



**THE SECOND STATE OF PEACE AND POLITICAL DECENCY IN THE RUN UP TO
THE 2022 GENERAL ELECTIONS**

18TH MARCH 2022

1. Ladies and gentlemen

I must thank you all for making time to join us on this second state of the peace address. It is a platform we have decided to use to allow us to engage directly with Kenyans on the state of peace and to update them on how the NCIC is keeping its pledge dubbed 'elections bila noma'.

This will happen monthly and as the election nears we may increase the frequency so that we can not only inform but also engage and give early warnings.

I am aware that all of you watching at home and those gathered here, have one major question in your minds. That question is the question of madoadoa. First I must assure you that the NCIC summoned the Rt. Honorable Raila Odinga over his statements mentioning the term madoadoa. That initiated a comprehensive investigation and we continue to promise Kenyans that as far as it is within the purview of our institution no fish will be too big to fry.

In the same vein we are going to publish a list of Kiswahili, English and vernacular words that constitute coded hate speech. These words will henceforth be banned from any rally, social media post and any political talk show. This will go a long way in containing hate speech and ensuring our nation is secure during this electioneering period.

The NCIC has declared all out war against hate speech and will be meeting with all key stakeholders within the investigative, prosecutorial and judicial sectors to streamline the curbing of any possible violence in the country. As you have heard already we are monitoring all TV, radio and social media to ensure we are aware of what is going on. At the same time we need to ensure that evidence gathering is done professionally and quickly. This will require the acquisition of high end gadgets to do so.

We are also in talks with the inter-religious council with whom we will meet and craft peace messages that will be read out in mosques, churches and temples to ensure the whole country receives the message of peace on a regular basis. This is critical because we know there is no faith that does not preach peace, love and cohesion.

Once again let me take this opportunity to thank you all for coming and for watching from wherever you are. This platform shall continue to be a place where we seek not only to inform and but also to enforce the peace we need in our country.

Asanteni sana.

2. As we move closer to the General Election scheduled for 9th August 2022, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission has together with her partners enhanced her programmes to attain a Violence Free Elections. As a commission we are pleased to report that there has been relative peace and calm across the country except for a few incidences that we deem as triggers of violence and conflict if not tamed. We have witnessed intense competition and electoral reforms that has spawn new coalitions. These coalitions have provided space for a tight race that has elevate political tension across the various political divides. . The fluidity of these political identities, coupled with the understanding of the personae involved, is definitely propagating some contempt among voters. Therefore as a Commission mandated to facilitate peaceful coexistence among all Kenyans we are urging Kenyans from all walks of life to guard peace and ensure an ***Election Bila Noma.***

Increased stock theft: Currently being used as a trigger to cause tension and conflict among communities living along cross-border areas. We are perturbed with the emerging trend in Nyanza Region, which has been largely quite up to very recent in January 2022 that it witnessed cross-border tensions. We want to urge the communities living in these areas, Kisumu /Kericho, Nandi/Kisumu and Kuria east borders to maintain the peace they have enjoyed in the past, and not to allow criminals used by certain individuals to cause ethnic divisions. The Commissions is closely monitoring the following identified hot spots in Kisumu, Kericho and Nandi counties; Koguta (on Muhoroni/ Kericho border); Londiani Fortenan, Sondu, ((the neighboring communities in this region) Nyagacho (Informal

settlement in Kericho, Chebao area in Litein Ward, Bureti sub-county and Kasoit ward in Ainamoi sub county.

We urge the security teams to be alert and deal with criminals and individuals behind the inter-communal conflicts, occasioned by stock theft and incitements. We are aware of the objective behind such vices, is to cause internal displacements. The NCIC remains committed to resolving the roadblocks to peace, identified countrywide.

Hotspot Mapping: The ongoing conflict hot spot mapping in 8 regions (former administrative provinces) being carried out by NCIC, have identified the following additional counties for possible political violence in North Eastern and Coast Regions.

3. *Hate speech, inflammatory attacks and misuse of social*

Media platforms: We have noted with concern increase inflammatory attacks, ethnic contempt and hate speech- by prominent political leaders; cascaded to their followers within public spaces – markets, funerals, other social gatherings

Social media platforms is awash with ethnic hatred, hate speech and incitement to violence. In the month of February 2022 alone, we flagged out nine ethnic and hate speech cases. The main perpetrators

of these are ardent followers of 2022 politics of succession, largely Azimio La Umoja and Kenya kwanza.

The increasing political utterances such as '*madoadoo in the context of political rallies*' is causing discord among communities living along the borders, settlements which is largely interpreted to mean non-locals.

Diminishing democratic space: We talked about criminalizing of coalitions and politicians who decide to align themselves with different political formations, this has persisted. Kenya's democratic space must be guarded at all costs, criminalizing of coalition formations limits political freedom of choice. We should allow any person to make choices about what he or she wants to do with their vote and political affiliation.

A call to Peace at all cost.: Kenyan's are faced with numerous challenges due to increasing economic burden arising from the impact of covid 19 pandemic, and elections fever. The Russian/Ukraine war has exacerbated the situation. Research shows peace is a priority number one for Kenya. They are calling for peaceful elections at all cost! We call on our leaders to respect the desire of the people.

Electoral Reforms: As we are all aware, one of the issues that were of concern to Kregler and his to team is amendment of election laws immediately before elections. As of now, there are pending

amendments to election laws. We therefore advise the parliament to fast track the amendment to bring certainty as to what the players expect thereby avoiding surprises and ambush which are recipe for contestations and chaos. Further, we urge all stakeholders in electoral process to keep political players and Kenyans abreast on the process.

4. Update on Various Peace Initiatives

In the month of February and March, the Commission has been undertaking several peace initiatives to address some of these issues;

- i. The National Cohesion and Integration Bill 2018 has undergone the first reading in Parliament. It has further been referred to the Parliamentary Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity for consideration, and for subjection to public participation and final reporting. We have been invited to make on the proposed NCI Amendment Bill 2022.
- ii. Targeted nationwide Peace campaigns – so far we have conducted targeted activities in six counties namely; Kisumu, Kericho, Nandi, Nakuru, Migori and Homabay
- iii. In collaboration with the 12 Institutions, UWIANO platform for peace was revitalized. This platform is key in creating synergies among peace actors - state and non- state actors to mitigate electoral violence across counties. A strategy for the period 2022 – 2023 was launched on the 8th March 2022.

- iv. Conducted Intergenerational dialogue between elders and youth drawn from all the 47 counties. The theme for the dialogue was Transformative leadership for violence free elections. Documentary production on hate speech to create awareness amongst Kenyans while informing them on the negative consequences of hate speech
- v. In partnership with UN, the Commission developed National Action plan for Hate Speech Management. This plan will go a long way in consolidating the efforts for mitigation of hate speech and ethnic contempt.
- vi. We have continued monitoring different political rallies, and investigations of hate speech cases. Consequently we have recorded 51 cases and are currently at different stages of investigations. 36 social media platforms are under close scrutiny by the Commission.



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Chairman

National Cohesion and Integration Commission