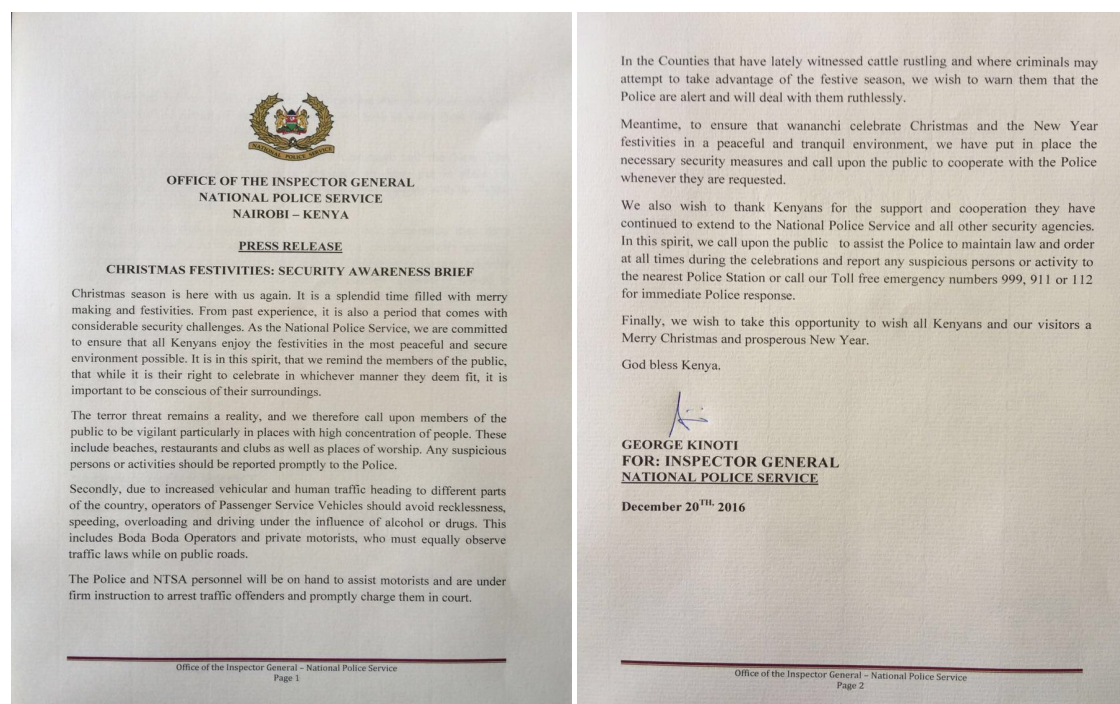


SMA Africa Report 2 – Kenya – December 2016

Although it feels as though election fever never dissipated after the last poll in 2013, there are certain signs that another one is around the corner. For instance, the theme for this year's Inspector General's conference is not a variation on the theme of police reform:

The 2nd Inspector General Conference-Safari Park Hotel Theme: Delivering a Safe, Secure and Peaceful Environment for 2017 Elections. #IGC2016 (NPSOfficial_KE, 2016)

Despite the all attention the election is commanding, there is one topic that never falls off the radar—the threat of a cross border terror attack:



Source: <https://twitter.com/InteriorKE/status/811124932000251904>

"Terror threat remains a reality, therefore we urge members of the public to be vigilant at all times." IG @JBoinnet (InteriorKE, 2016)

WELL DONE: @NPSOfficial_KE confiscates 4 RPGs and 111 bullets in Mbuzi Wengi village in Kilifi County #EpukaUgaidi (EpukaUgaidi, 2016)

Kenya extends curfew in border region after recent attacks The Kenyan government has extended a 12-hour curfew in the border region of Mandera by three months following recent terror attacks by Somalia-based Islamist group Al-Shabaab in the region (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2016)

Police in Kwale's Kombani area gunned down a suspected Al Shabaab militant. Kwale County Commissioner, Kutswa Olaka, said the suspect was part of a gang that was planning to attack a police station on Thursday (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2016)

Suspects in secret contact with terrorists, says Kenya. The State now says four women accused of being Al-Shabaab members have been in secret communication with the Amniyaat wing of the terrorist group (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2016)

But in an election year, all issues becomes election tinged. The Cabinet Secretary for ICT Joe Mucheru caused a stir when while making a case for 'manual voting' i.e. hand written ballots instead of electronic voting systems, he used Al Shabaab as a reason to question a reliance on technology.

