



# Kenya National Commission on Human Rights

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## The Final Call

### (A PERIODIC UPDATE ON HOTSPOTS AND CAMPAIGN MONITORING)

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Ladies and gentlemen in the next four days Kenyans will finally go to the ballot to elect the fourth president of Kenya and other key political leadership for the next five years after a grueling campaign period. The Commission releases this final update to inform Kenyans of their conduct and behavior during the ongoing campaigns (as detailed in the attached report) and to appeal to the nation of our collective responsibility to ensure free, fair and peaceful elections.

The Commission is encouraged by the many initiatives and efforts being undertaken by various stakeholders and by ordinary Kenyans all over to foster peace during the electioneering period. The coming together of the main political leaders during the two key presidential debates and their pledge to peace during the National Prayer Meeting at Uhuru Park last Sunday is commendable and will hopefully jell Kenyans to maintain peace during the elections.

While noting that there has been a marked reduction in the use of overt hatespeech during the 2013 electoral campaigns it is regrettable that use of defamatory and unsavoury language continues unabated. Political leaders and Kenyans alike continue to demonstrate a dearth of civility and decency through the use of vulgar, uncouth and at times inflammatory language in public. Kenyans continue to condone and cheer the politicians hence encouraging them to continue using such language to excite the crowds. The widespread use of social media especially facebook to spew out hatred on the basis of ethnicity and political affiliation is appalling.

The Commission has recorded many incidences of violence mainly involving supporters of rival candidates even within the main coalition parties. This is attributed to the bitter fallout during the flawed party nominations where many aspirants decamped to other parties after they felt that they were rigged out. In most areas, the campaigns have gone fully ethnic as politicians and their cronies continue to raise emotions and inflame passions as they campaign for votes in their major strongholds. Notable among the documented incidences of violence are the disruption of three CORD rallies in Meru, Embu and Kiambu and a NARC Kenya rally in Nairobi.

A number of incidences of misuse of public resources and participation of public officers in political campaigns have been reported especially amongst the two main coalitions; Jubilee and CORD. Incidences of bribery and other forms of voter inducements are rife with many aspirants adopting door-to-door campaigns and road shows where politicians discreetly or openly dish out money to the people. There are allegations of buying of identity cards from voters with a view to either prevent them from voting for rival candidates or to secure their support during the elections day.

Another major concern is the displacement of voters from some areas either because of intimidation or out of fear of recurrence of violence. In other areas businesses are shutting down or reducing their stocks to minimize loss in the event of chaos during the elections. The commission has observed this in areas including Kibera, Mathare, Naivasha, Embakasi, Mombasa, Kwale, Kilifi, Kuresoi, Uasin Ngishu and Kisumu.

We reiterate our appeal to all Kenyans wherever they are and in whatever they do, to desist from behavior and utterances that may disrupt peace and order during this electioneering period. We remind Kenyans that nobody, nobody and nobody shall gain and we all stand to lose should violence erupt as evidenced by the chaos in 2007/2008.

We call upon all the relevant agencies especially the IEBC, NCIC and the security agencies to work together to ensure and guarantee to Kenyans a safe, free, transparent and fair elections and to deal firmly with those bent on breach of law and order during this critical period.

We urge all eligible voters to turn out in large numbers on March 4<sup>th</sup> and exercise their constitutional right to elect leaders of their choice and remain united no matter the outcome of the elections!

Long Live Kenya!

**Signed:**

**Anne M. K. Ngugi**

**Acting Chair, KNCHR**