REPUBLIC OF KENYA

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# Annual Report

## to

## Parliament

### on the

## State of National Security

By

## H.E. Hon. William Samoei Ruto, PhD., C.G.H.

President of the Republic of Kenya and
Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces

*(Submitted pursuant to Article 240 (7) of the Constitution 2010 and the National Security Council Act, Section 16 (1)*

**NOVEMBER, 2023**

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**FOREWORD**

Article 240(7) of the Constitution and the National Security Council Act, 2012, Section 16, requires the President of the Republic of Kenya to report annually to Parliament on the state of national security.

Further, the Constitution of Kenya, 2010 under Article 21 confers upon the State the duty to observe, respect, protect, promote and fulfill the fundamental rights and freedoms of all people living in Kenya. This responsibility stands at the core of the Government's very existence and its obligations under domestic and international law. The Government has thus put in place measures to ensure citizens have the enabling environment to fully enjoy these fundamental rights and freedoms. This in turn guarantees continuity of our way of life by our citizens and foreign nationals lawfully resident in Kenya.

Our Constitution aptly describes provision of national security as encompassing protection against internal and external threats to the nation's territorial integrity and sovereignty, its people, their rights, freedoms, property, peace, stability and prosperity, and other national interests. The import of this provision in essence encapsulates human security. This report therefore adopts the broad conceptualization of national security that encompasses human security.

This report that covers the period between May, 2022 and August, 2023 and is thematically organized around the threats to Kenya's six national interests. These are: security of the citizenry, territorial integrity and sovereignty, economic growth and prosperity, constitutionalism and rule of law, national values and good governance, environmental sustainability and climate action as well as regional and global collaboration and competition.

Additionally, national security addresses economic, environmental, food, health, political, physical and community needs of citizens. The report hence addresses itself to the broader assessment of security at national, regional and on the global arena as well as spelling out its effects on the local security situation, together with internal socio-economic dynamics.

To mitigate against these threats, my Government has prioritized six (6) broad socio–economic interventions between 2022 and 2027 in line with the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). These include Agriculture, Micro-Small and Medium Enterprises, Housing and Settlement, Healthcare, Digital and Creative Economy, Environment and Climate Change.

For the security sector that anchors the drivers for the delivery of the aforesaid BETA programs, the priority areas are: security sector institutional reforms; security sector modernization program; upgrade of systems for the delivery of citizen services; improvement and streamlining of border control and transformation of Kenya Prisons Enterprises. Completion of these efforts among others will offer the much-needed paradigm shift in the delivery of Government services.

It is against the backdrop of the foregoing, that I submit this report.

**His Excellency Hon. William Ruto, PhD., C.G.H.**
President of the Republic of Kenya and
Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The provision of a safe and sustainably secure environment that guarantees the people freedom from fear and want is the fundamental responsibility of Government. The State is hence constitutionally obligated to ensure that citizens and all lawful alien residents are accorded an environment to enjoy their civil rights and responsibilities. In so doing, the Government assures its people of their physical, economic, environmental, food, health, political and societal security.

Accordingly, the **Kenya Kwanza Government**, by following the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (2022 - 2027) studiously follows these Constitutional imperatives as the fundamental guarantors to enable citizens the right to enjoy their freedoms and create wealth that would provide higher quality of life for all Kenyans.

During the period under review, the country's security situation was largely calm, though impacted by the electioneering campaigns during the 2022 General Elections. This was further compounded by the unsettled regional and international socio-economic and political dynamics and the devastating drought that affected the entire Horn of Africa. Whilst the general elections were highly competitive, the independent institutions handled the exercise responsibly, hence the country generally remained peaceful, during and after the elections. The elections were also rated by a wide range of local and international observers as free, fair and reflective of the will of the people.

The severe drought that the Government declared a national disaster, impacted on the economy and the country's food and nutritional security which remained unstable in parts of the Country during the reporting period. The food insecurity was equally compounded by the high cost of farm inputs, poor post-harvest management and unsatisfactory

performance of the Government's irrigation projects. In response, the Government distributed food and non-food assistance to over 4.5 million Kenyans as famine relief in the affected counties.

The country also witnessed heightened competitive politics during the August 2022 General Elections. The political environment was characterized by intense political activity, re-emergence of organized criminal gangs in parts of the country, divisive rhetoric and inflammatory statements which heightened tensions in parts of the country. However, the whole-of-Government approach towards public safety and security as well as the political maturity of the people ensured the country remained peaceful.

During the period under review, there was an increase in incidences of intercommunal tensions and episodic violence especially in the North Rift, Upper Eastern Sub-Regions and North- Eastern Regions. The violence was because of competition for scarce resources by pastoralist communities, unresolved county boundaries and general banditry. Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and commercialization of cattle rustling compounded these conflicts, prompting the Government to launch the multi-agency *"Operation Maliza Uhalifu"* in North Rift Sub-Region. In this instance, government has deployed an integrated and multi-dimensional approach to finding longer term and sustainable means to ending the endemic intercommunal conflicts in the sub-region and the wider Northern Kenya. Initial results from the operation indicate that the exercise is beginning to bear promising results.

At the regional level, several nations in the Horn of Africa continued to witness political instability, intra-state conflicts as well as terrorist activities. Consequently, the country continued to suffer from terrorist infiltration and cross border bandit incursions as well as other forms of

transnational crimes such as drug and people trafficking, contraband smuggling and proliferation of small arms and light weapons. The perpetrators of these crimes exploited the expansive and porous borders to advance their nefarious trades. However, Government's intervention on a multi-agency framework as well as the whole of nation approach to provision of national security as well as co-operation with the neighbouring countries have helped to stem these threats.

On the global front, the security environment continued to witness a variety of existential threats to States and populations. The threats were experienced in a world that was recovering from the aftershocks of Covid-19 pandemic and the effects of the war in Ukraine that continues to strain relations between Western European countries and its allies on the one hand, and Russia and its allies on the other hand, which heightening tensions with negative ramifications on the global economy. Other threats included the negative impact of great power competition, negative effects of climate change; state fragility and unconstitutional changes to government in parts of Africa, and multifarious transnational crimes such as drug and people trafficking as well as cybercrime, which continued to increase hence threatening the integrity of the State.

The challenges notwithstanding, the country's economy registered a modest growth of 4.8 percent. The recovery was driven by broad-based increases in productive sectors as well as sound Government policies.

The Government commits to progressively review legal, policy and institutional frameworks to enhance responsiveness to security challenges that would hence provide a more conducive environment to the realisation of our set socio-economic transformation agenda that we have set for our country.

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| AS | Al Shabaab |
| ATMIS | African Union Transition Mission in Somalia |
| BETA | Bottom-up Economic and Transformation Agenda |
| CAPS | Country Action Plans |
| CEFS | Country Engagement Forums |
| ISIS | Islamic State in Syria and Iraq |
| JOC | Joint Operations Centre |
| MANPADS | Man Portable Air Defence Systems |
| OAB | Operation Amani Boni |
| SALW | Small Arms and Light Weapons |

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# CHAPTER ONE: THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY

The state of national security in Kenya remains stable, notwithstanding the known threats to national interests. The threats to national interests within the reporting period include general crime, organized criminal gangs, sexual and gender-based violence, road traffic accidents, illicit brews and substance abuse, terrorism, inter-communal conflicts, corruption, transnational crimes such as trade in fake and counterfeit products, proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons, drug and human trafficking, money laundering and cybercrime.

## 1.1. Security of the Citizenry, Territorial Integrity and Sovereignty

Public safety and security is a constitutional imperative for the government while territorial integrity ensures that all domains of Kenya's territory are secured against threats.

The government ensures welfare of the citizens and well-being of the nation by safeguarding the territorial integrity and exercising sovereignty. The threats to security of the citizenry, territorial integrity and sovereignty are interlinked, transnational and multifaceted.

Within the reporting, the following were the recorded threats to national security and the responses made thereof:

### 1.1.1 General Crime

Crime and criminal activities pose a threat to people's welfare and the well-being of the Nation as they create fear among the people and impede the socio-economic and political development of the nation. During the period under review, the country witnessed crimes ranging from homicides, sexual-based violence, and murder, among others.

A total of **100,651** cases were reported during the period under review compared to **86,271** cases which occurred between 1st September, 2021 and 31st August, 2022. This translates to an increase of **14,380** cases which is equivalent to **16.7%.** It is important to underscore here that, the largest number of those arrested committing crimes are in the age group of between **30 – 44** years of age, which therefore calls for targeted interventions to address these concerns.

During the period between 1st September, 2022 and 31st August, 2023 there was recorded increase in **48** offences, among them; general stealing by **4,010** (32.9%), other Penal Code offences by **2,300** (24.3%), theft of stock **552** (23.2%), possession of dangerous drugs by **1,779** (33.6%) and robbery with violence by **529** (23.4%). Decreases were reported in **17** offences notably: murder **111** cases (5.7%), creating disturbance **114** (2%) and arson **55** (7.9%).

**Nairobi County** recorded the highest number of cases which stood at **10,078** this can be attributed to its high population as compared to other Counties. General stealing recording the highest number of cases in County with **2,129** reported.

**Kiambu County** was second with **9,242** cases while Meru County was third with **6,278** cases. Nakuru and Machakos were fourth and fifth with **4,850** and **4,516** cases respectively. **Mandera County** recorded the least cases of crimes at **323.**

Most of the counties recorded an increase in crime as compared to same period between 1st September, 2021 and 31st August, 2022 with Nairobi County recording the highest increase of **1,944** cases or 22.4%.

The increase can be attributed to the harsh economic conditions that prevailed worldwide stoked by shutdowns in economic activity and supply chains disruptions

occasioned by COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine among other factors. Further, the country and indeed the region faced unprecedented droughts that decimated crops and led to losses of livestock thus compromising food security, especially in arid and semi–arid lands. It was during the same period the country was conducting general elections, a period which has always seen heightened political activity and a rise in crime rates due to the strains to the available public safety and security resources.

To mitigate against crime, the Government has put in measures that include preventative and protective public safety and security measures, enhanced multi–agency co-operation amongst national security agencies as well as deepening whole-of nation approaches to national security in general. One of the notable initiatives launched during the period under review is the process to examine the appropriate terms and conditions of service for officers within the National Police Service, the Kenya Prisons Service and the National Youth Service whose recommendations are expected to outline the measures that would help in uplifting their morale for better service delivery.

## 1.1.2 Organized Criminal Groups

Organized criminal gangs continue to pose a threat to Kenya's national security, especially in the light of the fact that they are growing in number and are mostly activated during general elections by candidates mobilizing votes. Among the known groups that were active during the period under review  include *Kamagira, Wakali Wao, Confirm, Panga Boys, MRC, Warsame, Dambel, 26 Sheba, Kayole, Jamaican, Mbogi la Islam, 3 Phase, Peaceland, Geta,* among others. Efforts have been stepped up to deal with these gangs that include the following.

