



NCIC holds its Inaugural Symposium on the Place of Faith-Based Leaders and Institutions in Promoting Peace ahead of 2022

As the clock ticks to 2022, NCIC has put together transformative actions to curb identified roadblocks to peaceful elections in Kenya through its Roadmap to a Peaceful 2022 General Elections dubbed 'Elections Bila Noma'. On 27th October 2021, NCIC in partnership with the Inter-Religious Council of Kenya (IRCK) held its inaugural symposium to affirm the positive role of faith institutions in promoting peaceful co-existence within the election cycle.

using their structures and functions to talk to politicians and the youth to embrace peace ahead of 2022.

The Principal Secretary for State Department of Interior, Dr. (Eng) Karanja Kibicho, who was the chief guest (representing Dr. Fred Matiangi, CS Interior) emphasized on the need to have multi- agency collaboration and engagements, including with the clergy, during the elections period. In his media address he averred, "We call upon different players of the criminal justice system to reconcile in order to offer justice to Kenyans and inciters of election violence".



Dr. Eng. Karanja Kibicho, PS for State Department for Interior and Co-ordination of National Government, alongside NCIC Chair, Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, amongst other dignitaries addressing members of the press following the Symposium.

The conference, which took place at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD), brought together religious leaders drawn from different walks of faith who not only took part in a candid conversation on how to provide leadership in political dialogue and peaceful processes before, during and after the elections, but committed to



Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, NCIC Chair, and Rev. Fr. Joseph Mutie, Chair IRCK, signing a commitment on behalf of religious leaders

His words were reiterated by NCIC Chairman Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia CBS and IRCK Chairperson Rev. Fr. Joseph

Mutie, who underscored the need to read from the same script to avoid frustrations when it comes to delivering services to Kenyans.

On her part, the Commission Secretary/CEO Dr. Skitter Ocharo HSC maintained, “we must stress the basic values that are common to all religions: Compassion, Solidarity and Respect

for the human person. It is paramount that Kenyans apply the golden rule of do unto others as you would have them do unto you”

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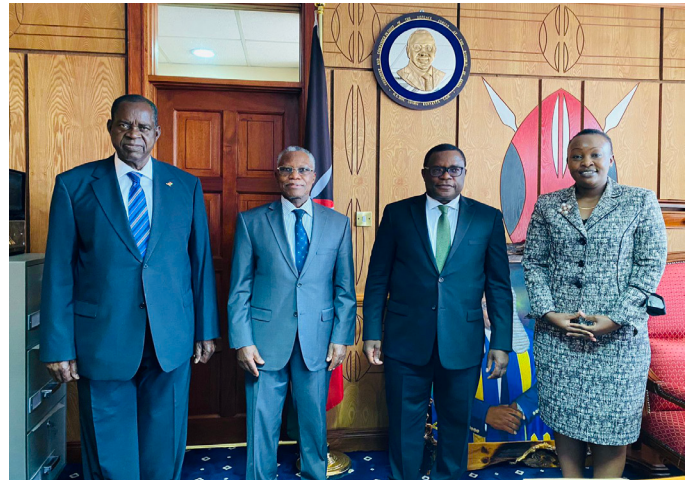
Dr. Skitter Ocharo HSC, NCIC Commission Secretary/CEO giving her welcoming remarks during the symposium

With the clarion call Elections Bila Noma, the high level event also brought together various speakers, moderators and discussants including Prof. PLO Lumumba, Dr. Mustapha Ali, Dr. Richard Mutuura, Archbishop (Rtd) Rev. Eliud Wabukhala, H.E Mr. Erastus Mwencha, Sen. Masista Naomi Shiyonga amongst other members of faith-based institutions who affirmed their commitment in advocating for a peaceful 2022 and beyond.

