

SMA Africa – Kenya – May 2016 Report 2

Police Vetting

The police vetting exercise resumed this May, previous iterations of this exercise had identified approximately 63 out of a thousand officers as failing to meet the standards of practice. These results had not won the confidence of the general public, given their own first hand interactions with the police.

Vetting of Traffic Police Commences in Mombasa

The vetting of 239 traffic officers from the Coast Region is expected to commence on 24th May, 2016 Kenya School of Government, Mombasa from 7.00 am.

National Police Service Commission (NPSC) Chairperson Johnston Kavuludi says the process is expected to proceed for the next two weeks.

Speaking in Mombasa when he paid a courtesy call on the Coast Regional Commissioner Nelson Marwa, the Chairperson said all the ranks of officers ranging from Constable to Chief Inspector will be vetted during the two week exercise.



He pointed out that the traffic department was the most visible when it comes to police interaction with members of the public hence the reason why the Commission was paying special attention to this cohort.

Mr. Kavuludi however pointed out this was not a vilifying exercise and asked members of the public with credible information, both negative and positive to come forward and volunteer the same which would however be subjected to the due process to test its authenticity.

Mr. Marwa, while commending the Commission for a job well done, felt time had come for all the members of the public service to be vetted.

He observed the police officers felt discriminated against and said by extending the exercise to all the members of the public service this kind of thinking would be allayed.

Others present included Commissioners Mary Owuor and Ronald Musengi, NPSC Directors Fredrick Mugambi and Peter Wamoto as well as Assistant Inspectors General Francis Wanjohi and Peter Pamba respectively.

Source: https://twitter.com/NPSOfficial_KE/status/735110105671335937

The officers were required to arrive with printed statements of their bank and M-PESA transactions, which proved to the down fall of many.

National Police Service Commission has told senior police officers to prepare their bank and Mpesa statements as they wait vetting (KASS_FM, 2015).

#KBCNewsHour: MPESA transactions prove a nightmare for various police officers as they face the vetting panel. (KBCChannel1, 2016)

The National Police Service Commission has revealed that police in Mombasa altered MPESA records before vetting. (PunchlineAfric, 2016)

300 police officers to be sacked for failing integrity test amid unexplained Mpesa transactions #MondaySpecialKE (Citizentvkenya, 2016)

---@citizentvkenya @mitpiny This is anarchy everyone in kenya is corrupt forgive them and let's move on (Mitpiny, 2016)

---@citizentvkenya where do you think this guy's will be doing for a living yet they have been earning, probably we are ready for crime (Christine_makau, 2016)

---@citizentvkenya No better option: If they keep jobs they abet corruption & if u fire them, you risk 300 trained criminals running on streets (RealIdolSingh, 2016)

One officer had an especially difficult time:

Bamburi Traffic Police officer worth Sh50m fails to explain source of wealth during vetting. The level of eating is very deep indeed (MunglaRM, 2016)

Somewhat surprisingly, this story did not stir the passions of the denizens of social media. It seems, that there were bigger security related fish to fry.

Jacob Juma Investigation

One such fish was the investigation of the murder of Jacob Juma (@kabetes). Jacob Juma was a public figure, in that he was highly visible and had a lot to say...mostly on social media. I do not think he would mind if I called him the Donald Trump of Kenya, especially since he happened to be fan of the man. It is likely that without social media Jacob Juma's profile would not have been as high, though one gets the feeling that he would have found some way to make himself heard. The self-proclaimed tycoon was very vocal and opinionated about the political and corruption sagas that dominate Kenyan news. He claimed often to have evidence implicating powerful actors in wrong-doings such as the Eurobond and Chase Bank debacles. As a populist his political affiliation was in flux, anyone was fair game. Although, he had more critical things to say about the Jubilee government. I am sure to have cited him in these reports and it came as a shock, but not necessarily a surprise, when he was shot and killed in early April.

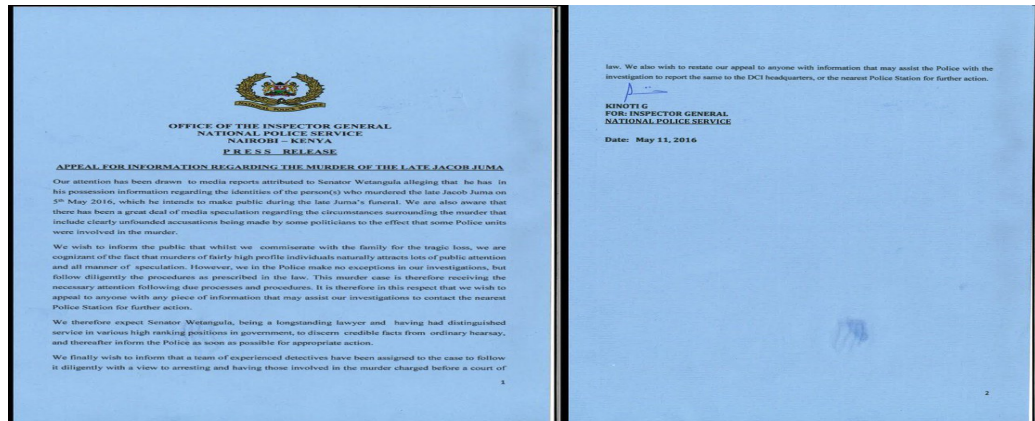
The intensity of the social conversation around his murder investigation means that it cannot pass unremarked. Before Jacob Juma was shot dead in his vehicle, he had often declared on *Twitter* that his life was in danger, and that in spite of the peril he would continue his crusade against corruption. However, he was also suspected of having come into his wealth through illegitimate means, thus there was a feeling that he had courted danger from many quarters. Since his passing, Jacob Juma has been lionised; someone wrote a piece in which he was described as "Kenya's first digital martyr".