During the period under review, a total of **1,113** suspect members of these gangs were arrested and arraigned in

Court. The highest number of suspects arrested was from the Kamagira gang which accounted for **587** arrests followed by Confirm which stood at **295** arrests.

The youth are the most vulnerable group of people to join these groups with the risk factors being unemployment, societal decadence, and political mobilization as well as drug and substance abuse.

To address this menace the Government has deployed the following measures:

a) established multi-agency operations aimed at dismantling these criminal gangs;

b) Enhanced community policing;

c) strengthened youth outreach programmes to address youth susceptibility to crime; and

d) Implemented socio-economic empowerment programs including the Hustler Fund among other empowerment programs.

### 1.1.3 Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) is one of the most serious, and life-threatening forms of GBV. Vulnerable population to SGBV include marginalized groups such as those living in slum areas, out–of–school youths especially single mothers. Gender-based violence still presents a challenge as many offenses remain unreported due to the stigma associated with being a victim of these crimes. Further, perpetrators in most cases attack people known to them and with whom they share a relationship of trust.

During the period under review, a total of **7,062** cases were reported out of which, **6,796 (96%)** targeted females with most of the victims being between the ages of **15** and **17** years. The perpetrators of these crimes are between the ages

of **20** and **24** years which accounted for **27%** of all the accused persons. It is imperative to note that, out of these cases, defilement accounted for **5323** cases.

This trend can be attributed to retrogressive cultural and religious beliefs, poverty and unemployment, drug and substance abuse, and low levels of awareness among the affected populations on how to handle SGBV cases.

To address the threat of SGBV, the Government has:

a) established a Gender and Children's Protection Directorate;

b) directed the NPS to establish in all Police Divisions across the country to establish a Gender and Children Desk, with specialist Officers trained and dedicated to handling these sensitive cases;

c) enhanced community policing at the local level;

d) established empowerment programs for vulnerable groups; and

e) enhanced civic education programs.

## 1.1.4 Road Traffic Accidents

The country witnessed several road accidents which have led to loss of life and injuries to thousands of people annually. The primary causes of these road traffic accidents included: speeding, overloading, drunk driving and fatigue, wrong use of the road by pedestrians, poor road infrastructure, and low levels of appreciation of road safety by citizens. This is aggravated by rising levels of lawlessness amongst *matatu* and *Boda Boda* operators . During the period under review, a total of **9736** accident cases were reported affecting a total of **16,499** persons. Under the category of Serious Accidents **4,834** or **50%** cases were recorded, which was the highest number. Fatal accidents cases followed closely with **3,784**

cases or **39%** while Slight Accident cases reported the least with **118** cases or **11%.**

To deal with road carnage the Government has put in measures to:

a) Ensure strict enforcement of the law under the Traffic Act, 2018 and the National Transport and Safety Authority Act, 2012 and expedited the prosecution of traffic offenders;

b) Intensify road safety campaigns.

### 1.1.5 Drugs and Substance Abuse

Trends in abuse of drugs and psychotropic substance locally, which have international connections continue to increase due to ease of global communications that have allowed drug traffickers to operate with equal ease. The easy availability of all manner of drugs has continued to have a negative impact on the health, social, and economic well-being of users and their families which has resulted in a heavy financial burden to the health sector. During the period between 1st September, 2022 to 31st August, 2023 a total of **9,369** (**8,667** Kenyans and **10** foreigners) were arrested for drug-related offences. The most prevalent drugs have been; C*annabis sativa*, heroin, cocaine, morphine, Cozepam tabs, MDMA, Diazepam, and Rohypnol. Corruption within the criminal justice system and the vulnerability of some sections of society to drug abuse has aggravated the menace.

Regionally, Central Region had the highest number of arrests with **4,093** followed by Rift Valley Region with **2,768** arrests while North Eastern Region had the least number of arrests with **76**. Kiambu County had the highest number of arrests with 1,601 followed by Kirinyaga County with **1,143** arrests while Garissa County had the lowest number of arrests with 8. The most prevalent crime was possession of bhang.

Of all drug cases reported, **23** are Pending Under Investigations, **92** Pending Arrests of known offenders, **8,235** Pending Before Court while 1063 have been finalized. (**See the appendix 1**)

During the period under review the following drugs were netted in the country: C*annabis sativa*, heroin, cocaine, morphine, and Cozepam tabs, MDMA, Diazepam and Rohypnol.

To mitigate against the menace, the Government has stepped up:

a) sustained intelligence-led security operations targeting narco-trafficking networks in the country;

b) arrest and prosecution of key dealers and couriers; and

c) liaison and sharing of intelligence with international partners.

To sustain the fight against this threat, the Government intends to institute the following measures:

a) Continuous capacity building for law enforcement and judicial system personnel to enhance investigation and prosecution of drug-related cases;

b) Ensure strict enforcement of Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Amendment Act, 2020;

c) Strengthen collaboration with international partners in combating the vice;

d) Enhance legal, institutional, and policy frameworks; and

e) Enhance intelligence collection to curtail the efforts of drug syndicates.

### 1.1.6 Illicit brews

The manufacture and consumption of illicit brews continues to pose security challenges to a section of the population. It has continued to affect the health of Kenyans and their productivity. Many Youths have become vulnerable to the consumption of illicit brews due to unemployment and social decadence. The most widespread illicit brews include *Chang'aa, Muratina, Karubu, Busaa,* and adulterated second-generation drinks.

In efforts to curb the menace, the Government has enhanced raids on known and suspected illicit brew dens. Further, the Government has sustained a Rapid Results Initiatives (RRI) throughout the country to curb the manufacture and consumption of illicit brews.

Going forward the National Government together with County Governments will;

a) review legal and policy frameworks to include stringent penalties;

b) collaborate jointly in establishing rehabilitation centres; and

c) enhance capacity building of relevant agencies on modern anti-counterfeit measures.

### 1.1.7 Terrorism and Violent Extremism

Terrorism remains one of the key existential threats to our country. Al-Shabaab (AS) and Islamic State (Daesh) affiliated groups and individuals operating in Somalia and beyond continue to pose a threat to Kenya's national security. Terrorists exploit Kenya's expanded human rights and democratic space as well as technological capabilities to radicalize, indoctrinate and recruit unsuspecting followers, as well as propagate their propaganda, plan and execute attacks. Radicalization and recruitment largely occur online

targeting vulnerable groups, especially the unemployed and disillusioned youth and in the urban centres aided by easy accessibility of cyber capabilities in these areas.

Terrorist groups have however widened their scope in the region, including DR Congo and Mozambique. Notably, Kenyans have been identified having travelled to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Somalia and Mozambique to join the Daesh affiliated terrorist groups. Despite the persisting terrorist threat, sustained counter-terrorism operations, both within the country and in Somalia with AMISOM and ATMIS, have helped to significantly degrade and reduce their ability to recruit, operate, and carry out attacks in the Country. However, notwithstanding these valiant efforts by national security agencies, government exhorts all nationals to continue exercising utmost vigilance.

During the period under review, most terror attacks were masterminded by AS, and targeted mainly security agencies, government officials, construction workers, communication masts and non-local communities. These attacks were witnessed mostly in the North-Eastern Region and Lamu County in which terrorist groups claimed responsibility and alleging that the attacks were in retaliation for Kenyan troops being part of African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS). A total of **82** terror related incidences were reported countrywide, out of the recorded incidences **46** were in Mandera, while Wajir, Garissa and Lamu Counties recorded **12** incidences each. Most of these terror attacks were active shooter incidences accounting for **57** out of **82**, whereas IED attacks accounted for **15** incidents and 9 were kidnapping for ransom incidents.

**Table 3: Terror Attacks for the Year 1st September, 2022 to 31st August, 2023**

| BREAKDOWN OF INCIDENCES PER COUNTY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2022 TO 31ST AUGUST 2023 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | MANDERA | WAJIR | GARISSA | LAMU | **TOTAL** |
| ACTIVE SHOOTER | 34 | 8 | 7 | 8 | **57** |
| IED | 6 | 1 | 5 | 3 | **15** |
| KIDNAPPING | 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | **9** |
| ATTEMPTS | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | **1** |
| **TOTAL** | **46** | **12** | **12** | **12** | **82** |

During the period under review, a total of **54** (**26** civilians and **28** Police officers) fatalities were registered, whereas **78** (**51** Police Officers and **27** civilians) sustained injuries from the attacks. A total of **39** terror suspects were arrested and charged before court of law while two were fatally injured.

**Table 4: Breakdown of category of victims per county between 1st September, 2022 to 31st August, 2023**

| BREAKDOWN OF CATEGORY OF VICTIMS PER COUNTY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2022 TO 31ST AUGUST 2023 | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | MANDERA | | WAJIR | | GARISSA | | LAMU | | TOTAL | |
| | OFFICER | CIVILIAN | OFFICER | CIVILIAN | OFFICER | CIVILIAN | OFFICER | CIVILIAN | **OFFICER** | **CIVILIAN** |
| **KILLED** | 11 | 7 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 10 | 10 | **28** | **26** |
| **INJURED** | 39 | 14 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 5 | 0 | 7 | **51** | **27** |
| **TOTAL** | **50** | **21** | **0** | **4** | **19** | **11** | **10** | **17** | **79** | **53** |

Overall, the effects of terrorist attacks on our way of life include loss of lives and destruction of property, loss of livelihoods and a host of other negative socio- economic consequences such as crippling the tourism sector, and damage to critical national infrastructure such as communication masts, public transportation facilities and social services such as schools and health facilities.

The Government has hence instituted the following measures:

a) Sustained monitoring of social media platforms mostly exploited by terror operatives to coordinate their activities;

b) Successfully deployed multi-agency approach to degrade and respond to the terrorist recruitment, facilitation and financing networks;

c) Arrests and prosecution of terrorist operatives;

d) Deepened collaboration with local stakeholders as well as regional and international partners;

e) Established a fusion system for monitoring and evaluation of reporting of County Action Plans (CAPs) and trained County Engagement Forum (CEF) Members on how to use the system;

f) Undertook training, sensitization and capacity building of key stakeholders;

g) Conducted evidence-based research and prepared analytical reports to guide CT/CVE interventions;

h) Developed a model legislation to assist counties to mainstream prevention of violent extremism (PVE) in their activities and supported Nairobi, Laikipia and Nyeri to develop PVE legislation;

i) Vetted and certified PCVE actors in line with section 40 (c) of Prevention of Terrorism Act 2012;

j) Established a disengagement case management system on CT/PCVE;

k) Trained reformed terrorist operatives including returnees and their collaborators/families on life-skills, identified and engaged brave voices from the client pool; and

l) Established specialized CT courts.

Despite these efforts in preventing and countering terrorism, challenges persist including inadequate manning of porous sections of the borders, unwillingness by sections of the public to share information, exploitation of socio-economic vulnerability in the society and politicization of CVE efforts in certain communities.

