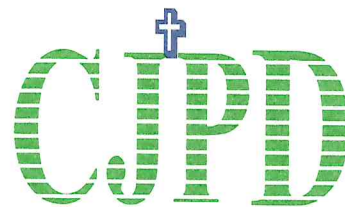




Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops

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OPENING REMARKS DURING THE NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS CONVENTION ON 2027 GENERAL ELECTIONS:

Fellow Religious Leaders,

Government Officials and Representatives of State Institutions,

Civil Society and Development Partners,

Our Beloved Youth,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning, God is good: All the Time.

It is with great honour and gratitude that I welcome you to this important convention as we begin reflecting together on Kenya's journey towards the 2027 General Elections.

On behalf of the Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops, I warmly welcome all of you religious leaders, election stakeholders, representatives of institutions, civil society, the youth, and all partners who share a common desire for a peaceful, democratic, and prosperous Kenya.

We gather today at a critical moment for our nation. Elections are not merely about choosing leaders, they are an important expression of the people's democratic will. They provide an opportunity for citizens to participate in shaping the direction of our country and determining the kind of Kenya we want to leave for future generations.

This National stakeholders Convention main goal is to review the readiness of the Country for the 2027 General Elections and to formulate strategies for securing democratic, credible and peaceful Elections. The objectives are:

1. To assess the readiness by Constitutional bodies with elections and security mandates to deliver democratic, credible and peaceful elections.
2. To identify and formulate strategies and actions by different stakeholders to safeguard the 2027 electoral cycle.

As religious leaders, we have a sacred responsibility to promote peace, truth, justice, reconciliation and respect for human dignity.

Our places of worship must remain spaces where people are reminded that, before we belong to different political parties, communities, regions, or generations, we are first and foremost Kenyans and children of God.

As we look towards 2027, our greatest concern must be to ensure that political competition does not become a source of hatred, violence, division, or destruction. We must learn from our past experiences. Elections should never cost us lives, friendships, livelihoods, or the unity of our nation.

Political competition should be about ideas, policies, leadership records, and visions for Kenya peacefully and respectfully. There is no political victory worth the loss of a Kenyan life. There is no election worth destroying our country. Peace is not the responsibility of the IEBC or the Government alone. Peace is the responsibility of every one of us.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Kenya is a young nation, and our youth must not be treated merely as voters, campaign crowds, or instruments of political mobilisation. Our young people must be active participants in the democratic process. We must create opportunities for youth to register and vote, participate in civic education, engage in policy discussions, seek elective positions, monitor elections and contribute constructively to national dialogue. We must also challenge the dangerous practice of exploiting young people during elections and turning them against one another.

As religious institutions and other stakeholders, we have a duty to empower them with civic knowledge, ethical leadership values, critical thinking and platforms where their voices can be heard. Let us ensure that the 2027 elections become an opportunity for the youth to demonstrate responsible citizenship and meaningful democratic participation.

Another fundamental pillar of peaceful elections is the credibility of the electoral process. The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has a constitutional responsibility to conduct elections that are free, fair, transparent, accountable, and credible. The Commission must therefore continue strengthening public confidence in every stage of the electoral process, from voter registration and voter education to candidate nomination, polling, counting, tallying, transmission and declaration of results.

We urge the IEBC to uphold the highest standards of professionalism, independence, impartiality, transparency, and accountability. At the same time, we encourage all political parties, candidates, and citizens to respect the constitutional mandate of the Commission and to use lawful mechanisms to raise and resolve electoral disputes. Credible elections require more than a competent electoral body. They require cooperation from all stakeholders.

As religious leaders, we must remain voices of conscience. We must not allow our pulpits, mosques, churches, temples, or religious platforms to become instruments of political incitement or division. Instead, they should be platforms for peacebuilding, truth, reconciliation, civic responsibility, and ethical leadership. Our role is not to tell Kenyans whom to vote for. Our role is to help create an environment in which every Kenyan can make an informed and free choice without intimidation, manipulation, or fear.

Let us use this Convention to identify potential areas of tension, strengthen collaboration among stakeholders, promote civic and voter education, support youth participation, address misinformation, and establish mechanisms for early dialogue and conflict prevention.

Conclusion

As we look towards 2027, let us remember that Kenya is bigger than any individual, political party, tribe, religion, or election. Our democracy must serve the people, and our politics must strengthen not destroy the social fabric of our nation. Let us commit ourselves to an electoral process in which every Kenyan can say:

"My vote counts. My voice matters. My dignity is respected. And my country is safe."

May this convention deepen our cooperation and renew our commitment to a peaceful, inclusive, transparent, and credible electoral process. May God grant wisdom to our leaders, courage to our institutions, responsibility to our political actors, and discernment to our citizens.

And may He continue to bless and protect our beloved Kenya.

God bless the people of Kenya.

God bless our young people.

God bless our leaders.

Thank you,



Date: 2nd September 2026

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Rt. Rev. Simon Peter Kamomoe

CHAIRMAN

CATHOLIC JUSTICE AND PEACE DEPARTMENT