



SPEECH BY COMMISSIONER WAMBUI NYUTU OGW, VICE CHAIRPERSON, NATIONAL COHESION AND INTEGRATION COMMISSION (NCIC), SPEECH DURING DIAR 2024 GALA DINNER AND AWARDS CEREMONY AT THE SARIT EXPO CENTRE. MARCH 22, 2024. 1700HRS- 22 00HRS

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Good Evening!

THEME: MULTIPLYING POSITIVE CHANGE AGENTS - FOR PLANET, PEOPLE, PROSPERITY, AND POSTERITY.

I am glad on behalf of NCIC for this opportunity to participate during this year's DIAR GALA dinner and awards ceremony whose theme is **“multiplying positive change agents. For planet, people, prosperity, posterity.”** These words capture the very essence of what we strive for – **a future where as individuals come together to create positive change for ourselves, our communities, and generations to come.**

At the heart of our discussion lies the fundamental understanding that the challenges we face as a society, both locally and globally, are complex and multifaceted. From climate change to social inequality, from economic disparities to political polarization, the need for positive change agents has never been more pressing.

These agents are individuals or organizations that actively work towards fostering unity, understanding, and progress in our communities.

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission stands at the forefront of this mission. We strive to foster unity, bridge divides, and empower communities. **But the true power lies not just us and all the esteemed institutions represented here, but within every single one of us.** Think about it. Each of us possesses the potential to be a positive change agent.

We can all be agents for a healthier planet by;

- i. Embracing sustainable practices and advocating for environmental protection.**
- ii. by promoting inclusivity and equal opportunities**
- iii. fostering collaboration and economic justice**
- iv. Building a legacy of peace, understanding, and a thriving planet for generations to come.**

The objectives of National Diversity and Inclusion Awards and Recognition project resonates with NCIC's key mandate which is to promote national identity and values, mitigate ethnic political competition and ethnicity-motivated violence, eliminate discrimination on ethnic, racial and religious basis and promote national unity, healing and reconciliation.

Our Commission, NCIC, was established with a firm commitment to promoting cohesion and integration in Kenya. We strive to foster a sense of inclusivity, unity, and shared aspirations amongst our

diverse communities. We do not conduct ethnic audits simply as an exercise in compliance with legal mandates; rather, as an expression of our dedication to building a more just, equitable, and harmonious society. Today, I want to emphasize that **the goal of ethnic representation cannot be achieved through the efforts of a single organization.** It requires the collaborative efforts of numerous oversight institutions, political leaders, civil society, and, most importantly, all citizens.

The commission has lobbied the adoption of fair and inclusive employment policies in public institutions aimed at reducing discrimination on ethnic, racial and religious grounds by defining specific strategies to enhance inclusion of minority groups within the workplace.

In November last year, the Commission launched the **Ethnic and Diversity Audit Report** which served as a comprehensive analysis of the ethnic representation across the 47 county governments of Kenya. It revealed the extent to which we have achieved equitable ethnic distribution in Counties and it also highlighted areas that demand immediate attention. The report is available in our website, www.cohesion.go.ke you can visit the website and get to see where your county was ranked

NCIC has collaborated with Daima Trust since 2017. We are glad that we are among the oldest partners to Daima Trust and by extension to the National Diversity and Inclusion Awards & Recognition project. The partnership focuses on nurturing creative and innovative ways of championing ethnic diversity in workplaces

and promoting inclusion especially of ethnic minorities in Kenya. In 2018, NCIC has partnered with Daima Trust in this DIAR Awards, an incentive scheme that celebrates companies, parastatals, commissions, and counties, NGOs, CBOs and individuals who champion diversity and promote inclusion.

We are here today to celebrate with all of us and to urge us to continue in the spirit of many but one people. One people that belong to the human race.

Let this event be a springboard for action. That we leave here inspired, equipped, and connected. We go forth and become the architects of a better tomorrow. Together, we create a world where:

- **Our planet thrives.**
- **All people live in peace and dignity.**
- **Shared prosperity lifts up communities.**
- **Future generations inherit a healthy and just world.**

This is our mission, our responsibility, and our collective legacy.

Thank you, and God bless you all

WAMBUI NYUTU, OGW

VICE CHAIRPERSON, NATIONAL COHESION AND INTEGRATION COMMISSION

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