

## YOUTH CHAMPION PEACE AT NCIC AMANI AWARDS



*NCIC Chairperson, Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, CBS, giving his remarks during the Amani clubs essay writing and awards ceremony on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 at the NCIC HQ in Nairobi.*



*NCIC CEO Dr. Daniel Mutegi Giti giving his remarks during the Amani clubs essay writing and awards ceremony on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 at the NCIC HQ in Nairobi.*

In an exciting celebration of youth-driven peacebuilding, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) hosted the Amani Club Essay Writing and Award Ceremony on Tuesday, May 20, 2025. Held at the Commission's 18th Floor boardroom, Nairobi, the event brought together students, teachers, parents, and peace advocates united by a shared vision—a more cohesive and tolerant Kenya.

While speaking at the event, the NCIC Chairman congratulated the winners of the Amani Club Essay. He said, “today we celebrate the culmination of this year's essay writing competition, I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to every learner who participated. Your willingness to amplify your voice in this crucial national dialogue is truly inspiring.

The ceremony was a peak of months of student engagement through essay writing, a creative initiative that invited learners from across the country to express their thoughts on peace, unity, and national harmony. Participating schools included Makueni Boys High School, Mangu High School, Mount Kenya University, and Galana Teachers Training College, among others. A critical highlight of the day was the recognition of outstanding essays, which reflected the depth of insight and passion young people bring to the national conversation on peace. Winners were awarded for their powerful reflections and calls to action, positioning themselves as champions of tolerance in their schools and communities.

The Amani Club initiative, spearheaded by NCIC in collaboration with the

Ministry of Education, is a grassroots peacebuilding program that has taken root in schools across the country. These clubs serve as platforms for students to engage in meaningful dialogue, promote inclusivity, and practice leadership rooted in empathy and understanding. Speaking at the event, NCIC Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Daniel Giti, praised the participants for their commitment and creativity. “Congratulations to all of you who participated—you are all winners,” he said. “Your voices in the peacebuilding conversation are deeply valued. We will continue to support, inspire, and walk with you as peace ambassadors.” The event not only recognized academic talent but also reinforced a larger message: that young people are not just future leaders—they are current change-makers. Students were encouraged to embody values of respect, dialogue, and responsible citizenship, especially as Kenya navigates the social dynamics ahead of the 2027 general elections.

The ceremony concluded with a warm vote of thanks from Maryann Njenga, Principal Program Officer at the Department of Peacebuilding and Outreach Engagement (POED), who acknowledged the dedication of all attendees, organizers, and facilitators. “This event is a testament to what we can achieve when we invest in our youth,” Njenga said. “Their voices are powerful, and their role in shaping a peaceful Kenya cannot be overstated.” As the students returned to their schools, they carried with them not just awards, but a renewed sense of purpose—to be everyday ambassadors of peace in a country where unity remains both a challenge and a cherished goal.

## PROMOTING UNITY AND PEACE AMONG HERDERS AND FARMERS



*NCIC Chairman Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia CBS, Kericho Governor Dr. Erick Mutai, (C) Commr' Eng. Philip Okundi (L) & NCIC CEO Dr. Daniel Mutegi Giti (R) during the visit at the Governors office*

In a significant step towards promoting peace and unity in Kilifi County, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) recently organized a vital community dialogue in Magarini Sub-County on Friday, 25th April 2025. Led by CEO Dr. Daniel Mutegi and Commissioner Dr. Danvas Makori, along with regional officers from the Coast region, the Commission collaborated closely with the Parliamentary Committee on Cohesion and Equal Opportunity, chaired by Hon. Yussuf Adan Haji

The gathering brought together herders and farmers that have historically been involved in resource conflicts in the area. Recognizing the importance of fostering understanding and harmony among these communities, the forum served as a platform for open dialogue and mutual exchange.

Participants from both sides shared their perspectives, concerns, and aspirations, with the aim of addressing misunderstandings and building stronger bonds within the community. The dialogue emphasized the need for cooperation, respect, and shared responsibility in managing the region's resources sustainably.