Going forward the Government will:

a) Review legal and policy frameworks to address identified gaps;

b) Enhance capacity of the criminal justice system to effectively address cases related to terrorism financing;

c) Enhance community engagement and international collaboration by integrating victim and survivor support programs as part of community resilience which includes creating social and livelihood support;

d) Mainstreaming PCVE in the school curriculum from primary to tertiary levels and further strengthening ongoing engagement of education sector stakeholders; and

e) Enhance research capabilities and threat assessment methodologies.

### 1.1.7.1 Religious Extremism

During the period under review the country witnessed resurgence in religious extremism with some religious groups practicing cultic practices. The most extreme instance was the case of a religious cult in Shakahola area within Kilifi County, whose extremist teachings advocated for starvation to death that at the time of Government intervention had resulted to deaths of the following persons.

**Table 5: Shakahola Data**

| SHAKAHOLA RELIGIOUS EXTREMISM STATUS | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bodies Exhumed | Persons Arrested | Persons Reported Missing | Families Availed for DNA Sampling | No. of DNA Samples from Families |
| **428** | **94** | **496** | **266** | **283** |

The chief perpetrator of the cultic practices, **Paul Nthenge Mackenzie,** has since been arrested and arraigned in Court together with his key lieutenants involved in the gruesome practices. A Commission of Enquiry has been set up headed by a Judge of the Court of Appeal to enquire into all the circumstances that permitted the rise of such cultic practices with a view to recommending the appropriate actions.

### 1.1.8 Transnational Organized Crime

### 1.1.8.1 Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism

Kenya's geographical positioning and regional economic leadership constantly exposes it to threats of illicit financial flows and proceeds of crime emanating domestically and within the region from transnational organized criminal groups. To demonstrate our commitment to the global efforts to tighten anti-money laundering and the financing of terrorism framework, Kenya subjected itself to the Peer Review Process in 2021. The reviews were aimed at evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of our anti-money laundering and the financing of terrorism framework, aimed at ensuring that Kenya was devoid of vulnerabilities to illicit financial flows.

Kenya's mutual evaluation report was published in September 2022 and highlighted various legislative and administrative gaps that are to be rectified to improve on the anti-money laundering and the financing of terrorism framework. Consequently, the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Terrorism Financing Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2023 has since been signed into law, which among others, granted the Financial Reporting Centre operational independence by excluding it from the definition of a State Corporation under the State Corporations Act.

Kenya has undertaken various interventions towards improving anti-money laundering and the financing of terrorism frameworks by putting into place measures such as:

a) Prioritizing the prosecution of money laundering cases;

b) Civil and criminal processes leading to recovery of proceeds of crime;

c) Designation of specialized courts of corruption to speed up cases;

d) Empowering the Insurance Regulatory Authority with the power to enforce the compliance of its licensees with the laws on anti-money laundering and combating terrorism financing; and

e) Harmonizing the licensing regime under the Anti-Money Laundering and Combating of Terrorism Financing Laws with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Standards.

Further, *The National Strategy for Anti-money Laundering, Combating the Financing of Terrorism and Combating Proliferation Financing 2021-2026,* is being reviewed with the intention to integrate recommendations made during the mutual evaluation process. This affirms our commitment

towards ensuring that Kenya remains the ideal business hub that is safe for business.

## 1.1.8.2 Human Trafficking

A resurgence of transnational human trafficking and smuggling was noted which poses a threat to national security. This was partly attributed to the reactivation of criminal networks targeting to exploit Kenya as a source, transit and destination for trafficked and smuggled persons. The continued political fragility of several States in the Eastern Africa region has continued to expose Kenya to the threat of human smuggling and trafficking as a destination.

Human trafficking syndicates sought to capitalize on the influx of refugees, asylum seekers and undocumented migrants to perpetuate their activities. The trafficked and smuggled persons included Somalis, Ethiopians, Eritreans, Congolese, Nigerians, Chinese, Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis, majorly destined to Middle East, Europe, United States, Canada and Southern Africa countries.

The Government has initiated the following measures to address this menace:

a) Intensified intelligence-led multi-agency security operations targeting human trafficking and smuggling syndicates;

b) Arrest and prosecution of perpetrators; and

c) Sustained liaison and sharing of intelligence with international partners to address the threat.

## 1.1.8.3 Protection of Endangered Forest Species

Over exploitation of endangered tree species like sandalwood continues to impact negatively on forest security. This threat is exacerbated by factors such as increased demand for the products internationally, while the proceeds are used to fund

organized criminal gangs, cattle rustling, proliferation of small arms and light weapons, among others.

Further, demand for endangered animal species such as pangolin persists owing to the entry of organized criminal groups in the perpetration of the vice. To protect endangered animal species, amendments to the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act will be pursued to protect the endangered animal species and to enhance mutual legal assistance in the region as well as globally.

However, efforts to address this threat are hampered by the following challenges:

a) Limited co-operation from host communities in sharing crucial information;

b) Transnational nature of the offences; and

c) Gaps in policy and legislation frameworks.

To address these gaps, Kenya continues to use the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List as the key tool, to assess the status of species and catalyze action for conservation and policy change. Going forward, existing challenges will be addressed through the following interventions:

a) Pursue legislative amendments to the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act to incorporate protection of endangered species that were hitherto missing;

b) Enhance transnational cooperation among law enforcement and prosecution agencies to foster trust and exchange of information, to disrupt and arrest transnational organized groups; and

c) Consider joint investigations teams in the region and sharing of assets amongst law enforcement agencies to strengthen law enforcement efforts.

## 1.1.8.4 Wildlife Security

Threats to the security of wildlife in the country, manifests itself through poaching for wildlife trophies; commercial poaching for bush meat; illegal wildlife trade and human-wildlife conflict. While the killing of elephants and rhinos for trade in ivory and rhino horns constitutes the widely known threat, the rise in commercial poaching for bush meat from smaller game is emerging as a serious threat to species survival and tourism.

Poaching for bush meat and other illicit wildlife products, has been linked to organized criminal groups engaged in other crimes that include small arms and light weapons trade, hence the imperative of dealing with wildlife related crimes. Additionally, human - wildlife conflicts, depletion of ecosystem and climate change have adversely affected wildlife security. The ravaging drought leads to some pastoralists forcing their way into private conservancies and national parks in search of pasture, thus worsening human/ wildlife conflicts.

During the period under review, a total of **2,991** persons were arrested in relation to various offences relating to wildlife. The highest number of persons arrested which stood at **1,426,** were linked to illegal grazing. Other notable offences were possession of bush meat which recorded **481** arrests, illegal entry into protected areas recorded **380** arrests, illegal fishing with **217** arrests. One person was arrested in connection with possession of rhino horns and skin. During the period under review, poacher killed **36** elephants and **4** rhinos.

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On human/wildlife conflict, encroachment into protected areas resulted to a total of **27** fatalities and **21** injuries.

To enhance wildlife security, the Government has stepped up law enforcement and prosecution of offenders to deter wildlife crime. Further, there efforts have been stepped up to enhance community engagement on issues of conservation and the need to protect Kenya's biological resources.

The table below illustrates the arrests made for wildlife related crimes for the year 2022:

**Table 11: Analysis of wildlife arrests for the year 2022**

| S/No | Offences | Coast | North Eastern | Eastern | Central | Rift Valley | Western | Nyanza | Nairobi | Total |
|------|----------|-------|---------------|---------|---------|-------------|---------|--------|---------|-------|
| | Wildlife Statistics – 2022 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1 | Illegal Grazing | 1541 | 0 | 46 | 0 | 33 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **1620** |
| 2 | Forest Destruction | 20 | 0 | 27 | 32 | 48 | 7 | 0 | 0 | **134** |
| 3 | Possession of Bush Meat | 215 | 13 | 111 | 21 | 71 | 7 | 1 | 5 | **444** |
| 4 | Possession of Ivory | 40 | 0 | 19 | 8 | 38 | 0 | 4 | 7 | **116** |
| 5 | Illegal Entry | 358 | 0 | 38 | 19 | 67 | 4 | 0 | 3 | **489** |
| 6 | Erecting Snare | 10 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 0 | **41** |
| 7 | Charcoal burning | 25 | 0 | 9 | 9 | 46 | 1 | 0 | 0 | **90** |
| 8 | Possession of illegal Firearms/ ammos | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | **4** |
| 9 | Possession of Rhino Horns | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **6** |
| 10 | Harvesting Miraa in protected area | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **9** |
| 11 | Possession of Skin | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | **8** |
| 12 | Illegal Fishing | 16 | 0 | 16 | 0 | 187 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **219** |
| 13 | Possession of Guinea Fowl | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **2** |
| 14 | Possession of Live Pangolin | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | **8** |
| 15 | Possession of Sandal Wood | 1 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 2 | **29** |
| 16 | Others | 13 | 0 | 17 | 2 | 23 | 3 | 2 | 3 | **63** |
| | **TOTAL** | **2260** | **16** | **301** | **101** | **550** | **25** | **7** | **22** | **3282** |

## 1.1.9 Cyber Security

The Government recognizes the cyber domain as a fundamental prerequisite to the functioning of online services such as digital economy, online education, global trade networks, emergency services, basic communications and other socio-economic activities both in the public and private domains. This is especially in the light of the fact that Kenya must compete for opportunities on the global space, in an increasingly interconnected world propelled by rapid advances in digital technologies. The cyberspace remains a key enabler and contributor to the delivery of citizen services, and with the government's determination to shift more services to this space, it hence provides the more reason for enhanced security in this domain.

The wide adoption and use of digital technologies as well as the dynamism in cyberspace has creates both huge opportunities for employment and wealth creation as well as a multitude of new risks. These risks expose individuals, businesses, critical national digital infrastructure, and Government to cyber threats emanating from a wide variety of sources. These cyber propelled risks hence pose grave risks to national security and hence demand appropriate counteraction in response, at both preventative and protective action, including the resilience domains.

The anonymity provided in cyberspace allows criminals to engage in their nefarious activities with reduced risk of detection. Admittedly, investment in cybersecurity measures have not kept pace with the dynamism that characterizes digital technologies thus exposing individuals as well as the public and private corporates to cyber threats and attacks. Poor cyber hygiene amongst the citizenry, exposes Kenyans to danger, which hence calls for enhances levels of cyber security awareness, both at individual and corporate levels.

Consequently, the Communications Authority of Kenya (CAK) has stepped up efforts to sensitize the public about cyber security that include information sharing with critical information infrastructure owners and operators to promote investment in cybersecurity and joint counteractions. Additionally, all national security agencies, in execution of their own respective mandates as well as at multi-agency levels, have stepped up their efforts to tame the menace.