Kenya GOVT says AL-SHABAAB terrorists can interfere with electronic voting systems as CS ICT Joe Mucheru argues for MANUAL SYSTEM in 2017 (Jamessmat, 2016)

----@jamessmat Al_shabab is just a rag tag militia since when did they become hackers ? That CS needs to check into Mathare mental Hospital (Shaakz, 2016)

----@jamessmat yes they cancheck from your newsroom how many masts they have destroyed let one year in mandera then open your mouth (Juliusmwaniki, 2016)

----@jamessmat Why haven't they interfered with Mpesa and banking systems so far?? (Wycliffemuendo, 2016)

While most people envisioned sophisticated cyber-attacks, Juliusmwaniki and newly found source, Digital Kenya Corps-COPS, were thinking about good, old vandalism in the physical realm. Al Shabaab are indeed in the habit of interfering with mobile communications infrastructure. Digital Kenya Corps-COPS's Facebook page informs:

Report received indicates that on periods btw 16th-26th December,2016 Alshabaab are planning to destabilize more networks in areas of ijara and fafi sub counties respectively and especially where there is no security establishments nearby. The following are targeted areas:-1) Moit safaricom mast which borders the boni forest, four(4) kilometres away from ijara town. 2) Masalani Quarry safaricom mast,twelve(12) kilometres away from masalani town. 3) Fafi centre safaricom mast,(newly installed network) which is about fifteen (15) kilometres away from Yumbis RBPU camp (Digital Kenya Corps-COPS, 2016)

Reports indicate that Today (24/12/16) at about 0300 hours, suspected AS militia destroyed a Safaricom communication mast at Dagakut (about 60 Km between Kotulo and Walgadud in Tarbaj Sub- County of Wajir County). It is also reported that two (2) people, one a local and the other a non local who were staff at a construction site near the mast were killed and the constructor's vehicle burnt. The constructor has been constructing Kotulo- Walgadud murram road and had set a site near the destroyed mast. More to follow." POSTED AS RECEIVED FROM OWN SOURCE (Digital Kenya Corps-COPS, 2016)

----U gave Intel concerning the attack just a few days ago,u mean security was never beefed up in that area (Digital Kenya Corps-COPS, 2016)

#RED_ALERT: HUMINT:From reliable source it was reported 13 heavily armed men suspected to be AS team who recently attacked kutulo safcom mast have camped at aplace biya ada which is btw kutulo nd khorof harar.Biya ada is 8km fem kutulo wjr nd 22km frm khorof harar,they told the herders that they will destroy all comunication masts btw kutulo nd wjr,the herders said all the 13 men had the accent of degodia clansmen,they are also acompanied by a 12-14 yrs old boy,they told the herders they want to enforce the rules of their leaflets which they left at kutulo wjr.Except 2 who had big guns nd bags the rest had Ak47s.They also have a turaya phone nd portable solar charger.we cant know their next targets...air surveillance required to confirm this intrep. On another related report, (((Reports from BULAHAWA indicate that ALSHABAAB have displaced government soldiers in the outskirts of BULAHAWA with the government soldiers now in defensive position in the town. Reports further siggest that AS wants to carry out simultaneous attacks on both Mandera and BULAHAWA to stop 2reinforcement from KENYAN side. There are also reported huge concentration of AS between WANTE and DABACITY. It is assessed that AS could also be

deflecting our attention from its plans in the interior of KENYA so as all energies are focused on the border than major towns.))) From a usually reliable source. All must be alert countrywide not only NE Region . POSTED AS RECEIVED FROM AN AMNIAT SOURCE, (Digital Kenya Corps-COPS, 2016)

Digital Kenya Corps-COPS is a great find. It is a page by police for police. The administrator posts all manner of information, including police reports which I had assumed were not necessarily for public consumption. The page also offers insight into the lives, attitudes and culture of police.

Police Attitudes towards Corruption within Their Ranks

Two Digital Kenya Corps-COPS posts initiated conversation around police corruption which reveal that police view corruption as a norm that is embedded in the institution. Junior police collect bribes on behalf of more senior officers; promotions are for sale and all this occurs within the context of poor remuneration and living conditions. From their perspective, they exist between a number of rocks and a hard places.