## NCIC DEEPENS COMMITMENT TO PEACE WITH STRATEGIC VISIT TO SONDU REGION



*NCIC Chairman Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia CBS, Kericho Governor Dr. Erick Mutai, (C) Commr' Eng. Philip Okundi (L) & NCIC CEO Dr. Daniel Mutegi Giti (R) during the visit at the Governors office*

In a clear demonstration of its unwavering dedication to sustainable peacebuilding, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) leadership recently undertook a pivotal visit to Kericho and Kisumu Counties, advancing efforts to strengthen the Amani kwa Ground – Sondu Peace Process. Led by Chairman Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia, Commissioner Eng. Philip Okundi, and CEO Dr. Daniel Mutegi Giti, the delegation engaged key county leaders in discussions aimed at fortifying peace in the region. The team paid a courtesy call to Kericho Governor Dr. Eric Mutai and Kisumu County Commissioner Mr. Benson D. Leparmorijo, exploring both local dynamics and the broader national peace landscape.

These conversations reaffirmed NCIC's vital role as a catalyst for lasting harmony among diverse communities. The visit underscored the Commission's strategic peacebuilding approach—rooted in collaborative partnerships with government officials, community leaders, and grassroots actors alike. Through dialogue, trust-building, and empowering locally driven solutions, NCIC continues to nurture the fragile peace in Sondu, contributing to the broader vision of a cohesive Kenya. This high-level engagement exemplifies how sustained commitment and inclusive strategies remain central to resolving conflicts and fostering unity across the country.



## BRIDGING GENERATIONS: NCIC'S PATH TO LASTING UNITY



*NCIC Commissioner Hon. Dorcas Kedogo during the dialogue meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup> 2025, Laikipia County*

In the heart of Laikipia County, where the rugged landscapes often echo with stories of tension and rivalry, a powerful dialogue is quietly reshaping the future. On Friday, April 25th, the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), in collaboration with the Indigenous Movement for Peace, Advancement and Conflict Transformation (IMPACT), brought together the Samburu and Turkana communities in Rumuruti for a groundbreaking peace dialogue.

NCIC led by Commissioner Hon. Dorcas Kedogo, urged the communities to reject retrogressive culture that jeopardise peace and cohesion among communities. She said, “We need to change with the times and leave behind retrogressive cultures to avoid conflict in our communities,” reminding participants that peace begins with a collective willingness to abandon harmful traditions that perpetuate division.

The dialogue went beyond cultural reflection, spotlighting the growing challenge posed by social media misuse. Youth, often caught between modern technology and traditional expectations, were highlighted as both vulnerable to manipulation and crucial players in the peace process.



*Participants during the dialogue meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup> 2025, Laikipia County*

The forum underscored the responsibility of elders and local residents as the custodians of harmony, calling on them to lead by example and nurture homegrown solutions to long-standing disputes.

Samburu Central Deputy County Commissioner, Mr. Titus Omanyi, echoed this sentiment, emphasizing that sustainable peace must come from within the communities themselves. His call for “homegrown solutions” reinforced NCIC’s philosophy of empowering local actors to craft and own the peacebuilding process. The dialogue drew a broad coalition of voices—from Samburu Central, North, and East, to county security officials, and key members of the National Assembly Committee on National Cohesion and Equal Opportunity. Among the distinguished attendees were Kieni MP Hon. Njoroge Wainaina, Isiolo North MP Hon. Joseph Samal, and Luanda MP Hon. Dick Maungu Oyugi, all lending their support to this vital initiative.

This meeting stands as a testament to NCIC’s unwavering commitment to bridging divides in Kenya’s diverse communities. Through patient dialogue, collaborative leadership, and a shared vision for unity, NCIC continues to lay the foundation for a more peaceful, inclusive future—one conversation at a time.

