

**REMARKS BY CHAIRPERSON KNCHR, MS. KAGWIRIA MBOGORI UPON
SWEARING IN WITH MEMBERS OF THE KNCHR BY CHIEF JUSTICE DR. WILLY
MUTUNGA AT SUPREME COURT ON 7TH APRIL 2014.**

The Honorable the Chief Justice of the Republic of Kenya, Dr. Willy Mutunga, The Hon Attorney General, Prof. Githu Muigai, the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary, Commissioners of the KNCHR, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, all protocols observed;

I would like to first thank you and your office for the successful swearing in of the Commissioners. I am aware that your office was approached on short notice and that notwithstanding you were able to accommodate us in your busy schedule. I thank you and I trust that this is an indication of the working relationship that we shall have with your office in the days to come.

I also wish to convey our appreciation to the office of the Attorney General with regards to the finalization of the recruitment of Commissioners of the KNCHR.

We are delighted that with our swearing in, the Commission is now properly constituted and together with my colleagues we look forward to making our contribution towards ensuring that that the country realizes its constitutional aspirations as articulated in the Bill of Rights, Chapter 5 of the Constitution. We trust that arrangements are being made to also have the 4th member appointed so that we are fully constituted.

We are humbled by and deeply appreciate the trust that has been vested upon us and we commit to conscientiously discharge our responsibilities.

We are conscious of the heavy responsibility that rests on our shoulders. We are committed to the inculcation of a human rights culture within Kenya. We intend to place the promotion of human rights at the fore of the National Agenda. As we assume office the country faces a number of challenges. With regards to insecurity the Commission holds the view that the absence of security undermines the realization of human rights. In this regard we are in agreement

and support the Government position that it will not compromise on its internal security. We are concerned however that there are indications that there are moves or actions being taken that may contravene the Bill of rights and compromise the enjoyment of constitutionally guaranteed rights.

It is our position that no references to the need to fight terror can be an argument for restricting human rights. We therefore are concerned about the repeated shoot to kill orders issued by leaders and security officers. We also take issue with the randomized and arbitrary searches that citizens are being subjected to. We consider the ongoing ethnic and religious profiling of Kenyans of any decent is dangerous.

We intend to work to ensure that the State complies with its national and international obligations as regards respect for human rights and shall act to ensure that we put to task those who contravene these obligations.

On behalf of my colleagues I thank you all for being in attendance.

We look forward to working with you.

Ms Kagwiria Mbogori,

Chairperson KNCHR.