



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



NATIONAL
COHESION AND
INTEGRATION
COMMISSION

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

PRESS STATEMENT

We as the NCIC would like to state clearly and candidly that though the constitution guarantees the right to picket, it does not guarantee the right to perform illegal acts against people and their property.

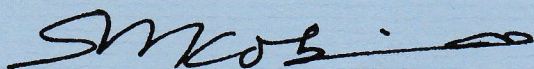
The wanton destruction of cars, mosques, churches etc is not acceptable and is hereby condemned in the harshest terms possible. Such acts not only disturb the peace but also create a worry that tensions may escalate into religious conflict and ethnic profiling

We were also further appalled by the actions of some who invaded private property in the name of settling age old land rights issues that have dogged our country since before independence. The senseless destruction of property is an outright illegal act which can only lead to more acrimony.

As the adage goes, "an eye for an eye makes a community blind" will soon become true if we continue this path of taking the law into the hands of civilians. It is also to be realized that there is no one with the monopoly for mobilizing violence. Anarchy is not justified no matter the grievance we may have. Our courts and our laws exist to ensure justice is served to all without fear or favour. Taking the law into our own hands is a recipe for utter chaos.

We as the NCIC call for an immediate stop to these demonstrations and counter demonstrations and the adoption of dialogue as a means of moving our country forward. There are indeed deep issues we need to address from the cost of living, to the grinding poverty structural inequalities and indeed even to issues of land ownership and equity. We can't solve these issues by shouting at each other and destroying property.

However we can solve them by doing what even God says in Isaiah 1:18 "Come let us reason together; says the Lord". We call on the leadership of the political divides to come together, talk with each other and address these issues in a sober and judicious manner. And in so doing put the interest of Kenya first and be mindful of the needs and aspirations of Wanjiku. Let's stop violence and instead talk with each other also as Kenyan brothers and sisters and not enemies. As NCIC we are ready to initiate national conversations on the pressing issues on the table



Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, CBS
Commission Chairman

28th March, 2023