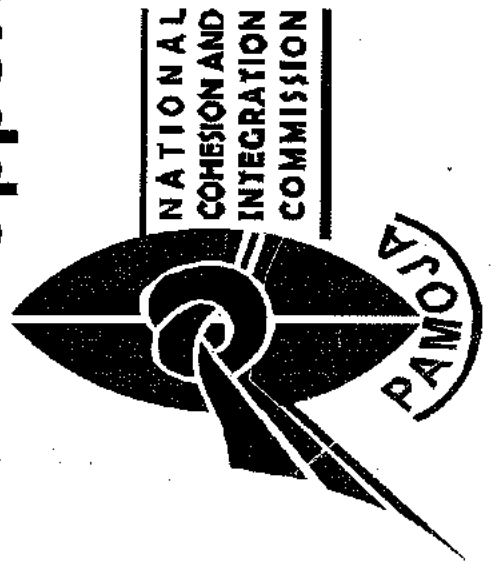


THE NATIONAL COHESION AND INTEGRATION COMMISSION

THE STATE OF NATIONAL COHESION IN KENYA:

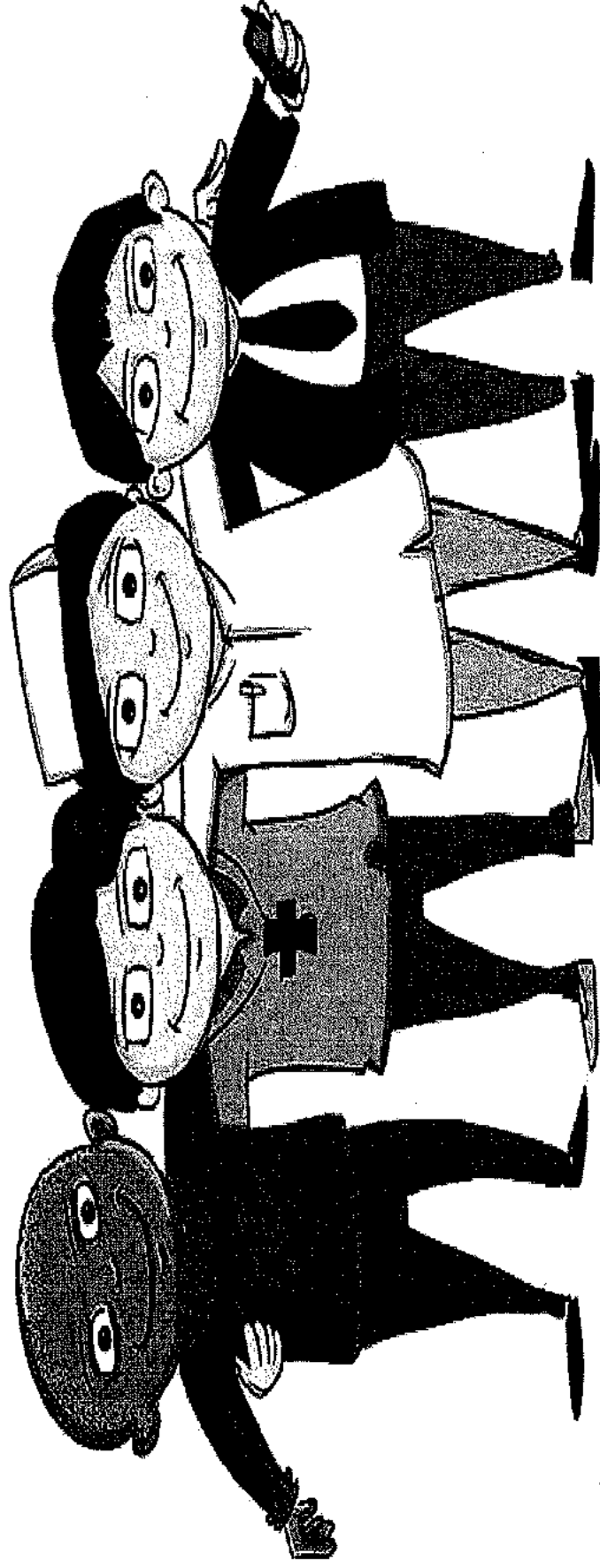
Opportunities and Challenges

By
Hon. Francis ole Kaparo
Chairman, NCIC.

