



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

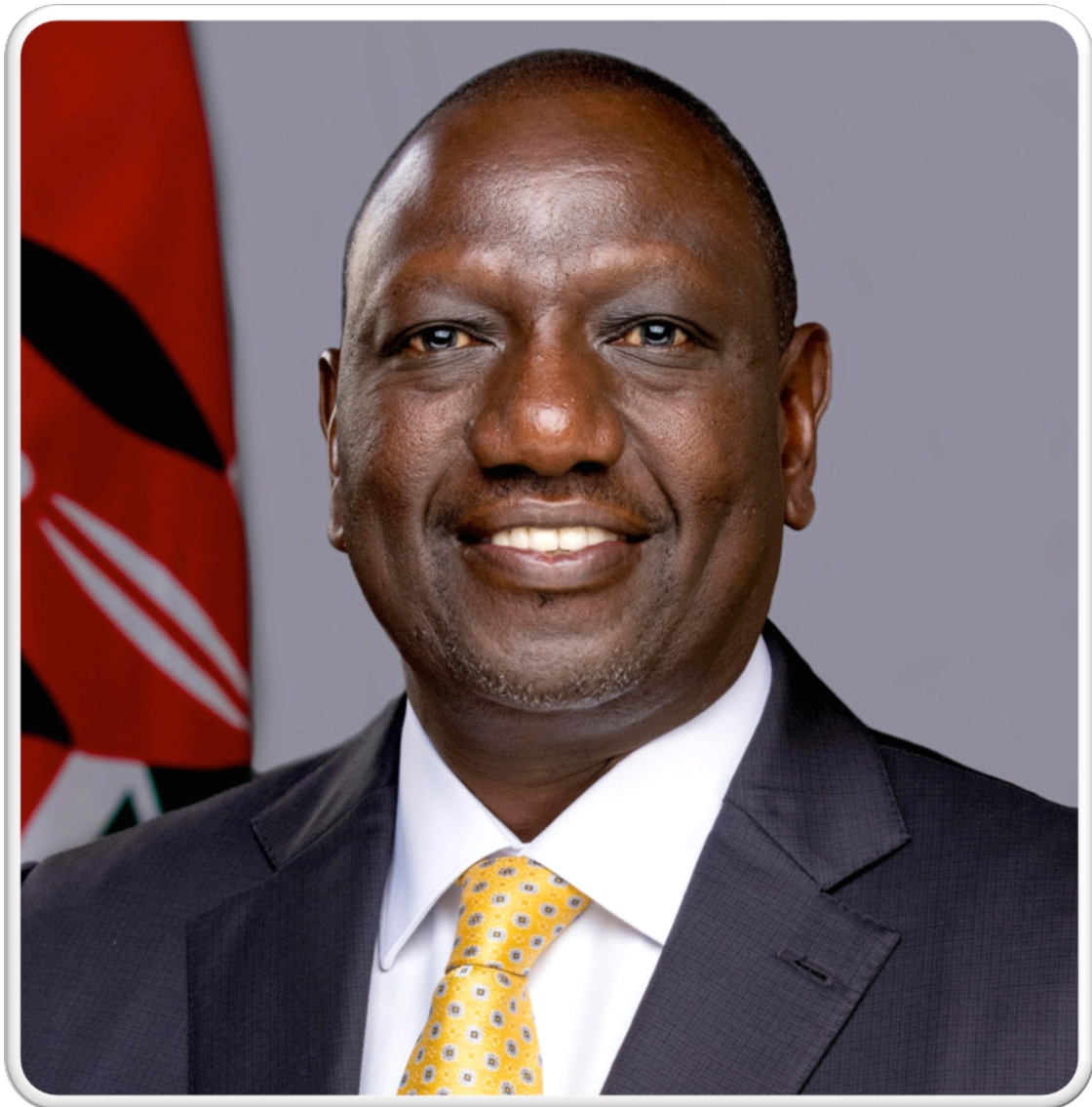


The Annual Report
on the
State of National Security
for the period
1st September, 2023 to 31st, August 2024

September, 2024

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H.E. HON. WILLIAM SAMOEI RUTO, PhD., C.G.H.
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA
AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCES

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PREFACE

This Annual Report on the State of National Security is submitted to Parliament as a requirement pursuant to Article 240(7) of the Constitution of Kenya and the National Security Council (NSC) Act, Sec. 16. It covers the period from 1st September, 2023 to 31st August, 2024.

During the period under review, the Country remained largely peaceful and stable, notwithstanding the threats to national security emanating from both the domestic and external environment, which my Government employed appropriate strategic and tactical means to respond, in order to safeguard and protect the Country. Some of the challenges were transnational in nature and required international co-operation in response.

On the domestic front, the threats to national security emanating from the domestic front were largely offences covered under the Penal Code and other related laws that included activities of organized criminal gangs such as banditry and cattle rustling; occasional social unrest and resource-based conflicts; cybercrime; vandalism of critical infrastructure networks and corruption; transnational crimes such as terrorism, human and drug trafficking, illicit trade in fake and counterfeit goods as well as border incursions in parts of the country. The Government, in all instances, took effective measures in response, through national security agencies that took the appropriate and innovative intelligence-led as well as multi-agency approaches to deal with such incidences of crime. The notable matter of concern during the period under review was the social unrest engendered by Gen Z protests that brought to the fore some of the socio-economic as well as political issues that required urgent redress. My Government paid close attention to the grievances that were advanced, and took the necessary steps to address the issues that were of immediate and midterm concern. Those that required longer term attention are being addressed through the identified pathways, that are aimed at delivering sustainable solutions to the challenges facing our country.

Additionally, in order to ensure that our national security agencies are capacitated to respond to all threats to public safety and security, my Government took the appropriate measures to enhance their capacity and capability through human capital development, improvement of terms and conditions of service, as well as providing modern equipment to enhance their effectiveness and efficiency.

On the external front, the country was impacted by geo-political conflicts such as the Ukraine-Russia War, whose ramifications led to disruption of global supply chains, thus forcing upwards prices of critical commodities such as petroleum, and also strained relations amongst leading geo-political powers. A key concern to the Country remained the negative effects of climate change that required concerted global action to mitigate owing to the scientifically proven consequences such as rising global temperatures, wide variations in weather patterns, among many others. Kenya remained engaged with other partners, both at bilateral and multilateral level, to rally the world to take the appropriate actions to mitigate the negative consequences of climate change. Our Leadership in Africa on matters related to climate action is a testament to the seriousness with which we deal with these issues. To further signify our seriousness in matters of environmental security, my Government has spearheaded the efforts to plant **15 billion** trees over the next ten years, which efforts have been embraced countrywide, and is therefore achievable.

As part of our contribution to the maintenance of international peace and security, Kenya participated in a number of peace support operations in South Sudan, Somalia and Sudan, among others. Of note during the period was the deployment of our Police Officers to the Multi-National Security Support (MSS) Mission to Haiti, as the lead nation, to assist the Haitian police in dealing with criminal gangs ravaging that country. This Mission not only underscores our commitment to international peace and security, but also heightened the profile of our country's security agencies, as well as the spirit of African solidarity.

In conclusion therefore, I wish to inform that our country is safe and secure, and is on the right developmental trajectory, forward. I therefore present this Report to Parliament, on behalf of the National Security Council.

H.E. Hon. William Samoei Ruto, Phd., C.G.H.

*President of the Republic of Kenya and
Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Annual Report on the State of National Security covers the period from 1st September, 2023 to 31st August, 2024. The report is submitted to the Parliament as a requirement pursuant to article 240(7) of the Constitution of Kenya and the National Security Council (NSC) Act, Sec.16.

Global, regional and national challenges influenced Kenya's national security landscape during this period. The Government's strategic responses addressed these threats through comprehensive policy interventions and strong collaboration with domestic as well as international partners.

At the global level as detailed in Chapter Two, Kenya was impacted by geo-political conflicts, notably the Russia-Ukraine War, which disrupted global trade, increased energy prices and strained international relations. Cyber insecurity also emerged as a key concern, with digital threats evolving globally, posing significant national and global security risks. Additionally, climate change continues to affect livelihoods and access to a variety of resources around the world thus underscoring the need for enhanced resilience against global environmental shifts.

On regional front, security challenges in the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region continues to pose significant threats to Kenya. These threats which impacts on the country's economy include terrorism, transnational organized crimes such as arms and human trafficking and illicit cross-border trade in fake and counterfeit goods. Kenya's proactive involvement in peace support operations and other diplomatic engagements played a key role in addressing these regional threats.

At the national level, Kenya faced challenges including organized crime, cyber-attacks, occasional social unrest, resource-based conflicts, vandalism of critical infrastructure and corruption. The Government proactively responded through intelligence-led security operations, enhancing good governance, tackling corruption, prosecution of offenders and security sector reforms. Additionally, agricultural and livestock sector reforms, multi-agency interventions and youth empowerment programs among others, were employed to address the socio-economic drivers of insecurity.

The Government focused on environmental security, including climate-smart agriculture initiatives and disaster risk management efforts, to address food insecurity and mitigate the impacts of climate change. These efforts, alongside strengthened border security and regional cooperation, ensured that Kenya remained resilient amidst a dynamic security environment.

The Government remains committed to fostering regional collaboration, enhancing the capacity of security apparatus, and addressing socio-economic challenges to safeguard national interests that promotes sustainable development.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADR	–	Alternative Dispute Resolution
AHP	–	Affordable Housing Programme
AI	–	Artificial Intelligence
AU	–	African Union
ASAL	–	Arid and Semi-Arid Lands
BETA	–	Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda
BMCs	–	Border Management Committees
BSCP	–	Border Security Control Program
CBRN	–	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
CEWARN	–	Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism
CII	–	Critical Information Infrastructure
COMESA	–	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CoHA	–	Cessation of Hostilities Agreement
COVID-19	–	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CRS	–	Civil Registration Services
CSO	–	Civil Society Organization
C-SAVE	–	Child Safety against Violent Extremism
DJIB	–	Djibouti
DRS	–	Death Registration System
EAC	–	East African Community
EASF	–	Eastern Africa Standby Force
EGAD	–	Ethiopian Growth and Development Plan
ENDF	–	Ethiopian National Defense Forces
GASP	–	Global Aviation Safety Plan
IBCCs	–	Inland Border Control Checks
ICAO	–	International Civil Aviation Organization
IED	–	Improvised Explosive Device
IGAD	–	Inter-Governmental Authority on Development
IPRS	–	Integrated Population Registration Services
ISAF	–	International Security Assistance Force
JBCs	–	Joint Border Commissions
JOC	–	Joint Operation Centre
JOCs	–	Joint Operation Centres
KCAA	–	Kenya Civil Aviation Authority

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS — (CONTD.)

KDF	–	Kenya Defence Forces
KEMSA	–	Kenya Medical Supplies Authority
KIMS	–	Kenya Institute of Migration Studies
KNFP	–	Kenya National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons
LAPSSET	–	Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia-Transport Corridor
LSK	–	Law Society of Kenya
Mpox	–	Monkey Pox
NASP	–	National Aviation Safety Plan
NCIP	–	Northern Corridor Implementation Project
NCTC	–	National Counter-Terrorism Centre
NGAO	–	National Government Administrative Officers
NGO	–	Non-Governmental Organization
NPR	–	National Police Reservists
OSBP	–	One Stop Border Post
PNR	–	Passenger Name Record
PoEs	–	Points of Entry and Exit
PSV	–	Public Service Vehicles
RECSA	–	Regional Centre on Small Arms
RJMEC	–	Reconstituted Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission
RTA	–	Road Traffic Accidents
SALW	–	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SOP	–	Standard Operating Procedure
SSOMA	–	South Sudan Opposition Movements Alliance
STC	–	Strategic Trade Control
TPLF	–	Tigray People’s Liberation Front
UNGA	–	United National General Assembly
UNDP	–	United Nations Development Programme
UNPoA	–	United Nations Programme of Action
USAP	–	Universal Security Audit Programme
WMD	–	Weapons of Mass Destruction

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

The Annual State of National Security Report is prepared pursuant to Article 240(7) of the Constitution and the National Security Council (NSC) Act Sec.16, addresses itself to the State of National Security for the period between 1st September, 2023 and 31st August, 2024. The Report also contains critical long-term security interventions as a requirement to position the nation towards economic turnaround and inclusive growth, through a value chain addition approach under the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

The dynamic global socio-economic and political landscapes presented the security sector with novel opportunities and challenges. This landscape is characterized by a complex interplay of factors influenced by geo-political tensions, economic uncertainties, technological advancements, social dynamics, and climate-related challenges. As the world recovers from the Covid 19 pandemic, it is faced with rising inflationary pressures which remain a critical concern.

The ongoing geo-political conflicts, such as the Russia-Ukraine war, have had significant economic implications. These conflicts have disrupted global trade, increased energy prices, and strained international relations. Sanctions and retaliatory measures have created further economic fragmentation, impacted global supply chains and increased uncertainty in global markets. Technological advancements like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and automation of services are transforming industries and labour services offering significant productivity gains. However, they pose challenges, such as cyber insecurity and job losses, thus necessitating the need for reskilling resulting in potential security, social and economic disruptions.

During the period under review, the Country's security situation remained relatively stable. However, the consequences of the security and political dynamics in the region continue to have both short-term and long-term impact on Kenya's interests. Primarily, instability in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa regions, as well as the negative effects of climate change, and impacts of international crimes were among the notable drivers of insecurity.

