



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

8TH APRIL 2022

Violence Free Elections ahead of the August 2022 polls remains our core business. At the onset allow me to commend the Judiciary for delivering the long-awaited determination of the Building Bridges Initiative. In this regard, we urge you to respect the determination of the court and refrain from politicizing the outcome of the ruling.

My commitment to Kenyans, was to issue monthly statement on the state of peace and political decency in the country, as we draw closer to elections. With just 124 days to elections, I wish to speak on the following issues:

Hate speech and inflammatory attacks

Inflammatory attacks, ethnic contempt, hate speech, political intolerance as well a zoning of regions have become the order of the day in the recent past. I have in the recent past issued statements in regards to the incidences that we witnessed. I wish to commend the other Government agencies that picked up the matter for investigation. We call on Kenyans to ensure that they embrace issue-based politics over tribal or any other form of divisive narratives.

Misuse of social Media platforms:

Social media platforms are flooded with ethnic hatred, hate speech and incitement to violence. Since March 2022 we flagged out 12 cases, which are under cyber forensic investigations. Indeed this is a rise compared to the previous months. We have noted regroupings and new political forums in the social media platforms. This can be attributed to the ongoing party nominations and the upcoming general elections. The main perpetrators of these are advent followers of 2022 politics of succession, largely Azimio and UDA followers.

Political contestation over party primaries

We are concerned over the upward trajectory of political intolerance among dominant political parties. Over the past two weeks we have observed incidences of violence among followers of major political parties. This is uncalled for! We condemn such actions of hooliganism, stone throwing, incitements and bitter exchanges which might throw us to dark ages before multiparty democracy was attained in Kenya. While protesting is a democratic right for every Kenyan, it must be done within the confines of the Law. I urge the political leaders to reign on their rogue members.

Boda Boda Group – Being used as Criminal groups/gangs

From the concluded hotspot mapping done by the commission across the 47 counties, we are gravely concerned that some boda Boda groups are metamorphosing into criminal gangs. We call upon the relevant bodies to arrest this situation before it goes out of hand. As Commission, and in cooperation with the NYS, we commit to train bodaboda on cohesion and national ethos and values; even as we call other actor to also provide basic entrepreneurship and leadership training to bolster the sector.

Hate speech status update

39 social forums are being monitored closely.

There are 49 cases under different stages of active investigation,

- 10 cases are before court reports at Communication Authority;
- 7 are pending conciliation

Social media monitoring Progress Report:

Introduction

This report highlights the progress analysis for the month ending 30/3/2022. In the cause of this month, we encountered the following cases that stirred up hate and incitement on different social media platforms.

The report seeks to answer the following questions:

- 1) Number of cases flagged out/investigated/finalized
- 2) Issues Causing a stir in the country
- 3) Social media platforms being monitored closely
- 4) Challenges
- 5) NCIC mentioned
- 6) Recommendations
- 7) Conclusion

1. Number of cases flagged out

This month we were able to flag out 7 incitement cases which we are working on. The trend of cases highlighted on a monthly basis has been on the rise due to the current political temperatures before elections. The table below show analysis of flagged out cases.

Comparison of Hate speech found on Facebook and twitter in the Month of March 2022.			
WEEK	FACEBOOK	TWITTER	RATIO
Week 1	60%	40%	3:02
Week 2	79.00%	21.00%	4:01
Week 3	95.50%	4.50%	1.91
Week 4	80.00%	20.00%	4:00