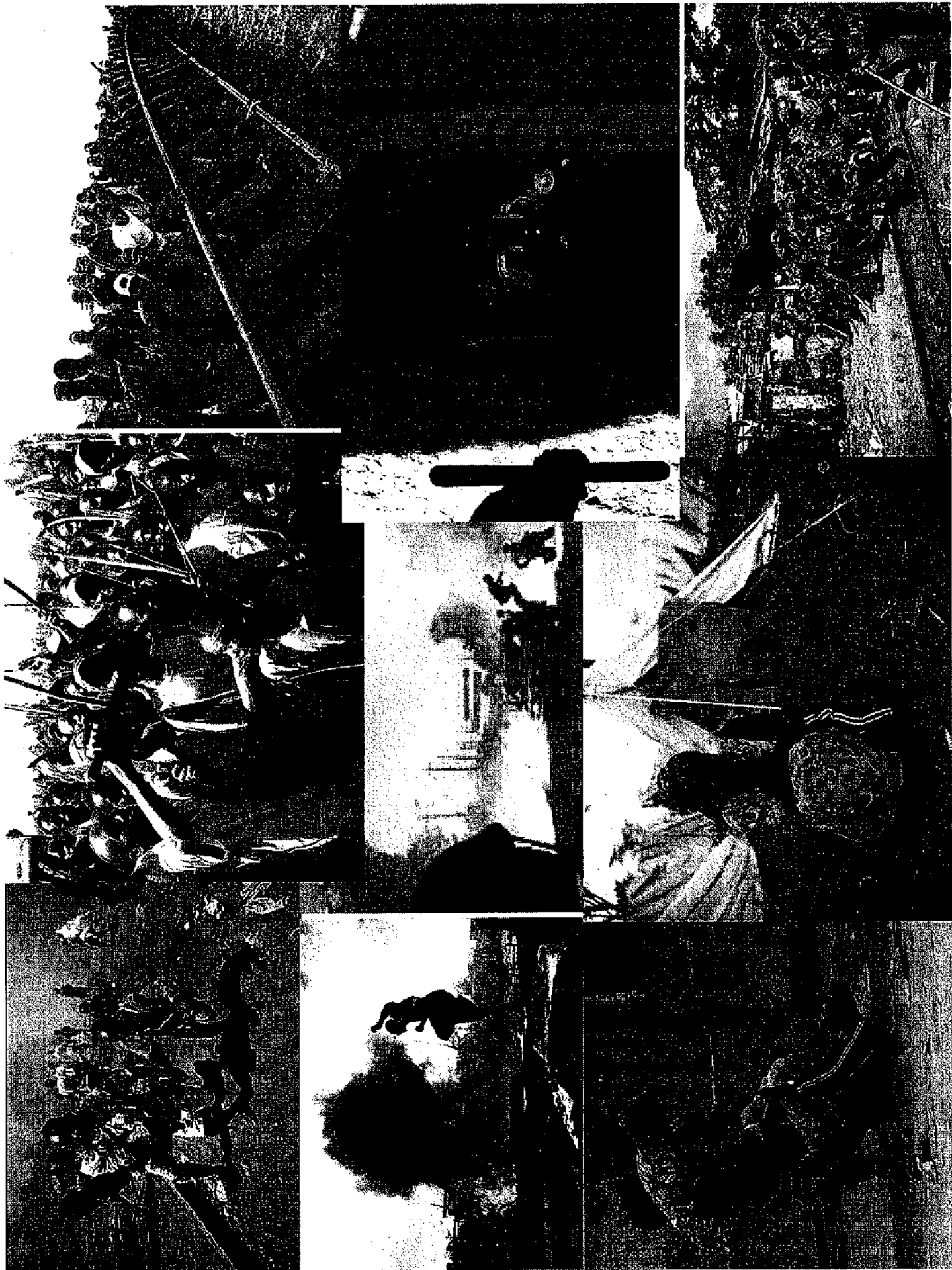


Introduction

Where did the rain started beating us?
We were all humans until,



**Race Disconnected us, Religion separated us,
Politics divided us, and Wealth classified us.**





SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

- Kenya's current huge socio-political upheavals are symptomatic of a people who are yet to come to terms with their unitary national identity.
- Kenyans, as a people, lack deeply shared national identity which manifests itself in discordant coexistence characterized by open hostility, suspicions, communal jingoism, and fervent socio-political tensions that has now spiraled into widespread intermittent violence.
- Since the re-introduction of multiparty politics in December, 1991, Kenya has witnessed an increase in violent and non-violent conflicts to a greater or lesser degree before, during and after general elections.



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS (Cont'd....)

- While communities of different backgrounds may aspire to live in harmony, there are many factors that may cause social instability and impact negatively on peace, national cohesion and integration.
- These include insecurity, crime and high unemployment; longstanding land and boundaries disputes, the fear of the minority of being marginalized and unrepresented, resource allocation and utilization, ethnocentrism and clanism and a general lack of involvement in the country's governance structure.



SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS (Cont'd....)

- Other potential challenges include ethnic mobilization and polarization in political participation, political patronage and exclusion of marginalized groups from decision making processes, intolerance to divergent views, religious extremism and radicalization.
- The attainment of peace, cohesion and integration in the Country is also threatened by disregard for and lack of respect to the rule of law, widespread abuse of human rights, primacy of ethnic identity over national identity and citizenship, and unresolved historical injustices.



INTERVENTION

- The Government of Kenya has used different strategies to promote national cohesion and integration.
- One of these strategies include the establishment of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC).
- The object and purpose for which the Commission is established is to facilitate and promote equality of opportunity, good relations, harmony and peaceful co-existence between persons of the different ethnic and racial communities of Kenya, and to advise the Government on all aspects thereof.

