



**REPUBLIC OF KENYA**  
**MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION**

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**PRESS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**[Harambee House, Nairobi; Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023]**

**VIOLENCE, LOOTING, ARSON AND INVASION OF PRIVATE PROPERTY MUST CEASE**

1. On two occasions in the last fortnight, Nairobi and Kisumu cities have witnessed widespread violence, looting and invasion of private property by hordes of criminals masquerading as either political protesters or persons aggrieved by historical land injustices.
2. While the police have done everything within the law to protect the lives and property of non-protestors and third parties who also have rights just as the protesters do, the now regular protesters continue to engage in seriously violent, chaotic and disorderly conduct endangering our national security.
3. On Monday this week just like in last week's protests, protesters hurled rocks at police officers on duty, forcing them to disperse them. A Police vehicle was burnt to ashes while public facilities were vandalized in the orgy of violence. So far, 2 civilians have been killed during the protests, while 51 police officers and 85 civilians have been injured. Ethnically-laced arson was executed in the Kibra suburb of Nairobi, while a church and a mosque were burnt down before the police rushed in to quell the clashes. Journalists were robbed and attacked by knife-wielding gangs as they covered the protests.
4. In Kisumu, private properties were looted and others burnt down; including Imperial Hotel, Kibuye Market, The United Democratic Alliance (UDA) party branch office, Patel and Posta Flats as well as Quickmart and Sairam Supermarkets. In neighboring Migori County, the Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) Rongo branch was extensively damaged by riotous mobs.
5. In Ruiru within the periphery of Nairobi, mobs of about 2000 criminals stormed private property belonging to the family of a retired President of Kenya where they vandalized the farm, stole livestock, set fires and attempted to construct makeshift houses ostensibly to occupy the land.



6. A smaller gang attempted to storm a business in Industrial Area of Nairobi which is associated with a former Prime Minister of Kenya, who is the principal leader of the current protests. While the quick action of the police and private security guards repulsed the Industrial Area criminals, action to protect the Ruiru property was not as quick owing to operational constraints caused by the protests that were taking place.
7. On the basis of what transpired on Monday last week, the National Police Service rightfully and lawfully determined that the protests pose clear, present and imminent danger of a breach of the peace and public order.
8. The duty imposed by Section 5(3) and (8) of the Public Order Act (cap. 56, Laws of Kenya) on organizers of protests to assist the police in the maintenance of peace and order was abrogated. Similarly, the organizers refused and/or failed to discharge their duty under the same Act to specify the sites and routes of meetings or processions during the protests.
9. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 5(2), (6) and (10) of the Public Order Act (Cap. 56, Laws of Kenya), the police were compelled by their constitutional and legal mandate to prevent the holding of the protests whereupon orders of dispersal of the protestors were issued for the safety of protestors, non-protestors and third parties.
10. The unfolding situation portends grave danger to the rule of law and the stability of our Country. The violence, looting, destruction of public amenities, disruption of daily activities and invasion of private property portend real and imminent danger of our Country sliding into irretrievable anarchy. These criminal acts must cease.
11. The activities under the ruse of Article 37 rights to assemble, demonstrate, picket and petition, as well as the alleged reaction by invasion, looting and attempted occupation of private property puts the Country on the brink of the precipice, as was the case immediately and before the 2007 elections. All criminals irrespective of the political party or group that they support must be neutered before they destroy Kenya.
12. The current portrait of anarchy, and the unfolding criminal madness must stop. Only firm enforcement of the law stands between us and lawlessness and full-blown chaos. Any aggravation of the prevailing situation would certainly set back the Country. We must halt the descent.



13. No more violent protests shall be allowed anywhere in Kenya. With or without notices, demonstrations and protests of any type which injures people, security officers, businesses and property shall be prevented at all costs.
14. The political association engaged in the current protests as well as those countering them continue to incite the public to violence, while some of the members of one of the political groups have gone further to design and don uniforms of their ‘movement’ in clear breach of Section 4(1)(b)(ii) of the Public Order Act (Cap. 56, Laws of Kenya), which prohibits wearing of uniforms, distinctive dresses or emblems by members of any political group or organization if such is aimed at the use or display of physical force in furtherance of political objectives. Those wearing such uniforms, dresses or emblems must cease and desist immediately.
15. In exercise of the powers conferred by Article 245 (4) and (5) of the Constitution, I shall be issuing policy directives to the Inspector General of the National Police Service, which directives shall take effect on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, specifying:
  - (1) Measures that the police shall take to ensure public safety during demonstrations of any type;
  - (2) Enhancement of security for all Kenyans and foreign nationals lawfully in Kenya to ensure that no person is exposed to insecurity;
  - (3) Investigations and accountability of all persons found to have committed criminal acts against any person or the property of any person during the demonstrations and the counter activities;
  - (4) Provision of security to all persons whose private property has been violated and/or looted during the protests and to any other person with established, well-founded fear or apprehension that their property is or may be the target of violation, destruction and/or looting; and
  - (5) All streets, estates and neighbourhoods in Nairobi, Kisumu and any other place where there are reasonable grounds to believe that violent protests may erupt in the future be provided with round-the-clock security to ensure that law-abiding persons go about their activities without intimidation, threats or disruption of their daily activities.

**KITHURE KINDIKI,  
CABINET SECRETARY FOR INTERIOR & NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION**

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