During the period under review, six hundred and six (606) cybercrime related cases were recorded. This includes cases that resulted in loss of funds by banks and their clients, from bank accounts and mobile money wallets. Of the cases reported, a total close to **two billion shillings** was reported lost, while efforts by law enforcement agencies led to recovery of three hundred and twenty-two million shillings, two hundred and fifteen, six hundred and seventy-two shillings (**KSh. 322,215,672.**)

### 1.1.10 Inter-communal Conflicts

### 1.1.10.1 Cattle Rustling

Inter-communal and resource-based conflicts were witnessed in parts of the Rift Valley, Eastern, North-Eastern, Nyanza and Coast Regions, and more particularly in Turkana, West Pokot, Baringo, Elgeyo-Marakwet, Samburu, Laikipia, Meru, Isiolo, Garissa and Tana River counties. The conflicts manifested in livestock theft, banditry and cross-border attacks. These were mainly occasioned by fierce competition for dwindling water and pasture resources owing to the prolonged drought, political incitement as well as land and boundary disputes. Consequently, these conflicts have continuously led to loss of lives, displacement of people and disruption of socio-economic and political activities. The situation has stabilized after the elections and the sustained security operations by the security agencies including the KDF which was sanctioned by the National Assembly.

To further and sustainably address the threats, the government has:

a) conducted security operations, leading to the arrest and prosecution of individuals found culpable of fueling inter-communal conflicts;

b) sustained support for peace programs, including alternative dispute resolution mechanisms with relevant stakeholders; and

c) Supported multi-agency efforts to resolve cross-border conflicts involving pastoralist communities along Kenya's common borders in liaison with the neighboring countries.

In the longer term and to find durable peace in the affected areas, the Government is in the process of doing the following to;

a) Develop and implement a socio-economic and political intervention strategy in the affected regions;

b) Sustain enhanced security vigilance to forestall inter-communal conflicts;

c) Continue the implementation of peace building and conflict resolution programs;

d) Expedite resolution of land and boundary disputes; and

e) Sustain countermeasures to end banditry and proliferation of illicit arms.

## 1.1.10.2 Land and Boundary Disputes

Land remains an emotive issue in the country, with disputes over land use rights and ownership, as well as boundaries, often degenerating into confrontations between neighboring communities. During the year under review, **25** cases of land and boundary disputes were reported in Narok, Nakuru, Kisii, Meru, Turkana and Isiolo counties, in which **4** people were killed, and **13** others injured, and property of unknown value destroyed. These disputes were mainly attributed to disagreements over grazing land, political and administrative boundaries, as well as unresolved inter-communal feuds.

The expiration of land leases held by foreign owned multinational tea companies, particularly in Kericho and Bomet counties, that occurred amid rising agitation to right historical land grievances fomented by political incitement, triggered land invasions which threatened security during the period under review. Other invasions on private land were witnessed in Nakuru, Kiambu and Narok counties. Additionally, there were encroachments on land held by Government institutions, including the Kenya Defence Forces, Kenya Prisons and the National Police Service in different parts of the country.

To address the disputes, the Government:

a) Convened meetings with the concerned stakeholders aimed at finding amicable and lasting resolution to disputed in some permissible instances;

b) Facilitated land demarcation and issuance of land registration documents to individuals and Government institutions;

c) Continued to digitize land records to re-affirm valid and legal ownership that prevents encroachment; and

d) Enforced the law to ensure sanctity of private property.

Going forward, the Government will:

a) Enhance use of alternative dispute resolution mechanism for resolution of historical land issues;

b) Strengthen institutions involved in land management;

c) Fast-track issuance of land registration documents; and

d) Ensure maintenance of law and order.

## 1.1.11 Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons

Proliferation of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) continues to pose a threat to Kenya's public security and safety. The presence of illicit arms and ammunitions worsens banditry, terrorism, cattle rustling, among others.

The main driver of this phenomenon is attributable to transnational criminal gangs exploiting instability in neighboring countries and criminal networks working within the country to supply weapons. The situation has been compounded by the suspect complicity and incitement by some identified local level politicians who foment inter-communal strife hence drive-up demand for illicit weapons. The situation is likely to be aggravated by the continued state fragility and armed conflicts in some countries in the horn of Africa as well as the entry of foreign private military companies.

During the period from 1st September, 2022 to 31st August, 2023, the Government conducted security operations in the affected regions and managed to recover **173** firearms while **118** were surrendered. During the same period, **2,409 rounds** of ammunitions were recovered alongside **50** explosives, while **582** were surrendered.

**Table 6: Illegal Firearms and Light Weapons recovered.**

| Summary of Recovered firearms and Ammunitions between 1st September, 2022 and 31st August, 2023 | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Category | Recovered | Surrendered | Total |
| Firearms | 173 | 118 | **291** |
| Ammunitions | 2409 | 582 | **2991** |
| Explosives | 50 | 0 | **50** |

To address this menace the Government undertook the following measures:

a) Sustained intelligence collection and information sharing on arms traffickers;

b) Continued security operations targeting arms traffickers;

c) Arrest and prosecuted of persons in possession of illicit SALW;

d) Sought stiff penalties in Courts of Law against persons implicated in acquisition and use of illicit SALW; and

e) Stepped up and sustained disarmament operations.

## 1.1.12 Border Security

Insecurity along our international borders undermines movement of persons and goods, and as well as international trade. Some of the challenges that affected cross border movement during the period under review included unregulated movement of goods and people through ungazetted Points of Entry and Exit (PoEs). This was compounded by incidences of armed bandits engaging in cross border cattle rustling, especially in parts of Marsabit, Turkana, West Pokot and Mandera counties.

A total of **29** border incidences were reported compared to **16** in **2021** which resulted in **4** deaths and **6** injuries.

To address these threats, the Government has effected the following measures:

a) Developed and sensitized traders on Simplified Trade Regime (STR) measures through bilateral engagement between Kenya and Ethiopia;

b) Constituted a Multi-Agency Technical Working group that developed standard operating procedures for Co-ordinated Border Management at Ports of Entry/Exit to enhance a Whole of Government Approach in border security and control;

c) Procured surveillance equipment for use in high risk and sensitive ports of entry; and

d) Installed facial recognition systems and Advanced Passenger Information system (API)/Passenger Name Record (PNR) in identified PoEs.

## 1.1.13 Security of Critical National Information Infrastructure

Security of Critical National information Infrastructure is an essential imperative for our national programs to promote industrialization, socio-economic development, national as well as regional integration. Kenya's critical information infrastructure was the target for more than **855** million cyber threats between July, 2022 and June, 2023, making Kenya the third most targeted country in the Africa, behind South Africa and Nigeria.

The National Counter-Terrorism Centre (NCTC) initiated a partnership with the UN Global Programme on Countering Terrorist Threats against Vulnerable Targets. The Multi Agency effort brought **33** MCDAs to identify Kenya's needs and priorities in safety and security of vulnerable sites. The

findings and conclusions from the consultations will inform the development of a national plan of action that will form the basis for future capacity-building tailored to Kenya's infrastructure and "soft" targets or public places.

We have also stepped-up consultations with IT experts from universities, service providers from both in the public and private entities and from all national security agencies with a view to creating an all-of–nation approach to protection of critical national information infrastructure. The outcome of these consultations will inform the design and deployment of the necessary protective and preventative measures in these spaces.

### 1.1.14 Disease Pandemics

COVID 19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization on March 11, 2020, with the first case confirmed in Kenya on 12th March, 2020. During the period under review a total of 19,522 new cases reported and 40 deaths registered due to COVID-19 related complications. The vaccination rate in the country stands at 37% of the adults who have been fully vaccinated and 10% of teenagers.

Comprehensive surveillance and detection systems were developed to enable data collation and analyses in establishing COVID-19 transmission dynamics and societal impact. Domestic security measures were used to complement existing health services provisions, as the main tool in response to the pandemic.

The Government intends to leverage technical skills and global partnerships to build sustainable public health capacity at the national and county levels. The Government continues to scale-up Kenyan government's capacity to respond to serious public health threats through support to the National Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC).

The Government and Moderna Inc, a private corporation, have finalized an agreement to establish an mRNA manufacturing facility in the country. This will be the Company's first mRNA manufacturing facility in Africa, with a capacity to produce up to 500 million doses of vaccines each year. This facility will have surge capacity to rapidly scale and respond to public health emergencies on the continent and around the world.

## 1.1.15 Threats to Civil Aviation Security

Threats to the civil aviation industry continue to evolve due to enhanced security measures applied by the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority, The Kenya Airports Authority and Industry operators. Kenya continues to baseline our aviation security as outlined in Annex 17 of the Chicago Convention of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The key evolving risks and threats to the civil aviation sector are from:

a) "Insider threats"/"known insiders", presenting potential internal risks to airlines;

b) Civil unrest impacting aircrew during their layovers in Nairobi and Mombasa;

c) Kenyan flights operating in the vicinity of airspace with conflict zones (Somalia, Sudan); and

d) Human trafficking, improperly documented passengers and contraband smuggling.

Following the mandatory International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) universal security audit done during the period under review, Kenya attained a score of **91.77%,** the highest ever recorded for the region. After the audit, all stakeholders in the aviation industry were sensitized on the possible threats at the points of entry and various mitigation efforts have been instituted including the following:

a) Sharing of information and resources among relevant agencies to facilitate real time interception of offenders;

b) Formation and operationalization of the Joint Operation Centre (JOC);

c) Enhanced profiling of targeted flights, routes and destinations;

d) Procurement of specialized equipment for detection of narcotics;

e) Formation of Man Portable Air Defense Systems (MANPADs) mitigation Committees at all airports;

f) Re-possession of grabbed airport land by EACC; and

g) enhanced oversight of cargo consolidation, detection and apprehension of tax evaders among the shippers.

The government has also identified the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) as a high-risk factor for the sector. The KCAA, through The Civil Aviation (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) Regulations, has begun the process of registering drones and licensing drone pilots, as well as   gazetting the licensed Unmanned Aircraft Systems Training Organizations (UTO).

## 1.1.16 Threats to Maritime Security

Maritime security provides the platform for sustainable sea resource exploitation that contributes to job and wealth creation. Kenya's Indian Ocean domain occupies an area measuring **245,320 Km²** made up of an EEZ of **142,000 Km²** and an extended continental shelf of **103,320 Km²** Geographically, Kenya has an expansive coastal ocean line of **536 Km** in length. Breaches in maritime security include smuggling of contraband, human trafficking and smuggling,

pollution, IUU fishing, maritime terrorism and piracy, among others.

Identifying emerging threats to maritime security is key in developing the right tools to ensure sound maritime security governance. In this regard, the government is undertaking a multi-agency effort to establish a National Maritime Security Risk Register that will assess the threat, impact, and vulnerability criteria of all security threats to Kenyan national maritime security interests.

In March 2023, the Kenya Navy and the Kenya Coast Guard Service (KCGS), together with other friendly forces, conducted an exercise to comprehensively address approaches to combating maritime threats during exercise "*Cutlass Express*".