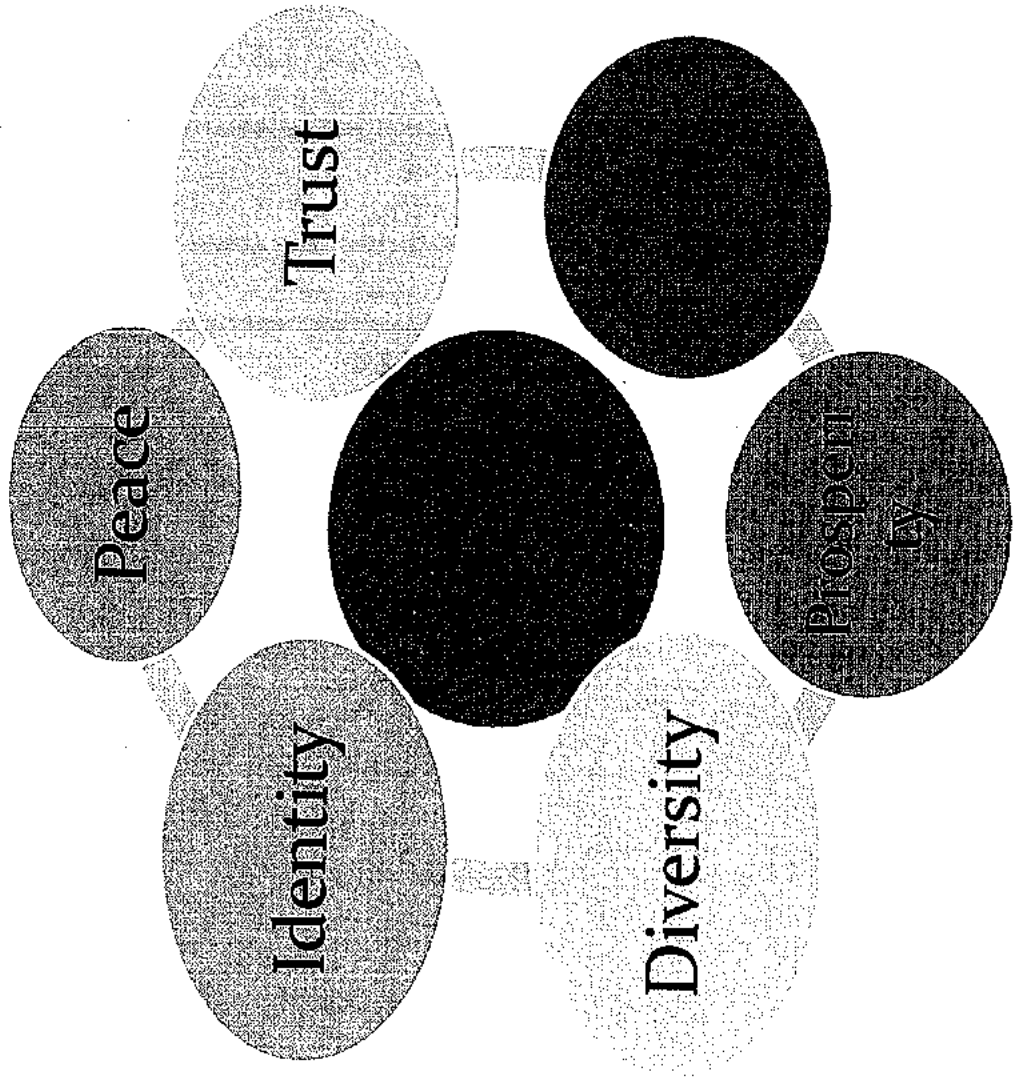


INTERVENTION

- Since its inception, the NCIC has made deliberate efforts to foster peaceful coexistence and cohesion among communities in various counties that have witnessed incidences of conflict and violence.
- The Commission has been making deliberate effort to come up with strategies and interventions to engage Kenyan communities in promoting and sustaining peaceful coexistence and integration of communities in the counties and Kenya in general.