NCIC meets Speakers ahead of the 2022 Elections

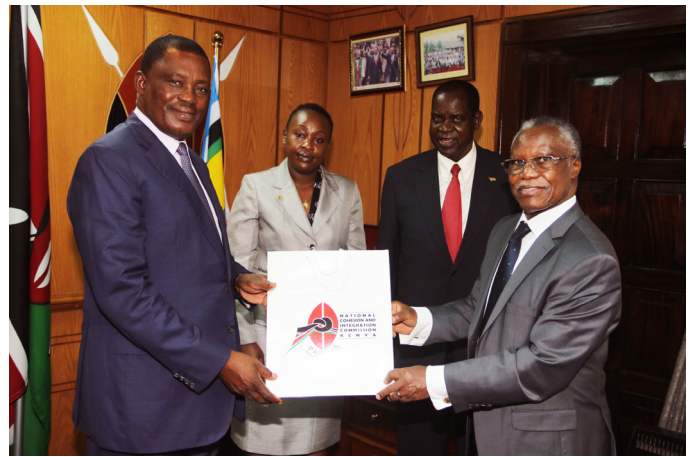
In view of the imminent elections, the Commission desires to put in place several legislative interventions to enhance its performance. Following the enactment of the National Cohesion and Integration (NCI) Act in 2008, the Commission has since identified existing lacuna that calls for review of the said Act.

In view of this, the Commission met Hon. Kenneth Lusaka and Hon. J.B. Muturi, speakers of the Senate and the National Assembly respectively with the aim of discussing the Political Decency and Peace Accountability Charter, as well as strengthening the Commission's performance by amending the existing Act alongside review of the National Cohesion and Peace Building bill. Both legislative proposals are under consideration in



NCIC Chair, Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, paying a courtesy call to the Speaker of the Senate, Hon. Kenneth Lusaka. Accompanying him are Comm'r Hon. Eng. Phillip Okundi and Dr. Skitter Ocharo, NCIC CEO

the two houses, a move which is aimed at providing a coordinated structure for peace building and cohesion in Kenya, in time for the 2022 General Elections.



NCIC Chair, Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, presenting an NCIC branded bag to the National Assembly Speaker, Hon. J.B. Muturi. Alongside him are Comm'r Hon. Eng. Phillip Okundi and Dr. Skitter Ocharo, NCIC CEO

Engaging Youth for a Peaceful 2022: Vijana Bila Ukabila Initiative

In the quest to ensure a peaceful 2022 Election, NCIC is strengthening youth voices through productive partnerships with the Vijana Bila Ukabila initiative. Vijana Bila Ukabila (VBU) is a campaign initiative of Youth that promotes ethnic diversity and rallies the youth to arise against tribalism, nepotism, racism and all forms of social discrimination in Kenya.

On 28th October 2021, the NCIC Vice Chairperson, Commissioner Wambui Nyutu, OGW led the team in a workshop retreat geared towards developing work plans to actualize strategies the initiative shall put in place to promote peace, in line with the NCIC Roadmap to a Violence Free Election. Speaking during the workshop, the Vice Chair reiterated the role of young people in the promotion of democracy, development of talent, peace building and unity, which has a crucial function in nurturing values and cannot be ignored.



Comm'r Wambui Nyutu, NCIC Vice Chairperson, speaking during the workshop with Vijana Bila Ukabila

NCIC Deputy Director, Kilian Nyambu noted that 'the youth have a wider perspective of what they stand for. Irrespective of their political affiliations, they should be powerful agents of peace and a source of positive innovation in the leadership of the country'.



NCIC Vice Chair, Comm'r Wambui Nyutu, and NCIC staff together with a delegation of members of the Vijana Bila Ukabila Initiative

The Vijana Bila Ukabila Chair, Mr. Stephen Omondi noted that through the organization's partnership with NCIC, the youth will make a great contribution to the cause of peace through peace walks, concerts, peace awareness campaigns, among other educational programs. Through carefully planned strategies the youth will also aid in promoting oneness, bridge the gap between various political party supporters and act as watchdogs over their communities.