2. Issues causing a stir in the country

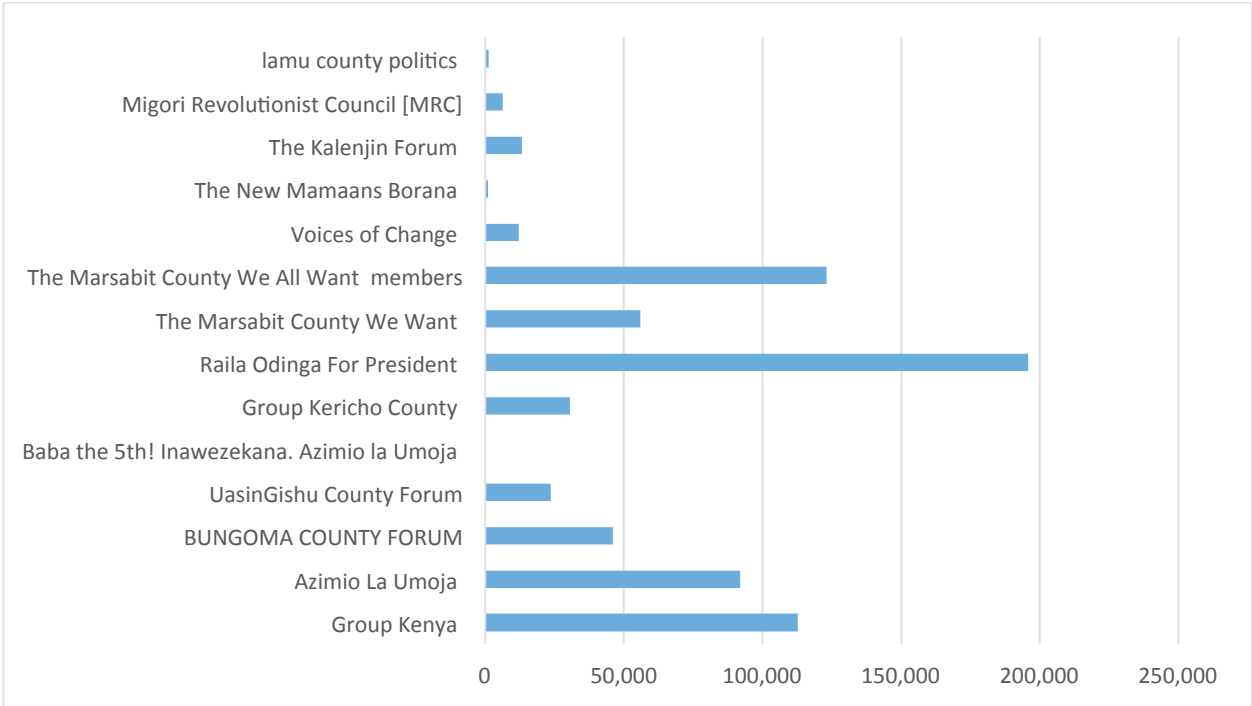
There have been political temperatures since the beginning of the year. Hence, our need to monitor further on the causes of the said temperatures in various counties and groups/pages. Below are the reasons that have brought about these unrests:

- a) Political parties' nominations
- b) Raila's Chopper Stoned After Mzee Kibor's Burial
- c) Shooting of the Mvita aspirant Hon Ali Mwatsau three days ago.

3. Social media platforms

The social media platforms we monitored includes Facebook, Twitter, Youtube among others. The highest number that we identified to be spreading hate/incitement was Facebook followed by Twitter. In addition, we also received emails from the general public reporting complaint. The SMS (15666) platform also consisted of a few reports on hate and incitement.

Analysis of some key groups identified hate speech and incitement during this period;



The above groups had an increase in tribal hate and incitement as well as a rise in the membership as compared to previous months.