Hope fellow tweeps U won't mute after burying (sic) Jacob Juma, we need to call out this assassins! @MuindeKelvin @roshudlin (Nrykim, 2016)

Queries over whether Jacob Juma was a windbag or whistleblower via @dailynation (Jkamiru, 2016) According to #KOT, did Jacob Juma get killed because of his digital activities? New study-> <https://medium.com/@OdipoDev/kabetes-kenyas-first-digital-martyr-2391f6e5eeec#.xhsuccr8u> ... (Odipodev, 2016)

I only wish Jacob Juma could tweet inside his grave. A big loss to the country! #RIPJacobJuma (Okothkelvin1, 2016)

Given the fact of his high profile and social media following, the police probably want to be seen to be hard at work, hence they have taken to releasing press releases [probably] to keep the hounds at bay. The TV show responsible for the revelatory 'Kanjō Kingdom', *Jicho Pevu*, attempted to conduct their own inquiries but ended up producing a rather salacious documentary. The police's attempt to share similar findings in another press release, was met with derision.



Source: https://twitter.com/NPSOfficial_KE/status/730328335381872640

"Dead men tell no tales" so please @NPSOfficial_KE start with investigating everyone, dead or alive, mentioned in his @kabetes TL (KitKatSyrupKE, 2016)

@NPSOfficial_KE We dont need PR stunt n side shows, just look at @kabetes twitter page and use the info for investigation @RobertAlai

@NPSOfficial_KE r they going to use Jacob's tweets as leads? (MwangP01, 2016)



Source: https://twitter.com/NPSOfficial_KE/status/734802964066512897

@NPSOfficial_KE shame on you. Instead of telling us the killers you are telling us the girlfriends? You think we are stupid kids? (SamwelOmondi11, 2016)

@NPSOfficial_KE @JBoinnet @APSKENYA @InteriorKE @KTNNews @ntvkenya @citizentvkenya @TheStarKenya thanks for the unnecessary update. (Snowman51814656, 2016)

@NPSOfficial_KE @InteriorKE So hollow. You can do better at cover up (Charsili, 2016)

@NPSOfficial_KE @JBoinnet @APSKENYA @InteriorKE The moment two cartridges were introduced, I expected an AK-47 from "a dead criminal." #END (Geonal, 2016)

All of a sudden, Police have discovered that 4 thieves they killed last week had the same gun that killed JACOB JUMA [...] Since the THIEVES are dead, and they are the ones with the GUN, it means the case has DIED. Ladies & gentlemen, its called the year of the

JUBILEE...Lets clap please for the Jubilee as the curtains close because they should now represent Kenya in the CLOWN OLYMPICS [...] (Ochieng, 2016)

"Jacob Juma's car was towed to Karen police station not far from where he lives. His body was then dumped by the police at city mortuary. The family wasn't informed. The wife learnt of JJ death in the morning as she drove kids to school. Then instead of the IG pursuing his killers who are well known, he's asking Wetangula and Raila Odinga to go write a statement. Let him tell that to parrots and dogs. Will Kenyans stand up? Are we going to continue living in a country where killers and thieves rule?" ~ Rt. Hon Raila Amollo Odinga at All Saints Cathedral (Bonnie, 2016)

The police's attempt to keep the public apprised of the progress of their investigation, with incredible detail, has done nothing to deter the sceptics and conspiracy theorists. Jacob Juma predicted his assassination, and pointed directly and Deputy President as the would-be perpetrator. Thus, even in his death he continues to fan the political flames.

CORD demonstrations

Speaking of political flames, on May 24th, Nairobi's anti-IEBC riots/protests spread to the CORD stronghold of Western Kenya. After the last protest in Nairobi a photograph of an unconscious man in a green hooded sweatshirt, with the boot of a policeman above his head, became emblematic of police brutality and led to further calls for bringing the police to heel.

The IG @JBoinnet has directed a thorough and speedy probe into cases of Police brutality during yesterday's demos (NPSOfficial_KE, 2016).

Things escalated in Western Kenya, this time there were deaths. Injured police were also air lifted out of Kisumu and brought to Nairobi for treatment and were met at the airport by higher-ups and cameras. The attempt to cast the police as victims backfired, when the injured police revealed their lack of serious injuries. Civilians had died in the melee and people did not appreciate what they saw as a poor and cynical attempt at turning public ire into sympathy through the hashtag #injuredcops. The fact that the injured police were walking without assistance and sported a few bandages, read as a comedy of errors.

