

## SMS Africa– Kenya – June 2017--Report 2

### Election Coverage

As the election draws near, it has become the main topic. Every other matter is framed within the partisan rhetoric of the election. A controversy arose over comments made by opposition leader, Raila Odinga, during a speech in Kajiado in which he discouraged locals from selling their land to buyers from outside the region. The speech included words to the effect of: [why do they leave their areas to come and settle in yours? Let them remain in the places they are from]. Some interpreted this as incendiary speech or ‘hate speech’, a term that is bandied around without clear definition of its parameters. Raila’s supporters characterised it as good advice or ‘land justice’ and admonished Jubilee for making a mountain out of a mole hill.

Asking what Raila said? This is what he said. I don't know whether it is hate speech or not but judge for yourself [VIDEO] (RobertAlai, 2017)

Arresting Raila would immediately spark violence whereas letting it slide would promote hate speech. NCIC are in dilemma.#RailaOnLandJustice (King\_luth3r, 2017)

Raila Odinga advising maasais in Kajiado not to carelessly sell their land in Kajiado is NOT Hate speech. Jubilee Govt is desperate (JoshMwajassy, 2017)

--- Except that's not all he said. He also said: "Usiuze, hee? Kule anatoka, anatoka kwa sababu gani kuja kwako? Si abaki kule kwao? " [Don't sell. Where he/she is coming from, why are they leaving there to come to yours? Let him/her there] Nice try (Mikeymacharia, 2017)

When leaflets started showing up in Kajiado and various other parts of the country warning Kikuyu, Kisiis, Kalenjin and Meru people to leave as suggested by incoming president, Raila Amolo Odinga, it was taken by some as evidence that the incitement had been effective. Others concluded that it was an elaborate conspiracy and that the leaflets were fake.



Source: [https://twitter.com/suemc\\_phee/status/876447974699741184](https://twitter.com/suemc_phee/status/876447974699741184)

Police launch investigations over circulation of leaflets warning non locals in Likoni. Police in Likoni Mombasa County have launched investigations into the circulation of leaflets warning non locals in

the sub-county and coastal city to leave before the August general elections., (Strategic Intelligence Service, 2017)

The anti-Raila leaflets are the work of NIS. Target: Kikuyu tribe Aim: Whip anti-Raila sentiments for dwindling turnout prospects. (Disembe, 2017)

Partisan @ODPP\_KE is not investigating who posted the hate leaflets but investigating Raila over contents of the leaflets. #UhuruToka (Disembe, 2017)

these are what they should investigate. the people behind the leaflets are the real inciters not Rao. @NCIC\_Kenya (Vinicell, 2017)

It may or not be Jubilee..but the net effect of RAILA utterances and leaflets have created tension in the area...Do we want that! (MasterKiarie, 2017)

Why would a national leader urge some communities not to sell land..if Maasai did not sell Karen RAO would not have residence in Karen (MasterKiarie, 2017)

**The government announced a joint security agency exercise to prepare for any eventuality including an outbreak of violence. It was called Operation Dumisha Utulivu, [Maintain Calm]:**

CS @GenNkaisserry will tomorrow at 9am open a 1 week Multi Agency Exercise dubbed "Dumisha Utulivu" at Embakasi Garrison. @kdfinfo (InteriorKE, 2017)

All disciplined services KDF, NPS, NIS, KPS, KWS, KFS,NYS. NDOC, NRB County Fire Brigade & emerging response units are part of the training (InteriorKE, 2017)

#Kenya: This large-scale, coordinated Emergency and Security Preparedness Exercise is taking place at Embakasi Army (Military) Barracks (NewRightAnalyst, 2017)

**The opposition suggested that the exercise was in fact a meeting to hatch a plan to steal the election. It seemed to be a situation where the government was damned if they did and damned if they did not. The old adage that you can never please everyone is theme of the age of the internet. The response of some to the announcement was rather menacing:**

Launching of the Multi-Agency Exercise Dumisha Utulivu 2017 at Embakasi Garrison. #SecureKE (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2017)

----You guys are in for a rude surprise..just wait,loading (Owitii Juniorr, 2017)

----What do you mean? (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2017)

