



FEDERATION OF EVANGELICAL & INDEGENOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCHES OF KENYA (FEICCK)

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MEMORANDUM BY THE FEDERATION OF EVANGELICAL AND INDEGENOUS CHRISTIAN CHURCHES OF KENYA THE SENATE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATING THE PROLIFERATION OF RELIGIOUS ORGANISATIONS AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE DEATHS OF MORE THAN 200 PEOPLE IN SHAKAHOLA, KILIFI COUNTY

The Federation of Evangelical and Indigenous Christian Churches of Kenya (FEICCK) is a Christian churches umbrella body formed to champion the welfare of the Indigenous Evangelical churches in Kenya while providing oversight over the activities of the church in Kenya to ensure soundness in the teachings of the church based on the Holy Bible. FEICCK is led by a team of Clergy that have the greater interest of the church as well as the interests of the nation at heart. The Federation is currently present in close to all the 47 Counties in the country represented through the FEICCK County Chapter leadership teams and members. FEICCK movement is member based and a result continues to grow rapidly across the Nation through active registration of members.

With the understanding that Kenya as a nation has registered high number of people who subscribe to the Christian Faith FEICCK acknowledges the importance of fostering unity among Kenyans as the body of Christ while being accountable to the country leadership and God. As a result the Federation through the Nationals and County leadership teams has worked together with Government agencies on matters of national interest to ensure a peaceful Kenya where each personal has space to thrive.

The Federation, cognizant of the widespread religious activities in the country, applauds the Kenya 2010 constitution for granting freedom of worship to all Kenyans. In line with



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this freedom all Kenyans have the freedom to belong to and advance the welfare of their own religious groups as individuals or as a group, with privately or publicly. This profound provision of the constitution of Kenya has provided all Kenyans of all walks of life the freedom to exercise their freedom of worship without direct state regulation.

Circumstances leading to the deaths of more than 200 people in Shakahola

Honorable chair, we are equally in shock over the events unfolding in Kilifi County perpetrated by the Shakahola based Good News International church led by the Paul Mackenzie. Christianity is a religion that is guided by the Love of Jesus Christ and only preaches the Gospel that seeks to advance the good of humanity in line with the teachings of the Holy Bible. It is therefore not part of the Christian Churches in Kenya and beyond to advance the gospel of death and persecution of the members of our churches. In view of this, Honorable chair, the unfortunate incident in Shakahola as propagated by Paul Mackenzie should be treated as purely criminal activities and not part of the church in Kenya. The security organs within The County and the environs should be held responsible for having not responded to this tragedy even when the general public raised concerns and reported the matter to the authorities on several occasions as has already been in the public domain.

The fight against extremism and radicalization in the country

The constitution of Kenya that has provided the freedom of thought, belief, religion and conscience, allowing people advance their religious agenda has equally provided checks through the Bill of Rights and other articles in the constitution to protect Kenyans from any damages that may arise from extreme indoctrination and radicalization. There is



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therefore no need for new laws to address the flaws and gaps that have been witnessed as a failure of already existing structures.

Honorable chair, cases of religious extremism in the country have been dealt with in the past successfully using the already existing structures. We therefore call the attention of the Criminal justice system in the country to be alert and responsive enough to combat the vice.

Regulation of Religious activities in the country

Honorable chair, The Societies Act provides enough regulation of the churches and other groupings in the Country. As a result there is no need for further legislation on the subject of the regulation of the churches. Further action in line with regulation of churches in Kenya will only lead to the curtailing of the freedom of Worship and fear among Kenyans to exercise their Constitutional rights to meet and pursue their religious agenda.

The Church in Kenya through the already existing structures such as the Umbrella bodies is able to provide oversight internally through self-regulation strategies. This has so far been successful within the existing Umbrella bodies and other Accountability structures in the church.

Conclusion

The federation of Evangelical and Indigenous Christian churches of Kenya (FEICCK) joins the rest of the church community as well as other religious movements in the country to advocate for Sanity and reason in exercising the freedom of worship. The Federation at



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all times seeks to guide the religious space in the country in a manner that will enable Kenyans to exercise their freedom of worship responsibly.

We urge the ad hoc committee that has been tasked to investigate the proliferation of religious activities in the country and probe the circumstances under which hundreds of Kenyans have died in Shakahola following the teachings of Paul Mackenzie to carry out their investigations diligently and find the systemic failures in the criminal justice system that made it easy for such heinous acts to be perpetrated against innocent Kenyans.

The federation also underscores the fact that freedom of worship in the country should not be curtailed at any cost in the attempt to address individual isolated cases such as the unfortunate events at Shakahola.

The Federation remains a firm umbrella body that advocates for and champions the welfare of the church in Kenya with the aim of creating a conducive environment under which all Kenyans shall flourish.

Signed on 13th June 2023

Bishop Samuel Njiriri HSC

FEICCK CHAIRPERSON

Bishop David Munyiri Thagana

FEICCK GENERAL SECRETARY