## CHANGE OF GUARD| DR. DANIEL MUTEGI GITI SWORN IN AS THE NEW NCIC CEO



*NCIC CEO Dr. Daniel Mutegi Giti, during his swearing-in ceremony at the Judicial premises on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025*

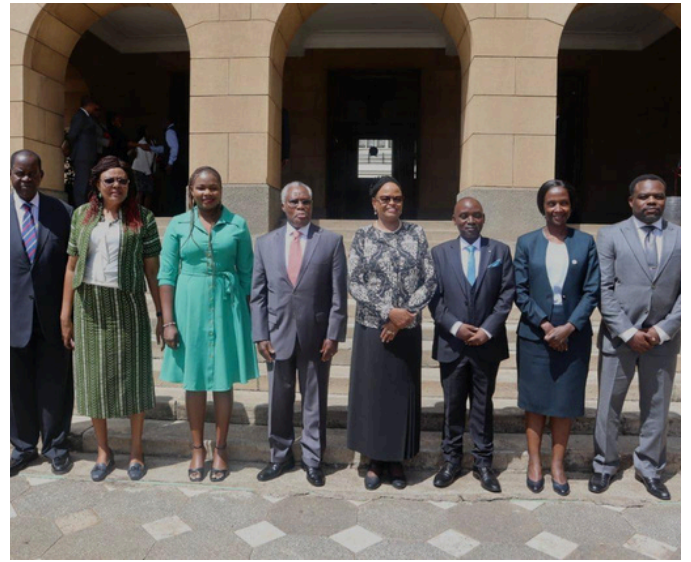
The National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) officially welcomed its new Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Daniel Mutegi Giti, PhD, during a swearing-in ceremony held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at the Judiciary grounds, Nairobi. The event marked a significant milestone for the Commission as it prepares for an active period leading up to the 2027 General Elections.

NCIC Chairman Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia CBS together with the Vice Chairperson Ms. Wambui Nyutu OGW, Commissioners, and members of staff were present. Chief Justice Hon. Martha Koome presided over the proceedings and extended her congratulations to Dr. Giti on his appointment. In her remarks, Chief Justice Koome emphasized the critical timing of the appointment, noting that the country was entering a politically sensitive period often characterized by heightened activity and emotionally charged discourse. She urged the Commission to remain vigilant and proactive in upholding peace, national cohesion, and unity during this time.

“Your assumption of office comes at a particularly important moment in our national journey,” said Chief Justice Koome. “It is imperative that the NCIC stays firm in its mandate of fostering peace and unity, especially as political temperatures begin to rise ahead of the 2027 elections.”

In his remarks the Chairman Dr Kobia congratulated the incoming CEO, wishing him wisdom and strength in steering the Commission’s mandate. “As you take up this mantle, may your journey be guided by courage and grounded in the belief that Kenya is stronger together,” he said.

His leadership is expected to inject new energy into the Commission’s work of promoting inclusive dialogue, peaceful coexistence, and a shared national identity.



*NCIC Chairman Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia CBS (C) Chief Justice Martha Koome Vice chairperson Ms. Wambui Nyutu & Commissioners during the swearing-in-ceremony on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025*

Dr. Giti brings with him a wealth of experience from his previous role at the Vision 2030 Delivery Secretariat, where he played a key role in advancing transformative national projects. As the NCIC continues its mission to combat hate speech, prevent political violence, and build bridges across communities, stakeholders expressed confidence that Dr. Giti’s tenure would strengthen the Commission’s strategic communication and impact during this crucial phase of Kenya’s democratic journey.

Dr. Daniel Mutegi Giti serves as the Chief Executive Officer/Commission Secretary of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission. He joins the Commission from Vision 2030 Delivery Secretariat. He holds a PhD. in Urban Management, a Master of Urban Management, and a Post Graduate Diploma in Housing Administration from the University of Nairobi. Additionally, he holds a Bachelor’s degree in Geography and Sociology from Egerton University.

