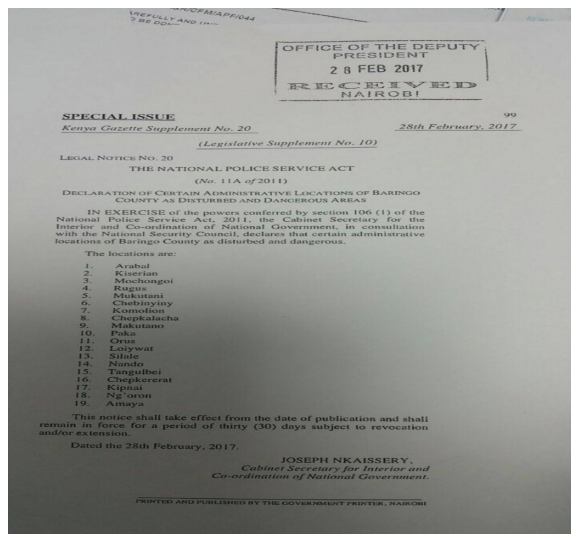


SMSA Africa– Kenya – March 2017--Report 1

Domestic Dispute

Parts of the area formerly known as Rift Valley Province continue to be a security problem. Historically, they have always been hotspots during the electoral season. In places like Molo Kikuyus are often forcefully removed so that they would be unable to vote for their tribesperson as local representative, even during the single-party era of President Moi. However, this is a different dispute, one over resources, the difficulty of its resolution is heightened by the fact that it is election time, but the elections are not its genesis. Leaders have a tendency to tap into chauvinistic feelings at this time, and are less likely to chasten their electorate for proscribed practices.

In order to facilitate a strong response to the violence from the part of the security services, areas of Baringo County were gazetted as ‘disturbed and dangerous’ areas. The large deployments of police and the DPs shoot-to-kill order are less incongruous under these circumstances.



<https://twitter.com/MboyaApollo/status/838468718309093387>

I today toured Rugus in Baringo County and Kerio Valley in Elgeyo Marakwet County to establish progress made in restoring peace and order (JBoinnet, 2017)

As one might expect, the leaders of those singled out as perpetrators expressed outrage. Those who were Jubilee party members defected to the opposition and took to the streets in protest. On the other hand, the leaders of the victimised, celebrated the response.

We fully support the operation in Baringo County. Any body calling to stop is not human. Govt go on on on (HonCKamuren, 2017)

@RailaOdinga to receive Jubilee defectors from Baringo County at Orange Hse today at 2pm and later address the media on topical issues (TheODMparty, 2017)

West Pokot leaders protest gazetting of 19 areas in Baringo County as 'disturbed and dangerous' #BaringoInsecurity (Truthfmkenya, 2017)

----Sen. Lonyangapuo represents West Pokot and Not Baringo county. He should not speak on our behalf. #SomeOneTellLonyangapuo (FrankBartonjo, 2017)

-----You confused fool. You Must know that Prof Lonyangapuo is representing pokot community since he's the kotspokesman (KasheusheuOzil,2017),

-----Professor cum-politician supports bandits who went on rampage killings in Baringo (Lepariyo, 2017)

-----don't propagate tribal Mr, Lonyangapuo is our king (Kiptootitus, 2017)

Social media seemed to have evidence about who was to blame, suggesting #ArrestPokotBanditsInSuits with specific reference to a Senator, Prof Lonyangapuo and area MP, Kamama.

How did Senator Lonyangapuo get his Phd..... was it a dissertation on "Merits of banditry"? he look and talk like a bandit (EdgarKimutai, 2017)

Lonyangapuo and Kamama need to be thoroughly investigated!!! Something doesn't add up here... #ArrestPokotBanditsInSuits (Joseelimo, 2017)

Video of Senator Lonyangapuo inciting PokotBandits to attack & displace other communities #ArrestPokotBanditsInSuits (KassFM, 2017)

The pastoralists extended their range to ranches in Laikipia. When ranch owner Tristan Voorspuys confronted them, he was shot and killed. This seemed to escalate the security response: the Deputy President reiterated his shoot-to-kill order, CS Nkaissery held a press conference, police issued a press statement announcing the recruitment and deployment of police reservists, and an MP for Laikipia, Lempurkel, was arrested.

DP Ruto issues another shoot to kill order now on bandits involved Laikipia invasions <http://bit.ly/2n4EsD4> (Ntvkenya, 2017)

in light with killing the bandits are causing.it ought to be fair as well when same is done to them.full support DP (Sakatint, 2017)

PRESS STATEMENT: RECRUITMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF NATIONAL POLICE RESERVISTS (NPSOfficial_KE, 2017)



https://twitter.com/NPSOfficial_KE/status/836943049070628865

BREAKING NEWS #Laikipia North MP Matthew Lempurkel charged with murder of British rancher Tristan Voorspuys at the Nanyuki Law Courts . (CrimeAkororiginal, 2017)

I addressed the media on the security situation in Laikipia. 379 illegal grazers have been arrested & 16 ranches cleared in the ongoing ops (GenNkaisserry, 2017)

----only after a foreigner is killed, natives have been dying no action (Platuex, 2017)

-----the government should have responded way much earlier. Too much damage is done already (Vkay_kariuki, 2017)

There was general feeling that the response was reactive, reactionary and late. Based on a Twitter poll, the public did not think the shoot-to-kill orders, in particular, were a good solution. 60% No, 30% Yes, 10% Not sure, after 448 votes.

