



National Stakeholders Convention



**Democratic, Credible and
Peaceful 2027 Elections**



VENUE:

CHRISTIAN STUDENTS' LEADERSHIP CENTRE
(UFUNGAMANO HOUSE)

2nd – 3rd September 2026



KENYA RELIGIOUS LEADERS FORUM



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NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS' CONVENTION

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Kenya Religious Leaders Forum

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Kenya National Anthem

Wimbo Wa Taifa / National Anthem

Ee Mungu nguvu yetu
Ilete baraka kwetu
Haki iwe ngao na mlinzi
Natukae na undugu
Amani na uhuru
Raha tupate na ustawi.

Amkeni ndugu zetu
Tufanye sote bidii
Nasi tujitoe kwa nguvu
Nchi yetu ya Kenya
Tunayoipenda
Tuwe tayari kuilinda

Natujenge taifa letu
Ee, ndio wajibu wetu
Kenya istahili heshima
Tuungane mikono
Pamoja kazini
Kila siku tuwe na shukrani

Oh God of all creation
Bless this our land and nation
Justice be our shield and defender
May we dwell in unity
Peace and liberty
Plenty be found within our borders.

Let one and all arise
With hearts both strong and true
Service be our earnest endeavour
And our homeland of Kenya
Our Heritage of splendour
Firm may we stand to defend

Let all with one accord
In common bond united
Build this our nation together
And the glory of Kenya
The fruit of our labour
Fill every heart with thanksgiving.

East Africa Community Anthem

Ee Mungu twaomba uilinde
Jumuiya Afrika Mashariki
Tuwezeshe kuishi kwa amani
Tutimize na malengo yetu.

Jumuiya Yetu sote tuilinde
Tuwajibike tuimarike
Umoja wetu ni nguzo yetu
Idumu Jumuiya yetu.

Uzalendo pia mshikamano
Viwe msingi wa Umoja wetu
Na tulinde Uhuru na Amani
Mila zetu na desturi zetu.

Viwandani na hata mashambani
Tufanye kazi sote kwa makini
Tujitoe kwa hali na mali
Tuijenge Jumuiya bora.

PROGRAMME

Day 1

2-September-2026

Session Chair: Rt Rev Joseph Obanyi

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER / FOCAL PERSON
08:00 am – 08:30 am	Arrival and Registration	Joint Secretariat
08:30 am – 08:35 am	National Anthem	ALL
08:35 am – 08:50 am	Prayer and Devotion	Sheikh Yussuf Nassor Abuhamza Rev Canon Evans Omollo
08:50 am – 09:00 am	Introductions	Phyllis Kamau-Kiarie
09:00 am – 09:10 am	Welcoming Remarks and Objectives of the Convention	Rev Canon Chris Kinyanjui
09:10 am – 9:30 am	Remarks by Convenors	Rt Rev Joseph Obanyi, KCCB Bishop Dr Calisto Odede, EAK Al-Hajj Hassan Ole Naado, SUPKEM Rev Dr Elias Otieno Agola, NCCK
09:30 am – 10:00 am	State of the Nation	Br Dr Elias Mokua
10:00 am – 10:30 am	2027 Electoral Cycle Scenarios	Cyprian Nyamwamu
10:30 am – 11:00 am	TEA BREAK	ALL
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Panel Discussion: Legal, Logistical and Institutional Readiness for 2027 General Elections	Erastus Edung Ethekeon, HSC, <i>Chairman, IEBC</i> John Cox Lorionokou <i>Registrar of Political Parties</i> Bishop Dr. Kepha Nyamweya Omae <i>Chairman, NCIC</i> Moderator: Sam Gituku
12:30 – 2:00 pm	Panel Discussion: Security, Peace and Human Rights Before, During and After 2027 General Elections	Douglas Kanja Kirocho, MGH, CBS, OGW <i>Inspector General, NPS</i> Renson M. Ingonga CBS, OGW <i>Director of Public Prosecutions</i> Claris Awuor Ogangah, <i>Chairperson, KNCHR</i> Moderator: Mashirima Kapombe
2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	LUNCH	ALL