Kenya continued playing an active role in seeking peaceful resolution of conflicts both within the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes Region, and in other parts of the World. The country sustained its presence in the Peace Support Operations and Observer Missions in Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, and South Sudan, among others. The deployment of National Police Service to the Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission in Haiti as lead nation, solidifies the place of Kenya in the international peace arena.

Internally, heightened social unrest by young people led to loss of lives and property and was a major highlight during the period under review. The peaceful Generation Z (Gen-Z) protests which were coordinated through online platforms, turned chaotic after they were infiltrated by criminal elements. This led to disruption of economic activities, regional trade, dampened investor confidence and threatened the country's stability.

Traditional and novel threats that were witnessed during the period under review included terrorism, cattle rustling, banditry, stock theft, cybercrime, organized criminal gangs, drugs and psychotropic substance abuse, counterfeit and contraband goods and wildlife crimes (poaching). Further, cases of illicit small arms and light weapons, trafficking and smuggling (drugs and human), road traffic accidents, financial crime and femicide were witnessed.

Kenya remains steadfast in proactively deploying appropriate measures to pre-empt and respond to both internal and external security threats through a whole of society approach. The Government commits to be accountable, uphold constitutionalism, the rule of law and observe human rights.

International and Regional Security

The global security environment, during the period under review, was defined by an interplay of a variety of global geo-political streams that included several inter and intra state conflicts, terror activities, cybercrimes, climate change and the outbreak of Mpox health pandemic.

Inter and Intra State conflicts including the Ukraine/Russia and the Israel/Palestine wars while the tensions in the East China Sea between

China and Taiwan, tested global power relations that will continue to have far reaching socio-economic and political ramifications. For instance, the escalation of the Israel-Hamas conflict that entangled other interested States and non-State actors impacted on the shipping industry on the Red Sea trading routes, especially in the wake of stepped up attacks by Houthi rebels in Yemen targeting shipping vessels in the Red Sea.

Terrorism remained a major threat to international peace and security as terror groupings kept evolving and expanding their reach and alliances. Terrorist activities continued to be influenced by geo-political, technological, social and ideological factors. The Middle East, South Asia regions and several parts of Africa especially the Sahel, continued to experience high levels of terrorist activities even as the nature and geographical focus of terrorism have shifted. In recent years, Sub-Saharan Africa has seen a significant increase in terrorist incidents. This rise is mainly attributed to the activities of extremist groups and the return of foreign fighters which continue to pose a persistent global challenge, as well as piracy and transnational crimes.

Terrorist groups continued to decentralize operations, while other groups fragmented, as others created local affiliates and semi-independent cells. Lone actors or small cells inspired by extremist ideologies continued to carry out attacks rather than executing attacks ordered other affiliate terror organizations. Additionally, terror groups changed tact by increasingly utilizing digital platforms for recruitment, propaganda and planning attacks. The use of cyberspace included carrying out cyber terrorism as well as attacks.

Cyber insecurity remained a key concern globally as digital threats continued to evolve, posing serious risks to state institutions, private organizations and individuals. Cyber based attacks continued to be used as new frontiers by some State and non-State actors to project their power. Kenya has had its own share of attacks targeting critical infrastructure including the e-citizen platform. Additionally, the ability of the citizens to mobilize online for negative purposes poses a threat to national security as demonstrated by the recent Gen-Z protests. This then brings to the fore the need for sharper focus

into the cyber domain as an area to be closely monitored, and the required investments being made.

Climate change continues to significantly impact on global climatic and weather patterns as evidenced by the rise in average global temperatures. The phenomenon not only manifests itself through global warming but also changes in precipitation patterns with more frequent and severe weather variations, rising sea levels and consequent disruptions to ecosystems. This poses substantial risks to human health, the environment, and economic stability. These negative consequences of climate change, create or worsens existing threats to national security, such as uncertainties of weather patterns on agriculture, competition for diminishing water and pasture in arid and semi- arid lands, disease pandemics such as COVID-19 and Mpox, that cause huge disruptions in the global health systems, particularly in developing countries with weak economies.

At the regional level, conflicts in the Horn of Africa (HOA) and the Great Lakes Region were characterized by interplay of complex security and political undercurrents. This state of instability is exacerbated by rising proliferation of illicit arms, influx of refugees and illegal immigrants, terrorism and illicit trade. Of significant note is Al Shabaab terror group that continues to threaten peace and security in the Horn of Africa, notwithstanding the ongoing military operations aimed at degrading and destroying the terror group mainly in the Federal Republic of Somalia as well as in the Country and the region. Attempts to resolve these conflicts were compounded by mistrust among State and non-State parties, commercial interests and weak political systems in the affected States. The fragile security situation is further complicated by the entry of rising powers from the Middle East and the Mediterranean Sea which is compounded by geo-political realignments that threaten the gains previously attained.

Kenya has remained a key player in the regional peace efforts. For instance, Kenya played a critical role in facilitating talks between the Government and the opposition groups through initiatives like the ongoing *Tumaini Peace Initiative* in South Sudan. With the revitalization of the Luanda Peace Process, Kenya through the African Union (AU) championed the co-ordination

of the Nairobi and Luanda Peace processes in finding a lasting solution to the conflict in Eastern DRC.

Going forward, Kenya is committed to continue with its leadership role in finding peaceful resolution to disputes through diplomatic means such as peace support operations, to unlock socio-economic growth and development not only in Kenya but around the world.

CHAPTER TWO: THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY

2.1 Introduction

During the period under review, the security situation in the country was stable, save for incidences arising from various classes of criminality across the country. The obtaining stable situation is a consequence of the Government's commitment to ensuring a favorable environment for socio-economic development and enjoyment of constitutional rights by all citizens, and persons lawfully resident in Kenya.

However, the country witnessed incidences of crime that posed a threat to national security that include terror threats, organized criminal gangs, violent protests, cybercrime, resource-based conflicts and transnational organized crime. Additionally, corruption, unemployment among the youth, rising cost of living, financial and economic crimes, fueled insecurity and civil unrest in parts of the country.

2.2 General Crime

Crime remains a significant concern in Kenya and is prevalent in both urban and rural areas. The types of crimes commonly reported range from violent crimes, such as armed robbery and assault, to non-violent crimes, including theft, fraud and cybercrime. During the period under review, a total of **103,536** cases of general crime were reported as compared to **100,651** cases during the previous period, representing an increase of **2,885** cases or 2.9%.

A decrease in crime rates was recorded in **eight (8)** of the categories, while **nine (9)** classes of crime recorded an increase. Offences against persons (assaults, creating disturbance and affray) were the highest (**25,332** cases or 25%), followed by stealing (**18,253** cases or 18%), other Penal Code offences (**14,612** cases or 14%), dangerous drugs (**8,525** cases or 8%) and offences against morality (**7,662** cases or 7%).

The Table 1 below illustrates comparative crime figures for September, 2022 -August, 2023 and September, 2023 – August, 2024.

Table 1: Comparative Crime Figures

S/NO.	CATEGORIES	SEPT. 2022 – AUG. 2023	SEPT. 2023 – AUG. 2024	VAR	% change
1.	Homicide	3,036	3,069	33	1.1
2.	Offences Against Morality	7,476	7,662	186	2.5
3.	Other Offences Against Persons	24,504	25,332	828	3.4
4.	Robbery	3,855	3,675	-180	-4.7
5.	Break-ins	6,847	6,251	-596	-8.7
6.	Theft of Stock	2,934	2,611	-323	-11.0
7.	Stealing	17,783	18,253	470	2.6
8.	Theft by Servant	1,907	1,666	-241	-12.6
9.	Vehicle and Other Thefts	1,694	1,470	-224	-13.2
10.	Dangerous Drugs	8,881	8,525	-356	-4.0
11.	Traffic Offences	182	70	-112	-61.5
12.	Criminal Damage	4,815	5,072	257	5.3
13.	Economic Crimes	4,691	4,890	199	4.2
14.	Corruption	113	99	-14	-12.4
15.	Offences Involving Police Officers	135	230	95	70.4
16.	Offences Involving Tourist	41	49	8	19.5
17.	Other Penal Code Offences	11,757	14,612	2,855	24.3
		100,651	103,536	2,885	5.2

To address these threats, the Government implemented a range of countermeasures to enhance public safety and security. These efforts focused on strengthening law enforcement, community involvement, technological advancement, criminal justice sector reforms and socio-economic interventions. These included:

- i. Investment in enhancing the capacity of the National Police Service (NPS) by providing new equipment, vehicles and communication tools, as well as equipping forensic laboratories with modern equipment and digital crime databases, to improve detection and prevention of crime;

- ii. Intensified training programs to improve Police Officers' skills in handling various types of crime;
- iii. Recruitment, training, deployment and equipping of National Police Reservists (NPRs); and
- iv. Deployment of additional Police Officers to enhance police presence and effectiveness across the country.

Going forward, the Government remains committed to providing safe and secure environment that is conducive for sustainable socio-economic development. To this end, the Government will recruit additional Police Officers and Reservists, while providing all law enforcement agencies with modern equipment to enhance effective crime prevention and detection, as well as service delivery.

2.3 Terrorism and violent extremism

Violent extremism and terrorism remain a significant threat to Kenya's national security and regional stability. The country faces threats from terrorists whose *modus operandi* include carrying out high-impact attacks on key installations, critical infrastructure as well as staging attacks aimed at security personnel and their camps. Kenya has however made significant strides in the fight against violent extremism and terrorism, with the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) impact score decreasing from the assessed High in 2023 to Medium in 2024, signifying success in the country's counter violent extremism and terrorism strategies. However, the evolving nature of terrorism coupled with instability in the region, vulnerabilities in the society and uptake of technologies by terrorists to plan and execute their plots continue to complicate these efforts. Terror operatives continue to exploit these gaps to radicalize, recruit, and deploy operatives to carry out their nefarious activities. They also extort communities and engage in illicit trade such as trafficking in contraband and money laundering as well as facilitating illegal movement of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) to finance their operations.

In response to the foregoing serious threats, Kenya has put in place various counter terrorism and counter violent extremism measures which include:

- i. Intelligence-led operations and multi-agency co-ordination leading to disruption of terrorist networks, financing and attacks;
- ii. Enhanced deterrence by successful prosecution and conviction of terror suspects;
- iii. Policy and legislative reforms such as the review of the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2012 and the National Strategy for Countering Violent Extremism;
- iv. Developed the National Strategy for Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters;
- v. Embraced a Whole-of-Society and a Whole-of-Government Approaches in preventing and countering violent extremism; and
- vi. Intensified counter terrorism and counter violent extremism outreaches to create public awareness, challenge violent extremism ideologies and build law enforcement capacity in the fight against terrorism.

To further address the terrorism threat, the Government will continue to:

- i. Leverage on bilateral and multilateral engagements to enhance the capabilities and capacity of security personnel;
- ii. Enhance wider stakeholder participation in countering violent extremism;
- iii. Strengthen intelligence-sharing agreements with regional and international stakeholders;
- iv. Upscale counterterrorism and counter violent extremism efforts, including equipping our security agencies with modern technologies and equipment;
- v. Institute counterterrorism and counter violent extremism policy and legal reforms to address evolving terrorism threats; and
- vi. Promote mainstreaming of prevention and countering violent extremism interventions in national and county Government programs and projects.

2.4 Cybercrimes and Information Security

The cyber space landscape remains volatile and has transformed significantly in recent years due to rapid technological advancements and increased global connectivity. It encompasses the entire spectrum of known and potential cyber security risks that could affect National Critical Information Infrastructure (CII), user groups and organizations.

Increased digitization and migration of many public services to the cyber domain has led to rising reliance on web-based services, predisposing institutions and individuals to cyber threats including malware, cyberbullying, social engineering and online scammers, resulting in subversion, espionage, disruption of services and financial losses. For instance, between January and August 2024, Government agencies recorded one hundred and fourteen **(114)** cyber-attacks targeting key critical information infrastructure.

Additionally, the rapid advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies has introduced both opportunities and challenges in the cyber-security landscape. While AI enhances capabilities in various domains, its evolving nature also presents new risks and complexities that malicious actors can exploit to compromise security. Similarly, the dynamism in the cyber security domain continues to pose challenges including the lag in adopting appropriate cyber security tools and technologies. This has resulted in greater anonymity of offenders, limited monitoring capabilities, and inadequate detection and response. Additionally, inadequate “cyber-security hygiene” and awareness among the general population predisposes citizens to a variety of cybersecurity risks such as those targeting mobile devices and banking fraud.

To address these challenges, the Government has instituted the following measures:

- i. Formulated the Computer Misuse and Cybercrime Management Regulations (2024), to enhance information sharing; coordinate incident response and management;

- ii. Adopted a Multi-Agency Approach and partnerships to counter the threats; and
- iii. Established the National Kenya Computer Incident Response Team (KE-CIRT) under the Communication Authority to monitor cyber threats.

Further, the Government will continue to safeguard our cyber space by:

- i. Partnering with other national, multi-lateral and related organisations;
- ii. Acquiring modern tools and expertise to the law enforcement agencies and cybercrime units; and
- iii. Instituting policy and legislative reforms.

