



USALAMA

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KENYA FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ESTONIA IN IDENTITY MANAGEMENT



Kenya is on course to set the **quality benchmark for registration of persons and management of vital statistics** in the region and the continent.

The President of the Republic of Estonia, **Her Excellency Kersti Kaljulaid**, has lauded the government for making remarkable milestones towards establishing an exemplary identity management ecosystem for national planning and first-class service delivery.

“There is hope that digital IDs will become a reality globally, and Kenya could become the role model for the rest of Africa. If you are using services like M-Pesa, you don't need anything complicated to register the births of babies digitally. When you fully migrate to digital provision of services, then your colleagues in East Africa will follow suit. Many countries do not know where to begin, and you are serving is a local role model,” she said.

The Head of State also added that Estonia is more open to partnerships with Kenya than ever before, particularly in finding viable solutions to issues around identity management and inclusive development.

She said, *“We need to make sure that globally no child gets lost. We should know which child is born where so that we could offer them vaccination, education and other services and monitor that there is no child trafficking. This can only happen if we register the birth of every baby online. Estonians are already doing it, and we can both contribute to global efforts in this regard.”*

She was speaking at the conclusion of her tour to the **Department of Civil Registration Services** headquartered in Hass Plaza, Nairobi. She was hosted by the Principal Secretary for Interior and Citizen Services, **Dr. (Eng.) Karanja Kibicho**, and the Director for Civil Registration, **Janet Mucheru**.

Estonia's national ID card system, which contains details of some the **98 percent of citizens**, is regarded as the **most highly-developed in the world** thanks to its security and ease of authentication of people without physical contact. The formidable infrastructure features a highly secured State portal through which residents can safely identify themselves by providing digital signatures before accessing the government's secure e-services.

In 2018, a delegation from Kenya made a benchmarking trip to the European nation to gain more knowledge on global best practices in the civil registration, with a focus on the use of **Unique Personal Identifier (UPI)**. Subsequently, the government has digitized over **32.5 million** births and deaths records.

The country is also progressively laying the groundwork for the establishment of the **National Integrated Identity Management System (NIIMS)** and issuance of **Huduma Namba**.

Notably, birth registration coverage has improved from 64.1 percent in 2016 to 82.9 percent in 2020, and the government is now targeting universal coverage of birth and death and provide efficient services to members of the public.

To this end, deployment of various capacity adjustment measures is ongoing to complement progressive operationalization of all the 344 sub-county offices in order to decentralize citizen services.

MATIANG'I OPENS NEW POLICE BASES IN LAIKIPIA

The Government will **triple** the number of police officers to shore up security in **Laikipia County**. Interior Cabinet Secretary **Dr. Fred Matiang'i** said an entire police division will be stationed at the newly-gazetted **Kirima sub-county** and **two additional police stations** established in the area that is prone to bandit attacks.

The CS who was speaking at **OI Moran trading center** where families displaced by the recent attacks have camped. He further announced a **training base for elite police officers** will be established in the area and more **police reservists hired and armed** to deter and repel possible attacks.

“It is our cardinal responsibility to take care of you and your property. This is not a short-term exercise, but a sustained operation. We will triple the number of officers and stay here until we conclusively sort

out this issue,” he said.

Dr. Matiang'i directed the **reopening of schools** that have closed due to insecurity beginning Monday and assured residents enough police officers will be deployed to ensure safety. He assured displaced families that the government will help them return to their farms and to **rebuild houses** razed down by bandits.

As an immediate relief, the CS **donated assorted foodstuffs, bedding and iron sheets** to the more than **150 affected families**. To expedite land adjudication and issuance of title deeds to residents, the CS said officials from the Ministry of Lands will camp in the area in coming days.

On his second day in the troubled area, the CS, who was in the company of **Governor Nderitu Muriithi** and **Deputy Inspector General of Police**

(APS) Noor Gabow, and Rift Valley Regional Commissioner George Natembeya, kick-started the construction of the base for the newly-formed police division commander.