## 1.2. Economic Growth and prosperity

Sustained economic growth is critical to the realization of a secure and cohesive Kenya, hence it remains one of Kenya's core national interests. Kenya's determination to attain the status of a newly industrialized and middle-income country as envisaged in Vision 2030, BETA and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must hence be safeguarded from a number of identified threats. This includes rising unemployment, threats to energy security, trade in fake and counterfeit goods, land fraud and illegal mining were identified during the period under review as some of the notable threats.

### 1.2.1 Unemployment

Unemployment, especially among the youth, remained high owing to relatively sluggish economic growth triggered by several local and external factors, that include skills mismatch between the labour market requirements and the skills young people graduating from educational institutions possess, importation of goods and services initially produced

locally resulting in job losses, adoption of modern technologies that encourages automation and job cuts, and inadequate capital for youth to venture into entrepreneurship. The consequent situation encourages the susceptible and desperate youths to recruitment into criminal gangs and violent extremism, as well as engagement in petty crime, thus undermining security.

To address the challenge, the Government implemented the following measures:

a) Sustained investment in education and technical training especially TVET's to equip youth with skills relevant to the labour market;

b) Enhanced the accessibility of affordable loans to the youth and the public, through the roll-out of the Hustler Fund; and

c) Graduate internship programmes.

To further enhance these measures, the Government will implement the following measures to reduce unemployment in the country:

a) Reduce the number of trade licenses required to start a business to grow the economy and lower the cost of doing business;

b) Utilization of **Huduma Centres** as a one stop shop for obtaining all relevant licenses;

c) Review the relevant provisions of the Employment Act, 2007 on redundancy;

d) Development of guidelines on outsourcing of labour; and

e) Ensure proper management of existing pro-youth empowerment programs.

### 1.2.2 Energy Security

Energy is one of the key drivers of the country's Vision 2030 and an integral part in the Kenya Kwanza manifesto for development. The Government considers access to competitively priced, reliable, quality, safe and sustainable energy as an essential ingredient for this country's socio-economic development. The formal energy sector in Kenya is largely dominated by petroleum and electricity.

### 1.2.2.1 Liquefied gas and petroleum Products

The Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) and the petroleum industry at large suffers from widespread malpractices which undermines the safety and socio-economic stability of the country by; exposing the consumers to safety and health hazards, tax evasion by unscrupulous traders, denting of the national image thus discouraging investors, loss of business and regional competitiveness in the petroleum and gas industry.

The energy sector is facing emerging threats from unscrupulous traders that put the safety of consumers at risk. This includes unauthorized refilling of LPG cylinders, and inability to trace movement of cylinders hence safety concerns to the consumers and the general public. Further, weak enforcement of various legal frameworks and/or policies governing the sector has resulted in a myriad of challenges including illegal petroleum facilities. In addition, the country has witnessed some petroleum facilities being utilized as dens for dumping, adulteration and siphoning of petroleum products mainly along the northern corridor.

To curb this menace, the Government has:

a) Embraced the multi-agency cooperation in cracking down on organized criminal groups in the gas industry;

b) Enhanced intelligence-led enforcement;

c) Upscaled its enforcement measures to ensure protection of consumers in addition to entrenching sustainable use, cost efficiency, quality energy and petroleum products; and

Going forward, the Government will:

a) Fast-track the development of the regulations to the Petroleum Act, 2019 to enhance the management of the energy sector;

b) Establish safe and secure storage spaces for exhibits for seized products;

c) Urge the County Governments to allocate land space for parking petroleum tankers as provided for under the Energy Act, 2019;

d) Fast track recruitment of additional staff in the EPRA Enforcement Directorate;

e) Review LPG refilling operations by restricting licensed operations from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.;

f) Enforce the use of technology by all licensed facilities for tracing of all LPG cylinders;

g) Ban export of used LPG cylinders; and

h) Review the standards and recommended practices related to petroleum products, LPG inspection and clearances.

### 1.2.3 Trade in Fake and Counterfeit Products

The trade in fake and counterfeit goods increased during the period under review, despite sustained surveillance by the Government through the Multi-Agency Teams, owing to porous borders and capacity constraints in relevant institutions. This undermined revenue collection, stifled growth of local industries and posed a threat to public health and safety. The most widely traded illicit goods included;

sugar, cigarettes, fertilizer and pesticides, textiles, alcoholic beverages, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.

During the period between 1st September, 2022 to 31st August, 2023, a total of **19,390** bags of sugar, **4247** bags of rice, **523** boxes of milk powder, **10,492** drums of Ethanol, **2468** bags of fertilizer **432,809** boxes of cigarettes, **122,162** bags of wheat, **3,500** Spaghetti boxes, **450** bales of Maize flour and **80,786** Alcohol boxes were netted and **479** suspects arrested.

To address this challenge the Government has:

a) Continued surveillance through multi-Agency Teams;

b) Collaborated with both local and international agencies to deal with this menace;

c) Encouraged seizure and disposal of fake/ counterfeit products;

d) Arrested and prosecuted perpetrators; and

e) Enhanced the capacity within relevant Government institutions.

Going forward, the Government is committed to:

a) Strengthening the various agencies that deal with contraband and counterfeits, including Anti Counterfeit Authority, Kenya Revenue Authority and Kenya Bureau of Standards;

b) Enhancing surveillance in all the border control points through Whole-of-Government approach in border security and control; and

c) Taking the required steps to reopen the Kenya-Somalia Border Post including the Mandera point of entry/exit.

### 1.2.4 Land Fraud

Land is a means to economic livelihood for majority of Kenyans. The Constitution envisages that land in Kenya should be held, used and managed in a manner that is equitable, efficient, productive and sustainable. Land-fraud cases have been on the rise in the country with far-reaching negative socio-economic and political consequences to families, the community and the country at large. The land related crimes recorded within the reporting period are fraudulent registration, double registration, and illegal occupation of public land.

To curb land fraud the Government has:

(a) Digitized land records within the Ministry of Lands;

(b) Taken steps to issue Titles Deeds to eligible and bonafide land owners;

(c) Expedited investigation into cases of irregular land allocation and repossessed public land illegaly in the hands of private owners. In this respect, government recovered Kisite Mpunguti Marine Reserve and Chale Island in Kwale County, government housing land in Nakuru Country and Kiambu that had been irregularly allocated; and

(d) Continued with the process of land reforms to enable private sector players to invest in affordable housing.

Going forward, the Government is committed to:

a) Build more Land Registries and roll out the digitization of land records countrywide;

b) Conduct public awareness on land matters to create greater understanding of what is needed to secure and protect their land rights;

c) Continue recovery of public land and restoring it for its intended use; and

d) Continue issuance of Titles to land owners.

### 1.2.5 Illegal Mining

Kenya's mineral wealth is vast and diverse and offers huge opportunities for job creation and wealth creation, as well as economic development. The potential contribution of mineral resources to our GDP is estimated to be over 10%, as opposed to the current contribution of 0.8% which holds back the country's great potential. The main threat facing the sector within the reporting period is illegal mining which has been reported to be on the rise. This is attributed to moratorium on the issuance of licenses and renewal applications which was imposed in 2019. The moratorium however well intended has negatively impacted the sector, frustrating investors, and other stakeholders by preventing any new investments and slowing down operations and possible expansion of existing projects.

To curb illegal mining the Government has:

a) Approved a raft of reforms on the administration of the mining sector;

b) Partially lifted the moratorium on issuance of new mining rights to enable the development and growth of the mining sector;

c) Held the mining conference bringing together the sector stakeholders to discuss inclusivity and sector reform policies;

Going forward, the Government is committed to:

a) Strengthen mining policies and regulatory frameworks together with the formalization of sustainable

development of the artisanal and small-scale mining sector.

## 1.3. Constitutionalism and Rule of Law

Adherence to constitutionalism and the rule of law is the very embodiment of Kenya's standing as a modern and democratic Nation. The 2010 Constitution recognizes the principle of Rule of Law as part of the National Values and Principles that govern the State and its people. National security threats facing Kenya's democratic process as witnessed within the reporting period include incidents of political insecurity around the electioneering period, and the challenges facing Devolution.

### 1.3.1 Political Security

Kenya, is a progressive democratic state and the Government has remained committed to protecting the people's political rights, adherence to the rule of law and constitutionalism, in furtherance of Article 38 of the Constitution.

The 2022 General Elections were highly competitive and closely contested by candidates for various elective seats. Whereas the elections were conducted in a largely peaceful and conducive security environment as compared to previous polls, the campaigns were marred by high tensions pitting leaders and their supporters against political opponents.

The commitment of most of the candidates across the divide to peaceful campaigns and the decision by aggrieved parties to seek legal redress for electoral disputes also aided in de-escalating political tensions in the country.

The determination of election disputes by the judiciary, maintenance of law and order by security agencies as well as sustained efforts to foster national cohesion promoted peace

and security in the country during the electioneering period. Consequently, the country remained stable, thus facilitating peaceful political transition and inauguration of the new administration.

## 1.3.1.1 Challenges during the Electioneering Period

The country witnessed a resurgence of organized criminal gangs which exacerbated insecurity in parts of the country. This was mainly attributed to engagement of the gangs by some politicians during the electioneering period for political expediency. The use of gangs as tools for political mobilization, and in several instances to perpetrate political hooliganism, led to violent confrontations between supporters of rival candidates. This often led to breakdown of law and order and destruction of property in some parts of the country.

Use of vile language and hate speech, propaganda and fake news in social media platforms also threatened to undermine national cohesion. The resultant political intolerance and tensions degenerated into sporadic violence in parts of the country that posed a threat to security. Additionally, lack of trust in independent institutions on the part of some political parties raised tensions which had the potential to affect the credibility of the general elections.

However in all the instances above, national security agencies were quick to quell any emergent instances of violence and endeavored to bring perpetrators to face the law.

The lower than average voter turnout during the 2022 general election, reflected a continuing trend of voter apathy, mainly attributed to lack of trust in the institutions and the electoral process. The 2022 general election recorded a voter turnout of 64.77% compared to 78% in 2017 and 83% in 2013.

## 1.3.1.2 Incidences of Political Insecurity

The country recorded a total of **85** incidences of political violence during the campaign period (25th April to 31st July 2022) and **226** incidences during the voting period from (9th to 15th August, 2022). Rift Valley Region recorded the highest number of incidences (**44)** followed by Nyanza (**37)** with Eastern recording the least (**19)**. The majority of the incidences involved confrontations between supporters of rival candidates. There were few cases of arrest of IEBC officials over electoral malpractices which resulted in Court action. Following the declaration of the Presidential results on 15th August 2022, several cases of lawlessness were recorded. They include the assault of IEBC officials at the Bomas of Kenya; **4** incidences of unlawful demonstration, malicious damage to property and disruption of traffic flow in Migori and Nairobi counties.

