

## Kenyan Delegation Visits Belfast

17 March 2010

**Belfast, NORTHERN IRELAND:** A Kenyan delegation arrived in Belfast last night, with two Commissioners from the National Cohesion and Integration Commission and the First Counsellor from the Kenyan High Commission in London.



**L to R:**  
**Mr Jeremy Laibutah – First Counsellor, Kenyan High Commission in London, Mrs Jane Kiano – Commissioner, Kenyan National Cohesion and Integration Commission, Mr Halakhe Waqo - Commissioner, Kenyan National Cohesion and Integration Commission**

The purpose of the visit over the next two days is to further its engagement with the Kenyan Diaspora in Northern Ireland and other key stakeholders, discussing issues of diversity, tolerance, ethnicity and violence, particularly with the history of post conflict resolution in Northern Ireland.

The events have been organised in partnership with The Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities (NICEM), Transitional Justice Institute (TJI) and The Afro-Community Support Organisation Northern Ireland (ACSONI).

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki appointed nine commissioners of the National Cohesion and Integration Commission last year to serve for a period of three years. The Commission was formed through a Parliamentary Act after the 2007 post-election crisis and subsequent political negotiations.

The Commission's main mandate is to promote the elimination of all forms of discrimination on basis of ethnicity or race in the country. It will also be tasked to promote tolerance, good relations, understanding of diversity, and public awareness on racial and ethnic harmony between all Kenyans.

The team will formally investigate complaints of racial or ethnic discrimination and make recommendation to the Attorney General or other relevant authorities. It will provide special briefings to Parliament and monitor and report to Parliament on the implementation of its recommendations.

Dr Christopher Stange, Public Relations Officer of The Afro-Community Support Organisation Northern Ireland (ACSONI) and Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Northern Ireland, whom attended the event, extended thanks to NICEM, The Kenyan Association in Northern Ireland, TJI and ACSONI for bringing this event to fruition.

“Engagement with countries that have had similar experiences, to share information and best practice models, as well as, recognising the immense impact and role the Diaspora community plays in the overall development and stability of any country cannot be underestimated. We all look forward as a global community to peace, sustainable development and a better shared future for all of its citizens.”



**L to R:**

**Mr Jeremy Laibutah – First Counsellor, Kenyan High Commission in London, Mr Patrick Yu – Executive Director, NICEM, Mr Ezekiel Johnson – ACSONI Management, Mr Halakhe Waqo - Commissioner, Kenyan National Cohesion and Integration Commission, Mr Peter Gitari – ACSONI Chair, Mrs Peninah Ngoda - ACSONI Management, Mr Elly Odhiambo – Kenyan Association of Northern Ireland Chair, Dr Khanyisela Moyo – Ulster University, Dr Christopher Stange – ACSONI Public Relations Officer and Hon. Consul for St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Northern Ireland, Mrs Jane Kiano – Commissioner, Kenyan National Cohesion and Integration Commission, Mr Sammy Mwangi - Kenyan Association of Northern Ireland and various members of the Kenyan Diaspora in Northern Ireland**

**ENDS**