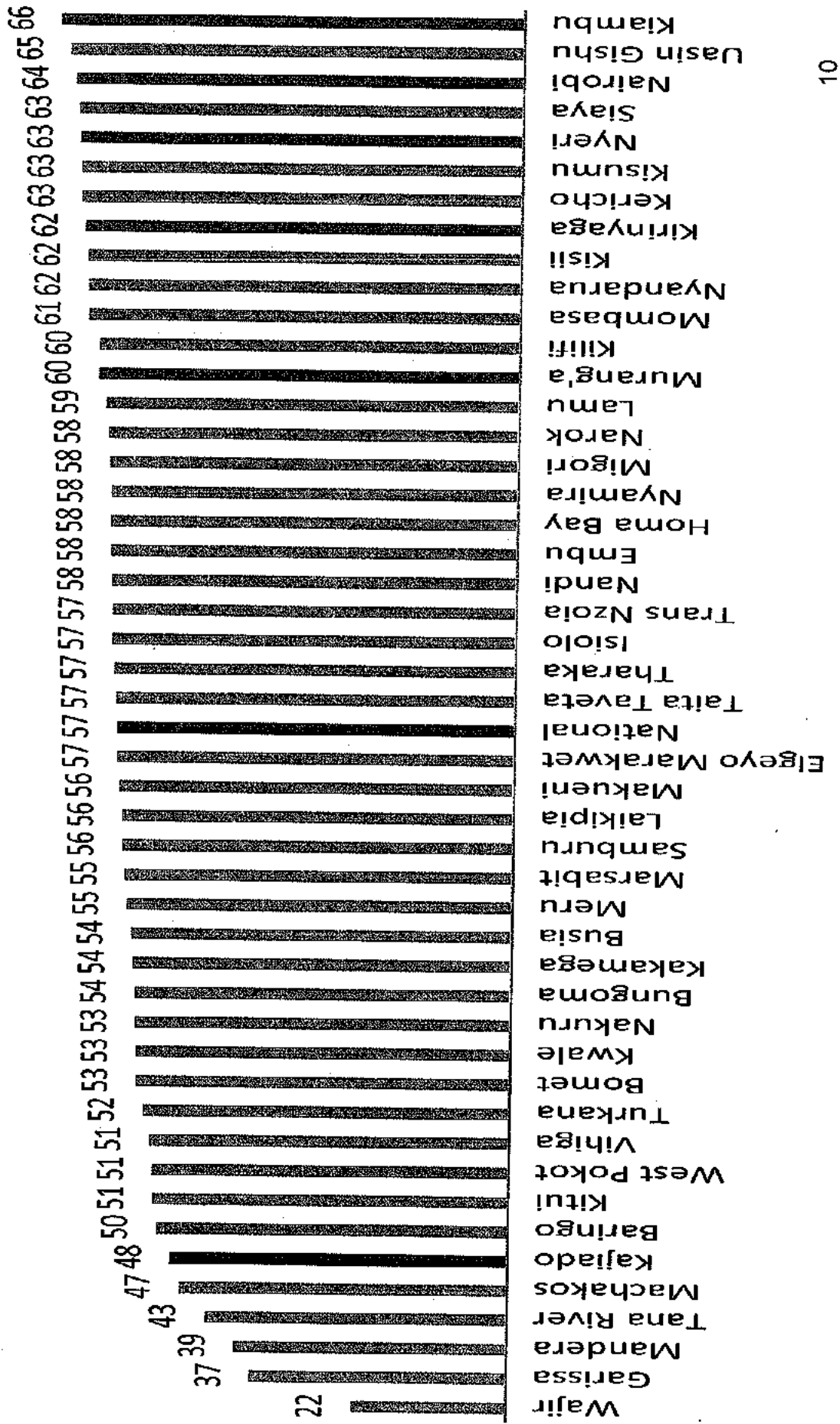
Social Cohesion Index

- ❑ In 2013, NCIC commissioned a study to determine the country's Social Cohesion Index
- ❑ The study used six (6) parameters to determine the country's cohesion.
- ❑ The country's Social Cohesion Index result was at 56.6



County Social Cohesion Indices

by county





Ethnic and Diversity Audits:

- The Commission has been conducting ethnic audits with a view to take stock of the ethnic composition of employees in state corporations, Independent Commissions, County Governments and Public Universities and Constituent Colleges in Kenya.
- In undertaking these audits, the Commission is guided by the NCI Act - Section 7; and the County Government Act - Section 65.
- The audits check compliance with these laws with an aim of promoting diversity and inclusivity in employment.



Audit of County Governments:

- The preliminary findings indicate that employment in the County Public Service is not only inequitable but skewed in favour of the dominant groups in the respective Counties.
- There are communities that are highly under represented while others are not visible within the employment structures.
- The study reveals that new appointments made since the Counties were established (2013 to date) have contravened the law. Only seventeen (17) Counties (38%) have adhered to Section 65 of the County Governments Act.

Peace Building and Conflict

Resolutions Mechanisms

- The Commission has facilitated a number of intra and inter-ethnic peace building community dialogues, mediation and reconciliation, including inter- ethnic exchange visits to promote peaceful coexistence, cohesion and integration.
 - i. Mediation and social contracts
 - ii. Training in conflict transformation
 - iii. Increased use of ADR



Peace Building and Conflict

Resolutions Mechanisms

- **Community Reconciliation:** Bungoma County, Kakamega-Nandi, Marsabit, Laikipia and Samburu, Mandera & Wajir , West Pokot-Turkana, Isiolo, Meru, Lamu, Kwale, Nandi-Kisumu, etc.
- **Counter-terrorism and de-radicalization:** Coastal Counties through Interfaith and key local community leaders.
- **Continuous conflict mapping of counties for proactive engagement**



Making the Education Sector

Responsive to National Cohesion

- i. Mainstreaming national cohesion in school curriculum and Education policy.
- ii. Advocating for the streamlining the quota system of admission.
- iii. Engagement with Educational Administrators on cohesion and integration matters.
- iv. Supporting Co-curricular activities such as Drama and Music festivals.
- v. Enhancing peaceful coexistence thro' *Amani* (Peace) Clubs.