Dr. Giti is a member of the Environment Institute of Kenya (EIK) and a certified Lead Expert in Environment Impact Assessment and Audit (EIA/EA). He is also an APMG London Expert on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). With over 20 years of experience, Dr. Giti has demonstrated exceptional leadership in urban planning and management, housing administration, public-private partnerships, and monitoring and evaluation. He previously worked as an Assistant Director for Housing (Slum Upgrading) at the Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Project (KISIP), a World Bank and Government of Kenya initiative focused on enhancing living conditions in informal settlements.

Dr. Giti is responsible for providing strategic leadership on all matters peace and cohesion.



# REGIONAL NEWS

## CELEBRATING THE PEACE SUMMIT



*NCIC Commissioner Dr. Danvas Makori making his remarks during the Peace summit by Rotaract club of Hurlingham on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 in Nairobi.*

On April 5, 2025, NCIC took part in the Peace Summit organized by the Rotaract Club of Hurlingham, held at the National Museum of Kenya – Louis Leakey Auditorium. The summit convened youth leaders, peace practitioners, civil society representatives, and government officials under the theme “The Path to Sustainable Peace: Enhancing Youth Participation in Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention.”

Aligning with the principles of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security, the summit reaffirmed the critical role young people play in preventing conflict and sustaining peace.

Delivering the keynote address, NCIC Commissioner Dr. Danvas Makori underscored the urgency of investing in peacebuilding during times of calm, rather than waiting for conflict to erupt. “We must focus on building resilient communities and nurturing transformative mindsets, especially among the youth, as a sustainable path to national cohesion,” he noted.

In the same meeting, Ms. Mary Kabiru also presented the Commission’s youth engagement strategies for sustainable peace. She introduced the Transgenerational Conversations Framework, a strategic tool for fostering intergenerational dialogue and inclusive decision-making. Highlighting NCIC’s ongoing efforts to mainstream youth voices in peace and policy spaces, she called for a shift in perspective—positioning young people not as passive recipients but as active agents and drivers of change.

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC) continued to advance its mandate of promoting peace, inclusion,

## PEACEBUILDING THROUGH SPORT AND DIALOGUE INITIATIVES



*NCIC Principal Program Officer Metropolitan and Lower Eastern Region Ms. Mary Kabiru making her remarks on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 at the sports for Peace Development event held at the Kenyatta University in Nairobi.*

and national unity through active participation in two major events focused on youth engagement and social cohesion in Nairobi County.

On April 4, 2025, NCIC joined national and community stakeholders in commemorating the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace (IDoSDP) at Kenyatta University Main Campus. The event, themed “Levelling the Field: Social Inclusion,” was organized in collaboration with the Kenya National Commission for UNESCO, the Ministry of Education, Nairobi County Government, Kenyatta University, Utawala Stars, NACADA, Amani Kibera, and various other sports and community-based organizations.

The celebration aimed to harness the unifying power of sport to promote peace, social cohesion, and equitable development. The theme underscored the importance of inclusive access to sports for all, regardless of age, gender, ability, or background. It served as a collective call to action for greater unity and participation in building inclusive communities.

Representing NCIC, Ms. Mary Kabiru, Principal Programme Officer for the Metropolitan and Lower Eastern Region, accentuated the Commission’s commitment to leveraging sport as a vehicle for peacebuilding.

“We recognize sport as a powerful platform to unite communities, promote tolerance, and inspire the youth to be peace champions,” she said. She further encouraged stakeholders to reflect on the transformative role of sport, urging young people to engage in peacebuilding “one game, one conversation, and one action at a time.”

## NCIC CONDUCTS YOUTH SENSITIZATION FORUM ON HATE SPEECH AND SOCIAL MEDIA MISUSE IN MANDERA COUNTY



*Participants during the sensitization forum, in Rhamu town, Mandera County on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2025.*

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission, on Wednesday, 23rd April 2025, in collaboration with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), convened a youth sensitization forum in Rhamu town, Mandera County. The event convened from the youth from the region. The forum's aimed to to raise awareness on the growing threats posed by hate speech and irresponsible use of social media platforms.

