



MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

STATEMENT ON THE SECURITY OPERATION IN THE NORTH RIFT

For immediate Release

Kitale, Trans-Nzoia County; (Friday, 24th February, 2023) - The ongoing joint security operation between the National Police Service (NPS) and the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF) is currently underway and has kicked off according to plan. The security deployment in the areas Gazetted on 13th of February 2023 as 'Disturbed and Dangerous,' is now complete. The Command Centre for the operation has been established. Adequate security personnel and land and air equipment have fully been deployed to ensure logistical and operational success of our mission. Our troops are on the ground, complete with highly ranked the NPS and the KDF commanders who have met and synergized on a seamless operational approach.

The aim of the operation is to flush out livestock-stealing armed terrorists who for decades have terrorized large parts of Baringo, Samburu, Laikipia, Turkana West Pokot and Elgeyo Marakwet Counties, often retreating to difficult terrain areas within these Counties. Security agencies have now sealed off these hideouts and are determined to ensure that these places remain out of bounds for criminals for good.

We will strike hard and neutralize all threats in the nooks, crannies, escarpments and gorges where these criminals hide and ensure these areas will never be accessible to criminals.

Kenya is currently engaged with its neighbors Uganda and South Sudan to ensure that we seal off all channels by which criminals may escape from one territorial jurisdiction another and those who are locked in those jurisdictions



are consigned there and dealt with in accordance with the law of those countries.

The three-days amnesty for surrender of illegal firearms ended and will not be extended whatsoever. So far, we received 39 firearms, 136 rounds of ammunition and 1 FRG (Fragmented Rifle Grenade).

The curfew order has largely been adhered to and save for minor infractions which have been dealt with accordingly. To date, 124 persons have been arrested for violating the curfew orders and have been arraigned in court.

The massive security deployment in the North Rift Valley region will remain permanent and will outlive the current operation to flush-out livestock-stealing bands of terrorists who have caused immeasurable human suffering in this area for nearly a century.

However, we are not distracted from other security priorities that the country is facing. We remain alert in order to detect, deter and neutralize any security threat within the borders of Kenya. We assure the people of Kenya that our Country is safe from the North to the South, from the East to the West and even at the Centre.

The current Security Operation is in our national interest with the aim of ensuring our homeland remains safe and secure for the people of Kenya and the visitors who are legitimately in our Country. As such, we appeal for patriotic solidarity of all the people of Kenya, the friends of Kenya all stakeholders including the media to isolate criminals and draw a line between them and the rest of us.



At a solemn moment like this which is about our national survival, it is either you are with us, or with the terrorists and bandits. There is no in between, there is no middle ground.

The government has decided to utilize this moment to implement the many suggestions proposed to bring long term solutions to security and development in these areas. Now is the time to lay a proper foundation for an equal, all-inclusive country where this region and all similarly placed regions of our Country receive their fair share of socio-economic and infrastructural amenities to open up these areas for development and integrate them to our economy. But we must silence the guns and permanently so to create the environment for us to build schools for our children, health facilities for our people and roll out development projects to lift the living standards of our people.

We will continue giving periodic updates on the progress of this operation within the constraints of the operational guidelines and the existing legal framework.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AmSR', with a horizontal line crossing through it.

KITHURE KINDIKI
CABINET SECRETARY