

ROLE OF RESIDENT ASSOCIATIONS IN PROMOTING SAFETY AND SECURITY IN KENYA

TALKING NOTES

- **Security as an enabler**

Socio economic development of any country depends on peaceful coexistence of its citizens. In this regard security is an enabler in national development.

- **The concept of security**

The concept of security has been misunderstood by many to refer to physical security. The concern of many have been and is on crime. Fighting crime is one of the many elements of security. Security its broadest sense includes Human Security aspects like food security, environment security, health security, social security, political security, economic security and physical security.

- **Citizens as the first line of defense**

Whereas, it is the responsibility of the State to provide security to its citizens, it is the citizens who first come face to face with insecurity and therefore the first to respond to any incidents. This explains why the citizens remain the first line of defense. The security agencies in most cases are called to respond to incidents where citizens have or are likely to be overwhelmed.

- **Citizen participation in governance issues is a Constitutional provision**

The Constitution provides for involvement of citizens in matters that affect them. The government has and will continue to engage citizens in matter security in line with Constitutional provisions.

- **Objectives of citizens involvement**

The objective of citizens' involvement in security is to leverage on citizens' understanding of local issues to prevent insecurity; jointly solve problems and create of partnerships for securing the citizens.

- **Government initiatives**

The Government has implemented a number of initiatives that have brought citizens on board in addressing insecurity. These initiatives include:

- a) Sub County Peace Committees
- b) Community Policing Committees

c) NyumbaKumi Committees

Digitization of Records

The Government is on with the process of re-vetting civilian firearm holders; initiated a number of digitization programmes to check out manipulation of records and for ease of records archival. In this regard the Government is implementing the National Identity Management System (NIIMS); digitization of passports; and, formulating National CCTV policy. Further the Government is engaging citizens in the development of County Action Plans (CAPs) on Countering Violent Extremism (CVE).

Going Forward

The Government will continue reviewing policies on security including those touching on citizen participation to realign them with emerging opportunities and challenges.

(A presentation by the Principal Administrative Secretary, State Department of Interior, Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government during the Bi-monthly Talk Series forum at Laico Regency hotel, Nairobi on 12th February 2019)