Executive Summary
Kenya Political & Security Report

Summary

- Recorded violent criminal incidents increased by 20% across Kenya over the reporting period, with robberies and politically instigated violence constituting 60 per cent of the total incident pool. The majority of criminal incidents were recorded in Nairobi, Mombasa, Busia, Turkana, West Pokot and the Kenya-South Sudan border, resulting in the death of 29 people including two police officers.

- Police advised members of the public to remain on high alert during the Easter Festival after intelligence reports warned of an imminent threat posed by terrorism in the country. The warning was released after nine Al Shabab members were reported to have entered the country from Somalia to execute attacks. In countering the threat, anti-terrorism police officers arrested two suspected terrorists in the coastal town of Mombasa and in Mandera.

- Following an increase in the number of inter-tribal clashes along the volatile West Pokot, Turkana, Elgeyo Marakwet and Baringo borders, 250 police reservists were deployed to reinforce the 685 personnel on the ground.

- In the next two weeks up to 26 April, the political focus will remain the election process, as parties carry out countrywide nominations for their candidates. So far, over 41,000 aspirants have been cleared by the electoral commission to participate in the process, with the nomination exercise already marred by allegations of election violence. Accordingly, the US, UK, Canada and France warned their nationals to be cautious and avoid political gatherings.

- With less than 115 days to the 08 August polls, the electoral commission has issued the first draft of the register of voters following completion of the de-duplication process and at the same time commenced the auditing of the register. The commissioners have also held talks with the opposition alliance, NASA principals, with all parties agreeing that it will be the sole responsibility of the commission to announce the election results.

- In other developments, an increase of street children in Nairobi CBD was linked to the rise in incidents of petty crimes including mugging and pickpocketing over the last two months.

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Turkana: 07 April 2017
Two separate inter-tribal attacks occurred at Nakwamoru and Amolem, along the Turkana-West Pokot border and close to the South Sudan border. Eight people were killed during the incidents.

Laikipia: 13 April 2017
A police officer was killed and two others injured after Pokot raiders attacked Matweku police post in Laikipia Nature Conservancy.

Mombasa: 07 April 2017
On 7 April, a gang of five armed criminals, including two women, stole a bag belonging to a UK tourist which contained six passports, Ksh75,000, 200 Euros, jewellery and other valuables at a restaurant in City Mall, Nyali.

Mandera: 14 April 2017
A suspected terrorist was arrested in a security operation.

Busia: 13 April 2017
A group of youths assaulted the driver of the Busia County’s Deputy Governor and destroyed his vehicle. Valuables were also stolen from the vehicle.

Nairobi: 01-15 April 2017
A police officer, nine suspected criminals and a civilian were shot and killed in separate robberies and carjacking incidents across the city. Most of the robberies were reported in Huruma, Kayole and Pangani.

Migori: 03 April 2017
Several people were injured after chaos erupted at an ODM meeting in Migori town. Police were forced to fire in the air and use CS gas to contain the situation.

Likoni: 08 April 2017
A man suspected to be a member of the Wakali Kwanza criminal gang was burnt to death by a mob in the Sansiro area of Likoni. Two accomplices escaped.
National Politics

Key development in election preparedness by the electoral commission

The Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has received further scrutiny as preparations move forward to ensure a credible and fair August General Election. During the reporting period, the commission generated the first draft of the register of voters following completion of the de-duplication stage. The process involved analysing all voter records to ensure that there is only one record per voter in the Biometric Voter Registration database. As of 31 March 2017 the first draft register had 19,530,312 voters. However, this number is likely to change due to ongoing quality assurance processes both at the field and headquarters levels. The commission also commenced auditing of the voter register. The process is being undertaken by KPMG for a period of 21 days with effect from 31 March 2017. The commission is expected to present the updated register to the electorate on 10 May, 90 days before the election for verification of the details. The commission also received the first batch (4,000 kits of 45,000) of the Kenya Integrated Elections Management System (KIEM) on 14 April. The 45,000 KIEMs kits are expected to be ready for testing and certification 60 days before election day.

