



# USALAMA

## Newsletter

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### BANDITRY: PURGING OF CRIMINALS FROM THEIR HIDEOUTS BEGINS AFTER EXPIRY OF VACATE ORDER



For those who are familiar with the terrain across the **six North Rift counties** experiencing banditry can attest to the challenge our security agencies have had to contend with in the ongoing operation to flush out the criminals.

The vast region is dotted with **remote and inaccessible areas**, with many of the bandits now taking refuge in caves along deep escarpments and at the bottom of gorges. Worse still, there is evidence of use of women and children in those areas, with the

only possible inference being a clever strategy to exploit innocents as human shields.

Amid this catch-22, CS Kindiki issued a 24-hour ultimatum issued to law abiding civilians to **vacate the areas** as a precursor to Phase II of the operation.

*“Owing to their remoteness and terrain, none of the specified forests, caves, hills, gorges and rugged terrain escarpments constitute habitual residence or village ordinarily inhabited by law-abiding members of the public,”* the CS said in a statement.

Following the expiry of the vacate-order, the multi-agency team has begun smoking the bandits out of their hideouts to the delight of the residents who have been experiencing first-hand ferocity of the criminals.

Among others, the areas include: **Ltungai Conservancy, Longewan, Nasuur, Lochokia and Lekadaar Escarpments; Lolmokok Caves, Pura Valley, Malaso Escarpment and Suguta Valley in Samburu; Kapelbok, Nakwamoru, Lebokat, Ombolion, Nadome and Kamur caves in Turkana; Turkwel Escarpment** at the interface of West Pokot and Turkana counties.

### EXCEPT SOME ISOLATED CASES, CRIME RATES HAVE DROPPED – CS KINDIKI

Towards the end of last year, Kenya experienced a **surge in crime rates** across its major cities and urban centres but the tide was **quickly stemmed the police**, a success CS Kithure Kindiki attributed to decisive actions and strategic measures by the police.

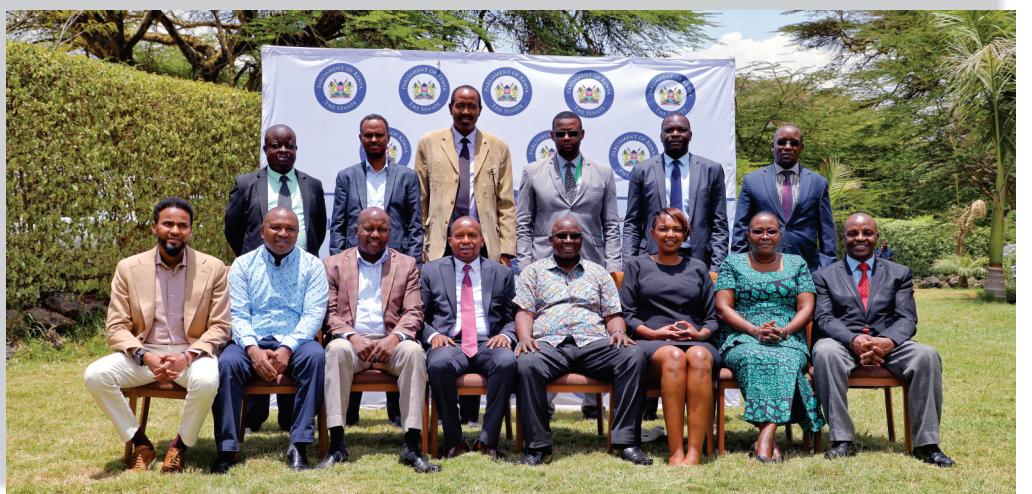
However, some isolated incidents are being reported, especially in Nairobi, with **homicide** among the vices raising alarm bells among law enforcement officials.

The CS recently told the Senate **Committee on National Security, Defence and Foreign Relations** that the country remains largely peaceful, and noted that police are promptly responding to the new cases.

*“But I have already had discussions with the command of the National Police Service, and we are working to seal all the gaps. We will not like a resurgence of robberies and people being accosted at any time of the day,”* he said.

Kindiki mentioned the tragic death of **Jeff Mwathi** at the Redwood Apartments in Kasarani, which had attracted a lot of publicity due to concerns over the pace of the investigations.

The CS divulged that he had asked DCI boss **Mohammed Amin** to assign the case to a team of homicide detectives to get to the bottom of the matter and answer all queries raised by the family of the deceased.



## KENYA DRIVING JOINT SURVEILLANCE AGAINST CROSS-BORDER SMUGGLING OF FIREARMS

**D**id you know that the vast **North Rift**, **northern frontier counties**, and **Eastern region** cumulatively account for approximately **30 percent of all the illegal small arms and light weapons** in the country?

Unsurprisingly, the residents in these regions have suffered the heaviest brunt of insecurity, particularly violent clashes, banditry and terrorism.

The resultant atrocities of the foregoing trends, according to Principal Secretary for Internal Security **Dr. Raymond Omollo**, partly constitute the high cost the country has paid for illegal firearms, which Kenya is now seeking to eradicate jointly with her neighbours.

During a recent workshop on **strengthening cross-border arms control cooperation in Nairobi**, the PS revealed that the government had reached out to **Uganda, Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Somalia** with the intent of stepping up the joint efforts against the cross-border smuggling of these weapons and their availability among border and nomadic communities.

After the three-day workshop by the **Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA)**, the organizers apprised Dr. Omollo of the resolutions to extend joint cross-border surveillance to rein in diversion and trafficking of illegal firearms across the Great Lakes region and the horn of Africa.



## OVER 5,000 GOVERNMENT SERVICES NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

**Y**ou can now apply for and obtain your **marriage certificate** directly from your **smartphone** after the government increased the services available through e-Citizen from **300 to 5,318**. Immigration and Citizen Services PS **Prof Julius Bitok** has said plans are underway to **double the figure by June** this year. This translates to more

convenience and minimal travel costs and time spent on physical visits to government offices.

Further, the **annual revenue** from the digital platform is expected to **rise tenfold**, as the government targets to increase its earnings from **Kshs. 80 million to Kshs. 1 billion** a day.

## FEMALE INMATES TO BENEFIT FROM FIRST LADY'S CARAKANA INITIATIVE



**F**irst Lady **Rachel Ruto** is progressively expanding her empowerment initiatives to women behind bars, a huge impetus to the ongoing **reforms in the prisons industry**.

During this year's **International Women's Day**, she re-launched the **Carakana project**, which she conceptualized in 2016 to **equip women inmates with handcrafting skills**, key among them cross stitching.

*"Since 2016, Carakana project has trained over 1,500*

*women who have produced quality artefacts that have earned them Kshs. 5.15 million,"* the First Lady said.

*"Cross stitching is a source of hope for the women in prison. It gives them dignity, a livelihood, respect from family and a feeling of achievement,"* she added.

The initiative will be implemented across all correctional facilities holding women inmates across the country.

## NGAOS CONTINUE RISING TO THE OCCASION

**O**ur administrators (**NGAOs**) continue magnifying the presence of the national government across the country, with a clear mandate of **supporting other agencies at the grassroots**.

After successfully coordinating the **distribution of relief food** to households most affected by drought in ASALs counties, the officers embarked on the

**administration of TVET craft and diploma business / technical examinations.**

Working collaboratively with **KNEC** field officers, NGAOs took part in the **safe-keeping and distribution of the exam material from designated containers** as students in various institutions wrote their exams with no major hitches or incidents reported.



Samburu



Embu



Kajiado

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