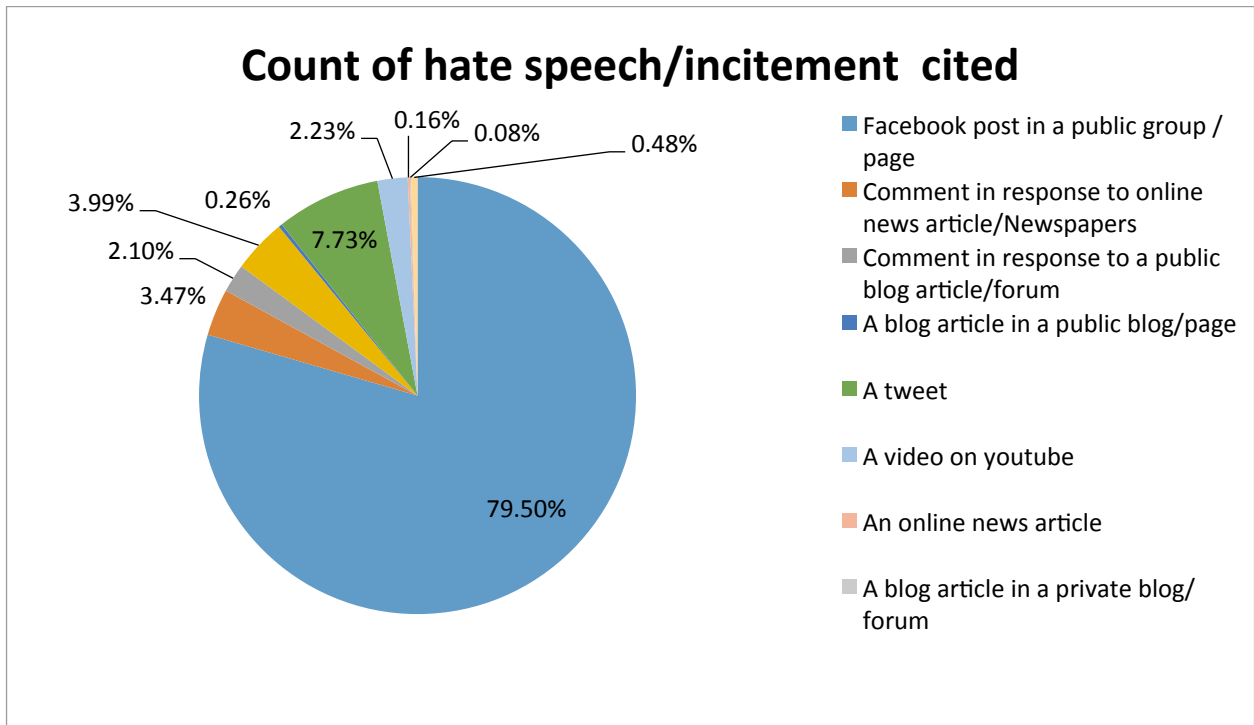


Chart 1. Analysis of social media platforms usage

4. Challenges Encountered

As it has previously been highlighted, there has been a big challenge in monitoring and investigation purposes. This has delayed some cases in the social media to be identified on time. It has also affected the major issues of fake accounts, deleted posts as well as timely capturing of data/information. Below are further challenges we have been encountering in our work:

Manual Monitoring

We have been monitoring the sites manually as the free tools available online do not allow for particularly important privileges that would have helped in easier monitoring. Besides using the little privileges these tools offer, we have always tried to capture some posts and platforms by manually maneuvering throughout the various sites likely to spread hate/incitement.

Anonymous Accounts

Most social media accounts that spread hate messages normally use fake account names which deems it impossible to identify the real culprit behind the fake accounts. Considering the security

measures that have been put up in these platforms, it becomes difficult to identify a user with a fake account.

5. NCIC mentioned

NCIC has been mentioned in various social media platforms for the good job they are doing in coping with incitements across the country and also in various instances it's being called upon to take action on issues touching on hate speech and incitements as shown in the diagrams below.

David Ogwagwa Mokaya @davidmokaya63
Attn:
[@DCI_Kenya](#) [@EACCKenya](#)
[@NCIC_Kenya](#).
Look at this venom from this warmonger. And he is still free bcos he is a supporter of Azimio....
[facebook.com/newshorizon/vi...](#)

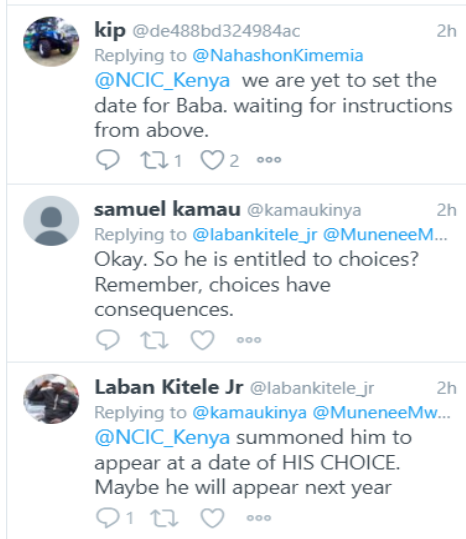
Baringo Capital News - Mtaona Moto. | Facebook
facebook.com

5:26pm · 3 Apr 2022 · Twitter for Android

Captain B. Parsitei @barsitei_boit 59m
William Ruto is now competing against biased [@nmg](#), Kenyatta family, pres. Unye himself, [@royalmediatd](#) houses, MKF, [@StandardKenya](#) Media Group, Raila Odinga & family, Azimio coves, Moi's family, [@DCI_Kenya](#), NPS, [@NCIC_Kenya](#), ODPP... But God on his side he has kept them restless!

