

REMARKS BY MR. JOSEPH K. BOINNET MGH NSC(AU) THE INSPECTOR GENERAL NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE DURING THE KENYA ALLIANCE OF RESIDENT ASSOCIATIONS LUNCHEON FORUM AT THE CROWN PLAZA HOTEL ON 31 ST MAY 2016

- The CEO KARA Mr. Henry Ochieng
- The CEO Safaricom Mr. Bob Collymore
- Distinguished Members of the Kenya Alliance of Residents Associations
- Ladies and gentlemen

I am glad to join you this afternoon and take part in today's forum whose theme is looking at the place of technological innovation in the fight against crime. Let me from the onset thank the Kenya Alliance of Residents Associations for being consistent since its coming into being about fifteen years ago in organizing for forums where members meet and get enlightened on various issues affecting their social wellbeing.

This association has been steadfast in propagating the promotion of enhanced access to public services, and please never relent on this ideal.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are all aware that our country faces a myriad of security challenges which are not entirely unique from other countries in the region. Our situation is however compounded by our geographical location of sharing our border with countries which have suffered civil strife for a long time. This led to the influx of refugees and for the last two decades, we have hosted more than six hundred thousand in various camps. Their presence has provided a safe haven for those with criminal intents to plan criminal activities as well as providing easy access to traffic in illicit small arms and light weapons. Because of this scenario, the illegal firearms that we cannot account for are in thousands.

These are the same firearms that exacerbate cattle rustling and senseless killings within the pastoral communities and violent robberies within the cities and build up areas.

Whereas this had been the situation for a long time, things changed for the worst four years ago when we started experiencing terror attacks. We found ourselves disadvantaged in dealing with these threats because as a country we had not invested appropriately in modern technology to fight crime. To address this shortfall, a number of projects were initiated to improve our detection, deterrence, dissemination and surveillance capabilities.

The coming into operation of the Integrated Communication, Command and Control Center has been a game changer in the fight against crime especially in the areas which have been covered. Today, all emergency calls from across the country are received at one central place and field officers are informed for action. For Nairobi and Mombasa, live streams of whatever is happening are monitored at the centre and the necessary directives given. The system has vehicle number plate identification features and currently it's being fitted with facial recognition capabilities.

Moreover, the system came with digital radio handsets which can be used as phones as well as live video cameras which can be streamed at the centre. This has not only reduced crime in the covered areas, it has also made the supervisory function of commanders very easy. Our only major challenge is when something happens in an area without coverage but going forward, it's envisaged that the coverage density will be increased. Using the new system, we have managed to recover stolen vehicles and aided in the investigation of several crimes, such as the ongoing murder investigation of

the late Jacob Juma. The facility has been used to cover planned and unplanned events like National celebrations such as Jamhuri Day. It also played an integral role in the management of high level visits such as state visit of President Obama and Pope Francis II.

Another area that we lagged behind was the lack of forensic laboratory although we had some equipment at the DCI Headquarters which nevertheless have given us good service. We have constructed a modern building for this purpose and once it is complete and fully equipped, it will be a referral and a centre of excellence in this region. It shall strengthen even further our capacity to fight crime such as cyber crime and solve most of the puzzles that require forensic science to provide actionable evidence that can be produced in court.

Today, in the spirit of Community Policing motto of security begins with each one of us in our individual capacities, many people have installed CCTV cameras in their business premises and residential places and they help a great deal in piecing together evidence whenever something happens. I would therefore urge all those who have the capacity to do that without delay.

Last but not least, I want to state that we are making good use of the social media and whenever actionable reports are made we follow them through. I therefore urge members of the public to make use of these avenues which have come to us courtesy of today's technological innovations. Chat groups have particularly proved to be very effective in reporting and mobilization whenever a member is affected.

With those few remarks, I wish all of you well in your deliberations.

Thank you and May God bless you.

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