NCIC sensitizing Stakeholders Ahead of 2022

As Kenya counts down to 2022, NCIC advances its mission to deal with the roadblocks to a peaceful General Election through sensitizing various stakeholders. With the Elections Roadmap determined to bring to life transformative action to curb roadblocks to peaceful elections including through empowering citizens to play their optimal role as active agents of peace, NCIC conducted trainings and sensitization forums in Nakuru, Nandi and Uasin Gishu Counties.

elections
bila noma



Security actors during a sensitization forum in Nakuru County

In Nakuru County, NCIC trained security actors including Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs, Peace committee members, and Nyumba Kumi officials on hate speech, ethnic-based political violence and peaceful co-existence. Deputy County Commissioner Nakuru Town West, Michael Lesimam said, **"we know the source of violence, let us not keep mum as criminal gangs are easily mobilized by politicians and are a threat to peaceful elections"**. He urged the actors not to lose their patriotism due to political interference.



DCC Nakuru Town West Michael Lesimam addressing press after the forum. Alongside NCIC Deputy Director Kilian Nyambu.

Following the rising incidences of media misinformation, disinformation, social media incitement and hate speech, NCIC also sensitized journalists, bloggers and reporters of vernacular media stations on fair and conflict-sensitive reporting in Nandi County.



NCIC Deputy Director Olive Metet conducting the training of journalists and bloggers

Speaking during the workshop, Commissioner Hon. Eng. Philip Okundi urged the media and online bloggers to take up the role of gatekeeping in the society while reporting fair and balanced news. He urged the journalists to regulate politicians and deny them a platform for incitement to violence, especially as the country gears up to 2022.

His remarks were echoed by the County Commander, Mr. Herman Shamu, who emphasized on the need for a patriotic society and media participation in protecting the country from bad leadership, ethnic contempt and disinformation.

It was observed that there was a gap in media inclusion and participation in peace and cohesion processes. Partners from the Uwiano platform for peace, Communication Authority of Kenya, Office of Registrar of Political Parties, as well as the Media Council of Kenya resolved to increase media participation in spreading awareness and inclusion in conflict solution processes.



NCIC Chair, Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia leading a team of NCIC Commissioners and staff in a consultative meeting with the UN delegation

During a consultative meeting held at the NCIC headquarters on 6th October 2021, the UN reiterated their quest to aid in monitoring public and social media spaces, while clearly defining hate speech and online incitement to successfully fight social media hate crime.



NCIC Commissioner Hon. Dorcas Kedogo CEO Dr. Skitter Ocharo with NCIC the Kenya National Congress of Pentecostal Churches



NCIC Commissioner, Hon. Dorcas Kedogo during a courtesy call to Uasin Gishu County Commander, Stephen Kihara. Present are NCIC Director programs Millicent Okatch and Madam Sarah, ACC 1 Eldoret.

NCIC Embraces Strategic Alliances and Collaborations Ahead of 2022

In a bid to ensure all-round inclusion and counter imminent threats to cohesion ahead of 2022, the Commission has continued to strengthen its ties with strategic partners. Following incidences of actions that undermine peace both online and offline, NCIC has resolved to work closely with united to curb activities that find expression in violence.

On the same breadth, the Commission met the Kenya National Congress of Pentecostal Churches on Oct 13th 2021, to establish a long-standing strategic partnership and collaboration in implementing peace building in Kenya. Through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to stamp their collaboration, the said institutions vowed to implement joint initiatives across the country, for peaceful co-existence. This comes in the wake of NCIC's recently concluded symposium on the role of religious leaders and institutions in promoting peace within the electoral cycle. It is envisaged that these relationships will buttress NCIC's ability to implement its Roadmap towards achieving an Elections Bila Noma.

