



Press statement

NAIROBI, KENYA

22nd September 2007

AMANI FORUM CALLS UPON LEADERS, YOUTH AND ALL KENYANS TO UPHOLD PEACE

The Great Lakes Parliamentary Forum on Peace - AMANI Forum strongly disapproves and condemns the emerging acts of electoral related violence witnessed in various parts of Kenya in the recent past. In particular, the Forum condemns the seemingly planned violence that took place in Nyamarambe in South Mugirango Constituency on Friday 21st September 2007 – the United Nations International Day of Peace.

AMANI Forum is further concerned that the attacks took place on the very same day that His Excellency the President was launching the Partnership for Peace (PfP) Campaign for Peaceful Elections i.e 'Chagua AMANI Zuia Noma' as well as marking the International Day of Peace at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre.

AMANI is a founder Member of the Partnership for Peace (PfP) - a network of organisations and actors who are convinced on the need for all Kenyans to take the responsibility to ensure that peace and tolerance prevails during this period. We implore the leadership of this country, in particular, all aspiring candidates in the forthcoming elections, to refrain from inciting *wananchi* to hatred and violent acts.

The process of electioneering is meant to be an integral component of democratization and nation building. As such, no amount of hate speech, intimidation or actual violence should be entertained by any peace loving Kenyan. The youth of this country should refuse to be misused by those seeking political office. Young people must realise that such persons are not leaders.

The Great Lakes Parliamentary Forum of Peace - AMANI Forum is an initiative of African Parliamentarians in the Great Lakes region. It is a network of parliamentarians in the region committed to peace and peaceful resolution of conflicts, both within their own countries and the region as a whole. The Forum has established National Chapters in seven parliaments of the Great Lakes region namely Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.