2.5 Organized Criminal Gangs

Organized criminal gangs continue to pose serious security and socio-economic threats across the country. The gangs that were active during the review period included *Gaza*, *T9*, *Kabaridi*, and *Trouble Monkey Brothers* in Nairobi Region; *Barsuliek and Mbio Mbaya* in Uasin Gishu county; *Wakali Kwanza*, *Team Somba*, *Panga Boys*, and *Kaburi Moja* in the Coast Region; *Cha Usiku Sacco* in Kakamega County, *Sungu Sungu* in Kisii County, and *Mungiki* in Central, Rift Valley, and Nairobi Regions.

Some of the gangs were involved in crimes such as; robberies, extortion, murder, drug trafficking, and looting during anti-Government protests. From September, 2023 to August, 2024, a total of **721** cases were recorded compared to **1,113** cases recorded in a similar period from September, 2022 to August, 2023. This was a decrease of **392 cases** translating to **35.3%**.

The factors contributing to the rise of these gangs include unemployment, school truancy, substance abuse, and political patronage. Some of the gangs took advantage of the Gen Z protests leading to increased muggings, vandalism, and destruction of property.

To counter criminal gangs, the Government has:

1. Rolled out youth empowerment programs.
2. Enhanced intelligence gathering and sharing.

3. Caused the arrest and prosecution before Courts of Law of those abetting gang activities.

To further address the threat, the Government will continue to:

1. Strengthen youth outreach and socio-economic programs.
2. Intensify co-ordinated multi-agency security operations against gang activity.

2.6 Kidnapping and Abduction

Kidnapping and abduction are serious offences under our Penal Code hence the recent increase in such crimes is of grave concern to the Government.

Kidnappings and abductions in Kenya have become a security concern in the recent past, and the victims are not only men but also women and children, including foreign nationals. The criminals are often motivated by as ransom demands and at times engage in human trafficking.

The table below depicts a comparative analysis of kidnappings between September, 2022 to August, 2023, and September, 2023 to August, 2024. Table 2 below summarizes the analysis per region.

Table 2: Kidnappings Comparative Figures

REGION	Sept. 2022 to Aug. 2023	Sept. 2023 to Aug. 2024	VAR	% Change
Nairobi	5	5	0	0
Rift Valley	10	10	0	0
Coast	2	14	12	600
Eastern	10	6	-4	-40
Western	1	0	-1	-100
Nyanza	1	7	6	600
Central	4	8	4	100
North Eastern	3	2	-1	-33
Total	36	52	16	44.4

To address these crimes, the Government implemented a number of intervention measures including enhanced public awareness campaigns and enhanced collaboration with mobile telephone service providers to assist with

the investigations. Other measures included freezing of bank accounts of suspects awaiting conclusion of their court cases.

Going forward, the Government is committed to eradicating the vice through development and implementation of several interventions. Some of them includes the development of an Abduction/Kidnapping Response Plan. Other measures include providing security agencies with modern equipment; expedited investigations into these cases whenever they occur, and; fast-tracking development of legislation and ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons Against Enforced Disappearance.

2.7 Border Security

Kenya faces substantial border security challenges due to the porous nature of its borders, which has facilitated criminal activities such as illicit trade, human trafficking and cross-border incursions. Additionally, boundary issues and instability in some of the neighboring countries continue to affect our border security.

Key measures taken by the Government to address these challenges include:

- i. Enhancing co-operation amongst all national security agencies with the inaugural Border Management Conference that was focused on fine-tuning multi-agency strategies among Police, Immigration, customs, and other law enforcement agencies with a view to engendering greater harmonization of border management systems;
- ii. Drafting the Strategic Goods Control Bill to regulate dual use commodities;
- iii. Implementing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Coordinated Border Management;
- iv. Established a Joint Technical Working Group with Uganda and Tanzania to tackle transnational organized crime along Lake Victoria;
- v. Holding regular Joint Border Commissioners' Meetings with neighbouring countries to address cross-border conflicts; and
- vi. Operationalizing Joint Operation Centres (JOCs) at major international airports.

Going forward, to enhance border security other measures will include:

- i. Procuring drones for border monitoring;
- ii. Establishing new Points of Entry and Exit (PoEs) and Inland Border Control Checks (IBCCs); and
- iii. Acquiring modern non-intrusive equipment, such as scanners and K9 units, at PoEs to prevent the entry of contraband goods and illegal immigrants.

2.8 Illicit Trade

In Kenya, legitimate trade and other commercial ventures continue to be hampered by illicit activities such as: smuggling, diversion of transit goods/dumping, illicit cash flows, human and wildlife trafficking, and trafficking of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). In addition to economic losses and risks to health and safety, illicit trade also undermines revenue collection, impedes the growth of local industries thus impacting on job creation. During the period under review, the contraband goods intercepted included; sugar, rice, cigarettes, textiles, ethanol and alcoholic drinks, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics.

To address illicit trade, the Government has:

- i. Established the Anti-Illicit Trade Working Group to coordinate efforts to combat illicit trade;
- ii. Enhanced screening of goods at border points;
- iii. Installed Customs roadblocks at strategic points;
- iv. Enhanced verification checks for conformity and veracity of the relevant certificates; and
- v. Conducted crackdowns to weed out illicit goods.

Further, the Government is committed to:

- i. Enhancing multi agency collaboration to prevent the smuggling of contraband and counterfeit products such as second-generation alcoholic drinks;
- ii. Strengthening the capacity of relevant Government authorities; and

- iii. Enhancing surveillance of Kenya's entry and exit points leveraging on technology to enhance the fight against illicit trade.

2.9 Banditry and Cattle Rustling

Banditry and cattle rustling persisted across different regions in Kenya particularly North Rift and Upper Eastern. The menace continues to be fueled by competition over access to limited pasture and water resources, recurrent droughts, ease of availability of illicit weapons, commercialization of cattle rustling, political incitement and unresolved boundary issues.

To address the menace, the Government implemented various measures including:

- i. Enhanced multi-agency operations in banditry prone areas leading to a significant reduction in the vice;
- ii. Implemented Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) projects in the affected areas, including the rehabilitation of **26** schools in Baringo, Elgeyo Marakwet, Laikipia, Samburu, West Pokot and Turkana Counties; and
- iii. Continuous co-operation with the local communities and non-state actors to promote peace and security in banditry-prone areas.

These interventions resulted in a significant decrease in cattle rustling cases in Baringo, Turkana, Samburu, Elgeyo Marakwet, West Pokot, Laikipia, Isiolo, and Meru counties, areas earlier gazetted as "Disturbed" and "Dangerous." There was a recorded decrease from **63,054** heads of cattle stolen between September, 2022 and August, 2023, to **23,668** heads of cattle stolen from September, 2023 to August, 2024, thus marking a difference of **39,386** heads of cattle. **10,173** livestock were recovered during the period under review. These successes can be attributed to the coordinated multi-agency 'Operation *Maliza Uhalifu* in the North Rift. Additionally, during the same period, **250** suspects, including **14** political leaders, were arrested and processed through legal procedures.

To eradicate banditry and cattle rustling, the Government is committed to:

- i. Sustaining infrastructural development projects such as construction of access roads and rehabilitation of schools to open up the areas;

- ii. Introduction of livestock branding to ease traceability of stolen livestock;
- iii. Continuous monitoring of livestock markets and perpetrators of banditry in parts of the country;
- iv. Advocating for soft-power approaches including sensitization of communities on the effects of banditry and alternative sources of income;
- v. Legislative reviews to introduce harsh penalties to deter the vice;
- vi. Establishing military and security installations including training camps in areas prone to cattle rustling to deter criminal activities;
- vii. Training, deployment and supervision of National Police Reservists (NPR) to support the fight against cattle rustling and banditry; and
- viii. Intensifying proactive measures including community policing to strengthen information sharing and disruption.

2.10 Resource Based Conflicts

Violent inter and intra resource based communal conflicts continue to affect intercommunal relations. Conflicts escalate with diminishing natural resources caused by increased unsustainable usage. During the period under review, inter-communal conflicts were witnessed in parts of Rift Valley, Eastern, Coast, Nyanza and North Eastern Regions leading to loss of lives and livelihoods as well as displacement of persons.

The conflicts were largely attributed to competition for water and pasture resources; unresolved land and boundary disputes; encroachment of areas with perceived mineral deposits; and perceived accruing benefits including anticipated compensation over roll out of Government infrastructural projects, such as large dams, roads and railways. Additionally, cyclic livestock raids, retaliatory attacks, cross-border incursions, political incitement, availability of illicit arms and prolonged drought exacerbated inter-communal hostilities in parts of the country.

Violent conflicts were also witnessed among fishermen in Lake Victoria. For instance, on 7th May, 2024, illegal fishermen from Lela and Koginga Beach

attacked and killed two (2) fishermen from Uwi Beach in Homabay County. Other incidents occasioned by mass exodus of fishermen from Uganda due to introduction of new fishing management measures in Uganda. This movement led to a scramble for fishing grounds.

Skirmishes over mineral prospects in Marsabit were witnessed leading to the loss of lives of both civilians and security personnel. Conflicts over water and pasture were experienced between herders from North Eastern and farmers in Kitui and Tana River Counties. Also, perceived accruing benefits including anticipated compensation over roll out of mega Government projects and revenue collection of trading centres on disputed trading centres between county borders have exacerbated the border disputes, such as between Kisumu and Kericho Counties and between Taita Taveta and Makueni Counties.

To address this vice, the following measures were implemented:

- i. Enhanced sensitization of fishermen and the fishing communities on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing;
- ii. Strengthened measures to tackle IUU fishing;
- iii. Issued a moratorium on *Dabel* and *Hillo* gold mines in Marsabit County and gazetted the areas as dangerous and disturbed;
- iv. Enlisted additional National Police Reservists (NPRs) in the conflict prone areas;
- v. Sustained initiatives including Operations *Pacifier* and *Maliza Uhalifu*, to prevent and mitigate against inter-communal conflicts that often involve cattle rustling;
- vi. Created and operationalized new administrative units and security camps to enhance Government presence in affected areas;
- vii. Synergized information gathering and sharing in the National Conflict Early Warning and Early Response mechanism in addressing threats to community peace and security;
- viii. Facilitation of inter/intra community dialogues as well as encouraging greater use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) mechanisms; and

- ix. Facilitation of peace accords/agreements with regards to conflict prevention, management and resolution and following up on their subsequent enforcement.

Going forward, the Government will:

- i. Continue the implementation of peace building and conflict resolution programs;
- ii. Conduct an all-inclusive adjudication and delimitation of disputed boundaries to avert escalation of conflict;
- iii. Roll out simultaneous and well-coordinated disarmament exercises in the affected areas;
- iv. Fast-tracking infrastructural development programs to open up the affected regions;
- v. Increase funding for Strategic Food Reserves; and
- vi. Investing in drought resilience programs for ASALs.

2.11 Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons

The presence of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) remained a significant threat to peace and security in Kenya, particularly in the North Rift Sub-Region of the Rift Valley Region, Upper Eastern Sub-Region in Eastern Region as well as North Eastern Region including parts of our major urban areas. Illicit arms trafficking networks exploit porous borders and instability in the region to smuggle weapons. Notably, in the period under review, **172** firearms were surrendered/seized during mop-up exercises compared to **314** firearms collected in the period September, 2022 – August, 2023 representing a **29.2%** decrease. Further, in the review period, **4,825** rounds of ammunition were recovered compared to **3,515** rounds collected in the previous period representing a 15.7% increase. Similarly, a total of **40** explosives were recovered in the period under review compared to **37** explosives collected in the previous period representing a **9%** increase.

Table 3: Firearms, Ammunitions and Explosives Collected

	Sept. 2022 – Aug. 2023	Sept. 2023 – Aug. 2024	% Change
Firearms	314	172	-29.2
Ammos	3,515	4,825	15.7
Explosives	37	40	3.9

Additionally, homemade guns have increasingly been used in urban crimes. The presence of these illicit arms fuels banditry, cattle rustling, and gang activities, thus complicating law enforcement efforts and undermining socio-economic development efforts.

In acknowledging the dangers SALWs pose to the nation, regionally and globally, the Government implemented the following measures during the review period:

- i. Engaged communities through peace forums and *barazas* to encourage voluntary surrender of illegal arms;
- ii. Enhanced cross border co-operation by holding cross border commissioners' meetings with Uganda and South Sudan;
- iii. Enhancing intelligence collection and sharing; and
- iv. Carried out intelligence led disarmament exercises.

Going forward, the Government is committed to eradicating the vice by:

- i. Undertaking more operations especially in hotspot areas to mop-up the illegal Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW);
- ii. Instituting policy and legal reviews to accommodate stricter penalties for possession and trade in illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW);
- iii. Working with international partners to stop illegal Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) smuggling networks and arrest individuals involved in the vice;
- iv. Embracing the community-oriented approach to address the threat posed by illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW); and

- v. Developing and operationalizing effective arms-monitoring systems in the country to enhance accountability.

2.12 Drugs and Substance Abuse

Kenya's geographic location places it at a vantage position for international trade that would propel economic growth in the country and in the region. This positioning however attracts unintended consequences with drug traffickers preferring to use it as a transit route to Europe, North America and Southern Africa. Some of these drugs are locally consumed thereby impacting negatively on our socio-economic growth due to reduced productivity of users. Additionally, narco-traffickers use illegal entry/exit points along Kenya's borders with her neighbours to smuggle drugs in and out of the country.

The most trafficked drugs include *cannabis sativa* (bhang), heroin and cocaine, with abuse of prescription drugs such as morphine and methamphetamine, being noted to as an emerging threat. The persistence of drug trafficking networks is attributable to the constant demand for the drugs, as well as the ability of these groups to be adoptive and being able to continuously change their *modus operandi*. Consequently, the availability drugs and psychotropic substances continues to exact adverse effects to the consumer's health, with serious socio-economic consequences on the affected communities, hence in effect impact on national security.

