in the country. Over the past few months, we have noted with concern, the hatred, bigotry, and political rhetoric that is slowly degenerating into violence. We do note, with deep concern, that the attacks, and counter-attacks, have created space for threats of violence to emerge. Of significance, is the hustlers-dynasty dichotomy that mirrors the narrative that preceded the Rwanda Genocide. We are sickened by blatant manifestations of hatred and intolerance, including by public figures. It is unfortunate that this is happening in the midst of a pandemic that has wreaked havoc on lives and livelihoods of millions of Kenyans.

Our attention is drawn to the loss of two lives in Murang'a earlier today following violent confrontations between two opposing groups. We warn that the proliferation of criminal and organized groups must be arrested before it gets out of hand. We unequivocally condemn these acts of intolerance, incitement, violence, and murder. We not only call upon the security forces to apprehend the perpetrators, but would like to remind Kenyans and politicians in general that this country has deep reverence for the Constitution and the rule of law. Non-

violence is fundamental to that right. We use this sad event that has erupted in Murang'a County to reaffirm the need to respect divergent views, and to remember the values of peace, national ethos, and cohesion that represent the people of Kenya.

We implore upon top politicians to help discourage the rhetoric of hate and violence that has escalated in recent months. We vigorously support constructive, honest, and useful public debate, but we will not condone discourses that prematurely draw us into an early campaign period. At the same time, we insist that all political parties recognize the rights of each Kenyan. The right to life, the right to freedom, the right to enjoy the privileges of the Constitution.

On today's development in Murang'a, we call upon the security and investigative agencies to identify, arrest and prosecute those who might have participated in mobilizing and organizing the youth that ended up in causing violent confrontation. To our youth, we urge you to resist being used and manipulated by politicians and other negative forces in our society.

After a history of violence and instability following the post-election violence in 2007, it should be clear that violence is not a solution to the challenges facing this country. Not today. Not in the future.

GOD BLESS KENYA

REV. DR. SAMUEL KOBIA
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL COHESION AND INTEGRATION COMMISSION