Deputy Inspector General of Police in charge of the Kenya Police Service Joel Kitili has said the traffic department and the station commanders are the most corrupt. He recommended that some corruption cases involving officers be dealt with at the station level under police regulations. He said the Service Standing Orders (SSO) had a section on "offences against discipline" that could deal with corruption cases. Mr Kitili was speaking during the second Inspector General Conference at the Safari Park on Wednesday. He said corruption cases involving police officers were taking too long to be concluded, hindering the fight against the vice. Mr Kitili also said there were unnecessary roadblocks across the country. "Most of them serve no purpose and we have communicated this officially," he said. He also urged the county commanders to deal with complaints from members of public. "At the police headquarters we are receiving so many complaints. Please deal with them at the local level," he said. Interior Principal Secretary Karanja Kibicho said police officers should shake off the corrupt tag to enhance their good relationship with the community. He also accused the Independent Policing Oversight Authority (IPOA) of intimidating police officers. "As a ministry, we are not going to allow our police officers work under intimidation of IPOA. This message must come out clearly to these institutions," he said (Digital Kenya Corps-COPS, 2016)

----Mr. Kotili sir, for your information sir, it is not only the traffic and station commanders who are corrupt. You have very senior officers at police headquarters (Vigilance) who are very corrupt .they call you and promise you for a deal. After sending them the amount they ask, they turn around that they want to promote you. No where to complain and no one to complain to. The juniors are suffering (Jacob Kom, 2016)

----Kwanza hii corruption ya promotion ndiyo imemaliza hii kikosi ya polisi [First of all, this corruption around promotion is what has finished this police force]. Some have despaired and are in their own world working for themselves on realising no one is bothered with their good work. And now they don't even want those promotions any more. What does that mean. They want to mean MAN FOR HIMSELF AND..... Results, Heavy corruption (Henry Nderitu, 2016)

----@Henry Nderitu, get it from me , unless you have someone to push you to promotion,or have power(cash)to push your self, you will remain where you are forever. It is only Mr. Ali who tried to play justice (Jacob Kom, 2016)

The civilian head of the National Police Services Commission (NPSC), Johnstone Kavuludi, attracted ridicule for seeking to prosecute an officer for ‘shaking hands’ with a matatu operator. The conversation around this revealed the workings of the ‘chain of corrupt command’ and the expectations about the NPSC’s role in policing:

Transnzoia county, Transnzoia west division, Kitale police station (.) Incident report (.) Occurred yesterday 27/12/2016 at 11.00hrs along Kitale - Eldoret/webuye junction at police roadblock (.) The chairman National police service commission Mr .Johnstone Kavuludi while traveling from Kitale to Eldoret/webuye junction spotted No. 71147 PC Nicodemus Orina exchanging hands with a matatu driver an act which suggested he was receiving a birbe (sic) and alerted the Police county commander madam Lilian Okembo (.)Acting on the information the police county commander led a team of senior police officers at the county, Division and station level to the scene where search was conducted to seven constables consisting three constable from kps and four from APS under the command of Ap Ip Nicholas Chruiyot of Dapc Transnzoia west sub - sub county without recovering any money to suggest any form of corruption (.)An inquiry file had been opened in respect to the incident to be forwarded to the office of DPP Kitale for perusal and advice (Digital Kenya Corps-COPS, 2016)

----There is a chain of corrupt command.How can they arrest n prosecute their foot boys?.Impossible (Paul Kimani, 2016)

----Mr Kavulundi u only see corruption in the force yet u have done nothing to improve the welfare of your officers what an irony (Aisha Suleiman Salim, 2016)

----Police officers should be allowed to receive tokens of appreciation just like other carnivorous kenyans (meat eaters). Furthermore this is a festive season where generous kenyans donate all manner of presents to needy kenyans such as police officers (Joshua Omae, 2016)

----p'ple have a misconception that when u see a police officer at a roadblock he/she is there to collect money..kwani polisi hawezi salimia dereva ama makanga [so police can't greet drivers or touts?]....kenya police is a cival (sic) police..police are human too n r social (Samuel Ngure, 2016)

----If there's any money collected by officers, some of it end up with the people Mr Kavuludi called..look before you leap Mr Kavuludi (Samuel Kandugu, 2016)

----That is how one looks stupid coz kazi ya Kavulundi sio hiyo [that is not Kavuludi's job] I think he is too idle in fact he will go to history as the most useless chairman ever coz he has not improved any welfare so far kazi yake ni ile fitina ya wanawake waluya tu [his work is to perform mischief like Luhya women] shame on him (Clive Monda, 2016)