----Unafikiri Jeshi ni babu yako, utanyoroshwa kijana [You think the army is your grandfather, they will set you straight, young man] (Suleyman Gichuki, 2017)

----Suleyman Gichuki Hata Gaddafi alikuwa na Jeshi, kwnza moja hatari sana [Even Gaddafi had an army, in fact a very dangerous one] (Amol Alphonce, 2017)

----This is what raila is claiming to be the rigging mission, the guy expects government not to plan for election violence if the need arise (Christopher Chege, 2017)

----Using K.D.F is not solution but may we have free, fair and credible election, oooh !! Raila is serious roundi hii haky, May God protect and give peace to our nation. (Prince Adamzy, 2017)

## Al Shabaab in Kenya

It did not make much of an impression in the media but there was news of an attack on a Kenyan military base in Somalia. In this case, the attackers were repelled:

BREAKING: Suspected militants attack Kenya military base west of Bardhere town (Gedo region), heavy gunfire can be heard: resident #Somalia (HarunMaruf, 2017)

Kenya peace repulse Al-Shabab on their base, casualties not known (HarunMaruf, 2017)

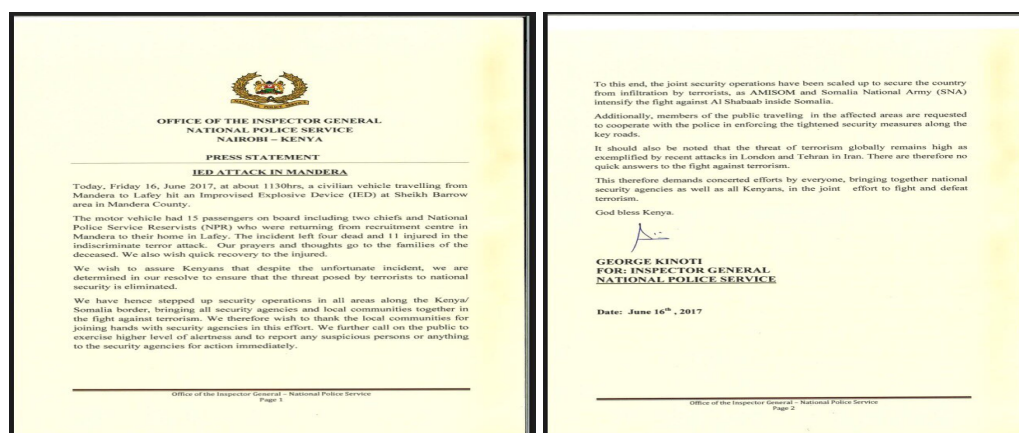
#KDFStrong: KDF eliminate 24 Al Shabaab ugus who attacked their camp in Baardere, Gedo region #EpukaUgaidi (EpukaUgaidi, 2017)

What did draw a lot of attention, were the attacks within Kenyan territory, which escalated in May and June. The Al Shabaab contingent that was reported to have crossed the border in previous reports are the likely culprits. Their targets included laying IEDs on main travel routes and even at a bank:

Joint security operations from Kenya and Somalia have been scaled up to secure the country from infiltration by terrorists. (InteriorKE, 2017)

BREAKING: Many passengers killed after land mine explosion hits a civilian vehicle travelling between El-Wak and Mandera, NE Kenya: report (HarunMaruf, 2017)

----BREAKING: At least 4 civilians are dead 6 injured after their vehicle was hit by a landmine explosion near Madah Warabe, NE Kenya: official (HarunMaruf, 2017)



Source: [https://twitter.com/NPSOfficial\\_KE/status/875764789053730816](https://twitter.com/NPSOfficial_KE/status/875764789053730816)

MORE: At least 4 dead, incl. security officers after #AlShabaab gunmen storm @KeEquityBank (Elwak branch). Several other ppl injured. #Kenya (AhmedKosar1, 2017)

BREAKING: #IED explosion hits Kenya security forces in Geriley village area (Wajir County) near the border with Somalia: Sources (HarunMaruf, 2017)

---4 Kenya security personnel were wounded in this incident which happened on Monday near Geriley village. (HarunMaruf, 2017)