In the period under review, there have been multiple seizures of narcotics and illegal drugs as shown in **Table 4** below while arrests have been made in various parts of the country as shown in the **Appendix 1**. In total **7,589** persons were arrested (**7,019** males and **570** female). Out of these arrests, **834** cases were finalized, **6,685** cases pending before court, **14** cases were pending arrest of known accused and **38** cases pending under investigation.

Table 4: Seizures and Arrest Summary

TYPE OF DRUG	NO. OF CASES DETECTED	NO. OF PERSONS ARRESTED	NO. OF MALES ARRESTED	NO. OF FEMALES ARRESTED	NO. OF KENYANS ARRESTED	NO. OF FOREIGNERS ARRESTED	QUANTITY OF DRUG (GMS)
HEROIN	44 40.....PBC 03.....PUI 01-----PAKA	45	42	03	41	04	20.662 Kgs 489 Sachets
COCAINE	15 13.....PBC 02.....PUI	27	24	03	21	06	30.514 Kgs 30 Sachets
PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES:						-	
Ketamine	1	(7-cocaine case)	(7-cocaine case)	-	(5)	(2)	1270.41 Kgs 3860 Grams
Meth	8-PUI	1	-	-	-		198.4 Grams
Mdma	1-PBC		-	1	1		2 Kgs
Proxymetone	1-PUI		-	-	-		54 Packages
Pethidine	1-PUI	2					100 Tablets

TYPE OF DRUG	NO. OF CASES DETECTED	NO. OF PERSONS ARRESTED	NO. OF MALES ARRESTED	NO. OF FEMALES ARRESTED	NO. OF KENYANS ARRESTED	NO. OF FOREIGNERS ARRESTED	QUANTITY OF DRUG (GMS)
Tramadol	5:3-PBC 2-PUI				2		750 ML
Cannabis Sativa	4,062	4,308	4,043	265	4,293	15	91,384.5 Rolls 13,427.179 Kgs. 498 Stones 1348 Sachets 5841 Brooms 1200 Stems 19 Bundles 6008 Plants 185 Sacks 16 Packets 4 Cookies 5 Branches 108 Seedlings
TOTAL	4,138	4,383	4,109	271	4,358	25	

Recognizing the grave risks to national security associated with drug trafficking and abuse to the nation, the Government implemented the following measures:

- i. Sustained intelligence-led security operations targeting narco-trafficking networks in the country, and those with cross-border linkages;
- ii. Enhanced security operations for the arrest and prosecution of perpetrators, as well as destruction of illicit narcotic plants in farmlands and forests;
- iii. Stakeholder engagement through whole-of-society approach to identify, profile and arrest of narco-chieftains engaged in the illicit trade, particularly *Cannabis sativa*;
- iv. Continued liaison and sharing of information with international partners targeting foreign nationals resident in the country linked to drug trafficking;
- v. Enhanced public education and advocacy to sensitize citizens of the gravity of illicit drugs and substance abuse on individuals and the wider society; and
- vi. Promotion of treatment and rehabilitation of persons engaged in drug abuse and reintegration into their respective communities to promote responsible citizenry.

To secure and sustain the gains made in the campaign against drug trafficking and substance abuse, and to shield the citizens from entrapment by these vices, the Government commits to:

- i. Ensuring strict enforcement of all laws and strategies on narcotics and psychotropic substances;
- ii. Strengthening regional and international co-operation in the fight against the menace;
- iii. Fast-tracking investigation and prosecution of drug trafficking suspects and adoption of an all of society approach in the campaign against drugs and substance abuse; and

- iv. Increasing access to treatment and rehabilitation services by ensuring accessibility and affordability.

2.13 Illicit Brews

Production of illicit brews and counterfeit alcohol remains a serious concern to the country in that despite the various campaigns mounted in the past to address the menace, it still persists with adverse effects on the productivity and the health of the affected persons and the wider society. The persistence of these illicit brews is attributable to a variety of psychosocial and socio-economic factors, that range from high levels of youth unemployment and erosion of societal values, among others. In the recent past, the problem has been further compounded by the use of smuggled industrial ethanol to manufacture illicit and/or counterfeit alcohol, resulting in serious health complications and fatalities amongst the consumers, as well as the consequent socio-economic losses.

In view of the foregoing, the Government has stepped up the fight against illicit brews.

During the period under review, a total of **77,821 persons** were arrested in connection with possession and/or manufacture of illicit brews compared to **19,242** in a similar period of 2022/23. This hence translates into **304.43%** increase in number of persons arrested, owing to the stepped up anti-illicit brews campaigns by the Government. There was a **30.69%** increase in the amount of liquor netted across the nation, with Nyanza Region recording the highest increase in netted liquor with **195,576 litres**, followed by Rift Valley Region with **56,190 litres**. Rift Valley Region recorded the highest increase in the number of people arrested, with a total of **47,893** person followed by Nairobi Region which recorded an increase of **7,249** persons as illustrated in the table below:

Table 5: Comparative Returns on Illicit Brews

REGIONS	SEPT. 2022 – AUG. 2023			SEPT. 2023 – AUG. 2024				DIFF			% CHANGE	
	PERSONS ARRESTED	AMOUNT OF LIQUOR NETTED (LTRS)	AMOUNT OF LIQUOR DESTROYED	PERSONS ARRESTED	AMOUNT OF LIQUOR NETTED (LTRS)	AMOUNT OF LIQUOR DESTROYED	PERSONS ARRESTED	AMOUNT OF LIQUOR NETTED (LTRS)	AMOUNT OF LIQUOR DESTROYED	PERSONS ARRESTED	AMOUNT OF LIQUOR NETTED (LTRS)	AMOUNT OF LIQUOR DESTROYED
COAST	607	16,234	21,276	437	12,636	32,234	-170	-3,597	10,959	-28	-22	52
NORTH EASTERN	91	542	0	16	9	0	-75	-533	0	-82	-98	0
EASTERN	1,145	52,916	16,580	1,444	37,027	4,605	299	-15,889	-11,975	26	-30	-72
CENTRAL	4,806	54,032	24,588	4,835	66,635	14,240	29	12,603	-10,348	1	23	-42
RIFT VALLEY	5,698	31,2919	386,259	53,591	369,108	208,983	47,893	56,190	-177,276	841	18	-46
WESTERN	1,340	95,060	42,450	2,795	89,131	10,681	1,455	-5,929	-31,769	109	-6	-75
NYANZA	1,682	59,220	52,938	3,581	254,796	146,266	1,899	195,576	93,328	113	330	176
NAIROBI	3,873	73,066	62,814	11,122	38,423	24,125	7,249	-34,643	-38,689	187	-47	-62
TOTALS	19,242	663,987	606,904	77,821	867,766	441,134	58,579	203,779	-165,770	304	31	-27

As part of the stepped up anti-illicit brews campaigns, the Government has taken the following measures:

- i. Enhanced a whole-of-society collaboration between communities and the law enforcement agencies as well as other concerned MCDA's;
- ii. Enhanced advocacy campaigns on the negative impacts of illicit and counterfeit alcohol;
- iii. Strengthened joint collaboration efforts between the national and county Governments in order to eradicate illicit and counterfeit alcohol; and
- iv. Collaborated with Governmental and non-Governmental stakeholders to establish and operate rehabilitation centres.

To ensure that illicit brews and counterfeit alcohol are eradicated, and the citizenry is freed from its negative effects, the Government is committed to:

- i. Increasing access to rehabilitation and treatment services of affected persons;
- ii. Lowering the cost of legitimate alcohol production to discourage manufacture of illicit brews;
- iii. Increasing patrols and surveillance to deter smuggling of ethanol across the border; and
- iv. Enhancing multi-agency approach in fighting against illicit brew.

2.14 Gaming

The growth of gaming in Kenya has been propelled mainly by increasing societal acceptance as being a form of recreation and by the allure instant material benefits on the part of participants, besides raising significant tax revenues for the country. This increased participation in gaming comes with social costs and other risks that include family breakdowns, cases of suicide, mental health and bankruptcy which have a bearing on national security. The situation is compounded by the rapid technological advancements in the industry that increases accessibility besides complicating traceability of criminal activities and perpetrators. Gaming in Kenya is twofold; the licit that

is licensed and fully regulated by authorities and the illegal gaming that has become of increasing concern.

Illegal gaming denies revenue to Government in contrast to the amount of cash the industry makes and is closely associated with other serious criminal activities such as money laundering and terrorism. Further, the local production of gaming machines, commonly referred as *Mchina*, has enabled access to gaming activities across the country, besides the risk of entrapping the under age and juvenile gamers. The new frontier of the industry has been the proliferation of illegal gaming websites in the country which poses a new risk to online users, including punters, who are enticed to participate in unlicensed off-shore gaming platforms. These illegal activities have been known to create regulatory challenges, security and social concerns like gambling addiction, idleness and crime, thereby compromising public safety and security at community levels, besides the risk of heightening other wider level societal problems.

To combat the social ills and other risks associated with gaming, the Government has taken the following measures:

- i. Institutionalized stringent conditions whereby all licensed casino operators must register their gaming companies with the Financial Reporting Centre (FRC);
- ii. Collaboration with social media platforms and mobile money service providers to close illegal Paybill numbers, in addition legal action being taken against all identified unlicensed local and foreign gaming websites and platforms;
- iii. Integrated companies operating online gaming activities to Real-Time Tax Remittance Systems;
- iv. Undertaken continuous crackdown on illegal operators of gaming machines and online operators; and
- v. Enhanced whole-of-Government and multi-agency collaboration as well as other regulatory actions on gaming that could impact on national security.

Going forward, the Government will continue taking measures that ensure any form of gaming does not compromise national security. Consequently, the Government commits to strictly enforce gaming regulations to debar vulnerable and the underage youths from participating in illegal gaming activities; fast-tracking the finalization of the Gaming Bill, as well as training of gaming personnel so as to enhance enforcement of gaming laws and regulations.

2.15 Unemployment

Unemployment remains a significant socio-economic challenge in the country, affecting a cross section of Kenyans especially the youth, who make up **35%** of the population. The unemployment rate in the country stands at **12.7%** of the employable population, with the youth comprising 67%. However, arising from a variety of the Government's job creation initiatives, in the year 2023, 848,200 new jobs were created with the majority (85%) coming from the informal sector. This growth in employment in both the formal and informal sectors, marked a rise from 19.1 million jobs in recorded in 2022 to 20 million in 2023.

Gender disparities are also evident, with women facing unemployment rates nearly twice as high as men. Furthermore, the public sector had a wage growth of **5.9%**, while the private sector registered a slightly slower increase at **4.1%**. Nonetheless, real average earnings have declined.

To address high levels of unemployment in the country, in addition to job creation efforts locally, the Government has encouraged Kenyans to seek opportunities overseas. Currently, there is an estimate of four million (4m) Kenyans working in the diaspora, mainly the United States of America (USA), Canada, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Seychelles.

Owing to limited formal job opportunities in the country at the moment, Government has put in place strategies to encourage job creation so as to mitigate against youths being vulnerable to negative social pursuits such as being lured into organized criminal gangs and other violent extremist groups.

The Government is taking several steps to address unemployment in the country that include:

- i. Expanding Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) institutions for skills development thus enhance job creation;
- ii. Promotion of entrepreneurship through funds such as Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF), Uwezo Fund, Hustler Fund and the Women Enterprise Fund;
- iii. Enhancing technological adoption and scaling up the roll out of ICT hubs in the country;
- iv. Partnership between research institutions and industry;
- v. Enhance enrolment in the Public Service Internship Programme;
- vi. Job creation through construction of affordable housing; and
- vii. Linking youth with online jobs.

Going forward, the Government commits to:

- i. Facilitate creation of opportunities across all Counties through establishment of industrial parks;
- ii. Facilitate a conducive environment for investment;
- iii. Roll out and expand the *Works Mtaani* initiative;
- iv. Recruitment, training and deployment of the youth from NYS to be engaged in national development and security priorities; and
- v. Implementation of Public Private Partnership Initiatives (PPPI) to generate more employment opportunities.

2.16 Social Unrest

The Constitution guarantees, under the Bill of Rights, the freedom of expression, rights to peaceful assembly, picketing, and association. However, these rights are not absolute, thus they must be exercised with due regard to other people's rights and national interest.

During the period under review, the country witnessed incidences of social unrest, including industrial action, from various sectors including the

youths, medical practitioners, teachers, university students and university staff. These incidences were attributed to allegations of unmet expectations, prevailing socio-economic hardships and political incitement. Subsequently, there was breakdown of law and order which led to loss of lives, injury to persons, and destruction of property and disruption of socio-economic activities besides undermining the reputation of the country.

For example, in the month of June, 2024, the country experienced unprecedented youth led (Gen Z) protests against the Finance Bill 2024. Nairobi City was worst hit by the unfortunate events that followed the passing of the Bill on 25th June, 2024. The peaceful protests turned chaotic after being infiltrated by criminal gangs who vandalized both private and public property, including Parliament buildings.