The #InjuredCops were received IG of police @JBoinnet and the Interior PS karanja Kibicho @ctnoma (Ktnkenya, 2016)

@BeatriceMwaura9 great shame for a govt that thrives on PR stunts like #InjuredCops to justify police brutality & killing of demonstrators (Bonniemut, 2016)

#injuredcops for all the pr stunts by the Gok this is a new low for the country somethings you dont fake (rosejmbogo, 2016)

Watu wa siaya [people of Siaya] Next time No mercy on #InjuredCops in fact ukieka mmoja chini Vunja kabisa [if you bring one down, finish him] coz their bullets won't spare u either. [Lazooj, 2016]

#InjuredCops so you had to fly in cops to be treated from scratches of stones and twigs that could be treated at the local hospital

It appears NYANZA protestors were trained to INFLICT life threatening injuries on the LEFT HANDS of the twelve policemen flown to Nairobi. (Donsarigo, 2016)

Pole sana [so sorry] to#InjuredCops who were shot by catapults Lakini you InjuredCorpse with live bullets (Hamesjuma, 2016)

We don't need another comedy show this week, #InjuredCops Show was enough. (Kinyanboy, 2016)

If only we received our armed forces from somalia similarly...in full public glare! #injuredcops (Awelejack, 2016)

The IPOA claims to be on the case, we shall see what, if anything come of it.



Source: https://twitter.com/IPOA_KE/status/735401388965023745

The comments that followed the IPOA sharing the press release on Twitter suggest that it has managed to brand itself as a competent, measured and independent body in the sight of the public.

@IPOA_KE @WestFmKenya we welcome u in ksm [Kisumu]. Expect our support since we'll be following the case of the innocent pipeline employee closely. (Leemakwiny, 2016)

@IPOA_KE IPOA, Why don't you accompany the police to quell the riots, take the shield and lead from the front. (JPaskton, 2016)

@IPOA_KE @NPSOfficial_KE The police force deserves justice as well. I mean, we will not let violent demonstrators Scot free. will we? (Cirukimotho, 2016)

Perhaps, the government should hire their PR team.

El Adde in the News

CNN stirred the ghosts of El Adde with a piece titled, 'Kenya Covers Up Military Massacre'. A somewhat misleading title, given that the massacre was not at the hands of Kenyans and the fact of it is well known. The content addressed the fact that the exact number of soldiers that had died at El Adde was never made public.

Exclusive: Kenya covers up massacre of soldiers by Islamist militants
<http://cnn.it/1sI4sFS> (Cnni, 2016)

CTNSIS was quick to respond with irritation and engage in an interesting debate with an organisation named Ananke Group, whose bio reveals that they are regional security specialists.

@cnni @AnankeGroup What's in this article is rubbish, innuendo, and a ploy to make Kenyan military & govt officials to throw figures about! (CTNSIS, 2016)

@ctnsis @cnni That's your opinion. @robynkriellcn is one of the most talented journalist and valuable source of info on East Africa (AnankeGroup, 2016)

@ctnsis @robynkriellcn #AMISOM has gone for a no-number policy about casualties since 2007. #Kenya's PR about El Adde is disastrous (AnankeGroup, 2016)

@AnankeGroup @robynkriellcn Credibility of sources is vital. We know how many were KIA & SRR outcomes besides POW. (CTNSIS, 2016)

@ctnsis @robynkriellcn who's "We" and then where are these figures? (AnankeGroup, 2016)

@ctnsis @robynkriellcn #AMISOM knack for not cataloguing casualties has been all grist to the mill of #AlShabaab (AnankeGroup, 2016)

@ctnsis @robynkriellcn Absence of AMISOM figures has led journos, analysts & academics to speculate on how many has died on this mission (AnankeGroup, 2016)

@AnankeGroup @robynkriellcn indeed! And that's all about PsyOps. No one wants terrorists to publish propaganda that'll demoralize soldiers (CTNSIS, 2016)

@ctnsis @robynkriellcn If one doesn't want terrorists to publish crazy figures to demoralize soldiers, they should release official figures (AnankeGroup, 2016)

@AnankeGroup @CTNSIS @robynkriellcn and what do you want to do with numbers (MosesMosemwas03, 2016)

Despite the compelling nature of the debate, most other commentators did not seem to be paying attention, as they had already made up their minds about how they felt about the whole thing. Kenyans seemed to be in no mood for CNN's reportage on the incident.

@cnni how many did die then? And of what value will that have on me as a citizen... (BabaDieumerici, 2016)

@cnni stupid...! We moved on! (TimothyGichohi, 2016)

@cnni . Has the US ever disclosed the number of soldiers they lost in Afghanistan and Iraq? (Makokha_moses, 2016)

@cnni Why are you do concerned about these..... Lets move on...let the past rule itself.
(DeCoCoBenN, 2016)

@cnni @cnni so now you are telling the us to help alshabaab to motivate their misguided militia. (Ericstoner5, 2016)

It is rare that the short concentration span of the news consumer is made so evident; or, it might better reflect the general Kenyan attitude to hard times—keep it moving.

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