



Partnership for Peace

For a Peaceful and Secure Electoral Process



Anglican Church of Kenya
P.O. Box 20571-00100 NBI
Tel: 2714755
archoffice@swifk Kenya.com



Evangelical Alliance of Kenya
P.O. Box 57568, 00200 Nairobi
Tel: 0720-417877 Or 0733-747939
Musisodi@eakenya.org



Hindu Council of Kenya
P.O. Box 39925-00623, Nairobi
Tel: 0722-613117
hck@kenyaweb.com



Kenya Episcopal Conference
P.O. Box 13475, 00800 Nairobi
Tel: 4443133/4/5
secgeneral@catholicchurch.or.ke



Methodist Church In Kenya
P.O. Box 47633, 00100 Nairobi
Tel: 2728523 / 2724841
mckconf@wananchi.com



National Council of Churches of Kenya
P.O. Box 45009, Nairobi
Tel: 2721249
gsoffice@ncck.org



Organization of African Instituted
Churches - Kenya Chapter
P.O. Box 21736, 00505 Nairobi
Tel: 3870356
admin@oaic.org



Presbyterian Church of East Africa
P. O. Box 27573 00506, Nairobi
Tel: 603607 / 608848
smurighu@pcea.or.ke



Seventh Day Adventist
P.O. Box 42276, 00100, Nairobi

Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims
P.O. Box 45163, 00100, Nairobi
Tel: 243109 / 216963 / 216965

Press Statement of the *Chagua AMANI; Zuia Noma* Campaign

Call for a Peaceful Electioneering Process in Kenya

On behalf of the Partnership for Peace, we take this opportunity to thank all Kenyans who have embraced the campaign on *Chagua AMANI Zuia Noma*, after its official launch on 21st September 2007, the United Nations International Day of Peace. We further thank all Kenyans who turned up for the launch and call upon them to maintain the same spirit.

The Partnership for Peace is delighted to note that the *Chagua AMANI Zuia Noma* campaign is receiving support among the Kenyan people. On this note we thank the media for the support they have accorded the campaign in terms of ensuring the message resonates to the general public and in highlighting cases of violence when they occur.

The PFP notes with deep concern the emerging pockets of electoral violence and gender-based violence in our country. In particular, PFP wishes to condemn the violence at Nyamaremba in Kisii on September 21st and the subsequent, intermittent violence in Sondu; the violence in Hamisi on October 6th in which a young man was shot dead and several people were injured; the violence in Kibera on September 29th and the on-going violence in Mt. Elgon and Tana River.

We further condemn the disturbing emerging trend of gender based violence meted on female aspirants, in particular, the attacks on Ms. Asha Ali, a Civic Aspirant in Dandora Nairobi and Ms. Flora Tera, a parliamentary aspirant in North Imenti constituency in Meru among others. The Partnership for Peace hereby calls upon all Kenyans to undertake peaceful campaigns and desist from all acts of violence, elicited by either provocation or incitement. As we approach the parliamentary and civic nominations, the PFP further urges all political parties to conduct their nominations peacefully and with utmost civility. The democratic gains that Kenya has made, which have been exemplary in the region, should not be undermined by violence during the election process.

As a network of organizations 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, PFP further thanks all those leaders and political parties who have maintained the motto of *Chagua AMANI; Zuia Noma* in conducting their campaigns peacefully. In this respect, we wish to recognize and applaud the peaceful Launch of the PNU campaigns held at the Nyayo Stadium on 30th September; The Peaceful Launch of the ODM campaigns at Uhuru Park on October the 6th and the Peaceful Launch of the ODM-K campaigns at Uhuru Park on 14th October 2007. We further urge them to maintain peace as they roll out their campaigns throughout the country and to be tolerant of divergent views expressed by their opponents. We also encourage them to embrace dialogue in addressing electoral related conflicts and disagreements.



United Nations Development Programme
P.O. Box 30218, 00100 Nairobi
Tel: 7624465
elizabeth.wanga@undp.org



AMANI FORUM
P.O. Box 25592-00603, Nairobi
Tel: 254 20 2730802-4
info@amaniforum.org



Africa Peace Forum
P. O. Box 76621-00508
Tel: 020 3874092
apfo@amanifika.org



KEPSA
P.O. Box 3556-00100 Nairobi
Tel: 254-20-2730371/2
info@kpsa.or.ke



MEDIA COUNCIL OF KENYA
P.O. Box 43132 Nairobi 00100
Tel: +254-02-2737058
info@mediacouncil.or.ke



Ministry of Youth Affairs
The Peace Ministry
P.O. Box 34303-00100, Nairobi
+254-020-240068
youthaffairs@vice-president.go.ke



AFRICA ONLINE
P.O. Box 44412, Nairobi
254 2 222095
mywo@africaonline.co.ke



NPI-Africa
P.O. Box 14094-00800 Nbi
Tel: 020 4441444
Email: info@npi-africa.org



PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT NETWORK
PEACE-NET TRUST
P.O. Box 4090-00100, Nairobi
Tel: +254 20 2720270
info@peaceanddevelopment.org



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Anglican Church of Kenya
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Political leaders and political parties must put the interest of Kenyans first in conducting their affairs. All the Presidential, Parliamentary or Civic candidates, other, political leaders and the members of the public are hereby urged to embrace the fact that Kenya and Kenyans will be there even after the elections. The ongoing campaign of fear that some communities will suffer should certain candidates win should be condemned by all peace loving Kenyans. The country has shown immense capacity to pull itself together in times of serious challenges. Any political leader or individual seeking selfish gains should not underrate this capacity.

Finally, the Partnership for Peace calls upon all Kenyans to accept the results of the elections. Whoever is elected will be our president. Our task therefore will be to offer necessary support to enable him/her lead the country to greater heights of social and economic prosperity. May we have peaceful elections: *Chagua AMANI; Zuia Noma.*

Thank you
Signed on behalf of the Partnership for Peace

Ambassador Bethuel Kiplagat
Partnership for Peace (PFP)



United Nations Development Programme
P.O. Box 30218, 00100 Nairobi
Tel: 7624465
elizabeth.wanga@undp.org



P.O. Box 25592-00603, Nairobi
Tel: 254 20 2730802-4
info@amaniforum.org



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P.O. Box 76621-00508
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apfo@amaniatika.org



P.O. Box 3556-00100 Nairobi
Tel: 254-20-2730371/2
info@kepsa.or.ke



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Tel: +254-02-2737058
info@mediacouncil.or.ke



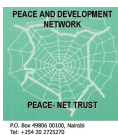
P.O. Box 34303-00100, Nairobi
+254-020-240068
youthaffairs@vice-president.go.ke



P.O. Box 44412, Nairobi
254 2 222095
mywo@africaonline.co.ke



P.O. Box 14094-00800 Nii
Tel: 020 4441444
Email: info@npi-africa.org



P.O. Box 4990-00100, Nairobi
Tel: +254 20 2720270
info@peaceanddevelopment.org