To address these types of challenges and to enhance enjoyment of constitutional rights as well as encourage civic responsibility, the following measures have been undertaken:

- i. Engagement in multi-sectoral dialogue between Government and all relevant stakeholders;
- ii. Enhanced security to protect life and property;
- iii. Encourage round table discussions between all segments of the Kenya population to discuss pertinent issues both in digital spaces as well as open town hall meetings;
- iv. Embracing political inclusivity in governance;
- v. Expanding employment opportunities for youths through the establishment of digital hubs rolled out in every Ward in the Country; and
- vi. Taking a Whole-of-Society Approach in the management of public order.

Going forward the Government will:

- i. Enhance public participation in decision-making and policy formulation process;

- ii. Invest in modern technology for early identification, monitoring and assessment of security threats; and
- iii. Roll out Socio-economic empowerment programs for youths including *Works Mtaani*.

2.17 Insecurity in Institutions of Learning

Insecurity in institutions of learning is a growing concern that manifests itself through drug abuse, armed robbery, violent extremism and radicalization, cybercrime, sexual offences including murder, arson and civil disorder. These issues not only compromise personal safety but also disrupt academic activities and hinder learning.

During the period under review, teachers' strikes, student unrest, break-ins in public schools and fires were reported in various schools, which caused deaths, injuries and destruction of property, besides paralyzing learning in the affected institutions. For instance, **21 pupils** lost their lives during a fire at Hillside School Endarasha in Nyeri County. The case was still under active investigation by the Police to uncover the cause of the fire.

In addition, university students protested against the new university education funding model, while unionisable employees in some public universities went on strike demanding better pay and prompt payment of salaries.

The Government implemented the following interventions to address the issues:

- i. Issued a policy directive on installation of CCTVs and biometric access controls in institutions of learning;
- ii. Ordered the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Basic Education Act (2013) and the Children's Act on protection against violence and abuse;
- iii. Revitalized university-community security forums;
- iv. Deployment of security personnel in all institutions of higher learning; and

- v. Established committee to audit safety and security in learning institutions.

Going forward, the Government will

- i. Implement the findings of the Committee on Audit of Safety and Security in Institutions; and
- ii. Ensure enhance security coverage in all educational institutions through, among others, the enforcement of the obtaining laws and regulations.

2.18 Road Safety and Traffic Management

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in March, 2010 acknowledged Road Traffic Accidents (RTAs) to be a global threat thereby passing Resolution 64/255 proclaiming 2011–2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety. It acknowledges RTAs as a major challenge to a nation's socio-economic development besides being among the top ten leading causes of deaths globally. The Resolution called upon Member States to implement measures to improve road safety, particularly in the areas of road safety management, road infrastructure, vehicle safety, road user behavior, road safety education and the post-crash response in a multi-sectoral partnerships manner.

During the period under review, the total number of fatal RTAs decreased from **4,634 to 4,386** translating to a **5.4%** drop, compared to the previous year. There was an increase in serious injury RTAs rising from **10,106** in 2023 to **11,703** translating into a **15.8%** increase, while slight injury RTAs increased from **7,304** in 2023 to **8,252** translating to a **13.0%** increase. Consequently, the overall number of reported RTAs rose from **21,645** in **2023** to **24,341** which equals to a **12.5%** increase. While the reduction in fatalities is a positive outcome, the increase in serious and slight injury RTAs underscores the need for enhanced road safety measures as the overall impact remains significant, as presented in the table herebelow.

Table 6: Categories of Accidents

Categories of Accidents	Sept. 2022 – Aug. 2023	Sept. 2023 – Aug. 2024	Variance	% Change
Fatalities	4,634	4,386	-248	-5.4
Serious injuries	10,106	11,703	1,597	15.8
Light injuries	7,304	8,252	948	13
TOTAL	21,645	24,341	2,696	12.5

Additionally, the period under review shows a decrease of fatalities among drivers, passengers, pillion passengers and motor cyclists by **5.85%**, **10%**, **9%** and **10.05%** respectively. Pedestrians contributed **38%** of the total fatal RTAs as shown in the table below.

Table 7: Comparison of Fatalities as per Road User Group

Road User	Sept. 2022 – Aug. 2023	Sept. 2023 – Aug. 2024	Variance	% Change
Pedestrians	1,654	1,667	13	0.79
Drivers	410	386	-24	-5.85
Passenger	870	783	-87	-10
Pillion Passenger	422	384	-38	-9
Pedal Cyclist	74	83	9	12.16
Motor Cyclist	1,204	1,083	-121	-10.05
Total	4,634	4,386	-248	-5.35

On a monthly basis, the Month of December recorded the highest number of fatalities in the two years recording **440** and **423** in 2022/23, 2023/24 respectively. While November recorded the least number of fatalities at **312** and **292** during the same period respectively. Table 8 below presents the Monthly distribution of fatalities in the period under review.

Table 8: Distribution of Fatalities per Month

Months	September 2022 - August 2023	September 2023 - August 2024	VAR	% CHANGE
September	365	338	-27	-7.4
October	363	330	-33	-9.1
November	312	292	-20	-6.4
December	440	423	-17	-3.9
January	379	389	10	2.6
February	340	374	34	10
March	389	403	14	3.6
April	357	388	31	8.7
May	340	341	1	0.3
June	439	411	-28	-6.4
July	487	452	-35	-7.2
August	427	413	-14	-3.3
Total	4,634	4,554	-84	-1.8

The country has also identified the following areas as ‘*black spots*’ across the country as shown in the Table 8 below.

Table 9: Road Traffic Accidents Black Spots

REGION	AREA	
COAST	1. Tsavo – Maungu – Voi Road Section 2. Maungu - Tsavo East Gate Road Section 3. Mazeras- Miritini Road Section 4. Kilifi - Vipingo Road Section 5. Kibarani - Changanwe Makande 6. Kwale Matuga Junction Road Section	7. Navy Junction (Mtongwe Junction) Long Lunga-Lunga/Likoni Rd 8. Maji ya Chumvi 9. Uwanja wa Ndege 10. Maungu area 11. Ndii area 12. Malindi at Jiwe Tanga
NORTH EASTERN	1. Garissa - Madogo - KBC Station	
EASTERN	1. Nkubu - Embu Road Section	7. Nanyuki to Isiolo

REGION	AREA	
	2. Konza Junction to Salama Road Section 3. Mombasa/Nairobi at Chumvi Area 4. Salama - Sultan Hamud Road Section 5. Emali Simba Market to Kibwezi 6. Mtito To Tsavo River Stretch	Junction at Subuiga 8. Machakos - Wamunyu Road Section at Kithangathini 9. Mlolongo - Small World Club – And Junction To Namaga And At Mto Wa Mawe Bridge
CENTRAL	1. Kiganjo - Narumoru Road 2. Kibirigwi - Sagana Road Section 3. Limuru - Uplands Section 4. Thika Blue Post - Sagana Bridge Road Section 5. Kiriaini - Murang'a Road Section	6. Nyeri – Nyahururu Road 7. Makongeni (Along Thika – Garissa Road) 8. Makutano Embu Road 9. Kiambu – Muthaiga Road
RIFT VALLEY	1. Kinungi - Naivasha – Gilgil Toll station 2. Gilgil – Nakuru road at Mbaruk Road Section 3. Molo G.S.U Camp – Salgaa 4. Salgaa to A.D.C. Farm Section 5. Timboroa - Burnt Forest Section 6. Chepsir - Kipkelion Junction 7. Kericho - Litein Road Section 8. Kericho - Kaitui Section 9. Nanyuki - Isiolo Junction 10. Nyeri – Nyahururu Wiyumiririe Area	11. Gilgil Nakuru Road Kasambara Area 12. Narok – Mai Mahiu Junction 13. Kinyinyi area (Narok road) 14. Katakala - (Mulot-Narok Road) 15. Nakuru-Mau summit road (Sachangwan) 16. Ngata area - Nakuru Eldoret Road
WESTERN	1. Mbale - Vihiga Road Section 2. Kakamega Chavakali Road Section 3. Kakamega - Kisumu – Ilesi Museno 4. Kakamega – Mumias Rd – Makunga	5. Kakamega - Webuye – Lubao, Kambi Ya Mwanza Ejinya Corner, Malava Forest 6. Bungoma – Eldoret – Chemoi 7. Webuye – Misikhu Area
NYANZA	1. Awasi-Ahero Road Section 2. Kiboswa - Kisumu Road Section 3. Daraja Mbili - Bondo Junction	6. Gucha Bridge 7. Kisii Township Main Road 8. Kisii Daraja Mbili

REGION	AREA	
	4. Oyugis - Katitu Road Section 5. Migori Kakrao Road	
NAIROBI	1. Kasarani G.S.U Stretch 2. Westlands Kabete Road 3. Mombasa Road Between Kencell Hqrs and Cabanas 4. Jogoo Road Near Maziwa Stage 5. Waiyaki Way Near Kangemi Fly Over	6. Thika road at KU 7. Ruai-Bypass 8. Langata near carnivore junction 9. Eastern Bypass near Transami Footbridge 10. GM Footbridge

Further, in the first 10 days of the month of September, 2024 the country recorded a total of **332 RTAs** broken down into the following categories: **138** fatal, **166** serious and **28** slight. There was a total of **699** victims further classified as **166** fatalities, **376** serious injuries and **157** with slight injuries. Further, processed RTA cases realized **KSh. 11,113,400** in fines. The table below shows the classes of victims during this period.

Table 10: Classes of Victims for September, 2024

Category	Pedestrian	Driver	Passenger	Pillion Passenger	Pedal Cyclist	Motor Cyclist	Total
Fatal	58	12	33	15	1	47	166
Serious	58	33	158	50	4	73	376
Slight	8	7	103	18	0	21	157
TOTAL	124	52	294	83	5	141	699

Analysis of data recorded on RTAs reveal that most fatal RTAs occur between 4.00 pm and 9.00 pm, with the peak time being around 7.00 p.m. In addition, these occurrences are largely attributed to high volumes of traffic and pedestrians during rush hours; pedestrian's crossing at non-designated areas; unmarked roads; driver fatigue; driving under the influence of alcohol and other drugs; exceeding speed limits; faulty road engineering conditions; inadequacies in driver training, environmental conditions, low levels of awareness on road safety and motor vehicles conditions.

Consequently, road safety and traffic management challenges in the country are further compounded by inadequate or unreliable data collection and reporting mechanisms, weak linkages among relevant agencies hindering the ability to design effective interventions. It will hence be imperative that the concerned agencies should maintain accurate and timely data on RTAs and their causes, for use in planning for appropriate interventions, action plans and strategies.

Boda-Boda Sector

The country has in the recent past witnessed rapid growth of the *boda boda* (motorcycle taxi) sector that has absorbed over two million youths in the entire value chain, thus making important contribution to Kenya's economic growth. This mode of transport continues to be popular due to its affordability, ability to navigate traffic congestion in cities thus enhancing accessibility in both urban and rural areas, besides being affordable to manage.

The sector however faces a number of challenges ranging from weak enforcement of existing laws, inadequate road infrastructure to accommodate cyclists and unfavorable perceptions amongst wide segments of the society that associate operators with criminal conduct. This perception is entrenched by the disorderly and unruly conduct on the part of some operators who often ride in wanton disregard of road traffic laws, and at times engaging in violent conduct whenever RTAs occur involving one of them. Additionally, the ease of entry and exit in the sector, has made it susceptible to infiltration by criminals, since it is a faster mode of escape from crime scenes.

To improve road safety and traffic management, the Government has undertaken the following:

- i. Enhanced collaboration and partnership between the two levels of Government by establishing County Transport Safety Committees in all the 47 Counties;
- ii. In collaboration with County Governments, established special parking zones for *boda-boda* to reduce congestion and /or obstructions on the main roads;

- iii. Fostered a whole-of-society collaboration to address road safety and traffic management issues;
- iv. Mainstreamed road safety in all relevant Government programs and projects;
- v. Developed and included road safety in all basic education programs, anchored in the Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) syllabus;
- vi. Facilitated formation of Boda-boda SACCO's for self-regulation of the sector in addition to being the bridge between the Government and the riders; and
- vii. Conducted public education and outreach programmes through media campaigns, road shows, field sessions for *boda-boda* riders, PSV operators and school children.

Additionally, the Government is committed to:

- i. Enhancing the use of technology such as smartphone Apps, vehicle telematics, and vehicle safety features to promote safe driving practices;
- ii. Enhancing road safety education programs in schools and public awareness campaigns on road safety and traffic management;
- iii. Enhancing collaborative whole-of-society approach to pool resources, expertise and knowledge for more effective road safety awareness campaigns;
- iv. Investing in safe road infrastructure by enhancing road design, signage, lighting, and pedestrian facilities;
- v. Acquiring modern equipment and technologies for the management of traffic in all major towns in the country;
- vi. Reviewing the road infrastructure to make provisions for the *boda-boda* riders and pedestrians; and
- vii. Engaging sectoral experts for new knowledge in traffic management, that could that could include considering speed governors for *boda-boda* to minimising speeding.

2.19 Document Fraud

Document fraud constitutes a serious threat to national security as forged official documents demeans the integrity of such documents. Cases in point include instances of criminals using forged identification documents to defraud their victims of their valuables such as cash and other property. Additionally, falsified academic documents have also been used to secure employment as well as commit other serious crimes such as money laundering, terrorism, human and drugs trafficking. As a countermeasure, Governments world over have invested in a Real-Time Civil Registration System that gives individual legal identity to all the persons that are born in the country.

