



Inter- religious task force in pursuit of truth

Kenya Thabiti Task Force

The Inter-religious forum has launched a task force for Kenyans to identify root causes and propose viable solutions to the national crisis facing the country following the December 27th disputed Presidential results.

The Kenya Thabiti Task Force will guide the participation of religious community in Kenya, in the medium and long term levels of resolving the crisis through the outcome of its work.

Members of the task force include Prof. Shem Migot Adholla, Michael Cheserem, James Mathenge, Mrs. Pamela Mboya, George Kigoro, Prof. Miriam Were, Vimal Shah, Rukia Subow, Dr. William Ogara, Fr. Vincent Mwangi, Rev. David Oginde, Sheikh Abdulkadir Hashim, Sarvaiya Vanraj, Dan Mutuma and Oliver Kisaka. Joint secretaries are Dr. Paul Mbatia and Wanza Kioko.

The task force which will be chaired by Prof. Adholla was launched by the chairman of the inter-religious forum Archbishop Benjamin Nzimbi. Members have already begun to plan their operations of their work, expected to take one month.

The task force will be guided by the following objectives;

1. Provide an opportunity for inquiries into the failure of religious and moral values to avert the crisis and why places of worship were attacked and destroyed.
2. Provide an opportunity for religious organizations and Kenyans to develop a common vision of a stable Kenya and define their role towards it.
3. Identify critical issues facing the country, study them and propose durable approaches to address them.
4. Provide material that will be used to enrich the ongoing national reconciliation processes.
5. Prepare a roadmap for construction of a peaceful, united and stable Kenya where people live in harmony with one another.
6. Map out the different stakeholders involved in similar processes, highlight their aspirations, critique them and develop a common way forward.

The report will highlight the key challenges facing the country and how they need to be addressed to facilitate establishment of a stable Kenya. It will form the basis of a united efforts by the Inter-religious forum and other stakeholders.

The report will then be shared with other stakeholders including but not limited to the Commission of Inquiry into the 2007 General Elections and The Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission when it is established.



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Launching the task force, Archbishop Nzimbi demanded that an independent inquiry be made into the allegations of Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education exam leakages on a scale beyond what the Kenya national examination council has accepted and the alterations of the results already released to the public.

He said it was unfortunate, deplorable and unacceptable that some people have taken the future lives of our youth and played with them in such a callous manner.

The Archbishop urged the government to move with speed to address the plight of the displaced Kenyans adding that the children and students living in internally displaced persons camps must be facilitated to go to school

Archbishop Nzimbi speaking on corruption said religious leaders were perturbed by the inability by the government to conclusively deal with Goldenburg,Anglo-leasing and other cases that have highlighted corruption in the society.

The National Council of Churches of Kenya NCKK General Secretary, Peter Karanja, who has been chairing the meetings on behalf of Archbishop Nzimbi said the task force inquiries will be held at Ufungamano house.

He lauded the peace accord between President Mwai Kibaki and Hon. Raila Odinga which took the route of a coalition government but urged members of parliament to anchor the deal constitutionally and legally.

He said, "It would be extremely sad if the current parliament use the new-found unity to perpetuate selfish ends as we witnessed in the ninth parliament."

The religious forum draws membership from Supreme Council of Muslims, Seventh Day Adventists, Organization of African Instituted Churches, National Council of Churches of Kenya, Methodist Church, Kenya Episcopal Conference, Hindu Council of Kenya, Evangelical Alliance of Kenya, Christ is the answer Ministries(CITAM) and the Anglican Church of Kenya.

President Kibaki has already gazetted names of seven member commission of inquiry into the December 27 last year general elections to be headed by South African judge Johann Kriegler.

Once completed, the task force will submit its report which will capture the aspirations and vision of Kenyans to the Inter-religious form who will then publish and disseminate it.

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