There were unlawful political demonstrations in March 2023, held mostly in Siaya, Kisumu, Migori, Homa Bay and Nairobi Counties, with a total of **824** persons being arrested; **317** Police Officers getting injured; **75** police vehicles being damaged; and **2** and **10** police stations getting burnt and raided respectively. It is further estimated that the country lost approximately **$20.8 million** daily due to these unlawful demonstrations.

To mitigate political insecurity, the Government:

a) Deployed all the required resources both human and logistical, to ensure a peaceful electioneering period;

b) Conducted stakeholder engagements to get commitments towards achieving peaceful elections;

c) Facilitated a smooth transition and change of leadership; and

d) Used lawful means to disperse unlawful demonstrations and heightened security across the country.

Going forward the Government will:

a) Adhere fully to the Constitution guaranteeing civic and democratic rights to all Kenyans;

b) Fully depoliticize the Civil Service; and

c) Facilitate independent institutions to effectively deliver on their mandates.

## 1.3.2 Devolution

Devolution was introduced in Kenya through the implementation of the Constitution of Kenya 2010. It reconfigured the balance of power by devolving power and responsibilities from the National Government to 47 elected County Governments. It also recalibrated the powers between the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary. Article 175 of the Constitution states the principles of governance of the county governments, which the people of Kenya bequeathed to themselves as part of the Constitution to to bring governance closer to the people. The main goals of devolution were to: promote equitable distribution of resources and opportunities across Kenya, foster public participation in decision-making processes, promote accountability and transparency in governance, enhance efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of government services, promote economic growth and development in the counties and promote the preservation and protection of national values and principles in the exercise of public power and functions.

Devolution has largely met its objectives. However, several factors threaten its successful implementation. Corruption remains a major challenge in Kenya, and it has affected

devolution in many ways. It has reduced the effectiveness of devolved services, and has resulted in misallocation of funds and resources. Other challenges include; limited budgetary allocation, negative political interference, lack of good quality leadership, and negative ethnicity. Overall, these challenges have slowed down the implementation of devolution in Kenya and threaten to undermine its intended purpose of promoting equitable development and citizen participation in governance.

## 1.4.  National Values and Good Governance

Article 10 of the CoK 2010 outlines national values and principles of governance that bind all state organs, state officers, public officers and all persons in the execution of their duties.

National values are ideals that guide the attitudes actions and behavior of citizens. Governance on the other hand is the normative standards expected of public servants in their daily functions of promoting the well-being of the citizens. The decline of national values coupled with the lack of good governance is a threat to national security. The key threats to national values and good governance within the reporting period are corruption and insecurity in institutions of learning.

### 1.4.1 Corruption

Corruption continued to undermine delivery of public goods and services despite sustained efforts by the Government to eradicate the vice, in both public and private institutions. This then hampers the Government's ability to effectively implement the national development agenda.  Corruption leads to higher cost of goods and services and often facilitates transfer of illicit funds for criminal activities. The Public Service is also impacted due to loss of funds meant

for service delivery. During the reporting period, corruption cases increased by **64%** from **17** in 2021 to **28** in 2022.

To mitigate on corruption related challenges, the Government:

a) Expedited conclusion of all corruption cases and hastened expropriation of property or funds acquired from proceeds of corruption through civil recovery processes and plea bargaining;

b) Enhanced multi-agency cooperation against corruption;

c) Used regional networks to ease cooperation and sharing of information;

d) Stepped up investigations in corruption and related cases with the aim of recovering the proceeds of crime;

e) Continued public awareness campaigns and community dialogue;

f) Sustained efforts to enhance capacity within National and County Governments to improve efficiency in the use of public resources;

g) Sustained use of asset recovery strategies; and

h) Arrested and prosecuted perpetrators.

To sustain the fight against corruption the government will:

a) Finalize the enactment of the Whistle Blower Protection Bill to support employees to have a conducive environment to report on corrupt activities within an organization;

b) Sustain efforts to implement lifestyle audits for public officers including the consideration of enacting the Lifestyle Audit Bill;

c) Sustain multi-agency collaboration in the criminal justice system;

d) Enhance good governance practices within public and private sectors;

e) Continue automation of services rendered by the Government so as to seal revenue leakages; and

f) Enhance witness protection mechanisms and provide resources for safe houses.

## 1.4.2 Insecurity in Institutions of Learning

Cases of insecurity which manifested in unrest and fire incidences persisted in institutions of learning during the period under review, resulting in loss of lives, destruction of property and disruption of learning. From 1st September, 2022 to 31st August, 2023, a total of **232** schools were affected. As a result of the unrest, **54** students were injured, and **198** persons were arrested. Some of the causes of school unrest included fear of examinations/poor results, weak administrative skills by some headteachers, the prefect factor, drug abuse, unprofessional conduct by teachers, communication breakdown, peer pressure, negative influence of mass media and poor parenting.

**Table 10: Summary of School Incidences between 1st September, 2022 to 31st August, 2023**

| COUNTY | TOTAL CASES REPORTED | STUDENT UNREST | SCHOOL FIRE | ARSON | NO. OF STUDENT INJURED | NO. OF STUDENTS ARRESTED | NO. OF STUDENTS PROSECUTED |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| COAST | 23 | 13 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0 |
| NER | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| EASTERN | 36 | 20 | 15 | 2 | 0 | 30 | 4 |
| CENTRAL | 15 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 69 | 3 |
| R. VALLEY | 86 | 59 | 23 | 5 | 32 | 61 | 0 |
| WESTERN | 37 | 22 | 15 | 2 | 10 | 22 | 0 |
| NYANZA | 29 | 9 | 17 | 3 | 12 | 12 | 0 |
| NAIROBI | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **TOTAL** | **232** | **134** | **85** | **17** | **54** | **198** | **7** |

To address this security threat, the Government instituted measures that included:

a) Sensitized stakeholders on responsible child upbringing;

b) Conducted engagements with students on the negative effects of drug abuse;

c) Stepped up management skills sensitization to headteachers;

d) Strengthened guidance and counseling in schools; and

e) Arrested and prosecuted perpetrators.

## 1.5. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action

Environmental sustainability is the ability to maintain an ecological balance in our planet's natural environment and conserve natural resources to support the wellbeing of current and future generations. Climate action which is SDG 13 calls for action to combat climate change and its impacts. Threats to a sustainable environment and climate actions are food insecurity, environmental insecurity and disasters,

## 1.5.1 Food Insecurity

The country's food and nutritional security remained unstable during the reporting period not withstanding policy, legal and institutional interventions by the Government. Food insecurity was largely attributed to the prolonged drought arising from climate change, high cost of farm inputs, land and soil degradation, emerging pests and diseases, prevailing conflicts and displacement in ASAL region, high prices of staple foods coupled with general high inflation, poor post-harvest management and unsatisfactory performance of Government irrigation projects.

Other factors that have affected food production in the country include limited access to credit and limited investment in agriculture including research, market infrastructure and extension services. Notably, the four failed rain seasons led to mass crop failure and huge losses of livestock, particularly in Arid and Semi-Arid Lands, thereby exposing many people to hunger and loss of livelihoods. Food shortages also led to high prices of food commodities and increased the cost of living. The rising prices of key commodities sparked by the in war Ukraine further compounded the situation.

Food insecurity can have significant effects on national security. Some of the effects include:

a) There are reported cases of social unrest, as people become frustrated and angry with the Government and other institutions that are responsible for ensuring food security;

b) Increased incidences of human and wildlife conflict over crop destruction and shared water and pasture;

c) Cases of migration have been reported across the country due to drought and food insecurity. This has led to increased pressure on infrastructure and social

services in the receiving areas and as well as resource-based conflict especially in the ASAL counties;

d) Economic impact, include reduced GDP growth, increased healthcare costs, and reduced economic growth which is a contributing factor to poverty and inequality; and

e) A decline in enrolment of learners and absenteeism at all levels of education which is attributed to household food insecurity in the drought prone areas.

To address this security threat, the Government instituted measures that included:

a) Distribution of relief food to vulnerable communities;

b) Reduction of costs of fertilizer through subsidies; registered five million farmers and disbursed 1.34 million bags of fertilizer;

c) Continued implementation of agricultural reforms;

d) Duty waiver on importation of maize and rice to increase availability locally;

e) Continued monitoring of food production, stocks, quality and imports; and sharing of early warning signals on food production, availability and accessibility to inform policy decisions towards realization of national food and nutrition security;

f) Continued to support a total of **69,351** farmers with inputs through e-vouchers to promote agricultural production through accessibility to quality and affordable seed, agrochemicals and fertilizers;

g) Rolled out e-extension services to ensure dissemination of agriculture technologies. The e-extension services aimed at reaching out to over seven (7) million farmers annually as opposed to the

conventional one-on-one service that impacted on less than two (2) million farmers;

h) Availed credit to farmers at affordable rate through *Kilimo Biashara* programme;

i) Established warehouse receipt system to reduce post-harvest losses and improve farmers' income;

j) Promoted local food production through initiatives such as urban agriculture, which involves growing crops in urban areas to improve food security;

k) Investment in irrigation infrastructure to help farmers grow crops during the dry seasons, reducing the impact of climate change on food production; and

l) Expansion of social safety nets, including existing cash transfer programs such as Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) cash transfers, Persons with Severe Disability (PWSD) cash transfers, the Hunger Safety Net Program, and nutrition-sensitive cash transfers.

To sustain the fight against food insecurity, the Government will:

a) Implement the land commercialization initiative by making available underutilized land held by public institutions to unlock about **500,000** acres for food production. The Government has also secured commitments from state-owned landowners to provide about **150,000** acres in **15** farming locations;

b) Increase investment in irrigation, promotion of smallholder farming and ensure market stability for food products;

c) Promote adoption of smart agriculture to improve resilience to drought and climate change;

d) Continue to create a conducive policy environment to incentivize all actors along the value chain to produce or make food available in the country to fulfill the food and nutrition security obligation values;

e) Establish evidence-based solutions for resilient food systems to ensure that there is enough food for everyone, today and for future food generations;

f) Make provision for assorted farm inputs (fertilizer, seeds and pesticides) and mechanization services to vulnerable households to revamp crop production;

g) Expand Government subsidized crops and livestock insurance programmes to compensate farmers suffering losses due to climate change;

h) Promote good agricultural practices and drought tolerant/resistant crops such as green grams, cowpeas, pigeon peas, pearl millet, dry land maize, and improving and diversify food production;

i) Enhance information for early warning and response, to ensure preparedness to extreme weather events; and

j) Improve the efficiency of the Social Safety Nets by ensuring timely disbursement of funds and enhancing targeting and enrollment of beneficiaries, among other issues.

## 1.5.2 Environmental Security

The Constitution, Article 42, provides for the right to a clean and healthy environment. Further, Article 69 obligates the State to ensure sustainable exploitation, utilization, management and conservation of the environment and natural resources, and ensure the equitable sharing of the accruing benefits.

