PRESS STATEMENT ON REJECTION OF DR. MONICA JUMA AS A NOMINEE FOR POSITION OF SECRETARY TO THE CABINET AND THE TWO THIRD GENDER PRINCIPLE.

(For Immediate Release)

NARC Kenya wishes to register our disappointment with the National Assembly's rejection of an eminently qualified professional, Dr. Monica Juma, whom the President had nominated for the post of Secretary to the Cabinet. It is evident from the deliberations on the matter that there existed no valid reason for her rejection and the ill informed move was solely based on the desire to spite her for conducting her duties with professionalism. In the premises, Dr. Juma's rejection was not based on the best interest of the Nation but on the narrow and selfish consideration to have egos of Members of the National Assembly massaged. This does not augur well for the Nation and will serve to intimidate Public Officers in the discharge of their duties, and or discourage future nominees from accepting such nominations. Further, this move brings the National Assembly to disrepute for acting with impunity and for abuse of office.

Narc Kenya wishes to raise the flag on the Two Thirds Gender Principle debate by stating that we fully support immediate implementation of the Two Thirds Gender Principle. We note that gender equality and inclusion is a human rights issue as well as an economic and social issue. Failing to implement hurts the Country's economic and development Agenda. Women make up more than fifty percent of the population and are the best representatives of their gender interests.

We are concerned by Parliament's reluctance to propose a bill to actualize the Two Third Gender Principle and instead making proposals that undermine the said proviso. The 2010 Constitution created many new positions such as Governors, Senators, MCA's and expanded the number of Members of Parliament both in the Constituency seats as

well as created County Women Representative seats. All these seats have been taken up by their office holders without any one of them declining on the basis that they are too many and therefore a burden on the exchequer.

We passed the Constitution overwhelmingly as Kenyans and we should implement the Two Thirds Gender Principle as provided for by the Constitution and thereafter discuss how to reform the electoral system. It is selfish for the male dominated National Assembly to tell women to wait longer even after the Supreme Court gave National Assembly and the Executive three years to accomplish this task. Does this mean the application by the Attorney General to the Supreme Court was not in good faith? If the Executive and Parliament believe in Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law, they must Implement Two Thirds Gender Principle without any further delay.

We call upon all Political Parties and especially the Jubilee coalition which dominates Parliament to rein in their members to respect their Party manifesto and more importantly the Constitution and our Laws.

Dated this **12th June, 2015**

Name: Amb. Mwanyengela Ngali

Designation: Secretary General