During the forum, Mr. Ghalib Aden Hassan, the NCIC Principal Program Officer, North Eastern region, presented on the mandate of the Commission. . He emphasized the role of the youth in promoting peace and national cohesion, both in digital spaces and within their communities. He urged the participants to embrace their responsibility as peace ambassadors and use social media constructively to counter misinformation and incitement.

While addressing the same meeting Mr. Kamau, Deputy County Commissioner, cautioned the youth against engaging in or spreading online incitement which has increasingly posed a security threat in the region. Beyond addressing hate speech, the sensitization session also highlighted the importance of youth empowerment initiatives and the need to foster social cohesion among diverse communities.

## NCIC PARTICIPATES IN THE 5TH ANNUAL PEACE PRAYER MEETING 2025 AT KALYA PRIMARY SCHOOL ANNUAL PEACE PRAYER MEETING.

On 20th April 2025, the Principal Secretary for Public Works, Mr. Joel Arumonyang, led dignitaries at the 5th Annual Peace Prayer Meeting hosted by AIC Kalya at Kalya Primary School, located along the West Pokot–Elgeyo Marakwet border. Joining him were NCIC Commissioner Hon. Dorcas Kedogo and Upper Rift Principal Programme Officer Victor Ijaika.

The Principal Secretary, together with church and political leaders, underscored the critical role of peace as the foundation for sustainable development in the region. Commissioner Kedogo recognized the church's vital contribution to fostering peaceful coexistence and reaffirmed NCIC's commitment to partnering with local stakeholders. She highlighted the Commission's efforts through its newly established regional office aimed at advancing peace initiatives in the area.



The event drew a broad spectrum of leaders, including senators and Members of Parliament from Elgeyo Marakwet and West Pokot, former leaders such as Hon. Lina Jebii and Prof. John Lonyangapuo, Members of County Assembly (MCAs), as well as AIC church leadership.



## ***PARTNERING FOR PEACE | BUILDING RESILIENCE AGAINST EXTREMISM***



*Participants during the PCVE meeting in Kisumu County on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2025.*

The National Cohesion and Integration Commission in partnership with Inter-Religious Council of Kenya (IRCK), hosted a strategic engagement under the Kisumu Interfaith Network in efforts to strengthen resilience in preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE)

The meeting which took place on the 23rd of April 2025, brought together diverse faith leaders marking the rollout of a two-year PCVE program in Kisumu County focusing on Countering radical narratives.

In attendance were; IRCK Head of Peacebuilding, Mr. Rolex Mwamba, Sujatha Kotamraju – the National Chairperson of the Hindu Council of Kenya and the Kisumu County Commissioner, Mr. Benson Leparmorijo, who lauded the initiative and emphasized the need for multi-sectoral collaboration to address emerging security threats. Representing the Commission, Principal Program Officer Mr. Castro Baraza commended the religious leaders for their continued role in peacebuilding.

This engagement marks the beginning of a broader series aimed at addressing emerging security threats such as armed conflict, political violence, torture, and terrorism. The event was graced by Kisumu County Commissioner Benson Leparmorijo, NCIC Nyanza Principal Program Officer Castro Baraza, IRCK Program Manager Rolex Mwamba, and religious leaders from across Kisumu County. Representing the Commission, Principal Program Officer Mr. Castro Baraza commended the religious leaders for their continued role in peacebuilding.

## ***SALGAA FOCUSES ON STRENGTHENING PEACE***



*Participants during a Community dialogue in Nakuru County on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2025.*