Meet NCIC's Social Media Champion



Robert Dogo, NCIC Social Media Monitoring Officer

Tell us about yourself

I was born in a family of eight in Marsabit County, Northern Kenya. I've been passionate about computers since I was a young, and I knew then that I wanted to pursue a career in Information Technology. I hence studied for my Bachelor's Degree at Africa Nazarene University, and graduated in 2016. Since university, I've worked in different firms that have enabled me build my portfolio and sharpen my skills. I am a certified member of **The Computer Society of Kenya**, a professional body in the ICT field. I'm looking to further develop my proficiency and skills, hence undertaking other professional certifications in Network Security Expert Certification.

What do you do at NCIC?

I'm a Social Media Monitoring Officer, also doubling up as an ICT Support Officer, I have worked at the Commission for five years now. On a regular work day, I scan through social media for hate speech and incitement cases, consecutively forwarding them to the relevant departments for further action.

I love the ambient working environment of the NCIC enabled by the friendliness of my co-workers, as well as their competency, which has always made my work easier and all fun.

You recently won an award as the Commission's Social Media Champion. Tell us about that.

That was a big moment for me. I was recognized as

NCIC's **Social Media Champion** for my efforts in using social media platforms to enhance the visibility of the Commission. Not only did I feel appreciated, but also very inspired. I've always endeavored to make a positive mark, through small positive deeds over the course of my work. Honestly, it warmed my heart that my CEO was able to recognize me. It's a proud moment that pushes me to become even better.

What different thing are you going to do now that you won the award?

I intend to increase my social media networks and influence others to join me in enhancing the visibility of the Commission. I also hope to inspire others to be better, and also to know that no amount of effort goes unnoticed. After all, it's the small deeds that will make a difference.

How do you contribute towards a peaceful, United Kenya?

I strive to engage with everyone in the most accommodative and cohesive manner. I'm a firm believer in dialogue as a way to resolve conflicts, which extends to the society and eventually the country at large.

Professionally, I am vigilant in reporting through the Commission's available procedures and policies/structures and devise ways of mitigating negative ethnicity. Through this, we educate and sensitize people on social media best practices.

What has been your greatest moment in NCIC?

Every day is a great moment for me. I strive to make the very best of my day in whatever way possible. But honestly, receiving this recent award from the CEO definitely stands out.

What are some of the challenges that you face?

Ignorance from the public on what constitutes or does not constitute hate speech, especially in the social media where unfortunately opinions overshadow facts.

What are your hobbies?

I like playing basketball.

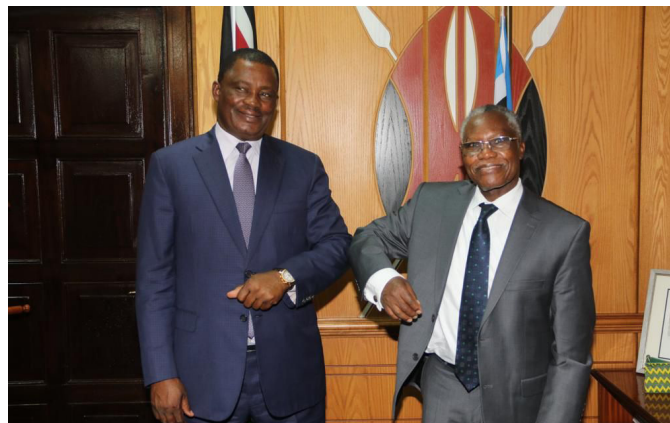
Parting shot...

Peace and Unity is an all-inclusive responsibility. Everyone's effort counts.

PHOTOBOOTH



Poster showing guest speakers during NCICs Inaugural Symposium



NCIC Chair, Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia CBS having a light moment with Hon. J.B. Muturi, Speaker of the National Assembly



Comm'r Hon. Eng. Phillip Okundi, handing over a trophy to the winning football team following a friendly match in Nandi County. Alongside him is Ms. Millicent Okatch, Director Programmes



Entertainers sharing peace messages during NCICs Inaugural Symposium



Robert Dogo, NCIC Social Media Champion, receiving a gift from the CEO, Dr. Skitter Ocharo HSC, at her offices

ONE PEOPLE

ONE NATION

ONE DESTINY

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