How attack on Raila chopper was planned

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6. Recommendations

- **Through civic education and sensitizing people on Social Media best practices.** This will make it easier to curb hatred among the masses and run campaigns on the need to stop hate speech through various media such as print media, radio and social media platforms.
- **The Commission needs to embark on a rigorous online/TV/radio campaign** to educate citizens on how to use the tools provided for them to report hate speech such as the emails provided as well as the SMS(15666) Portal in order to avoid miscellaneous use.

7. Conclusion

Most of the social media platforms are being formed along tribal lines where tribal politics and ethnicity thrive as we gear towards the general elections in 2022. These platforms keep on changing

and increasing as they are being used to spread hate speech and incitements. We have noticed that there has been an increase in the cases of hate speech and incitements which is also leading to tribal clashes which may various communities negatively.

Update on Various Peace Initiatives

In the month of March, the Commission undertook several peace initiatives to address looming conflicts and possible violence in some parts of the country;

- i. The Commission convened a meeting with the North Easter Regional Commissioner Mr James Kianda together with elders in Garissa to find lasting solutions to conflicts that had escalated into violence.
- ii. The Commission conducted a Research on the Impact of conflict on business eco-system in labor populations that included the Tea, Flower and Sugar plantations.
- iii. Targeted sensitization forums for the youth, women, and religious leaders among others on peace, cohesion and peaceful elections.
- iv. Inter-Intra Community dialogue forums to promote peaceful co-existence and reconciliation
- v. Setting up of mediation support units in Laikipia, Kisumu-Kericho-Kisumu-Nandi and Naivasha. Indeed this will go along way in enhancing peaceful coexistence among the communities in these regions.
- vi. Trainings and capacity building for actors in the criminal justice system on hate speech management.
- vii. Monitoring hate speech in public spaces including social media platforms and attending court hearings.
- viii. Integrated media campaigns including peace messaging and dissemination of information education and communication materials through the national and vernacular radio stations.
- ix. We have continued to monitor different political rallies, and investigations of hate speech cases.

Upcoming Key Events by the Commission

- i. Release of a Policy Brief on Lessons from 2021 Election in Zambia

- ii. The Launch of National Action Plan on Hate speech and the Hotspot Mapping Report
- iii. We shall continue with the county engagements including Isiolo, Meru, Marsabit, Mombasa, Kilifi Uasin Gishu, Vihiga and Kakamega counties.
- iv. Integrated media campaigns including peace messaging and dissemination of information education and communication materials through the national and vernacular radio stations.

NCIC Hate Speech Lexicon

The increasing political expressions of hate are triggering dissonance among communities and political followers of various parties. We know that death and life are in the power of the tongue. Consequently, the Commission has classified terms, which have been regularly used in Kenya’s political landscape with the intent to provoke violence among various communities of diverse political viewpoints. We have classified these terms as coded messages which can be used to activate hatred, and consciously eliminate other communities .These terms are in various languages; English, Kiswahili, Sheng, Kikuyu, Kalenjin and Non-verbal nods. We will continue to conduct surveys to keep abreast with lexicon in various languages in order to deter politicians from manipulating the public from using such lethal words in context that would illustrate hate of other communes.

Allow me to list some of the sample words we have established as coded words in the context of political campaigns.

