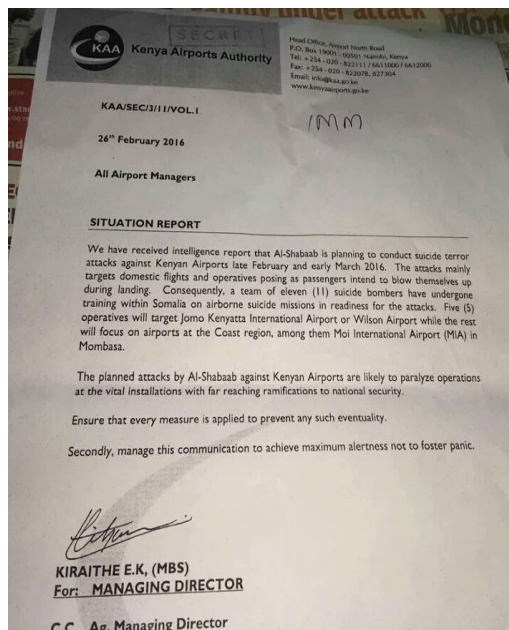


SMS Africa Kenya March Report 1

KAA letter

The Community Policing Whatsapp group was first to bring to alert me to the presence of a memo apparently addressed to Kenya Airports Authority personnel, which was circulating on social media. It warned about a heightened risk of a terrorist attack. It also included a note that the recipient should 'manage' the message so as not to induce panic. Someone had taken a photo of the letter and shared it amongst a variety of social media.

M: [Photo of letter attached]



Morning'

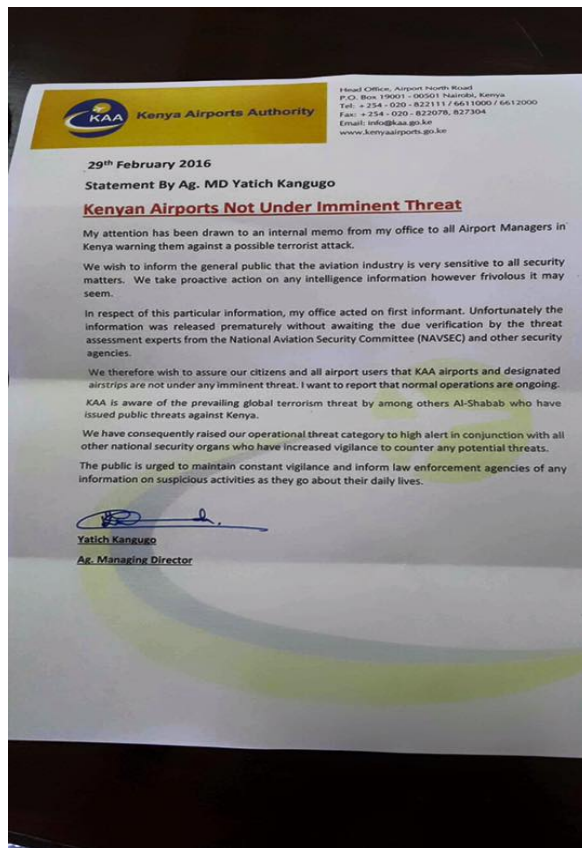
I hope this ain't real

R: Confirmed

T: The international departures are not easy to target because of layered security and the visa requirements. The local airports is where I see threat [...]. I see this as Al Shabaab war of words to Kenya. Execution is almost impossible.

The KAA responded with irritation in a hardcopy press release, which was in turn was shared on social media by other accounts. The only related announcement that the KAA made on social media was that it would be holding a press conference in order to address the issue.

#Breaking Kenya airports authority KAA issued a statement confirming there were no imminent terrorist threats facing the Kenyan airports as widely reported in the media. KAA attributed the scare to a unprofessional officer (Strategic Intelligence Services, 2016)



Source: Strategic Intelligence Service

Yatich Kangugo: We wish to assure our customers that Kenyan airports are not under any imminent attack #NewsDesk (KTNNews, 2016)

KAA Investigating official(s) who leaked a secret security alert memo to managers over terror alert, says MD Yatich Kangugo (DennisOkari, 2016).