Do you think DP Ruto's shoot to kill order will resolve the situation in Baringo? @Sharon_Momanyi @JulieMasiga @KTNNews #NewsSources (KTNNews, (2017)

The unrest also reignited conversation around historical/current land disputes and how tenuous the peace and justifications for the current dispensation are, especially when tested by resource pressures.

Ninjas with guns are just roaming in Laikipia shooting people and wildlife and destroying property. How can that be? (KResearcher, 2017)

----Bullshit!! You can not dictate to us where to graze our livestock. Our livelihood is at stake. Be warned (Naimado_joel, 2017)

-----And killing innocent peeps? (Nixso, 2017)

----We are also human beings. Did you saw a baby who torched to ashes by security agents less than a week ago? (Naimado_joel, 2016)

Government knows who is behind the violence in Laikipia, its land grabbing violence by POLITICIANS to force ranch owners to flee/sell cheaply (Bonifacemwangi, 2017)

----Arresting the grazers without providing a permanent solution is reactionary and not sustainable #AddressWaterIssues (Psaitoti04, 2017)

----these ranches should be given to landless kenyans.55 years of independence and still we have landless kenyans. (PMasinde, 2017)

----If only the promised Dams had been built? If only colonialists had not grabbed land? If only GOK provided adequate agricultural support ? (GKKiarie, 2017)

----U accuse Kenyatta of grabbing land but you support mzungus who own land they never paid for ?, (Kabatakamana, 2017)

----these are conservancy areas. They are held in trust. (Jackie_Arkle, 2017)

----@UKenyatta @WilliamsRuto That's why the PEOPLE should send UhuRuto HOME asap! Somebody is salivating on owning the ranches!! (Erudite_guevara, (2017)

During a passing out parade for new recruits and in the State of the Nation Address, the President indicated that police recruitment was a priority. The situation in Baringo, West Pokot and Laikipia seemed to underscore the need for new servicemen. Hopefully, as there is a ramp up in recruitment, there is a thought towards the old adage that quality is better than quantity.

This year we will be recruiting an additional 10,000 servicemen, so that we could ensure Kenyans are fully safe. (UKenyatta, 2017)

The recruits passing out today are part of the cadre of 10,000 young men and women whom the National Police Service recruited last year.. (UKenyatta, 2017)

----Good Mr President. Now, how about an additional anti-corruption course for the recruits? That way, we nip the problem at the buds (Mari_mwangi, (2017)

Current police to civilian ratio is 1 to 380 compared to 1 to 1,000 in 2013. @NPSOfficial_KE @PoliceKE @APSKenya #SecureKE #SONAKE2017 (InteriorKE, 2017)

Kenyans for Peace

The Administrative Police's Hello Kenyan campaign seemed to be gaining momentum, perhaps as a result of all the turbulence. Their tag #KenyansforPeace trended and included the participation of other security agencies. The message was one of uniting Kenyans under the banner of national identity rather than party affiliation and/or ethnic community.



<https://twitter.com/MLeruk/status/840073476761255938>

Stand for Kenya say no to violence #kenyans4peace @HelloKenyan @KibandaProject7 @Uwiano108 @NCIC_Kenya @APSKenya @PeaceAmbsKenya @PeaceCorps (MLeruk, 2017)

Keep your tweets coming ..we need peace to win over us #Kenyans4Peace (HelloKenyan, 2017)

----how about justice (Jumasylyan, 2017)

My tribe is Kenyan and so should be yours #Kenyans4Peace (Andrew_omariba, 2017)

Irrespective of our political affiliations let's always uphold peace, love& unity; let no party politics divide us #WeAreOne #kenyans4peace (ItsAwandi, 2017)

Its very encouraging to see Kenyans on my TL promoting peace. #NatukaeNaAmani #KenyansForPeace (iamAthieno, 2017)

The campaign encouraged Kenyans to contact security organs through various ICT comm. lines, in times of trouble.

Later on that evening, the message was undermined by a television appearance by rapper, Prezzo, who pointed out that the emergency numbers did not work. He did not do this as a direct response to the campaign, instead he was addressing societal apathy over a lack of basic services. To illustrate his point, he dialled 999 on national television. It rang several times before being cut off. Social media responded with incredulity and made that the trending topic that night, which I found surprising as I thought everyone knew that those numbers did not work.

Prezzo just busted 999, surely the police are a disgrace to disaster preparedness. (MoonKipronoh, 2017)

#TheTrend Prezzo makes a lot of sense on the 999. Is @JBoinnet aware of this failure? What if I was in danger? (Hakeenah, 2017)

You mean we had to wait for Prezzo to confirm to us that 999 doesn't work in KE 254! Damn. @ntvkenya @LarryMadowo #HeyLarry (KatebesK, 2017)

I agree with @AMB_Prezzo about the 999 issue. It is true, it never works... @LarryMadowo @ntvkenya #TTTT (DennisShonko, 2017)

Terror Update

The conversation around 'terrorism' was muted although news on the subject is always available. Chatter around news likes IEDs in Lamu and the arrests of terror suspects in the areas was almost non-existent, which is surprising given the fact that it was in-country activity. It seems that the Rift Valley had everyone's attention.

Good job by @NPSOfficial_KE as 7 terror suspects arrested in a night raid after tip off by good people of Malindi (Taqwamedia3, 2017)

Seven suspects arrested in Malindi were funding al Shabaab - police <http://ow.ly/nWu1309P4U6> (TheStarKenya, 2017)

Two IEDs explode in Lamu county, destroying armored vehicles. 1st event occurred yesterday near Sarira, 2nd today near Ishakani. #AlShabaab (Margotkiser1, 2017)

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