The Government thus issues legal identification documents such as Birth Certificates, Identity Cards and Passports, as the primary identification document to provide certainty as to the citizenship each concerned individual. However, owing to advances in technology and the consequent need to keep in tandem with these advances, there is need to minimize risks of counterfeiting official documents.

To address these challenges, the Government has taken the following measures:

- (a) continued with the digitalization of primary (birth) identification records across the country and commenced rolling out of the *Maisha* Number;
- (b) Developed a user role base access to the Civil Registration Services (CRS) portal for registered agencies and introduced biometric registration services to the data centre;
- (c) Enhanced public awareness about the dangers of document fraud, identity theft and falsification of identification documents; and
- (d) Rolled out biometric registration of public officers in parallel with verification of academic documents.

Going forward, the Government is committed to:

- (a) Enhancing the interoperability among agencies' operating systems;

- (b) Production of documents with advanced tamper proof security features and;
- (c) Enhancing capacity and capabilities of data operating systems.

2.20 Illegal Aliens and Undocumented Immigrants

The attraction of Kenya to aliens and other immigrants is primarily driven by the country's relative peace and tranquility in a region that faces a variety of conflicts that causes displacement of populations. Many of these aliens enter the country irregularly and end up being illegal aliens and undocumented immigrants, with considerable proportion being economic migrants seeking economic, educational, and social opportunities. However, in the process, Kenya has been turned into a destination and transit hub for migrants from East and Central Africa, the Great Lakes Region, and the Horn of Africa. Many of these individuals, fleeing conflicts, wars, famines and other risks to life and limb, enter the country without proper documentation creating avenues for human trafficking that impacts on national security.

In the efforts to discourage human trafficking, between September 2023 and August 2024, a total of **1,455** arrests of undocumented immigrants were made, marking an increase from the **1,219** arrests recorded during the same period from September 2022 to August 2023. Notably, Ethiopians accounted for the largest number of arrests, with **1,140** individuals arrested and processed through Courts of Law.

The Government has consistently undertaken efforts to manage the situation by repatriating illegal aliens and undocumented migrants. During the review period, a total of **1541** immigrants were repatriated, and **116** were deported. Table 11 below shows nationalities of illegal aliens and undocumented immigrants arrested:

**Table 11: Nationalities of Illegal Aliens and Undocumented Immigrants
Arrested**

Nationality	Sept. 2022 – Aug. 2023	Sept. 2023 – Aug. 2024
Ethiopians	787	1,140
Somalis	192	139
Tanzanians	7	4
Rwandese	3	3
Burundians	117	6
Congolese	29	27
Nigerians	58	4
South Sudanese	1	23
Ugandans	6	11
Eritreans	9	84
Egyptians	5	12
Others	5	2
TOTAL	1,219	1,455

Cognizant of the dangers which can be borne by illegal aliens and undocumented migrants, the Government undertook the following measures:

- i. Enforced laws governing immigration, particularly the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act, 2011 and various international conventions;
- ii. Enhanced border security and control to prevent illegal entry;
- iii. Prosecuted, repatriated and deported illegal immigrants;
- iv. Continued collaborations with diplomatic missions in processing undocumented immigrants; and
- v. Enhanced joint operations with agencies drawn from neighbouring countries and international organizations.

Going forward, the Government is committed to enhancing border security management by use of modern technologies as well as reviewing legislation to address other emergent threats to national security.

2.21 Refugees

The country's geo-political position coupled with her hospitality makes her attractive to refugees and asylum seekers. Kenya currently hosts over **750,000 refugees** in Dadaab and Kakuma camps, majority from the Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes regions. The presence of refugees poses serious threats to national security in terms of socio-economic, societal and environmental threats. Other risks include:

- (a) risk of infiltration by terrorist elements;
- (b) Human trafficking and conflicts with local communities;
- (c) smuggling of contraband and counterfeit goods; and
- (d) transfer of conflict from countries of origin.

During the period under review, the following measures were taken to enhance security within the refugee camps and their environs:

- i. Collaborated with partners including the UNHCR, IOM, Refugee Consortium of Kenya, among many others;
- ii. Facilitated the repatriation of **1,088 refugees** to their countries of origin;
- iii. Improved screening and registration procedures by leveraging on new technologies for new arrivals;
- iv. Intensified intelligence-gathering efforts towards combating the infiltration of refugees by extremist groups;
- v. Fostered dialogue and mediation to resolve inter and intra communal conflicts, between and amongst refugee and local communities;
- vi. Unveiled the *Shirika Plan* based on multi-stakeholder engagement which aims to promote the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees in Kenya by transforming camps into integrated settlements;
- vii. Sustained anti-trafficking initiatives in collaboration with development partners; and
- viii. Established and operationalized the Refugee Advisory Council.

Going forward, the Government will enhance intelligence collection and strengthen border security and existing multi agency approaches.

To further enhance inclusion and sustainable solutions for the over **750,000 refugees**, the Government is working on the Shirika Plan for Refugees and Host Communities which will establish comprehensive mechanism for socio-economic inclusion and ensure that host communities are not left behind.

2.22 Financial and economic crimes

Corruption, money laundering, terrorism financing, pose significant threats to Kenya's economic development agenda and overall national security. Corruption, in particular, within both the public and private sectors, has grave effects on the economy by causing diversion of essential resources away from development and eroding public confidence. The Government has made commendable strides in tackling corruption and established a high standard of accountability, integrity and anti-corruption measures to safeguard our national wellbeing and development. However, the politicization of anti-corruption efforts hampered the Government's efforts to address this menace effectively.

Notably, during this period, a total of **49 cases** of significant public interest were registered in court for prosecution involving amounts totaling to **KSh. 6,091,731,853**. Arising out of these stepped-up efforts **15** convictions were realized, reflecting a progress in the fight against corruption, while another **210** notable cases are pending in court, with a total value of **KSh. 317.7 billion**. Additionally, in the last 5 years, unexplained and corruptly acquired assets, including land and immovable property valued at **KSh. 28 billion** have been recovered and **KSh. 973,975,581** handed over by investigative agencies to the Government. The recovery of embezzled cash and property, which have been reverted to the Government, is a significant gain in the fight against corruption, and serves as a deterrence to the menace. To further enhance good governance practices, public sensitization campaigns were carried out.

These successes by the Government are attributed to the following strategies and measures which were implemented:

- i. Multi-agency approaches to investigations and prosecution that included plea bargaining in cases of corruption and economic crimes. This in effect strengthened inter-agency collaboration and cooperation and expedited resolution of cases that have taken a long while to conclude;
- ii. Continued automation of Government services aided in tracking cases and reducing revenue leakages. This, in turn, has led to increased conviction rates and enhanced asset recovery efforts;
- iii. Amendments to legislation and formulation of relevant policies have been instrumental in reinforcing the fight against financial and economic crimes;
- iv. Adoption of prosecution-guided investigations;
- v. Employed "*follow the money*" approach in prosecution—which aims to disrupt the flow and distribution of crime proceeds;
- vi. Capacity-building initiatives for prosecutors and investigators;
- vii. Designating Law Society of Kenya (LSK) as a reporting entity to self-regulate clients' accounts, a move aimed at ensuring greater accountability within the legal profession; and
- viii. Partnership with state and international organisations for instance Kenya's membership in the Egmont Group has facilitated the exchange of information with over **174 financial intelligence units** worldwide, significantly enhancing the investigation and prosecution of cases.

In recognition of the damage financial and economic crimes could do to the nation in terms of hindering economic growth to denting the country's image, the Government is committed to:

- i. Sustaining a whole-of-society approach to anti-corruption efforts;
- ii. Strengthening monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for public enterprises as part of its ongoing efforts to deter the menace of corruption; and
- iii. Promotion of ethical conduct and good governance practices.

2.23 Aviation Security

Kenya has significantly improved its aviation security and safety standards, positioning itself as one of Africa's top performers in this sector. In the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Universal Security Audit Programme (USAP) conducted from May, 16th to 27th 2022, Kenya achieved a **91.77%** rating, placing it second on the African continent. This accomplishment showcases the country's commitment to ensuring the highest levels of safety and security at its airports, including Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA).

The Kenya Civil Aviation Authority (KCAA), in partnership with various stakeholders such as the Kenya Defence Forces (KDF), has enhanced surveillance and coordination to mitigate risks like the proliferation of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) or drones, cybersecurity threats, and potential terrorist activities. Collaboration between civil and military entities has been crucial to this progress, with the Civil-Military Cooperation Committee playing an essential role in ensuring airspace security.

Moreover, the Government has continuously improved aviation oversight by working alongside international partners and implementing global standards set by ICAO. For instance, through the National Aviation Safety Plan (NASP), Kenya has aligned its strategic safety goals with ICAO's Global Aviation Safety Plan (GASP), reflecting a proactive approach to addressing safety risks and enhancing regulatory frameworks.

Despite these advancements, JKIA in particular, faces other challenges that on aviation security and operations. These include:

- i. Occasional flash floods that have disrupted airport operations, highlighting the need for improved infrastructure and drainage systems to manage extreme weather conditions;
- ii. Civil unrest and industrial strikes that pose risks to airport safety and security as well as business continuity thus necessitating the need for robust contingency planning and stakeholder engagement to mitigate potential disruptions; and

- iii. Intermittent power outages that have raised concerns about the reliability of critical airport systems, emphasizing the importance of investing in backup power solutions to ensure uninterrupted operations.

While air accidents are infrequent in the country, the able incident during the period under review was the fatal military helicopter crash, which killed the Chief of the Defence Forces (CDF) Gen. Francis Ogolla and nine other KDF Officers. This, and a few other cases, necessitated the review of safety standards and emergency response capabilities.

To address these challenges comprehensively, the Government plans to enhance the capacity of institutions in the aviation sector by:

- i. Investing in anti-drone and perimeter intrusion detection systems to counter evolving aviation threats;
- ii. Upgrading airport facilities to withstand natural disasters like flash floods and ensuring reliable power supply through backup generators and alternative energy sources;
- iii. Enhancing preparedness for air accidents by training staff to ensure swift and effective action when needed; and
- iv. Continuing to train personnel to handle cyber security threats, manage disruptions from civil unrest or strikes, and operate advanced security equipment.

2.24 Mining Security

Globally, security risks associated with mining arise from negative political, economic or social factors. However, when the mining industry is well-managed and effectively regulated, it has the potential to contribute to national development and expand a country's revenue base. Kenya is endowed with minerals including gold, gypsum, diatomite and titanium; however, the sector is dominated by artisanal and small-scale miners, with a few large-scale industry players. However, most of the high value minerals is illegally traded to foreign markets, thereby denying the Government revenue besides raising serious national security concerns.

Most artisanal miners in Kenya are found in the following Counties; Taita Taveta, Kwale, Migori, Kakamega, Vihiga, Siaya, Marsabit, West Pokot, Samburu, Garissa, Kajiado and Machakos. However, instances of illegal mining activities have been reported resulting in loss of revenue to the Government through tax evasion, corruption and fraud; influx of foreigners; inter-communal clashes; proliferation of illicit firearms and ammunition; environmental degradation and health hazards; sexual and gender-based violence; and transnational crimes like drug trafficking. Additionally, unregulated and unaccounted illicit financial flows from mining activities have the potential of destabilizing the country's financial systems. Additionally, the influx of vigilante groups around mining zones that offer illegal and armed security services to unscrupulous mineral dealers complicates provision of public safety and security.

In responding to the industry challenges, the Government executed the following measures:

- i. Revamped mineral testing laboratory in addition to decentralising these services;
- ii. Undertook ground truthing to quantify and generate data on the quality of Kenya's mineral resource endowment;
- iii. Computerised the various processes including Online Cadastre; Royalty management; Library Management; Laboratory Management; and Establishment of an Artisanal Registry;
- iv. Establishment and operationalization of the Mining Police Unit;
- v. Reviewed relevant legal instruments and development of Mining Regulations;
- vi. Enhanced awareness creation campaigns on responsible and sustainable mining practices which puts into consideration best environmental management and post-mining practices;
- vii. Formalized management of Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining through formation of Mineral Marketing Co-operatives; and

- viii. Initiated an audit of all mineral rights to root out illegal licensees; and de-gazettement of all expired and inactive mineral rights.

Going forward, the Government is committed to:

- i. Finalizing mapping of artisanal miners to give a chance to the unregistered groups to obtain a clean register of all artisanal miners;
- ii. Training Artisanal Mining Co-operative leadership on the basics of running a Co-operative Society;
- iii. Enhancing surveillance of mineral exports at all ports of entry and exit; and
- iv. Entrenching the multi-agency approach in dealing with the industry enforcement.

2.25 Energy Security

The energy sector plays a critical role in the country's economic development. The Government is obliged to facilitate the provision of clean sustainable, affordable, competitively priced and secure energy for national development, while protecting the environment. Kenya's transmission system comprises of **7,769km** transmission lines, interconnecting the **105 transmission** substations, with **310,335 km** of Medium Voltage and Low Voltage lines connected to **79,710** distribution substations.

The country has in recent times witnessed incidences of vandalism targeting electric power transmission infrastructure, resulting in power disruptions affecting service delivery thus occasioning economic losses. During the period under review, a total of **114 cases** were reported across the country, out of which **40 cases** have been finalized; **41 cases pending** before court and **33** under investigation. Additionally, **110 transformers** valued at approximately **KSh. 137,000,000.00** were vandalized across the country. For instance, vandalism of Kegati Sub Station in Kisii County was unprecedented, plunging the whole region in darkness.