The commission and opposition National Super Alliance principals also agreed on the means of tallying and announcing results in the August 8 elections. The commission allowed political parties and the media to monitor, tally and verify the results for the own internal use. However it will be remain mandate of the commission to announce and declare the election results. The meeting was called following the opposition’s announcement that it will be setting up a parallel centre for vote counting.
Western countries warns of possible political violence ahead of the August Poll

In the lead up to the 08 August General Election, a number of western countries have updated their travel advice for Kenya, cautioning citizens to avoid political rallies and large gatherings. Over the reporting period, The United States of America, the United Kingdom, France and Canada issued new warnings for their citizens living in or traveling to Kenya about possible rallies and/or protests that could turn violent. During the two week period up to 26 April in particular, the threat of possible violent demonstrations, occurring at limited notice will remain high. No specific areas to be avoided were named in the advisories. The competitive nature of the political positions both at the national and county level makes almost all counties vulnerable to violence. Public rallies are also assessed as potential soft targets by suspected terrorists as well as common criminals who have exploited such demonstrations in the past to conduct robberies against vulnerable individuals.

Security Issues

Terrorism threat remain high during the Easter Holiday

The National Police Service warned of a high terrorism threat during this year’s Easter Holiday Festivity. The main threat comes from extremists linked to Al Shabab, a militant group that has vowed to execute attacks in the country, nominally in response to the deployment of the Kenya Defence Forces troops in Somalia under the African Union Mission (AMISOM) mandate. On 13 April, the office of the Inspector General of Police, Joseph Boinnet, released photographs and names of nine Al Shabab members believed to have entered into Kenya from Somalia to execute a planned terrorist attack. The development comes less than two weeks after anti-terrorist police officers in the coastal town of Malindi arrested a suspected terrorist, Ali Hussein Ali, said to be involved in human trafficking and terrorism financing activities in more than five countries. There have been a number of attacks in Kenya in recent years, particularly in Mandera county and other areas close to the Somali border that may be assessed as a precursor of a pending major attack.

COMMENT: The terrorism threat for this year’s Easter festival was assessed as its highest in the past three years, following church bombings carried out by Islamic State (IS) in Egypt as Christians celebrated Palm Sunday on 09 April. During the attack, more than 44 people were killed and over 100 injured. In 2014, two gunmen stormed a church near the Kenyan coastal city of Mombasa and opened fire on worshippers, killing four people and wounding others. Another church was targeted in 2012 when masked gunmen hurled grenades into two churches in eastern Kenya and then sprayed gunfire at fleeing worshipers, killing at least 15 people in one of the worst terrorist attacks Kenya has suffered in years. Although such attacks remain rare, recent violence has demonstrated the attractiveness of churches and other soft targets for militant groups, particularly in the northeastern region. COMMENT ENDS

Government raised concerns over rise in the number of cyber-crime attacks

On 12 April, the government through the Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) Cabinet Secretary (CS), Joe Mucheru, raised concerns over a potential increase of cyber-crime in the country. The ICT CS noted incidents of cyber-crime have increased as hackers target the digital economy amidst a continued growth of the financial technology and internet banking sectors. Police sources indicated that suspected hackers are working with insiders to install malware into target institutions, allowing them to take control of internal servers. Key targets include government agencies, insurance firms, supermarkets and banks. On 06 April, two men were charged in court with hacking into Kenya Telecommunication Company, Safaricom’s network and having links to international terrorists. In April, the Kenya Revenue Authority arrested some suspects linked to the loss of Ksh4
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billion in associated crimes, with internet security firm Serianu estimating that businesses lost approximately KSh18.1 billion to cybercrime last year. To mitigate the threat, the ICT department has drafted a cyber security bill which now awaits debate and enactment by parliament. The bill proposes strict penalties for those engaging in cyber-criminality, however, enhanced internal firewall mechanism should be implemented by the organisations in order to deter system infiltration.

Security threat posed by the rise in the number of street children in Nairobi

Security concerns have been raised following the increase in the number of street children within the Nairobi Central Business District. The children, mostly in their teenage years, are reportedly walking in groups, approaching people especially women harassing them for money. The youths are also reported to be responsible for petty crimes including mugging and pickpocketing. They are reported to gather around restaurants such as Dominos on Kenyatta Avenue, Debonairs near Nakumatt Lifestyle and Pizza Inn on Moi Avenue and are also spotted in areas that are mostly frequented by women.

More national police reservists deployed in volatile areas in West Pokot County

The government deployed more than 250 National Police reservists (NPRs) to reinforce the 685 NPRs along the West Pokot, Turkana, Elgeyo Marakwet and Baringo borders which are prone to inter-tribal conflicts. Already there is a security operation in the county following a series of inter-tribal attacks with the neighbouring communities. West Pokot Police Commandant, Mathews Kuto, said that the government will continue deploying NPRs to boost security in the area before and after the General Election. Kuto also urged people in possession of illegal weapons to register them as unlawful firearms will be seized and owners arrested.