“We have stepped up our presence here, and we have begun constructing the Ol-Moran Police Divisional Headquarters, and the basic feature of such a station is that it will have more than 100 police officers,” he said. The CS who also supervised the distribution of more foodstuffs and building materials to



LET'S PROFILE RESIST SELFISH POLITICIANS

When Interior Cabinet Secretary, Dr. Matiang'i, met the **Interfaith Council** on Monday, he expressed his dismay at the blatant flouting of the COVID-19 containment measures, a trend fueled by selfish politicians who are assembling huge crowds that have been fanning the spread of the deadly virus.

“We tell politicians not to do it, they think we are stopping them from campaigning. Let's be practical and realistic. I am prepared to tell the country the truth. Enforcement is becoming the most stressing and frustrating thing. We are simply tired and worn out trying to tell adults to behave themselves. I don't know which language we are going to use to tell our people that this thing is real,” he lamented.

The Cabinet Secretary went on to challenge religious leaders to be firm and raise their voices against such gatherings, which have claimed hundreds of lives.

IMPROVING MATERNAL & NEWBORN HEALTH

The government has rolled out a programme to **equip maternal and newborn**

displaced families expressed confidence with measures undertaken so far to restore calm.

Relevant ministries and state agencies will also be tasked with immediate **review on the future of the management of the Laikipia Nature Conservancy** that has been a theatre of bloody clashes between invaders and area residents. Meanwhile, the government is actively pursuing the instigators, among them key political leaders who have been funding the clashes.

He also blasted the underhand tactics used by leaders in pursuit of political glory. Referencing the recent criminal activity in Laikipia, Dr. Matiang'i stated that plans are underway to put in place a **comprehensive framework** that will enable faith-based leaders to give countdown security briefings ahead of the 2022 elections.

He said, *“I don't want us to go back to the 2007 situation. The tensions are beginning to build because of selfishness. What we are dealing with in Laikipia is related to electioneering politics; you hear the rhetoric and utterances of political leaders trying to balkanize the country and move populations around. We can't go that path again.”*

Definitely, there is something each one of us can do to steer our country towards the right direction. We can tame the rogue politicians by profiling them and giving them a wide berth. It is our civic duty to do the right thing individually and collectively.

units countrywide as part of the universal health care pillar of the Big Four agenda.

Dr. Fred Matiang'i presided over the event in **Nyamira and Kisii** where he restated the commitment to improve the quality, access, and uptake of maternal and newborn health service.

It was during the roll-out that the CS announced that the Government will relentlessly pursue perpetrators of insecurity in Laikipia County and help the families affected by the recent

attacks to rebuild their lives. The declaration was a precursor to his tour of the troubled Ol-Moran area on Friday.



RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST ILLICIT BREWS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

How much is your vote worth? Your answer is purely subjective, but it is definitely **not worth cheap liquor.**

Unfortunately, this is the valuation our politicians assign it, which explains why there is a **proliferation of illicit alcohol during election campaigns.**

According to Interior PS, **Dr. (Eng.) Karanja Kibicho**, substandard and deadly brews are supplied for use as cheap political campaign tools, but the government won't allow it to happen this time around.

“It's time we stop procrastinating on this. The season is here, and we have a duty of care. This time we will be tough because we know the language that our people understand,” Dr. Kibicho said during the launch of a **30-day Rapid Results Initiative (RRI)** on substance and illicit alcoholic drinks.

The PS also

said that the Ministry will send the required support groups to the teams on the ground during the exercise.

On his part, the Cabinet Secretary, **Dr. Fred Matiang'i**, stated that no effort will be spared in tackling the trend, which has always been a threat to public health and safety.

“We have a serious challenge. We are moving towards elections, and rogue traders are willing to avail cheap liquor for the campaigns across the country. In some cases, this trend is chronic. This RRI couldn't have come at a better time,” he said, adding that administrators struggling with alcohol and substance abuse will be relieved of their duties to avoid conflict of interest in the progressive crackdown.



MASHINANI CORNER

The Assistant Chief, **Mwili sub-location, Meru County**, led a raid on a brewing den in the area but the suspects vanished. The security team destroyed **80 litres of muna** and **one set of distilling apparatus.** We thank

wananchi who are strongly behind us in this war. No relenting.



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