3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Breakaway Sessions	1. Political violence, Goonism, Human Rights Violations and Youth Exploitation - Chair: Bsp Ernest Ng'eno - Facilitator: Grace Wangechi - Rapporteur: Festus Rotich 2. Institutional Capture, Abuse of State Power and Co-Optation of Faith Institutions - Chair: Sheikh Yussuf Nassor Abuhamba - Facilitator: Cyprian Nyamwamu - Rapporteur: Esther Mwendu 3. Influence of Money, Opaque Campaign Financing and Elite Capture - Chair: Rev Fr. Boniface Mmbwanga - Facilitator: Mulle Musau - Rapporteur: Charity Muthoni 4. Misinformation, Hate Speech and Political / Ethnic Polarisation - Chair: Bishop John Parit - Facilitator: Bro Dr Elias Mokua - Rapporteur: Hanifa Nelima 5. Structural Exclusion of Youth, Women and PWDs - Chair: Al-Hajj Omar Hamisi - Facilitator: Nerima Wako - Rapporteur: Faith Monica
4:30 PM	TEA AND DEPARTURE	ALL

Day 2**3 September 2026****Session Chair: Rt Rev Simon Peter Kamomoe**

TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER / FOCAL PERSON
8:00 am – 08:20 am	Arrival and Registration	Joint Secretariat
8:20 am – 8:50 am	Opening Prayer and Devotion	Sheikh Idd Yusuf Wainaina Sharon Christine Mwai
8:50 am – 9:00 am	Recap of Day 1	Lead Rapporteur
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Breakaway Sessions Reports	Session Chairpersons (5 Minutes each)
9:30 am – 11:00 am	Panel Discussion: Youth Visioning – From Aspirations to Action	Victor Nyongesa, Youth Agenda Rev Carol Kiarie, Young Clergy Willie Oebah, Artist Moderator: Abdikarim Abdulhakim
11:00 am – 11:30 am	TEA BREAK	ALL
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Corruption and Politics: How Illicit Money Undermines Democracy in Kenya	Bsp Dr David Oginde, PhD
12:30 pm – 12:45 pm	Action Plan and Way Forward	Rev Kepha Nyandega
12:45 pm – 1:00 pm	Review and Input on Communique	Rev Fr Bernard Ngaruiya
1:00 pm – 1:10 pm	Closing Remarks	Rt Rev Simon Peter Kamomoe
1:10 pm – 1:20 pm	Closing Prayers	Muslim Prayer Christian Prayer
1:20 pm – 1:40 pm	Press Conference	KRLF
1:40 pm	LUNCH AND DEPARTURE	

OVERVIEW OF THE CONVENTION SESSIONS

About the Convenors

The Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB), Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK), Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM) and National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK) have over the decades partnered to contribute to the building a just, resilient and sustainable society premised on constitutionalism and rule of law. They have had an invaluable impact on democratic processes in Kenya through strategic, timely and impactful interventions that safeguard the participation and rights of all. It is in this context, and in seeking to once again synergize their energies and resources, that the KCCB, EAK, SUPKEM and NCCCK have come together as the Kenya Religious Leaders Forum (KRLF) with an aim of securing the wellbeing of the nation before, during and after the 2027 elections.

Arrival and Registration

On arrival, each delegate will be registered and issued with a writing pad, pen, name tag, and QR code to an online folder with information materials prepared for the Convention. Delegates are asked to wear their name tags at all times during the Convention.

National Anthem, Prayer and Devotion

The Convention will begin with singing the National Anthem, after which Sheikh Abdullah Salat will make an opening prayer followed by brief devotion by Rev Canon Evans Omollo. Sheikh Idd Yusuf Wainaina and Sharon Christine Mwai will lead the opening prayer and devotion on day 2 respectively.

Welcoming Remarks and Objectives of the Conference

Rev Canon Chris Kinyanjui welcome the delegates to the National Stakeholders Conference, brief them on the KRLF, and highlight the objectives of the Convention.

Remarks by Convenors

Archbishop Maurice Muhatia, Bishop Dr Calisto Odede, Al-Hajj Hassan Ole Naado, and Rev Dr Elias Otieno Agola, the chairpersons of KCCB, EAK, SUPKEM, and NCCCK respectively, will expound on their institutions' perspectives and prospects as regards the clamour for democratic, credible and peaceful 2027 General Elections.