Terrorist activity

Two suspects arrested in counter terrorism operations in Mombasa and Mandera

On 14 April, police from the anti-terrorism unit arrested a suspected terrorist in the coastal town of Likoni, Mombasa County. The suspect, identified as Juma Mwangoh Athman was arrested in a joint police operation from Kwale and Mombasa in the Shika Adabu area. The joint operation lasted for two hours. The suspect was linked to a terrorist group allegedly operating in the coastal region. A cache of weapons including two hand grenades, pouches of AK47 rifle, jungle jacket, binoculars, assorted CDs, 10 ammunition and other weapons were recovered. Another suspect was also reportedly arrested in Mandera, close to the Somalia border. The arrest of the two suspects is assessed to be a major development in countering the terrorism threat especially during this year’s Easter festivities.

Photo of suspected terrorism, Juma Mwangoh Athman, and some of the cache recovered by the police
**Criminal activity**

**Rise in the number of political violence linked to political primaries**

During the reporting period, 13 incidents of political violence were reported across the country as parties commenced party primaries on 13 April. The IEBC cleared approximately 41,000 governor, senate, parliament and county assembly aspirants to run for party primaries countrywide. With the primaries planned to end on 26 April, more incidents are likely to be reported despite reassurances from the police over protection for politicians and their supporters. Some of the incidents witnessed during the reporting period included:

- **On 02 April**, a criminal gang, "Wajuku wa bibi", linked to an aspiring Member of County Assembly (MCA) attacked residents in Likoni. Two victims sustained deep cuts to their bodies after they were assaulted by the gang using machetes.

- **On 02 April**, the director in charge of the environment in Nakuru County, was attacked by a group of around 20 youths as he left a popular entertainment venue in the town. He sustained neck injuries. The official claimed his assailants were members of a group of criminals involved in previous attacks against political opponents. According to the victim, the incident may have been linked to a social media posting in which he applauded a political aspirant to the Nakuru Town East parliamentary seat.

- **On 03 April**, a number of people were injured after clashes erupted at an Orange Democratic movement (ODM) meeting in Migori town. The rally was disrupted when Migori Governor Okoth Obado arrived unannounced. Police were forced to fire in the air and use CS gas to restore order.

- **On 03 April**, an inspiring Member of the County Assembly for Biashara Ward in Nakuru County was attacked by a group of criminals. The victim suffered head injuries and a broken rib.

- **On 05 April**, police were forced to use CS gas and shoot into the air to disperse irate ODM supporters who had accompanied Nominated Senator Elizabeth Ongoro and 20 MCA aspirants to the party headquarters in Kilimani, Nairobi. The group were protesting alleged reports that some of the aspirants had irregularly been given direct party nomination. Several people were injured during the incident.

- **On 08 April**, President Uhuru Kenyatta’s meeting in Wajir County was briefly disrupted after angry youths engaged the police stationed in the area.

- **On 13 April**, a group of youths assaulted the driver of the Busia County’s Deputy Governor and smashed his vehicle. The incident occurred as ahead of the party primaries in the county. Valuables were also stolen from the vehicle.
On 14-15 April, incidents of civil disorder were reported in Busia County after rival ODM supporters allied to gubernatorial party aspirants clashed during the party primaries. The clashes coupled with voting irregularities led to the nullification of the governor nomination results by the ODM National Elections Board.

A police officer and nine suspected criminals killed in a series of robberies in Nairobi

On 01 April, a police officer was shot and killed while pursuing suspected criminals in Kayole, NE Nairobi CBD. In another incident in Pangani, three suspected criminals were killed by the police. The suspects were mugging residents when police intervened. Two other suspects were shot and killed by police forces in Utawala after a failed robbery. Later, on 10 April, a civilian was shot and killed another one injured along Juja Road near Mlango Kubwa by suspected criminals after resisting a robbery. In a separate incident, a suspected criminal was shot and killed in Huruma, NE CBD. A police officer sustained knife injuries during the attack.