Security of the natural environment and its sustainable exploitation will guarantee the present and future generation a balanced place to live in. Sufficient food, clean water and clean air can only be guaranteed by a commitment of this present generation to sustainably manage flora and fauna. In this regard, the government has put in place mechanisms to protect the natural environment from both internal and external negative impacts and continued to proactively implement measures to protect biodiversity and sustainable functioning of ecosystems critical for the survival of humankind.

The East Africa region is experiencing the fourth consecutive season of failed rains with indications that the situation will persist. Climate crisis has occasioned a prolonged drought, famine and malnourishment affecting **29** counties. This situation has a nexus with the increasing inter-communal conflict as a result of competition for scarce and diminishing pasture and water resources that threatens national food and health security.

However, current meteorological predictions forecast el-nino-like heavy rains between November, 2023 and January, 2024, that could mitigate the effects of the long drought.

### 1.5.2.1 Forest and National Parks Fires

The prolonged drought in the region occasioned forest fires in various water catchment areas. Fires destroyed sections of Mount Kenya, Aberdares and Menengai forests, threatening key forest habitats. The strong winds and dry vegetation fueled the fire resulting to destruction of massive acreage of land. Illegal activities in the forest, including honey harvesting, logging, sabotage and acts of malice compounded the situation. The county Governments are experiencing challenges in responding to the fires, emanating from inadequate personnel, firefighting equipment and funding.

To address these challenges, Government has put in place the following strategies:

a) Maintenance of fire breaks;

b) Deployment of aerial surveillance capabilities;

c) Establishment of the forest fire response command centre;

d) Partnered with communities and other partners in fire response;

e) Employment of additional security guards;

f) Enhancement surveillance by the security teams in liaison with the national security agencies; and

g) Addressing the social economic factors that may lead to forest fires, such as alternative resolution of disputes.

Additionally, the Government will:

a) Increase funding in support of the implementation of forest fire management and response strategy especially in regards to equipment for opening up and maintenance of fire breaks and forest roads, fire response equipment and appropriate technology for monitoring forest fires; and

b) Classify forest roads in order to make provision for their maintenance.

### 1.5.2.2 Illegal Logging

Illegal logging continues to pose a challenge to forest conservation due to the following factors; increased demand for timber products, over dependency on forest resources for support of livelihood as well as joblessness among the youth. Illegal logging causes environmental degradation thus compromising the ability of forests to provide environmental goods and services leading to natural resource-based

conflicts, besides negatively impacting on food security, hydropower generation, tourism, fisheries among others.

To address illegal logging related challenges, the Government has put in place the following measures:

a) Recruited additional Forest Rangers and Wildlife Officers;

b) Enhanced multi-agency approach in forest and national parks security and management through sharing of resources and intelligence;

c) Enhanced community participation in the management and use of forest and national parks resources through community forest associations; and

d) Allowed the importation of timber from the neighboring countries to ease the pressure on demand and illegal logging.

## 1.5.3 Disasters

Natural and man-made disasters are serious threats to communities and their livelihoods. Climate change, and fast population growth, coupled with rapid urbanization, have accelerated the intensity and frequency of disasters across the globe. During the review period, the country grappled with severe drought, which had a significant impact on the national economy. Other disasters experienced during the period under review included: flooding, incidences of collapsing buildings, fires, caving-in of mines and strong winds in some parts of the country.

## 1.5.3.1 Drought

Kenya relies mainly on rain-fed agriculture for food supply and production of cash crops, which earn the country significant foreign exchange. Disruption in rainfall patterns therefore triggers serious socio-economic ramifications.

During the period under review, the country experienced one of the most devastating droughts in the history of the country, due to four failed rain seasons, that made the Government to declare the situation a national disaster.

The drought situation wreaked havoc on various spheres of life of the citizenry, including loss of 2.5 million livestock and 65% crop failure in marginal agricultural areas. By December, 2022, the number of people in need of relief assistance had risen to 4,354,545 people in 23 ASAL counties and 846,318 in 45 wards spread across nine other counties. The classification of the drought situation in the country revealed that nine counties were at alarm phase; 13 in alert stage; and one county in normal phase as shown in figure 5.1 below:



DROUGHT PHASE CLASSIFICATION_DECEMBER 2022

**Interventions in addressing drought**

The Government carried out a number of interventions to mitigate the effects of drought. These included:

(i)   declaration of drought as a national disaster;

(ii)  distribution of relief food;

(iii) school feeding programme;

(iv)  emergency relief cash transfers and expediting the enactment of the National Disaster Bill;

(v)   water trucking and livestock off take programme as illustrated in the figure 5.2. below:

**Fig. 5.2. Government interventions on drought**
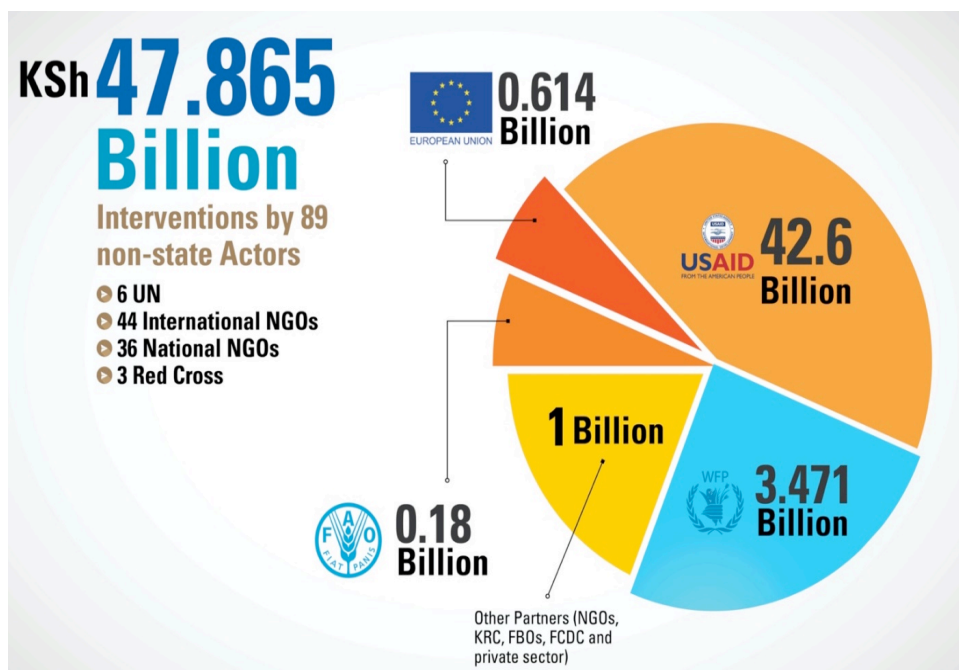
**Response by non-State Actors**

The declaration of drought as a national disaster received attention of non-Sate actors. Consequently, a total of **KSh. 47.8** billion was used in interventions as illustrated in the figure 5.3. below:
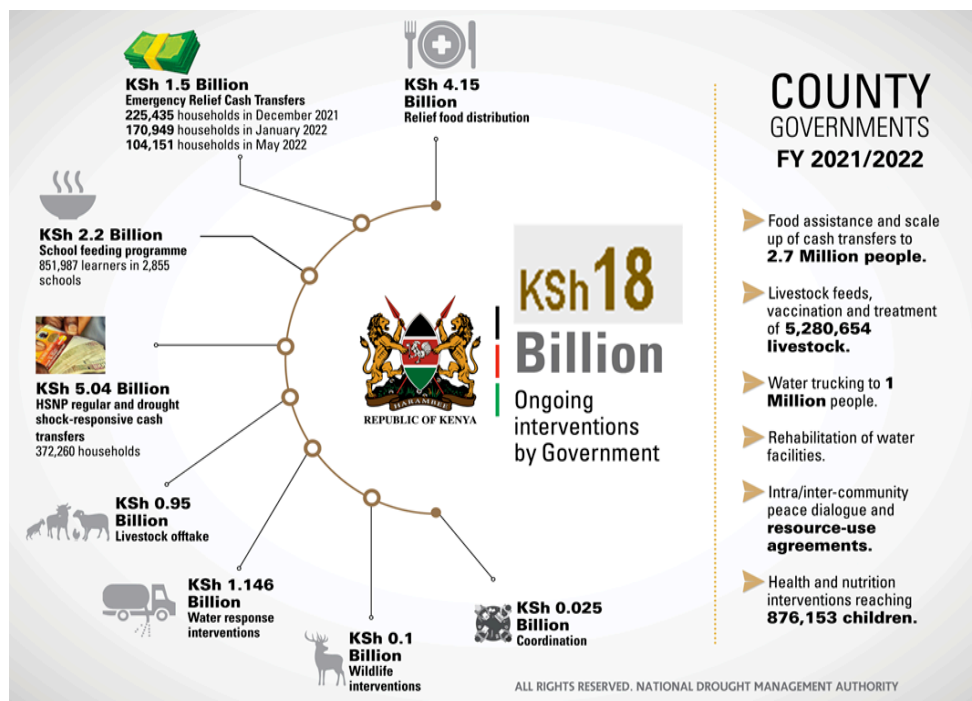


## 1.6 Regional and Global collaboration and Competition

Kenya plays critical roles in security, political and economic spheres in the East and Horn of Africa sub-regions. Being a member state of the East African Community (EAC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) gives the country the platform to engage in regional cooperation, development, and security issues.

The region is faced with a myriad of challenges ranging from instability caused mainly by failed peace processes and

perpetual transitions. This situation predisposes Kenya to a number of security threats namely: influx of illegal aliens and undocumented migrants and refugees.

In fulfillment of our obligations as a member of the international community, Kenya has taken leadership within the region in peacekeeping operations and climate action.

## 1.6.1 Influx of Illegal Aliens and Undocumented Immigrants

Political instability in some countries within the region, has led to an increase in the influx of illegal aliens and undocumented migrants. During the period under review a total of **1,764** aliens and undocumented immigrants were arrested all over the country, representing an increase of **23%** as compared to 2021 which recorded **1,429** cases. The highest numbers of those arrested were Ethiopians **1,337**, Somalis **182** and Eritreans **109**.

Additionally, some of these migrants flee their countries, with the hope of better economic opportunities elsewhere. Illegal aliens and undocumented immigrants are associated with human trafficking and smuggling of persons, as well as small arms and light weapons. They are also an easy target for recruitment into terrorist activities and other trans-national crimes.

## 1.6.2 Refugees

In Kenya continues to host refugees owing to by the political developments and humanitarian situation in the region, mainly in Somalia and South Sudan. In Somalia, despite the moderate gains made in the past three years, the humanitarian situation remains fragile.

