

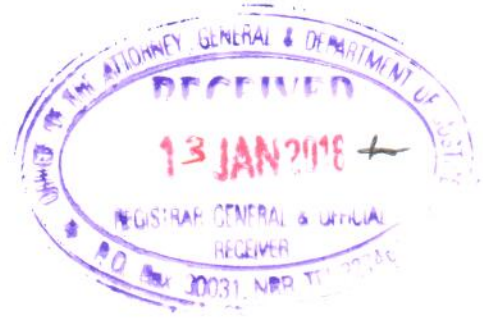


INTER-RELIGIOUS COUNCIL of KENYA

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12th January 2016

THE DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF SOCIETIES
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL &
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
SHERIA HOUSE, HARAMBEE AVENUE
P. O BOX 40112 - 00100
NAIROBI



Dear Sir,

RE: THE SOCIETIES (RELIGIOUS SOCIETIES) RULES, 2015

Receive peace greetings from the Inter Religious Council of Kenya (IRCK).

We acknowledge receipt of your letter and enclosure of The Societies (Religious Societies) Rules, 2015 dated 31st December 2015 and received by us on 8th January 2016.

We take note in dismay that the letter was addressed on 31st December 2015, during the holiday season and only to be delivered to our offices on 8th January 2016; with an expectation of a response on the substance of the draft rules within 14 days from the date of the letter. We take note that the period between the date we received the letter and the deadline of the same, there are **only four working days**. This time is and was not sufficient for us to consult our constituents and give a comprehensive feedback.

We refer to the consultative meetings mentioned in your letter with the Hon. Attorney General under the Umbrella Religious Institution Leaders on 14th November 2014 at KICC and the Workshop on 31st March, 2015 at the Kenya School

of Government, Kabete. The consensus from the Kabete meeting was an undertaking by the Government to call a meeting with **all** Religious Leaders within two (2) months thereof, to establish a task force that would be involved in the development of the Regulations.

Regrettably, the meeting with religious leaders and formation of the task force has not taken place to date. The religious leaders have not been consulted or involved in any way or at any level in the development of the regulations since then. The only communication we have received from your office is the delivery of the Rules on 8th January 2016; which purport to have taken into account the views from the discussions in the said meeting, where no substantive issues were discussed or canvassed. We, therefore dispute any notion or impression that these regulations are as a result of resolutions arrived at during the said meeting and workshop and hold that we were not involved in the development of the said regulations.

In light of these, and the failure by the Attorney General's office to involve IRCK and her membership consisting of: Kenya Conference of Catholic Bishops- KCCB, National Council of Churches of Kenya - NCCCK, Evangelical Alliance of Kenya - EAK, Organization of African Instituted Churches - OAIC, Seventh Day Adventist Church - SDA, Supreme Council of Kenyan Muslims - SUPKEM, National Muslim Leaders Forum - NAMLEF, Shia Ithnasharia Muslim Association and Hindu Council of Kenya - HCK; IRCK detects mischief and ingenuity on the part of the Office of the Attorney General in the development of the rules.

Noting that IRCK is an umbrella association of Councils drawn from different faith communities, the need for consultation with all stakeholders is imperative. The haste to gazette the same within the given time frame within which our response on the rules is required is impractical.

Acknowledging the impact of the rules on the doctrine and governance of religious societies and religion as an institution of society, we therefore call for more time to consult with our stakeholders and constituent members of IRCK.

Yours faithfully


Nitin Malde

INTER-RELIGIOUS
COUNCIL OF KENYA
I.R.C.K.

For Inter-Religious Council of Kenya
P.O. Box 6352, 00200 - NAIROBI.

Cc:

1. Hon. Prof. Githu Muigai
Attorney General
2. Mrs. Bernice Gachegu
Registrar General