In order to address these challenges, the following measures were taken:

- i. Enhanced surveillance of energy installations;
- ii. Enhanced the capacity of the Energy Police Unit;

- iii. Continued with the relocation of transformers to more secure locations;
- iv. Enforcing ban on copper exports and ensuring strict enforcement of the scrap metal regulations;
- v. Enhanced investigations on reported incidents;
- vi. Repairs of vandalized infrastructure;
- vii. Sensitization of local communities on the importance of power lines and associated equipment in their day-to-day lives to enhance security; and
- viii. Partnering with the local communities to secure power installations within their respective areas.

The Government commits to:

- i. Upscale the power systems and infrastructure to ensure less power interruptions;
- ii. Continue with sensitization of the local communities; and
- iii. Fast-track finalization of the scrap metal Act amendment.

2.26 Wildlife Security

Wildlife is a key component of the tourism industry, which contributes significant proportion to the country's foreign exchange as well as to the economy in terms of job and wealth creation. This invaluable resource however remains a target of illegal activities which have both direct and indirect negative impacts on local communities, economy and national security. Wildlife insecurity is characterized by game trophy poaching, human-wildlife conflict, commercial bush meat poaching and loss and destruction of wildlife habitats.

During the period under review, **13** elephants were poached while **48** others killed due to Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC), and **3** rhinos poached.

The following interventions were undertaken during the period under review:

- i. Enhanced multi-agency collaborations leading to the recovery **2,540 kgs** of elephant ivory, **14,547 kgs** of bush meat of **5.92 kgs** of rhino horns. **Five** (5) suspects were arrested and charged in Court;

- ii. Kenya Wildlife Service leveraged on technology in its modernization programmes including use of the *Earth Ranger* system for wildlife monitoring and data collection, analysis and mapping of security data for operational and strategic decision making;
- iii. Use of micro-chips; aerial surveillance; drone technology in addition to use of Perimeter Intrusion Detection Devices;
- iv. Investment in thermal imagers and night vision binoculars and enhanced satellite technology use;
- v. Conducted joint interventions with neighbouring countries including intelligence sharing and patrols;
- vi. The Interpol, Kenya and the Lusaka Agreement Task Force (LATF) remained instrumental in facilitating, co-ordinating and offering support where crimes of international nature occur;
- vii. **1,972** claims worth **KSh. 958** million were processed as compensation for families affected by human wildlife conflicts; and
- viii. Maintained over **2,000 kms** of electric fences around wildlife sanctuaries in high conflict areas.

Going forward, the Government will continue partnering with State and non-State actors in wildlife conservation. These efforts will be focused on identifying, mitigating and disrupting wildlife security threats, and include:

- i. Continuous training of law enforcement personnel;
- ii. Increased adoption of modern technology for management of wildlife inside and outside protected areas; and
- iii. Continuous innovation in barriers and especially fences to address emerging challenges of adaption.

2.27 Food and Nutrition Security

Kenya strives to be food secure as one of its goals towards a healthy and prosperous nation. However, food insecurity threatens the country's well-being and security especially in rural and informal settlements in urban areas. This is attributed to limited resources, decreasing economic opportunities amidst high inflation rates, rapid population growth and

climate change by residents. Acute food shortages lead to malnutrition, which results in stunted growth in children, weakened immune systems, increased susceptibility to diseases and contributes to higher mortality rates among vulnerable populations especially children and the elderly.

The national food security has improved since September, 2023 due to enhanced rainfall boosted by the timely roll-out of the National Fertilizer Subsidy programme to the farmers. Consequently, most of the staple foods have been available both at household and market levels which was boosted by the onset of early harvesting of long-grain crops. The prices of basic staple foods, especially cereals and pulses, continued to decline with several households reported to be having carryover stocks from last season and prospects of new harvest leading to general low. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) by the month of July, 2024, slowed to 4.3 per cent compared to 4.6 per cent in June 2024.

To enhance food security, the Government carried out a number of interventions. These include:

- i. Distribution of **12.5 million** 50kg bags of fertilizer, against the apparent consumption of **15 million** bags across 41 counties. Through the fertilizer subsidy programme and favourable weather conditions, maize production increased to **81 million bags** of 90kg during 2022/23 season from **61.7 million bags** of 90kg during 2021/2022 season. Consequently, the cost of maize flour has been declining, with the price of a 2 kg packet of maize falling from **KSh. 169.90** in 2022 to **KSh. 130.38** in 2024. Table 12 below presents the comparative quantity of fertilizer distributed.

Table 12: Quantity of Fertilizer Distributed

PERIOD	PLANTING FERTILIZER 50KGS BAGS	TOP DRESSING FERTILIZER 50KGS BAGS	TOTAL
July, 2023 – January, 2024 – Short Rains	1,471,195	974,269	2,445,464
February, 2024 – 30th June, 2024 Long Rains	3,799,233	1,704,817	5,504,050
Totals	5,270,428	2,679,086	7,949,514

Other measures taken are:

- i. Registered 6.15 million farmers digitally thus providing vital information for provision of low-cost fertilizer, planning and provision of other services to farmers;
- ii. Procurement and distribution of 100 grain dryers to NCPB and some Community Based Cooperatives/Organizations to help farmers in drying their grains and reduce post-harvest losses;
- iii. Developed the National Post Harvest Management Loss strategy;
- iv. A total of **270 MT** of assorted seeds were distributed to various counties including: Meru, Tharaka Nithi, Kitui, Embu, Nyeri, Murang'a, Kajiado, Laikipia, Machakos, Makueni and Mandera; as part of crop diversification through provision of high yielding maize seed and drought tolerant crops to farmers; and
- v. Initiated a Feedlot Programme in 31 counties with the aim of bulking livestock feeds.

The Table below highlights the expected yields for major food crops.

Table 13: Expected Yield for Major Food Crops

NO.	CROP	TARGET AREA	EXPECTED YIELD QUANTITY/90 KG BAG
1.	Maize	1,763,931	70,404,751
2.	Wheat	116,439	7,560,724
3.	Rice	13,637	1,229,879
4.	Sorghum	193,690	4,401,089
5.	Millet	79,342	1,430,089
6.	Beans	847,789	11,597,789

Going forward, the Government is committed to:

- i. Developing a policy on farm input subsidies;
- ii. Continue the distribution of relief food to vulnerable persons;
- iii. Encourage rain water harvesting to address water scarcity during dry seasons, thus promote all year-round agriculture;

- iv. Enhance land commercialization initiative of unutilized public land to increase land for food production; and
- v. Promote protection of the natural environment through soil and water conservation measures.

2.28 Health Security

The Global Health Security Agenda obligates States, including Kenya, to accelerate progress towards a world that is safe and secure from infectious diseases. Kenya's geographical positioning serves as a primary transport corridor for East and Central Africa, thus exposes the country to high risk of emerging and re-emerging disease pandemics, and the recurrence of epidemic-prone diseases. Whilst the country contends with the effects of Covid-19 pandemic, incidences of Mpox disease were reported during the latter part of the period under review, thus posing a threat to our health security.

Emergent disease pandemics impact on global economies and hit harder developing countries as scarce resources earlier earmarked for social services and economic development have to be diverted to responding to the emergencies. Cases in point include the impact of Covid 19 Pandemic as well as Mpox, and the consequent resource outlays deployed to respond in mitigation.

During the period under review, Kenya experienced multiple cholera outbreaks, in Nairobi, Kisumu, Garissa, and Mandera Counties. The Ministry of Health reported over 7,000 cases with 123 fatalities by the end of 2023. The net implication was diversion of funds meant for other developmental programmes into the vaccination campaigns, provision of clean water, and public health education on hygiene practices.

During the period under review, the Government initiated and/or implemented several measures to safeguard the Country's health security, including:

- i. Enhanced screening for Mpox at the ports of entry/exit, and in health institutions;
- ii. Implementation of the National Action plan for Health Security;

- iii. Developed the National Health Emergency Response Operation Plan (NHEROP) addressing identified hazards of high catastrophic index and mechanism for mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery;
- iv. Accelerated the establishment of primary care networks and commissioned Community Health Promoters in risk governance;
- v. The Government with key stakeholders in the spirit of *Afya Bora Mashinani* was set to roll out Social Health Insurance Fund (which has since been rolled out); and
- vi. Establishment of National Multi-Agency Command Centre cascaded to the regions and county levels.

Going forward, the Government is committed to continually address matters concerning health security and health emergencies by:

- i. Enhancing the capacity for all Health Care Workers, Community Health Promoters and Emergency Health Teams;
- ii. Implementing the National Action Plan for Health Security (NAPHS) and the Emergency Care Policy (2020-2030);
- iii. Addressing gaps in emergency infrastructure, quality service provision, human resource, monitoring and surveillance as well as leadership and governance;
- iv. Developing the National Health Emergency Response Operation Plan (NHEROP) which addresses identified hazards of high catastrophic index and mechanism for mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery;
- v. Accelerated the establishment of primary care networks and engaging more Community Health Promoters in risk governance; and
- vi. Enacting the Strategic Trade Control law to manage and control the trade in Dual-Use Goods, and roll-out the Social Health Insurance Fund.

Mental Health

Mental health is broadly seen as a state of well-being where an individual is capable of realizing his own abilities, able to cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to contribute to his community. The Government acknowledges that promotion of mental health has in the past

suffered from stigma and discrimination, thus contributing to inadequate response mechanisms. Some of the serious criminal acts such as homicides, murder, rape, incest and bestiality recorded in the country, have been attributed to unaddressed mental health issues. Consequently, there is need as a country to enhance investment in mental health management as a means to promote provision comprehensive health care and wellbeing of all citizens .

Some of the measures being undertaken include:

- i. Sustained public awareness campaigns on mental health;
- ii. Employment of additional counselors in the public sector;
- iii. mainstreaming mental health as an integral part of public health sector; and
- iv. Encouraging mental health and wellness programs in workplaces by partnering with PBOs and CSOs to enhance mental health services.

Going forward, the Government is committed to:

- i. Enhancing enforcement of the 'The Kenya Mental Health Policy 2015-2030;
- ii. Strengthening effective leadership and governance for mental health;
- iii. Making comprehensive, integrated and high-quality mental health care services easily accessible;
- iv. Implementing preventive mental health strategies and strengthen mental health systems;
- v. Addressing the social determinants and consequences of mental health;
- vi. Strengthen capacity for all Health Care Workers, Community Health Promoters and as well as train emergency teams;
- vii. Strengthen risk communication and community engagement; and
- viii. Establish and maintain a national database of CBRNe experts and framework for deployment.

2.29 Triple Threats

A healthy population is a fundamental pillar for building and strengthening a country's economy, hence Governments world over are committed to prioritising preventive healthcare. To attain this status, deliberate efforts must be made embracing a whole-of-society approach that supports and cares for all. To this end, Kenya has remained steadfastly committed to ending HIV and AIDS, and reducing adolescent pregnancies by 2030, in addition to substantially minimizing sexual and gender-based violence by 2026. However, these commitments and efforts are threatened by the persistent challenges associated with the Triple Threats including new HIV infections among adolescents and young people, adolescent pregnancies, and sexual and gender-based violence.

Whereas the Government has made great strides on child health indicators, such as increased school attendance and improved learning outcomes, the country is faced by high incidences of teenage pregnancies. Kenya's Demographic and Health Survey for 2022, shows that teenage pregnancy rates stood at 15%. Poverty and a lack of education were associated with higher rates of adolescent pregnancy with highest rates of teen pregnancy being recorded in the counties of Samburu at 50%, West Pokot at 36%, and Marsabit at 29%, and Narok at 28%. Nyeri and Nyandarua counties reported the lowest rates at 5% each. This poses a significant setback in socio-economic progress with such consequences as long-lasting psychological and physical challenges at times manifesting themselves into criminal activities like prostitution, robbery and drug peddling/trafficking.

The consequences of the triple threat challenges thus extend far beyond individual well-being; impacting the socio-economic development and overall prosperity of communities and nations at large. There is hence need for collaborative and sustainable approaches, that which will release scarce funds for investment in other socio-economic programmes.

The country has also been faced by the emerging cases of femicide which have brought to the fore the underlying and on-going violations on the rights of women. During the period from September 2023 to August 2024, the country recorded a total of **7,107** SGBV cases against **7,062** cases in the

same period, September, 2022 to August, 2023 which is an increase of 45 cases or 1%. Nairobi County recorded the highest number of SGBV cases with 553 cases between September, 2023 and August, 2024, compared to 463 cases between September, 2022 and August, 2023. This being an increase of 19 cases. Samburu and Mandera Counties recorded 7 and 28 cases respectively being at the lowest SGBV data chart. Of greater concern is the high numbers of defilement cases reported in all the said periods.

Table 14: SGBV Comparative Statistics

OFFENCES	SEPT. 2022 TO AUGUST 2023	SEPT. 2023 TO AUGUST 2024	VAR	% CHANGE
Sodomy	47	69	22	47
Indecent Act	260	231	-29	-11
Sexual Assault	102	125	23	23
Rape	592	828	236	40
Attempted Rape	117	118	1	1
Gang Rape	92	63	-29	-32
Defilement	5365	5310	-55	-1
Attempted Defilement	0	51	51	0
Gang Defilement	49	35	-14	-29
Subjecting a Child to Cruel Punishment	52	30	-22	-42
Child in Need of Care and Protection	256	177	-79	-31
Murder (Related to GBV)	46	21	-25	-54
Threatening to Kill (Domestically)	84	49	-35	-42
TOTAL	7062	7107	45	1

The Government has put in place the following measures to address the above threats:

- i. Established and the program entitled ‘2023 – 2030: A Commitment to End the Triple Threat—the Whole of Nation Approach’;
 - ii. Initiated campaigns to increase the proportion of adolescent girls who have access to menstrual health services;
 - iii. Enhanced public awareness campaign on ending the Triple Threat;
- and

- iv. Enforced the requirement to have all Airbnb among other accommodation platforms registered under the Tourism Act.