Most refugees and asylum seekers in Kenya originate from Somalia **(51%)**. Other major nationalities are South Sudanese **(26.1%)**, Congolese **(9.1%)**, and Ethiopians **(5.7%)**. Persons of concern from other nationalities,

including Sudan, Rwanda, Eritrea, Burundi, Uganda and others, make up **8.1 %** of the total population (**636,024** as of July 2023). Almost half of the refugees in Kenya **(42.4%)** reside in Dadaab, **42.2%** in Kakuma and **15.1%** in urban areas (mainly Nairobi), alongside **18,500** stateless persons.

Political developments and the humanitarian situation in the region will continue to impact on Kenya, mainly due to the situations in the two countries, Somalia and South Sudan, and the ongoing conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). It is anticipated that the political situation in Ethiopia will also remain fragile. Currently, Kenya continues to be among the top refugee-hosting countries in Africa.

Voluntary repatriation continued during the review period for Somalis and other nationalities whenever the situation permitted in the countries of origin. The Government is currently shifting its approach to refugee management by transforming refugee camps into integrated settlements under the multi-year **"Shirika Plan,"** previously referred to as the Marshal Plan. The Government is committed to create an environment that not only supports the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees, but also helps build opportunities for the Kenyan people. The Government in collaboration with the UNHCR continue using The PRIMES integrated Biometrics Identity Management System (BIMS) throughout the review period to secure individual identities of the refugee population, thus ensuring continuity of identity over time and in different locations across the country.

### 1.6.3 Peacekeeping Operations

Kenya is keen player within the peace support operations in the international system. Kenya has over the years remained receptive to requests to contribute to peace operations based on the consent of the parties in the host state. Currently, Kenya contributes troops to the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) and the East Africa Community

Regional Force (EACRF), in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

During the period, The National Assembly approved regulations to establish the National Peace Support Operations Fund, which will provide support for Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) peacekeeping missions following the Report of the Committee on Delegated Legislation, which considered the Public Finance Management (National Peace Support Operations Fund) Regulations, 2023. The purpose of these regulations were to create a National Peace Support Operations Fund, into which the Government is expected to contribute Ksh1 billion. The creation of the Fund will not only ensure that the equipment supplied by the Kenyan Government to its troops are in good working condition, but also enable Kenya to receive payment for the period in which its troops are deployed.

Kenya has also offered to lead a Multinational Security Support Mission (MSS) to Haiti as endorsed by the UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 2699/2023 to deploy an international Security Force. This was after Haiti's Prime Minister requested the immediate deployment of an armed force, which is expected to quell a surge in gang violence and restore security so Haiti can hold long-delayed elections. Haiti's National Police has struggled in its fight against gangs with only about **10,000** active officers in a country of more than 11 million people.

The Cabinet approved the deployment which will be forwarded to Parliament for the needed ratification. At the time of submission of this Report, the Formed Police Units to be deployed are undergoing training based on UN guidelines for Police Command and Police Operations in UN Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions.

### 1.6.4 Championing Climate Action

Kenya acknowledges that climate change is the single greatest challenge facing humanity and the single biggest threat to all life on Earth. By hosting the Inaugural Africa Climate Summit (ACS) in Nairobi, Kenya joined other African countries in demanding urgent and concerted action from all nations to lower emissions and reduce the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

In the summit, Kenya expressed concern that many African countries face disproportionate burdens and risks arising from climate change-related unpredictable weather events and patterns, including prolonged droughts, devastating floods, out-of-season storms, and wildfires, which cause massive humanitarian crisis with detrimental impacts on economies, health, education, peace and security, among other risks.

Kenya demonstrated her readiness to create an enabling environment, enact policies and facilitate investments necessary to unlock resources to meet our own climate commitments, and contribute meaningfully to decarbonization of the global economy. Kenya also committed to developing and implement policies, regulations and incentives aimed at attracting local, regional and global investment in green growth, inclusive of green and circular economies.

### 1.6.5 Reforming International Financial Institutions

Kenya continues to champion for concrete, time-bound action on the proposals to reform the multilateral financial system currently under discussion to build resilience to climate shocks, improve our debt management capabilities, provide interventions and instruments for new debt relief to pre-empt debt default by some African countries in our immediate region. During the Africa Climate Summit, Kenya

joined other African countries in calling for adoption of principles of responsible sovereign lending and accountability encompassing credit rating, risk analysis and debt sustainability assessment frameworks and urge the financial markets to commit to eliminate this disparity by 2025. Kenya has borne the weight of economic turmoil in Africa and recognizes the new dangers that climate change will wreck upon our own country and those in Sub Sahara Africa.

## CHAPTER TWO: CROSS CUTTING INITIATIVES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Bottom-up Economic and Transformation Agenda **(BETA)** implemented in the past one year is geared towards an economic turnaround based on a citizen-centric approach. In addressing national security threats to Kenya's national interests, BETA is focused on interventions on five key sectors that have been envisaged to have the largest impact to economic growth and prosperity as well as on citizen's welfare.

The Government instituted a number of cross-cutting measures to enhance National Security. The measures cut across legal, policy and institutional frameworks. These measures include:

### 2.1 Security Interventions

### 2.1.1 Security Sector Reforms and modernization

During the Fourth Medium Term Plan the Government has identified and prioritized a number of strategic areas for priority implementation. These priority areas are aimed at enhancing capacity of the security agencies to protect the country from internal and external threats and provide security for the citizenry. The interventions are:

a) Security sector reforms;

b) Modernization of equipment within the Security sector;

c) Upgrade of systems for the delivery of citizen services;

d) Improvement of border control mechanism, and

e) Transformation of Kenya Prisons Enterprises.

## 2.1.2 Multi-Agency Initiatives

There has been collaboration of various Government agencies to tackle diverse security threats that require enormous resources and specialized expertise. A multi-agency approach has seen the establishment of Border Management Committees, Joint Operation Centers, continued seizures of contraband among others and has enabled pooling of resources, sharing of intelligence and expertise. Going forward the Government will enact legal and policy framework to support multi-agency security approach. Some of the multi-agency initiatives that the Government has conducted include:

### 2.1.2.1 Operation *Maliza Uhalifu*

The Government, in its efforts to ensure peace and security in North Rift, launched "*Operation Maliza Uhalifu*" on 14th February, 2023 which was preceded by a three days amnesty. While National Police Service is the lead agency, all other security forces including KDF are providing support. The operation is mandated to mop-up illegal firearms and ammunitions and end banditry and cattle rustling in the region. Further, the operation is meant to support all Government projects and initiatives aimed at achieving lasting peace and coexistence.

**Table 15: Firearms, ammunitions and animals recovered in Operation *Maliza Uhalifu*.**

| No. | County | Firearms | | Total firearms | Ammunition | | Total ammo | Persons | | | Animals Recovered |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Recovered | Surrendered | | Recovered | Surrendered | | Arrested | Injured | Killed | |
| 1 | Elgeyo Marakwet | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 68 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | West Pokot | 4 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 31 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| 3 | Baringo | 9 | 12 | 21 | 36 | 32 | 68 | 65 | 0 | 0 | 128 |
| 4 | Turkana | 12 | 13 | 25 | 41 | 28 | 69 | 20 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 5 | Laikipia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 6 | Samburu | 22 | 76 | 98 | 211 | 106 | 317 | 28 | 0 | 0 | 40 |
| | **TOTALS** | **49** | **102** | **151** | **288** | **171** | **459** | **214** | **1** | **1** | **171** |

## 2.1.2.2 Operation *Amani Boni (OAB)*

This is an on-going operation within Lamu County aimed at flashing out Al-Shabaab and securing the LAPSSET project. The operation aims to create a secure environment for social economic development including the construction of the Lamu – Ijara – Garissa and Garissa – Saka – Isiolo roads as well as creating favorable conditions for National and County Governments to address underlying issues. This includes promoting CVE programs in coordination with the National/County Governments and other stakeholders. This continues through enduring/robust patrols and reduced response times to incidents.

Going forward the Government will provide adequate modern equipment to enhance the capacity and capability of security agencies to respond to contemporary security threats.

### 2.1.3 Welfare of Security Officers

### 2.1.3.1 Improvement of Terms and Conditions of Service for Police, Prisons and NYS Personnel

Sustainable security is not only about the equipment for ensuring security but also the personnel welfare and wellbeing of the human capital. In this regard the Government prioritized the procurement of a health insurance scheme to provide for the health matters of security officers. Further, in efforts to expand the access to health facilities, the Government constructed and commissioned Level IV National Police Service Hospital in Nairobi and Level IV Border Police Hospital in Kanyonyo. The Government has employed psychological counselors to offer support to Police Officers across the 47 counties.

In order for the Government to further improve on the conditions of service and the welfare of the officers National Taskforce was established to:

(a) Identify the legal, policy, administrative, institutional and operational constraints on effective service delivery by the National Police Service (NPS); the Kenya Prisons Service (KPS) and the National Youth Service (NYS);

(b) Identify and recommend legal, policy, administrative, institutional and operational reforms in the NPS, KPS and NYS for effective service delivery;

(c) Review and recommend improvement of the terms and conditions of service;

(d) Review and recommend improvement of matters relating to welfare of officers in all cadres of the NPS, KPS and NYS and all other matters incidental to the optimal service delivery by the NPS, KPS and NYS; and

(e)  Review and recommend on any other matter incidental
     to improved terms and conditions of service and other
     reforms in the NPS, KPS and NYS.

# CHAPTER THREE: CONCLUSION

A society free from danger and fear is a commitment that the Government gave under Vision 2030. The aim of this commitment is the improvement of security in order to lower the cost of doing business and to provide Kenyans with a more secure living and working environment. This was to be achieved through strategies including: citizen participation in security; enhancement of number of Police Officers; enhancing information and communication technology (ICT) in crime detection and prevention; and enhancing capacities of police officers.

The Government has consistently and progressively put in place strategies to not only attain, but also surpass the ideals of the Vision. The strategies which include capacity and capabilities are aimed at according Kenyans sustainable, effective and efficient security. Specifically, the Government has enhanced the numbers of security officers; modernized security equipment and reviewed legal, policy and institutional frameworks.

Cognizant of the security-development nexus, the Government is committed to transform the economy through key sectors namely: agricultural; micro-small and medium enterprises; housing and settlement; healthcare; digital and creative economy; sustainable environmental management; and mitigating the effects of climate change. This will eventually improve the welfare of Kenyans and thereby offer premium to provision of security.

To offer the much-needed paradigm shift in security, in line with BETA, the Government is committed to revamp security sector institutional reforms; security sector equipment modernization; upgrade of systems for the delivery of citizen services; improvement of border controls; and transformation of Kenya Prison Enterprises. These key priority areas will not only make it easier for security

agencies to offer services to the people but also help reduce the cost of offering services to Kenyans.

The importance of human capital in security management is a critical cog in national security. The outcome of the National Taskforce on improvement of terms and conditions of service of Police, Prison and National Youth services will help address existing gaps in legal, logistical and operational fronts and ultimately improve the welfare of the officers.

Going forward, the Government shall deliberately support institutional independence to enable the agencies to uphold professionalism and deliver to Kenyans.