State of the Nation

Bro Elias Mokua will take the delegates through a snapshot of the situation in the nation one year to the 2027 General Elections. He will especially highlight the risks facing the polls and lessons learnt from previous elections.

2027 Electoral Cycle Scenarios

Building on past analysis, Cyprian Nyamwamu will present to the delegates the possible scenarios in the lead up to and after the 2027 General Elections, as well as the attendant mitigation measures.

Panel Discussion: Legal, Logistical and Institutional Readiness for the 2027 General Elections

In a discussion moderated by Sam Gituku, representatives from the IEBC, ORPP, and NCIC will get an opportunity to outline the readiness by their institutions to ensure that Kenyans have democratic, credible and peaceful General Elections in 2027. Delegates will be accorded chances to interrogate those plans against past performance.

Panel Discussion: Security, Peace and Human Rights Before, During and After the 2027 General Elections

Moderated by Mashirima Kapombe, the panel consisting of representatives from NPS, ODPP and KNCHR will demonstrate the logistical, legal and operational plans in place to ensure the entire 2027 elections cycle is peaceful and secure.

Breakaway Sessions

Delegates will be invited to join any of the 5 breakaway sessions in which they will analyze the core threats facing the 2027 General Election cycle. In each of the sessions, a facilitator will present a brief situation report, then the participants will discuss the current status of that threat, its possible prognosis, and required actions by different actors to mitigate the risk. The threats were identified during the Study on the Influence of Money and Religion on Democratic Outcomes in Kenya (report shared with delegates).

On the second day, the Chairpersons of the Breakaway sessions will present brief reports to the plenary.

Panel Discussion: Youth Visioning – From Aspirations to Action

Moderated by Abdikarim Abdlhakim, the Panel Discussion will examine how the youth can participate meaningfully in governance and democratic spaces before, during and after the 2027 elections so as to progress the attainment of their vision of a better Kenya. The session will iterate the strategies and actions required to attain that future.

Corruption and Politics: How Illicit Money Undermines Democracy in Kenya

Bishop Dr David Oginde, the Chairman of EACC, will present to the Convention evidence-based discourse on how corruption and illicit money influence and virtually control politics in the country. The delegates will discuss the relationship between heavy financial investments by political aspirants and subsequent corruption and maladministration. The session will identify practical mitigation measures.

Action Plan and Way Forward

Based on the discussions and proceedings of the Convention, Rev Kepha Nyandega will take the delegates through the proposed action points by KRLF and other actors for adoption.

Input and Review of Communiqué

The Convention Secretariat will present a proposed communiqué for review and finalization by the delegates, which will then be presented during the Press Conference.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS CONVENTION

CONCEPT NOTE

Introduction

One year to the 2027 elections, Kenya is back to standing on pinpoints, painfully tense and anxious over what the 14th General Elections hold for the nation. The anxiety is hugely driven by the historical context where incumbency elections have been characterized by violence and repression. A peek at this history shows:

Presidential Poll	Context
1969	Jomo Kenyatta re-elected unopposed after Kenya Peoples Union (KPU) was banned and opposition leaders were detained
1974	Jomo Kenya re-elected unopposed in an authoritarian system that restricted organized opposition and dissent was suppressed
1979	Daniel Moi re-elected in a peaceful poll albeit without any presidential competition
1983	Daniel Moi re-elected in the context of the crackdown that followed the 1982 coup – characterized by arrests, detention, torture and a strengthened security state
1988	Daniel Moi re-elected in a strongly coercive political environment where clergy, journalists, lawyers and political actors faced detention, torture and surveillance
1992	First elections after return of multi party politics which featured ethnic violence in Rift Valley and Western Kenya leading to killings and mass displacement. Daniel Moi re-elected.
1997	Daniel Moi re-elected for a final term in an environment of pre-election violence in different parts of the country
2007	Intense pre-election tensions exploded in widespread post-election violence in which more than 1,100 people were killed. An internationally mediated agreement secured Mwai Kibaki's re-election.
2017	Highly competitive poll with heavy tension before elections. After the polls, police used lethal force against opposition protestors before and during the repeat poll

The overarching challenge that has emerged in all these elections is the weakening and perceived underperformance of independent offices and commissions that were created in the constitution to safeguard democracy, peace and human rights. There is a persistent accusation that these offices allow themselves to become subservient to and advantage the interests of the incumbent president, which erodes the democratic aspiration of Kenyans.