Yatich kangugo asks people not to circulate the leaked internal memo on social media #leakedKAAmemo (XnyaundiH, 2016)

CS Nkaisserry issued letter of his own a few days later, which was also subsequently photographed/scanned and shared on social media. This whole situation offers an illustration of the difficulty that institutions are having in adapting their processes and protocols to fit the era of social media.

A joint statement which we issued with my tourism counterpart @tunajibu on the state of security in our airports. (GenNkaissery, 2016)



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

KENYA GOVERNMENT REASSURES PUBLIC AND VISITORS ON AIRPORT SECURITY

Following the emergence of an internal Kenya Airport Authority memo concerning heightened security across Kenyan airports, the Government wishes to reassure all travellers and visitors that domestic and international air travel is safe.

"We understand public concern following the emergence of this KAA memo but this simply underlines the unparalleled and constant measures in place to manage security across the country.

"Our security services work tirelessly behind the scenes to keep our citizens and visitors safe wherever they are and however they travel. Action is taken immediately to interdict, prevent and deter any identified threats.

"We review security across our airports constantly and we can reassure local and international travellers that their safety is paramount. It is for this reason that the Government and Kenya Airport Authority have put in place heightened security measures and there is no need for public alarm.

"Kenya has faced difficult challenges in recent years, but, with the support of our international partners, we have taken control of the security situation quickly, efficiently and effectively. Kenyans are unified behind our efforts and we will not be intimidated by those few who try to destabilise us.

"On behalf of the nation, we commend the efforts of our security services and we urge everyone to continue your travels as normal."

Joint Statement by Cabinet Secretaries

MAJ-GEN (RTD) JOSEPH NKAISERRY (INTERIOR)
NAJIB BALALA (TOURISM)

Nairobi, Thursday 03 March 2016

Project X

Though the threat of imminent attack did raise a flutter on social media, the public seemed much more perturbed by 'party flyers' that had been distributed on social media advertising a 'Project X'. The flyers, which were targeted at young people, invited them to a party in Kileleshwa. The risqué social media posts titillated and horrified the masses, until the police issued a response.



Our attention has been drawn to the hue and cry over an ongoing advertisement inviting interested youths to attend a party dubbed 'Project X' to be held on 12th March at a venue alleged to be within Kileleshwa, Nairobi County.

Concerns have been raised that the party could be associated with activities that run counter to our moral fabric and in breach of the law.

We are taking action aimed at establishing what the organisers are planning. We will not allow events where illegalities are committed to take place.

Source: https://twitter.com/NPSOfficial_KE/status/706170156377051136

The Kenya Film Board also became interested and involved, which led Special Prosecutor, Duncan Ondimu to clarify the matter of jurisdiction, which some viewed as important:

In my view its the duty of @NPSOfficial_KE to follow up Project X but not KFCB [Kenya Film Commission]. Is there a film you are classifying? (Matundura78, 2016)

After Project X, KFCB will now involve itself in inspecting Iraqi weapons for mass destruction (Roomthinker, 2016)

The KFCB, perhaps keen to demonstrate why they should be involved reported to the BBC that the party was organised by an international pornography ring. Though, that was not the word on the social media street. The Governor of Nairobi whose jurisdictional authority was clear, banned the den of iniquity from being established. Although, not everyone was pleased.

Project X will not take place in @county_nairobi culprits involved in underage drinking will be arrested @citizentvkenya @CapitalFMKenya (KideroEvans, 2016)

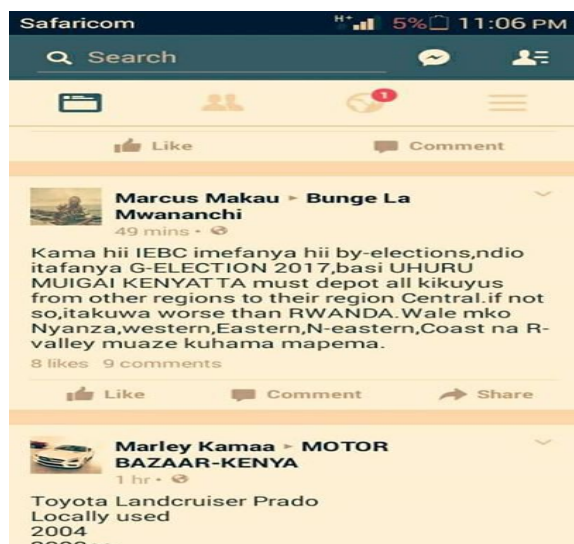
Project X Cancelled After Jealous Media Operatives & Police Framed It As Terrorism.
What was meant to be a party... <http://fb.me/VdsZkmGP> (C_NyakundiH, 2016)

A debate then ensued about whether Kenyans and their policing forces were preoccupied by trivialities while more pressing issues like corruption and the upcoming election found them asleep at the switch.