In another thread an officer complains about exploitation by senior officers over the Christmas holidays. The unsympathetic response from one commenter illustrates the general attitude towards being police:

Admn,kuna wenye pesa zetu za Christmas zimekuliwa na wenye matumbo , wenye hufikiria hao ndio wako Na njaa sana. Ebu waambie wapeane hizo pesa kabla tuwaanike! [Admin, there are those who are withholding our Christmas dues which have been consumed by those with big

bellies, those who think they are the most hungry. Please tell them to distribute that money before we hang them out to dry] (Digital Kenya Corps-COPS, 2016)

----Wewe endelea kuvumilia kuwa askari [You keep enduring being a police officer] (James Kurui, 2016)

Elsewhere, Kenya police were receiving commendations for their good work:

#Kenyan police officers serving under #AMISOM yesterday received commendation for outstanding service during their yearlong tour of duty (Amisomsomalia, 2016)

The 6 police officers, serving as Individual Police Officers (IPOs), were awarded medals and certificates at a function held in #Mogadishu (Amisomsomalia, 2016)

IPOs train and mentor Somali Police officers on matters of security in both federal and regional administrations. #AMISOM #Somalia (Amisomsomalia, 2016)

#AMISOM Police Commissioner, Anand Pillay said the group had done #Kenya proud, making immense contribution to the stabilization of #Somalia (Amisomsomalia, 2016)

----amisomsomalia Well done. Keep up with the good work - Kenya Embassy Mogadishu (Abdi78223752, 2016)

Going Public

A cursory comparison of police and the military will reveal that the police are much more interested in being public facing. The military, for instance, recently tweeted about a magazine whose copies are hard to find:

Celebrating our traditions in the current 8th Edition of our #MajeshiYetu [Our Military] publication:drills,attires, decorations & military weddings. #KDF (Kdfinfo, 2016)

---@kdfinfo Where do military buffs get a copy that doesnt cost an arm and a leg (NickMaina, 2016)

----Thanks for the inquiries. Copies of #MajeshiYetu can be read at all branches of @knlsmedia countrywide(Kenya National Library Service) #KDF (Kdfinfo, 2016)

----@kdfinfo What about online versions ? Pdfs etc ? (EvansMachuka, 2016)

The police on the other hand produce digital versions of their newsletters.

#NewsAlert @NPSC_KE Newsletter Issue 11 Download a copy <http://bit.ly/2hPzub0>
@NPSoOfficial_KE @APSKenya @PoliceKE @InteriorKE @IPOA_KE (NPSC_KE, 2016)

Even though the military might be shy, other institutions continue to be vocal champions on its behalf. Strategic Intelligence Services produces information that is definitely international in outlook, but they give Kenya special attention:

Australian Police Foil Christmas Day 'Terror Plot'. Police in Australia say they have prevented a terror attack planned for the city of Melbourne on Christmas Day. Five men are in custody (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2016)

We Have NO Torture Cells in Dar, says Police Chief. Tanzania's Police Chief Refute Opposition Claims of Torture Cells in Dar es Salaam (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2016)

EU delays Sh2.2bn refund to Kenya for Somalia military operation. The European Union (EU) has delayed refunds for Kenyan troops fighting Al-Shabaab militants in Somalia amid claims of a verification hitch (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2016)

Kenya awarded for providing biodiversity info. Kenya has won a bronze medal for its outstanding provision of information on biological diversity to the world (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2016)

Kenya, A Powerful Country & Great People Celebrates a Politically Acrimonious 2016. A good news story about a resilient people (CTNSIS, 2016)

---- Eeeeeish! Tell those bitchy fairy tales to the birds. Save us the joke, puriiz! (Kelvin Kyalo, 2016)

----Yap... No matter what comes, we are one nation that is blessed!! Political and self interest aside, we are one Kenya!! (Dalach Sabura, 2016)

----SIS is jubilee sycophant number one (Amos Kasera, 2016)

In an election year all rhetoric is interpreted through a partisan lens. This year, speaking favourably about security forces, progress in Somalia, or suggesting that there is any good news to be had anywhere marks you as pro-government 'sycophant'. We are all holding our breath until the election passes and we are back to living in a state of interminable, but toothless, electioneering.

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