**COMMENT:** The killing police officer was the second in less two weeks within the area and has highlighted the enduring threat of armed criminality within greater Nairobi, including in the more affluent areas of the capital. On 19 March, a police officer was shot and killed and his firearm stolen with 25 rounds of ammunition. A female colleague was also injured during an attempted carjacking in Kayole Junction. There has been an increase in crime in most eastern part of Nairobi especially in Kayole, Eastleigh, Dandora, Huruma, in many cases linked to the activities of organized criminal gangs. **COMMENT ENDS**

Suspected Pokot men attack a market in search of stolen animals in Laikipia

On 04 April, suspected Pokot bandits attacked the Ol Moran livestock market, forcing traders at the shopping centre to close their businesses. A police vehicle was also damaged during a confrontation between police and the attackers. Locals indicated that the attackers wanted to forcefully inspect livestock, claiming that they were looking for the animals that had been stolen. During the incursion, the bandits identified a number of animals and attempted to drive them away, sparking a confrontation with the traders.

Eight people killed in inter-tribal attack along the Kenya-South Sudan border

On 04 April, eight people were killed in a cross border attack after a suspected South Sudan Militia attacked a village in Turkana North along the Kenya-South Sudan border. Security sources indicated that suspected Toposa militias attacked Ekpor Village in Mogilla Lokichoggio stealing an unknown number of livestock. During the attack a gunfight ensued between the militias and the Turkana leading to the death of six militias and two Turkana men. Local sources indicated that the attack was also orchestrated as a result of a watering point in the Lotikipi plains where the Toposa’s claim are falling at the Elemi Triangle strip which they have been claiming to be part of their grazing zone. Tension remained high along the border with intelligence reports of a possible attack by the militias in retaliatory of their six tribesmen killed.

Eight killed in two separate inter-tribal attacks along Turkana-Pokot border

On 07 April, two separate inter-tribal attacks occurred at Nakwamoru and Amolem, along the Turkana-West Pokot border; the two villages are approximately 40km apart. In the first raid, suspected Turkana tribesmen attacked Amolem village but were repulsed after being overpowered in a gunfight by the Police Reservists supported by the Pokot herders. During the exchange of fire, four Turkana and three Pokot men were killed. No livestock was reportedly stolen during the two attacks. In Nakwamoru, a Turkana tribesman died of gunshot injuries after a after a peace meeting. Two of the negotiators from Turkana decided to remain behind after the
meeting, one was killed and the other escaped. Tensions remained high in the areas with intelligence reports of possible retaliatory attacks.

**A UK tourist robbed of cash and valuables at Nyali, Mombasa**

On 07 April, a gang of five armed criminals, including two women, robbed of a UK tourist of a bag containing six passports, Ksh75,000, 200 Euros, jewellery and other valuables at a restaurant in City Mall, Nyali. The victim was travelling with her daughters to Britain at the time of the incident. According to the police, CCTV footage obtained from the Mall shows the criminals stealing the possessions before escaping in a waiting car. The incident followed a separate case of two British tourists who escaped unhurt after armed robbers attacked their vehicle at Ngombeni area, on the Likoni-Ukunda road, Kwale County.

**A suspect linked to criminal gang killed in Mombasa**

On 08 April, a man suspected to be a member of Wakali kwanza criminal gang was burnt to death by the mob in Sansiro area of Likoni. Two accomplices escaped. The suspects who were armed with machetes and clubs had attempted to rob a businessman before members of the public were alerted.

**A police officer killed after raiders attacked a police post**

On 13 April, a police officer was killed other two injured after Pokot raiders attacked Matweku police post in Laikipia Nature Conservancy. Intense shootings have been reported in the past two days in Ol Maisor ranch between invading Pokot militants and the police. About 10,000 armed pastoralists have destroyed property and either killed or driven wildlife away from fields and water bodies.
Fig 01: Reported Security Incidents in Selected Towns 01 Nov 2016 — 15 April 2017

Fig 02: Reported Security Incidents by region 01 Nov 2016 — 15 April 2017
Fig 03: Reported Security by type in Selected Towns  01 Nov 2016 — 15 April 2017
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<td>General Election nation</td>
<td>Elevated threat of political violence, gang activities, petty crime and traffic disruption in both urban and rural locations.</td>
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Constellis is a leading provider of risk management, protective security, crisis management and enabling support services to governments, international organisations and major corporations across the globe. We specialize in serving the energy, construction, extractives, critical infrastructure, development and national security sectors—assisting our clients in understanding risk and in conducting their operations safely and securely, no matter their location. Constellis takes pride in our strict adherence to an exacting code of ethics and rigorous focus on standards and compliance—reinforcing the pioneering role we play in fostering stability, efficiency and sustainable economic development.

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Constellis’ intelligence analysts and security consultants produce bespoke political and security reports, threat assessments and security risk assessments to inform decisions and to protect people and assets across Kenya and Africa.

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