English Terms

Common stereotypes	Translation	Target Community	User Community	Meaning
<i>Fumigation</i>	The action or process of disinfecting or purifying an area with the fumes of certain chemicals	Non-locals	Locals	Met violence on non-locals so that they can vacate the area

<i>Uncircumcised</i>	It is said of a man who is not circumcised.	Communities seen to be opposing the political party	Politicians	Referred to communities which traditionally did not embrace circumcision as their rite of passage e.g. the Luo, Turkana etc.
<i>Eliminate</i>	Completely remove or get rid of (something)	Communities perceived to support the dominant political party in the area in question	Communities seen to support opposing political parties	Kill members of the community which is perceived not to support the dominant political party
<i>Kill</i>	Cause the death of a person, animal, or other living thing.	Communities perceived to be on different political sides	Communities perceived to be on different political sides	Mentions of killing an entire community because it is perceived to support an opposition party.

Swahili Terms

Common stereotypes	Translation	Target Community	User Community	Meaning
<i>Kaffir</i>	Derived from Arabic term Kafir which means disbeliever or one who conceals the truth.	Non Muslims	Muslims	A negative referent majorly referring to the non-Muslim communities.

Common stereotypes	Translation	Target Community	User Community	Meaning
<i>Madoadoa</i>	Dots	Non- locals	Political aspirants and supporters of the dominant political party in an area	Used to refer to people who are non- locals living in a place dominantly known to be inhabited by a certain community. Considered as a way of inciting one tribe against the other
<i>Mende</i>	Cockroach	Local communities seen to support the less dominant political party/ies in the area	Political aspirants and supporters of the dominant political party in an area	These terms together with others (particularly insects) are used jointly with fumigation referring to the evacuation or violence against the communities perceived not to support the dominant party in an area.
<i>Mubajir</i>	An Arabic word meaning migrant	Non- Muslim Communities	Muslim Communities	This term refers to settlers who do not believe in similar faith with the locals.

Sheng' Terms

Coded Language	Literal Translation	Target Community	User Community	Meaning
<i>Kama noma, noma.</i> <i>Kama mbaya, mbaya</i>	If it is bad, then it is bad.	Political aspirants and perceived supporters of the less dominant political party in an	Political aspirants and supporters of the dominant political party in an area	Communities perceive this statement that if an opposing political party plays foul, then party supporters should unleash the severest form of counterattack.

		area		
<i>Operation Linda Kura</i>	Secure the vote	Political aspirants and supporters of the less dominant political party in an area	Political aspirants and supporters of the dominant political party in an area	This statement is perceived as a rallying call by the political party to ensure that there will be rigging and voters should police the process on the poll day. If people, not mandated to be observers, political party agents or any other functionaries, remain in the polling stations during the poll day, it may portend a recipe for violence.

Kikuyu Terms

Common stereotypes	Translation	Target Community	User Community	Meaning
<i>Kibii</i>	Uncircumcised	Referred to communities which traditionally did not embrace circumcision as their rite of passage e.g. the Luo, Turkana etc.	Kikuyu	Demeaning word used against political aspirants from some communities such as the Luo community with the aim to humiliate and terrorize not just the individual men, but their entire communities.
<i>Uthamaki ni witu</i>	The Kingdom is ours	Non-Kikuyu communities	Kikuyu	This term refers to the notion that the Kikuyu are and should remain the ruling class. It is used in reference to national leadership which is said to belong to the Kikuyu community and not any other community.

Kalenjin Terms

Common stereotypes	Translation	Target Community	User Community	Meaning
<i>Kimurkeldet</i>	Brown teeth	Kikuyu	Kalenjin	This is a derogatory term referring to a person with brown teeth with the implication that they cannot even undertake personal hygiene effectively.
<i>Otutu labotonik</i>	uproot the weed	Non-Kalenjin communities	Kalenjin	It may be used to mean that there are strangers who are a threat within the community hence should be eliminated.
<i>Ngetiik</i>	Uncircumcised	Luo	Kalenjin	Demeaning word used against political aspirants from some communities such as the Luo community with the aim to humiliate and terrorize not just the individual men, but their entire communities.

Conclusion

Violence Free Elections ahead of the August 2022 polls remains our core business. We have intensified our programs to ensure this goal is attained. We call for an end of divisive talks and call for political tolerance.



Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, CBS

Chairman

National Cohesion and Integration Commission

8TH April 2022