

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

**STATEMENT ON THE PEOPLE DIALOGUE FESTIVAL (PDF) 2021**

In 2019, the Centre for Multiparty Democracy Kenya (CMD-Kenya) initiated the **People Dialogue Festival (PDF)** – a multiparty and a multi-actor dialogue platform on governance issues in Kenya. The PDF which provides a platform for the citizens, political parties, political actors, civic actors, and policy makers to engage in dialogue and cooperate in strengthening multiparty democracy, promote social justice, political governance best practices, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Held annually in March, the PDF has over the last 2 years brought on board participants from diverse backgrounds and all walks of life including elected leaders, policy makers, civic actors, professionals and young people, where opinions are shared, ideas exchanged, solutions birthed, leaders held accountable and citizen engagement enhanced.

Certainly, PDF is a veritable dialogue initiative that we are keen not to diminish its value by limiting participation. Being alive to the high turnout and interactive nature of the festival and the current COVID-19 pandemic in the country, we have deemed it fit to temporarily suspend the convening of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of PDF 2021, which was scheduled to begin on March 15th. New dates for the PDF 2021 will be communicated with stakeholders once the pandemic is managed within the country. As we hope for Government to step up efforts to roll out the vaccination program, we in the meantime call upon political leaders to lead by example by adhering to the COVID-19 protocols as they conduct their political activities, especially in view of the recent upward trend in cases.

Once again, we thank you member political parties, stakeholders, our partners and loyal participants of the PDF for your continued support towards enabling us to convene this novel dialogue platform and strengthening multiparty democracy in Kenya.

Stay Safe!



**Sen. Abshiro Soka Halake,  
Chairperson CMD-Kenya**