The question in the hearts of Kenyans is: *Will the independent commissions and offices execute their mandates in 2027, or will they accede to pressure to favour the state?*

Emergent Characterization of Kenya Politics

According to a survey conducted in early 2026 titled “Study on the Influence of Money and Religion on Democratic Outcomes in Kenya”, there are three emergent characteristics of politics in Kenya which have a huge bearing on the 2027 elections. These are:

Monetization of Politics

Monetization of politics is at a crisis level. Money shapes candidate identification, political competition, election results, and subsequent governance. Campaign financing creates a self-reinforcing cycle where leaders enter into office indebted to financiers and thereafter prioritize recouping their money over public service. Even where a candidate have their own resources, the finances invested in the campaigns are incomparable to the possible returns they would officially earn when in office. This was confirmed by the recently gazetted Campaign Financing Regulations which allow a Presidential candidate to spend up to KSh 6 billion; Governor / Senator / Women Representative up to KShs 181 million; Member of National Assembly up to KSh 100 million; and Member of County Assembly up to KSh 22 million. These figures are incomparable to the maximum salary one would earn in 5 years: President – KShs 86 million; Governor – KSh 57 million; Senator / Women Rep / MNA – KSh 50 million; and MCA – KSh 13 million.

How would they recover their campaign costs yet they were not making a contribution to public service?

Is Kenya transitioning from democracy to plutocracy?

Pulpit Capture

Religious leaders are the most trusted institution in Kenya, as has been shown by different researches. The influence that religious institutions have on the society has made them a target of co-optation by political actors for manipulation. While religious institutions maintain significant moral authority and civic engagement mobilisation, different studies have shown a widespread concern over perceived pulpit capture, which is the phenomenon where political actors use the pulpit as a campaign platform. In addition, huge and highly publicized donations to religious institutions have been viewed as implicit obligations to silence prophetic voices.

Will religious leaders successfully navigate the external pressures by politicians seeking legitimacy and internal pressures by congregants demanding non-partisanship to objectively contribute to peaceful democratic outcomes?

Structural Exclusion

Despite the progressive constitutional guarantees, youth, women and persons with disabilities face structural barriers to their participation in governance and democratic processes. These interconnected barriers are finance, culture, political gatekeeping, and informal networks. The vulnerable populations therefore face daunting hindrances erected by a convergence of money, state power, elite interests and disempowering narratives.

The National Stakeholders Convention

To facilitate a national reflection on these and other challenges facing the 2027 General Elections, and to assess the nation's readiness for the same, the Kenya Religious Leaders Forum has convened the National Stakeholders Convention to be held September 2 – 3, 2026 at Ufungamano House, Nairobi. The Kenya Religious Leaders Forum (KRLF) is a partnership of Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops (KCCB), Evangelical Alliance of Kenya (EAK), Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims (SUPKEM) and National Council of Churches of Kenya (NCCCK).

The Convention will bring together faith leaders, civil society, media, private sector, persons with disabilities, youth and women leaders, political actors, and state agencies with mandates touching on elections and security.

Over the two days, delegates will engage in indepth discussions with panels composed of representatives of the state institutions. Thereafter, there will be break away sessions on specific themes. On the second day, there will be a panel specifically focussing on the youth engagement in politics, as well as a session focusing on how corruption undermines democracy in Kenya. The Convention will develop and disseminate a communique to the nation to address the issues discussed and make recommendations.

Goal

The overall goal of the National Stakeholders Convention is to review the readiness of the country for the 2027 General Elections and to formulate strategies for securing democratic, credible and peaceful elections.