We can also extend the long arm of the law to Project-E for #Eurobond. Let all scandals take letters from A to Z. We might finally prosper! (Dnahinga, 2016)

Maybe we should call corruption Project X? (Kenyanpundit, 2016)

Shake shared a screengrab of a post that he had seen on Facebook, one that he felt was more pressing:



Source: https://twitter.com/NPSOfficial_KE/status/706170156377051136

[If what the IEBC has done in this by-election is what they will do in the 2017 general election, then Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta must deport all Kikuyus from other region to their region, Central. If not, it will be worse than Rwanda. Those Kikuyus in Nyanza, Western, Eastern, Coast and Rift Valley start moving back early.]

Pre-election Period

Marcus Makau's threats, seemed to have been stimulated by recent by-elections in Kericho and Malindi. Despite the fact that ODM won in Malindi and KANU won in Kericho, his antipathy for Kikuyus was quite pronounced. It is not difficult to find evidence of tribalism on social media. I expect it will heat up as 2017 draws near. In fact, we are firmly in the pre-election period. The by-elections in Kericho and Malindi and the start of the voter registration exercise for 2017 has already led to increased chatter regarding election matters, particularly the capabilities of the IEBC.

Have Your Say! Is Kenya ready to vote maturely come 2017 General Elections?
@JimmiGathu @MumbiKenya USE #SOTNKE (NationFMKe, 2016)

Kenya: a year to go elections--IEBC lodges complaint with Boinett over officials harassment (Samirasawlani, 2016)

During the byelection, IEBC officials made numerous allegations about vote buying, hate speech and personal harassment but still said that the results had been fair. It sounded as though the elections in Malindi, in particular, were nothing short of eventful. A woman had been assaulted being stripped by 'goons' went viral on social media. Since the woman was affiliated with Jubilee, blame was placed on ODM operatives. ODM had prevailed at the by-election but it alleged that the Jubilee party had tried to engage in vote buying and suggested that the woman had paid the price for being implicated in these activities. Modern Kenya Corps copied a news item from Citizen TV online and posted it to the Facebook timeline:

Coast Regional Coordinator Nelson Marwa now wants officers attached to Mombasa Governor Hassan Joho, his Kilifi counterpart Amason Kingi and Kilifi Woman MP Aisha Jumwa probed for allegedly attacking and stripping a woman suspected of voter bribery during the Monday by-election in Malindi. Marwa says the three leaders should also bear responsibility for the alleged actions by their aides, and wants the Inspector General of Police Joseph Boinnet to take disciplinary action against the officers. Marwa made the statements even as Governor Joho claimed that his bodyguards had been withdrawn without any explanation. Joho said that all his guards, including those at his home, had been withdrawn. He, however, denied allegations that they assaulted and stripped a woman accused of bribing voters to vote for the ruling Jubilee coalition. CORD and Jubilee have been trading accusations over alleged voter bribery during the mini-poll. "On Monday during the Malindi by-election, a few elements who think they have money sent goons to polling stations to beat and harass voters and strip women," said Marwa. "The orderlies attached to Joho, Kingi and Aisha are the ones who were beating people in Malindi." Marwa said that the officers attached to Joho, Kingi and Jumwa "broke the law" and they will be dealt with according to the law. "Why should the officers strip a woman? Why officers attached to Joho, Kingi and Aisha and their goons undress a woman and they are still walking around?" he posed. Marwa said that Kenyans want an answer and somebody should take responsibility. He warned security officers attached to politicians

against harassing wanainchi. "I have instructed for opening of investigation files against the officers and this will not be a gimmick to lie to Kenyans," he said. Marwa was speaking in Lunga Lunga during the commissioning of Lunga Lunga Sub County and installing new Deputy County Commissioner Josphat Biwott.

