



National Integrity Alliance
Leadership With Integrity

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Impeachment Must Have Consequences: Keep the Disgraced Leaders Out of the Ballot

If you have been impeached for betraying the public trust, you should not be entrusted with state office again.

We, the National Integrity Alliance (NIA), have taken note of the Supreme Court's directive requiring the Attorney General to render an advisory opinion on whether state officers impeached from office can subsequently contest for elective office. This directive presents a critical opportunity to clarify the constitutional directives and consequences of impeachment and to reinforce the values of integrity, accountability and ethical leadership as Kenya prepares for the upcoming 2027 General Elections.

We strongly believe an impeached leader should not be accorded another opportunity to seek public office, because the Constitution is very clear on the threshold and imperatives of impeachment. Article 75 (3) specifically stipulates;

“Conduct of State officers.

75. (1) A State officer shall behave, whether in public and official life, in private life, or in association with other persons, in a manner

that avoids—

- (a) any conflict between personal interests and public or official duties;
- (b) compromising any public or official interest in favour of a personal interest; or
- (c) demeaning the office the officer holds.

(2) A person who contravenes clause (1), or Article 76, 77 or 78(2)—

(a) shall be subject to the applicable disciplinary procedure for the relevant office; and

(b) may, in accordance with the disciplinary procedure referred to in paragraph (a), be dismissed or otherwise removed from office.

(3) A person who has been dismissed or otherwise removed from office for a contravention of the provisions specified in clause (2) is disqualified from holding any other State office.”

Thus, our constitution clearly provides for total as opposed to partial disqualification from state and public offices. Impeachment is the Constitution’s highest expression of political accountability and civic vote- of- no confidence against the culprits in question. It is a solemn and esteemed constitutional process reserved for serious governance breaches, including gross misconduct, abuse of office, among other violations of the law. It is one of the most legitimate processes for removing and barring disreputable and dishonourable persons from public service. Thus, to permit an impeached and disgraced leader to simply return to the ballot would render this extra ordinary oversight mechanism meaningless and reduce it to a procedural and personal inconvenience rather than a legal and societal sanction.

This is precisely why the NIA’s Red Card Campaign exists; to put a definitive stop to the culture of recycling disparaged leaders who lost integrity and betrayed the public trust.

Allowing sanctioned individuals back onto the ballot would not only be violating the supreme law of the land but also send a dangerous signal that abhorrent constitutional violations carry no real penalties, leaving public trust unprotected. Such an outcome would severely weaken the implementation of Chapter Six of the Constitution and erode citizens’ confidence in the institutions established to hold leaders accountable.

We call upon the Attorney General to deliver an advisory opinion that upholds the integrity of public office and reinforces the Constitution's commitment to ethical leadership.

We therefore call upon the following:

1. The Attorney General renders advice that advances the Constitution’s values of integrity, transparency, accountability, and good governance in public affairs.

2. The Supreme Court adopts the interpretation of the Constitution that affirms that leaders removed from the office through impeachment should not be eligible for elective or appointive office thereby giving full effect to Chapter Six of the Constitution;
3. The IEBC strictly enforces Chapter Six of the Constitution by ensuring that only candidates who meet the threshold on leadership and integrity are cleared to contest elections;
4. The EACC must exercise its constitutional mandate by proactively undertaking timely integrity vetting of aspirants, issuing integrity advisories to IEBC and taking all lawful measures to ensure that individuals who have demonstrated a disregard of Chapter Six of the Constitution do not occupy positions of public trust;
5. Political parties must uphold their constitutional obligations by refusing to nominate or endorse individuals who have been impeached or whose conduct demonstrates disregard for the principles of ethical leadership and public accountability;
6. Parliament and County Assemblies must safeguard the integrity of impeachment proceedings by ensuring that the impeachment process remains a meaningful accountability mechanism.

The 2027 General Elections must be a turning point. A moment when integrity is not merely preached but upheld; when public trust is not taken for granted but protected; and when accountability is not just promised but enforced. Impeachment must have consequences.

About the National Integrity Alliance (NIA)

The National Integrity Alliance (NIA) is a citizen-centered integrity and anti-corruption coalition comprising Transparency International Kenya (TI-Kenya), Inuka Kenya Ni Sisi! The Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) and The Institute of Social Accountability (TISA). NIA seeks to breathe life into the constitutional promise on Integrity by catalyzing frontline ethics and anti-corruption institutions, and active citizens to Detect, Deter, Disrupt and Defeat corruption at all levels of society.

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Signed by:

- Transparency International Kenya
- Inuka Kenya Ni Sisi! Ltd
- Kenya Human Rights Commission
- The Institute of Social Accountability