Objectives

1. To assess the readiness by constitutional bodies with elections and security mandates to deliver democratic, credible and peaceful elections
2. To identify the key risks that may undermine democratic, credible and peaceful elections and develop mitigation measures
3. To identify and formulate strategies, actions and commitments by different stakeholders to safeguard the integrity of democratic outcomes before and after the 2027 electoral cycle

Expected Outputs

1. Consensus on advocacy and mediation strategies and actions for religious leaders and other stakeholders to secure the 2027 electoral cycle
2. Documented analysis and recommendations on the specific risks facing the 2027 electoral cycle
3. A communique outlining the actions requires to safeguard democratic, credible and peaceful 2027 elections

RELIGIOUS LEADERS' IMPACT ON DEMOCRACY

Religious Leaders in Kenya have a long history of playing an active role in the formation of a just, resilient and sustainable society by contributing to democracy and rule of law.

Being a constitutional democracy, Kenya sets up her leadership structures through elections premised on universal suffrage. Appreciating this, religious leaders have made invaluable efforts during general elections to safeguard the right of participation of all citizens, and to uphold the integrity of the democratic processes. This is highlighted in the summary below:

1963 – 1988

Democracy suppressed under one-party rule

1988 – 1991

From 1986, NCCCK and Kenya Episcopal Conference (precursor to KCCB) protest “mlolongo” queue voting system, become central pillars for agitation for repeal of Section 2A (restoration of multi party politics)

1992

NCCCK, KEC (today KCCB) delivered civic education under the National Ecumenical Civic Education Programme (NECEP) (workshops often disrupted by government) and organized election monitoring (initiative under National Election Monitoring Unit (NEMU)

1997

NCCCK, KCCB, SUPKEM and the Institute of Education in Democracy (IED) deliver civic education under the National Civic Education Programme – NCEP and conduct one of the largest domestic election monitoring and observation exercise

2002

Religious leaders and other actors intensified civic education (under the Ecumenical Civic Education Program – ECEP) drives massive voter turnout and formed KDOP (Kenya Domestic Observation Programme) to monitor the electoral process.

2007

KDOP expanded to include nine other faiths and civil society organizations to deliver civic education, drive a pre-election campaign for peace and observe the electoral process.

2007/2008 PEV

NCCCK, KCCB, EAK SUPKEM and other faith bodies drive a campaign to end the Post Election Violence, established the Inter Religious Forum which made recommendations to the HE Kofi Annan-led mediation process whose resolution was the Government of National Unity

2013

NCCCK, KCCB, SUPKEM and other actors monitored and observed the elections through ELOG (Elections Observation Group) that was formed in 2010. They also separately organized for long term observers.

2016

NCCCK, KCCB, SUPKEM and EAK drive an advocacy campaign for reconstitution of the IEBC (Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission) to pave way for credible elections in 2027.

The religious leaders convened a number of Multi Sectoral Forums in which stakeholders analyzed the challenges that the IEBC was facing, and contributed to the development of the draft the IEBC Amendment Bill (2016) which paved way for a smooth transition of the elections managers.

2017

NCKK, KCCB, SUPKEM and EAK drove a campaign for democratic outcomes, equal participation by all, and peace. This included setting up national and county level mediation teams to engage political actors and duty bearers. After the presidential poll was annulled, the religious leaders campaigned for peace and adherence to the law, and vehemently opposed attempts by government to change electoral laws.

2018

Mediation teams established by religious leaders in 2017 continued to engage different actors, and contributed to the peaceful resolution of the post election crisis.

2022

The religious leaders engaged the electoral cycle and provided essential support to the IEBC in the leadup to the elections. In the years leading to the elections, they persistently called for appointment of IEBC commissioners to fill in the gaps. The faith groups mobilized election-day observers across the country and were present at the National Tallying Center to provide pastoral support to the IEBC. Thus, they played a key role in stabilizing the nation after the announcement of the election results. Mediation efforts to reconcile the IEBC commissioners continued.

2027

In the leadup to the upcoming 2027 General Elections, NCKK, KCCB, SUPKEM and EAK have held consultative meetings to build strategies and actions to safeguard the integrity of the electoral process and democratic outcomes.

They established the Kenya Religious Leaders Forum (KRLF) as a joint umbrella to engage the 2027 electoral cycle and beyond, and formed a joint technical team from their secretariats to implement the interventions.

The National Stakeholders Forum is the first major activity of KRLF.

For more information:

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KENYA RELIGIOUS LEADERS FORUM