A few days later, it seemed as though Modern Kenya Corps had received word from the 'horses mouth' so to speak, i.e. the officers (alleged goons) in question and was either speaking on their behalf or quoting them—it was not clear which it was:

INSPECTOR GENERAL OF POLICE BE A STRONG DEFENDER AND PROTECTOR OF POLICE OFFICERS

Security detail for Mombasa Governor, Hon Hassan Joho, and his Kilifi Counterpart, Hon Amazon Kingi have been used as scapegoat by some senior power brokers, to intimidate our police service yet again. I condemn the falsehood being spread by Mombasa County Commissioner, Mr Nelson Marwa and some senior police officers in Coast region that the security details of the two leaders attacked and stripped naked a women who was buying votes for jubilee candidate. Infact this lady should be in jail right now for indulging in election malpractices and offences. The senior police officers in Mombasa are implementing silly and immoral orders from a certain quarters within the government. This is a big lie, as none of the bodyguards was around the ugly scene, the clips being aired on televisions are a big lie and meant to torment and witch hunt the officers. When politicians clash, do not use police officers as scape goat and punish them for nothing. I call upon the Inspector General of Police to protect his police officers from politicians who are tarnishing our reputation. The police Chief should know that his office is an independent officer as enshrined in our constitution, he should not side with any political outfit, but be professional, just, fair and be a strong protector on his men and women who are being intimidated, mistreated and victimized by powerful figures within government, tyranny of numbers should never shake our security apparatus. Police officers should be accorded utmost respect regardless of our class in society and according to the nature of work. We have been called all sort of names while in our duties, assaulted, embarrassed, but we are still going strong, because the rest of country needs us, apart from few rotten elements. Mr Boinett, do not allow the security detail for Hon Joho and Hon Kingi to be tormented for nothing, protect them stand by them (Modern Kenya corps, 2016)

Governor Joho's Gun

Governor Joho of Mombasa, implicated in the above, is a vocal member of the opposition and a leader within ODM. His current interactions with the security apparatus provides a window into their political neutrality or lack of it thereof. Governor Joho uninvited President Uhuru from visitng his county, which was not received well by State House and the Jubilee government, in general. The fact that ODM won the Malindi by-election may have something to do with the issues he is currently having with the withdrawal of his security detail. Whether or not he 'misuses' them or not, it hard to imagine a Jubilee governor facing the same opprobrium for similar acts. He also been asked to surrender his firearms. This story

has created a mainstream media-social media complex that only the finest Kenyan scandals can manage to generate. Almost everyone has something to say, and in the strongest most expressive manner possible, and almost everyone is following it.

MOMBASA GOVERNOR Hassan Joho storms commandant office demanding explanation on withdrawal of his security officers. (TheStarBreaking, 2016)



The National Police Service takes grave exception to the public theatrics displayed by Governor Joho following the notification of withdrawal of the two pistols and a shotgun in his possession. The public should know that contrary to the false display of bravado, he is cooperating with the police and as of now one firearm has already been surrendered. We expect to have the remainder surrendered tomorrow. The Firearms Act is clear on how civilians licensed to own firearms should conduct themselves.

Source: <https://twitter.com/InteriorKE/status/708387409571024896>

Governor Joho is Kenya's most popular politician today...he has been made a martyr by Jubilee [...](ahmednasirlaw, 2016)

[...] true. his facebook page gained 10.000 followers in 3 days (Syleone, 2016)

It appears that Governor Joho only surrendered one of his guns, however, having been deemed of diminished gun-owning capacity, the government did not want him having any firearms within reach. At some point the CIA was invoked. Kinyanboy received information which he did not appear to believe. It alleged that the reason that the government was 'distancing itself' from Governor Joho, and him from his guns, was because he had ties to terrorist organisations and wildlife poachers (See the information here:

<https://twitter.com/KinyanBoy/status/708631065594822656>):

Someone just sent me some 'classified' info on Joho vs Gov fiasco. Quite a good script for award winning comedy (KinyanBoy, 2016).

CS Joseph Nkaisserry tells a #Senate committee Joho will be in jail by 2PM today if he does not surrender his gun (Citizentvkenya, 2016)

Governor Joho has said he won't surrender his Gun. Instead, He has given CS Nkaisserry his schedule of the day so that he can arrest him (patrickssafariR, 2016).

It will be interesting to see if the police can and will arrest Governor Joho. It will be quite a precedent in the post-devolution era.

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