**There was an increase in terror-related arrests in Nairobi and Mombasa, perhaps as a response to the incursion. It appears that the sweep yielded one wanted individual.**

Anti-Terror Detectives (ATPU) Arrest 85 Terror Suspects in Nairobi's Eastleigh and Mombasa (Strategic Intelligence Service, 2017)

#UPDATE: #Kenya's security officers said Monday they have arrested 88 terror suspects in Nairobi. (HassanIstiila, 2017)

SECURITY: Kenya: Police Hold 88 Suspects Including 15 Foreigners In Anti-terror Operation (Riskmap\_, 2017)

Ismael Musamia a Most Wanted Al-Shabaab Suspect Arrested in Eastleigh, Nairobi (Strategic Intelligence Service, 2017)

**The notion that there were 85 terror suspects residing in-country is alarming. Based on the attitudes expressed on social media one would expect that the arrests were not indiscriminate since they security agencies often express their belief that not all Muslims or residents of Eastleigh are terrorists.**

Muslims are NOT terrorist, very true.. those killing innocent souls are the terrorists hiding amongst the peace loving Muslims (Strategic Intelligence Service, 2017)

#AlShabaab are killing women & Children of Basuba in Boni forest, This goes against the laws of War set by the Book! They are not Muslims!! (Taqwamedia3, (2017)

**The wide expanse of Boni forest is said to be the location of the marauders' hideout. After another IED explosion, an emotional Deputy Commissioner Marwa wanted to unleash himself and a bombing run on Boni. Some Kenyans, expressed the opinion that they drew the line at environmental destruction:**

JUST IN: 4 police officers and 4 pupils perish after their vehicle hit an IED in Boni Forest, Lamu County (Atanasi\_, 2017)

Marwa threatens to bomb Boni Forest, says ready to die in war on al Shabaab [http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2017/06/29/marwa-threatens-to-bomb-boni-forest-says-ready-to-die-in-war-on-al\\_c1588106](http://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2017/06/29/marwa-threatens-to-bomb-boni-forest-says-ready-to-die-in-war-on-al_c1588106) ... via @TheStarKenya (Elvis\_ateka, 2017)

terrorism versus conservation. Boni forest is a 160 kilometre-reserve that is also a sanctuary for elephants. (KeshiHG, (2017)

The Boni are an ethnic group inhabiting the Boni forest. They depend on hunting, gathering, and collecting honey., (Berich05, 2017)

As Nelson Marwa proposes the irresponsible bombing of Boni forest to flush out Alshabaab, he ought to re-think environmental conservation (Shiyuka\_kev, 2017)

The government keep on giving kenyans lame excuses that Alshababs live in Boni forest Coast, some in Garissa along Tana why Nt burn forest? (Kevinjunta29, 2017)

----Full agree. It will negatively impact the livelihoods & traditions of Boni people who depend on the forest. Harming those we mean to protect (GabrielGrims, 2017)

---- there will be reforestation, if bombing Boni Forest will flush out Alshabaab it should be done. no to terrorism (MoireMUFC9, 2017)

In and amongst the thoughts of the armchair military strategists there seemed to be some good ideas. For one, EvansMachuka continued to share his opinions from his dorm in a military academy:

There seems to be an I.E.D factory in that lamu County area or on the Somalia side of the border, that's one too many attacks #KOT #KDF (EvansMachuka, 2017)

I highly doubt those militants in boni forest brought them, too heavy for such a journey. Look for the makers, intelligence mission #Lamu (EvansMachuka, (2017)

These incidents had reduced when the curfew was in effect. It should be reinstated (KimathiJaymore, 2017)

In related news, some of the sources used in these reports have been eliminated from Twitter. This restores the question how much access is too much, for one who seeks to report on these matters. Can your insider status cast you as a collaborator?:

Twitter suspends suspected pro-Al Shabab Twitter accounts @Daudoo & @jamalhnur following @HSNQ\_NISA request after. Counter cyber terrorism., (GroundHawkKE, 2017)

#Alshabaab displays its fighters on Eid Day in Jilib. Note the Kenya Police Vehicle turned into a technical ferrying the militants #Somalia (Yassinjuma, (2017)

Where do u get all these pics from? Are you not their sympathiser? (\_tisatsir, (2017)

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