NCIC's View on the Current Impasse

- NCIC deplures hooliganism, wanton violence, destruction of property and excessive use of force leading to loss of life and limb in the ongoing protests against Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) by the Coalition for Reforms and Democracy, (CORD).
- The prevailing situation in the country is at most irresponsible, unfortunate and untenable. Allowed to take root, these series of events will roll back the gains we have made as a nation to achieve cohesion and integration.
- It makes no sense for political elites to begin another poisonous conflict that can drive us to civil strife.



NCIC's View on the Current Impasse

- The days of reducing dissatisfaction into brutality and bloodletting are gone and Kenyans of all walks of life- whether political elites or security agencies must redefine their engagement and struggle in this time and age.
- We must as country cultivate a culture of non-violence, respect for the rule of law and tolerance for divergent opinions.
- For Kenya to work towards sustainable peace & cohesion we must overcome the fundamental challenges of disunity amongst our people by respecting others, even when we do not necessarily agree with their opinion.



NCIC's View on the Current Impasse

- NCIC appeals to the political elites and their supporters to reject violence and explore alternative means of resolving the grievances at hand.
- The government should act with openness and sobriety in addressing the source of the current impasse.
- The security agencies must exercise restraint during demonstrations and to protect the rights of free speech, assembly, and political participation guaranteed by the Kenyan constitution.



NCIC's View on the Current Impasse

- The Commission has provided leadership in generating processes, systems and structures that have spearheaded campaign for national unity and peaceful co-existence amongst all Kenyans of different ethnicities and race.
- As an institution, NCIC is committed to provide leadership in mediating the current conflict, together with other Constitutional Commissions and independent offices, relevant government organs, the civil society and religious institutions to restore peace and calm in the country.

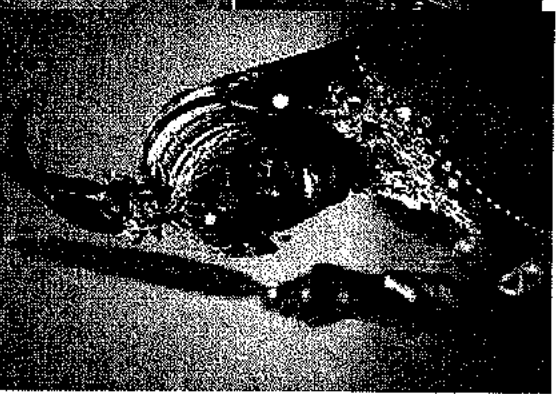


NCIC's View on the Current Impasse

- There is need therefore to bring the leaders from different categories together to remove prejudice and political chauvinism with the ultimate goal of building a national consensus.
- The NCIC wishes to remind all Kenyans that emergence and/or presence of disputes should not necessarily mean breakdown of law and order.
- What is important however is engaging the right channels to resolve the disputes. This is what helps to nature a young democracy such as ours.

PEACE or

SAY 'YES' TO SMILE



VIOLENCE

SAY 'NO' TO TEARS





CONCLUSION

- The realization of a just, cohesive and integrated society will greatly be driven by social inclusion, respect for the rule of law, participation of the people and sharing of common goals and vision among other values.
- Governors should continue to support and appreciate strategies that nurture national identity of the Kenyan people and call upon the citizenry to take a collective responsibility of building a Peaceful, United, Harmonious and Integrated Kenyan Society.
- We must overcome evil with good, and falsehood with truth, and hatred with love!!

PEACE

"It isn't enough to talk about peace.

One must believe in it.

And it isn't enough to believe in it.

One must work at it.

- Eleanor Roosevelt

peacedirect.org



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