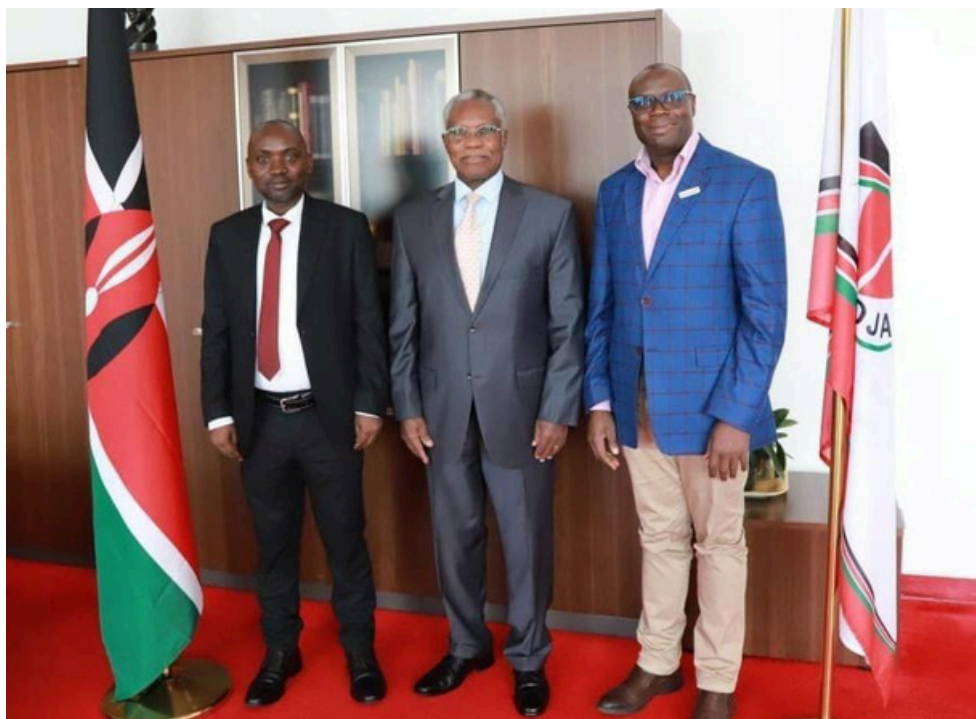
In a concerted effort to foster peace and social cohesion, NCIC Central Rift office, in collaboration with Peace Cop, hosted a vital community dialogue at the Salgaa Chief's Office on Wednesday, 23rd April 2025. The forum brought together 25 participants, including village elders from the Nyumba Kumi initiative and various peace and security stakeholders, to discuss pressing issues affecting the area.

The gathering aimed to strengthen early warning and response mechanisms within the community, focusing on addressing social challenges that threaten stability. Salgaa, a key area facing recurring challenges, remains a priority due to ongoing concerns such as the politicization of ethnicity by certain community members and rising cases of drug and substance abuse. These issues have been identified as significant barriers to maintaining peace and fostering unity among residents.

Mr. David Gichaga, Principal Program Officer Central Rift, and Mr. Dennis Bundi, the Program Officer, led the engaging session. Their leadership provided a platform for open community reflection, dialogue, and collaboration, emphasizing the importance of collective action in building sustainable peace.

Participants shared insights and discussed strategies to enhance community resilience against social vices and ethno-political tensions. The forum underscored the critical role of local leaders and community members working together to develop effective early warning systems, ensuring timely responses to emerging conflicts.

## PHOTO SPEAK



*NCIC Chairman Rev. Dr. Samuel Kobia CBS, (C) NCIC CEO Dr. Daniel Mutegi Giti and Dr. Festus Mukoya from World vision during a courtesy call at the NCIC HQ on 17<sup>th</sup> April, 2025.*



*NCIC Commissioner Abdulahziz Farach (C) NCIC staff and a team from the the refugees team in Kakuma, during a visit , on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2025 where NCIC is spearheading a project in Kakuma, Turkana County.*



## PHOTO SPEAK



*NCIC CEO Dr. Daniel Mutegi Giti awards a participant during the Amani clubs' essay writing and awards ceremony held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at the NCIC HQ*



*NCIC CEO Dr. Daniel Mutegi Giti (C) Dr. Daniel Noel Odaba from Institute of Economics and Peace together with NCIC staff during a courtesy at the NCIC HQ on 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2025.*

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ONE PEOPLE. ONE NATION. ONE DESTINY