Going forward the Government is committed to implementing cross cutting measures to address the Triple Threats ravaging the country, more so that imperil women and girls. Some of the commitments include:

- i. Addressing alcohol, drugs and substance abuse as some of the precursors to the triple threat;
- ii. Entrenching the whole of society approach as a platform for proactive and multifaceted strategy against the triple threat;
- iii. Fast tracking the end of new HIV infections and AIDS among adolescents and young people initiatives; and
- iv. Addressing key factors that exacerbate risks and vulnerabilities to the Triple Threat.

2.30 Climate Change

Global climate change phenomenon poses considerable risks to people's health and their socio-economic well-being. These risks are as a result of global warming that is responsible for rising temperatures occasioning extreme weather events and disruptions to ecosystems. The consequences of the phenomenon are manifest in societal, economic, and ecological damage leading to irreversible biodiversity loss.

There is a growing frequency and severity of climate-induced disasters such as floods, droughts and disease outbreaks which are resulting in loss of lives and livelihoods, destruction of infrastructure, food insecurity and humanitarian crises. The effect of these disasters continues to be felt by the country in terms of the extended droughts and severe flooding experienced in the recent past.

As a country, we face several challenges in mitigating the effects of climate change, owing to vulnerabilities such as dependence on climate sensitive sectors such as agriculture and electric energy production, dependence on fossil fuels, rapid population growth and urbanization which increase

pressure on natural resources which leads to deforestation, overgrazing, and unsustainable land use practices.

In order to mitigate the effects of climate change, the Government has enhanced the enforcement of the National Environment Policy, 2013. Other measures include:

- i. The Climate Change (Amendment) Act No. 9 of 2023 and the National Climate Change Action Plan III (NCCAP) 2023—2027 which provide guidance for low-carbon and climate resilient development. These has been done through the following strategies: adaptation, afforestation and reforestation, landscape restoration, climate-smart agriculture, geothermal and clean energy development and drought and flood risk management.

Additionally, the Government has created an enabling environment for inclusive and participatory engagement by all actors including the private sector towards low carbon, climate resilient development pathways. Further, the Government has continued to implement ecosystem restoration programs especially in tree growing, besides rolling out of Financing Locally Led Climate Action across the counties.

Going forward, the Government will:

- i. Expedite the enactment of the National Disaster Risk Management Bill;
- ii. Lobby the operationalization of the Loss and Damage Funds; and
- iii. Upscale production and communication of Early Warning Systems.

Environmental Security

The global phenomenon of climate change poses significant risks to public health, socio-economic well-being, and environmental security. These risks, primarily driven by global warming, have led to rising ocean temperatures, extreme weather events, and disruptions to ecosystems.

Our Constitution, through Article 69(1) (a), requires the State to ensure sustainable exploitation, utilization, management, and conservation of natural resources while guaranteeing equitable sharing of benefits. However, the rapid population growth and urbanization have outstripped the required

infrastructural development, resulting in significant challenges in managing waste, sewerage, and air pollution. Environmental security is also threatened by issues such as water pollution, agricultural land degradation, destruction of wetlands, illegal logging, encroachment on forest land, and forest fires.

To address these climate change and environmental challenges, the Government has undertaken a series of initiatives aimed at mitigating the effects of climate change and promoting environmental security. These include the enforcement of the National Environment Policy, 2013, the Climate Change (Amendment) Act No. 9 of 2023, and the National Climate Change Action Plan III (NCCAP) 2023—2027, which together provide comprehensive framework for low-carbon, climate-resilient development. Key strategies include adaptation measures, afforestation and reforestation, landscape restoration, climate-smart agriculture, geothermal and clean energy development, and drought and flood risk management.

In addition, the Government has committed to achieving and maintaining a tree cover of at least 15% of Kenya's land area by planting **15 billion trees** by 2032, with **110 million trees** already planted and nurtured. The Government is also actively implementing ecosystem restoration programs, particularly in tree-growing, alongside the Financing Locally Led Climate Action across the counties, aimed at fostering an enabling environment for private sector engagement in climate-resilient development.

Through these efforts, Kenya seeks to enhance its environmental security and strengthen its resilience to the impacts of climate change, ensuring a sustainable and secure future for its people and ecosystems.

2.31 Disasters

Disasters, both natural and man-made significantly impact peoples' lives and livelihoods. These impacts are wide ranging, affecting ecosystems, natural resources and the overall stability of the environment. Recurrent droughts particularly in ASAL areas, have led to the drying up of rivers, lakes and other water bodies. This not only negatively affects food security but also disrupts ecosystems that rely on these water sources. Prolonged drought has also accelerated desertification, particularly in already vulnerable areas, leading to the loss of arable land and vegetation. This

further reduces the land's capacity to support agriculture and wildlife, threatening food security and biodiversity.

On the other hand, climate change has heightened the intensity and frequency of flooding in most parts of the country resulting in loss of lives, destruction of habitats and damage to critical public and private infrastructure. For instance, the enhanced March–April–May 2024 long rains resulted in flooding and subsequently a total of **315 people** lost their lives, **58,641 households** displaced, and **412,263 persons** affected. The flooding led to destruction of roads, bridges, aerodromes, railway lines, school infrastructure, and health facilities. **298,673** acres of agricultural land and **9,367 livestock** were washed away. The estimated cost of recovery is in excess of **KSh. 42 billion**.

Landslides, triggered by heavy rains or human activities like deforestation, destroy natural habitats leading to the displacement of persons and wildlife and the loss of biodiversity. The landslide in Mai Mahiu, in April 2024 is one of the significant natural disasters that led to loss of 61 lives and destruction of property. Landslides in this area are often triggered by heavy rainfall, deforestation, poor land management practices and natural geological movements.

Human induced disasters including industrial accidents, oil spills, and chemical and gas leaks were reported in the country during the period under review leading to loss of lives and long-term detrimental effects on the environment. The gas explosion in Embakasi (*Miradi*) where **13 lives were lost** and **over 300 people** injured was a significant catastrophe.

To effectively mitigate impacts of these disasters, the Government continues to enforce and review legislation with regard to environmental management measures that include:

- (a) Enhanced early warning systems to predict and monitor disasters;
- (b) Revamped county emergency response committees including joint emergency response and incident command trainings; and
- (c) Implemented drought resilient projects under the National Drought Emergency Fund.

Going forward, the Government is committed to fully implement comprehensive disaster risk management strategies that include stricter enforcement of health and safety regulations and greater public education to prevent and mitigate disasters as well as fast tracking the enactment of the National Disaster Risk Management Bill.

CHAPTER THREE: CHALLENGES

Despite the successes, there were constraints and challenges that persisted during the period under review. While taking these as opportunities to derive lessons to help address gaps in the national security architecture, these challenges however featured prominently as limiting factor towards effective execution of respective mandates by the concerned national security agencies, that include:

1. External interference featured prominently with Kenya finding itself caught up in the ongoing great power competition. As the major powers jostle for influence in Africa, Kenya's geo-strategic position presents an attractive option for a number of these players, some of whom employ coercion and other diplomatic instruments, that may be inimical to our own national security objectives and interests.
2. On the other hand, the fragility in the region occasioned by conflicts in the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes Region presents serious threats to our national security. Terrorism and the risk of piracy as well as other threats to sea and airborne trade routes, continues to impede our economic development agenda as they impact on our international trade. The situation is further worsened by the long porous borders with some of our neighbouring countries that allow illicit trade in all manner of contraband, irregular movement of persons and proliferation of illicit SALW among other criminal activities. In response, Kenya is working with other partner-states and multilateral institutions under various international legal and security frameworks to address these challenges.
3. The rapid advances in digital and other technologies have made significant contribution to socioeconomic advancement in the country, but also opened novel frontiers to new types of cyber-based crimes. The anonymity afforded by aspects of these technologies allows some state and non-state actors to engage in cyber-crime owing to the diminished risks associated with anonymity.
4. Additionally, the legal framework to address emerging technological threats has been noted to lag behind the evolution of these

technologies, leading difficulties in prosecuting such crimes. To this end, the advent of AI and AI related technologies have added to the layer of complexity in controlling and prosecuting cybercrimes.

5. Similarly, Kenya and the world is currently grappling with the risks brought about by rapid advances in Unmanned Aerial Devices (UAV's) that are now being deployed for a wide range of both positive as well as negative purposes such as armed warfare. Whilst conventional armies are known to deploy UAV's for a variety of offensive and defensive purposes, the growing appetite by terrorist organizations such as Al-Shabaab to acquire such devices are of grave concern, in view of the possible risk that development poses to our national security. Consequently, the Government has taken expedited action of building the necessary capacity through training of personnel and acquiring appropriate technologies and hardware to enable it proactively address these threats.
6. The current demographics in the country shows that we have a high youthful population that currently faces high unemployment as well as underemployment rates. The high turnover of well-educated youths from institutions of higher learning is not in tandem with the growth of the economy that would create jobs to absorb the high turnover of graduates. This is further compounded by the current global economic downturn occasioned by a number of factors, which has impacted on local economies and investment opportunities. The Government remains focused on creating conditions as well as strategies to create jobs both in the immediate and longer term, which includes actively seeking job opportunities overseas.
7. Climate change remains an existential threat to national security. Kenya and the Horn of Africa has in the recent past experienced successive failed rains that led to severe food and water shortage, affecting more than 50 million people in the Region. Equally, the severe drought was followed by enhanced rainfall which led to flooding and landslides thus worsening the humanitarian situation in a region. This phenomenon was responsible for increased spread of vector-borne

diseases, internal displacement, destruction of critical infrastructure and the attendant security implications.

Kenya, as a member of global community, is taking steps to address climate change challenges through various initiatives, both within the Country and as part of the global compact to address climate change through a number of enabling international protocols. The Government continues to spearhead the Kenya National Climate Change Adaptation Plan (2015–2030) which highlights the importance of adaptation and resilience building actions in development, integrating climate adaptation into national and county level development planning and budgeting processes. It is also aims at building resilience of vulnerable populations to climate shocks through adaptation and disaster risk reduction strategies, among others. Further, the Government's **15 billion Jaza Miti** initiatives is meant to increase the current tree cover in the country to 30%.

CHAPTER FOUR: RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of all the foregoing threats to our national security, the Government will adopt comprehensive and forward-looking approaches to protect and secure the country. In this regard, the Government commits, among others to:

1. **Progressive enactment and review of the relevant policies and legislation.** This will address emerging issues as well as plug the gaps in responding to emergent threats to national security, either from within, or beyond our shores.
2. **Diplomatic Engagements.** Expand engagement with other partners, at both bilateral and multilateral levels for the purposes of, among others, resolving regional as well as other global security issues; address transnational crime, and assist in capacity building at all levels of national security agencies and the related Government MCDA's.
3. **Strengthening the capacity of security agencies.** To enhance both operational, logistical and organizational capacities and enhancing joint security operations, through targeted investment in human and material resources.
4. **Enhance citizen participation in national security.** Engendering greater community participation in national security which will not only reduce the cost of securing the country but will also be a fulfilment the Constitutional requirements of public participation in governance and service delivery.

CHAPTER FIVE: CROSS CUTTING INITIATIVES

5.1 Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)

The Government has made progress in the implementation of BETA and some of the achievements made during the period include:

5.1.1 Affordable Housing and Infrastructure

Infrastructural development plays a critical role in the country's socio-economic development agenda, thus contributing to the overall promotion of national security. The Constitution obligates the Government to provide citizens with their basic rights, key being decent shelter, nutritional food, clean water and basic health services. Currently, over 46,000 housing units are under various stages of construction as part of the Affordable Housing Project while another over 40,000 are set to break ground across the country. The houses will not only provide decent shelter but approximately 500,000 jobs have been created thus empowering those engaged economically.

Under the Horn of Africa Gateway Development Project, road construction has entered into Phase Two of execution. Other associated projects such as water, health facilities, markets and borehole that are being implemented as part of the project that will change the lives and livelihoods of the people of Isiolo, Meru, Mandera, Garissa and Wajir. The project will not only spur economic growth, but also enhance security in the said Counties.

5.1.2 Empowerment of the Informal Sector and MSMEs

The ongoing Government agenda to empower MSME sector seeks to enhance productivity and skills development as well as promotion of innovation, including addressing barriers to finance, and access to both local and international markets. Consequently, the Government under the Strategic Partnership Programme with USAID and Strathmore University, Digital Trade Hub are being established in Mombasa, Nakuru, Kiambu, Kisumu, Makueni and Isiolo Counties to equip small businesses with the skills and knowledge required to access new markets through digital channels.

To further widen the target groups to boost Kenya's economic growth targeting small scale traders in line with the MSME economic pillar, the Government has launched the Market Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP),

an initiative being undertaken jointly by the National and County Government in all the 47 Counties. Some of the counties already implementing the ESP markets include Siaya, Makueni, Kilifi, Kirinyaga, and Narok, with many more coming on stream.

Further, the Government has rolled out a programme to facilitate artisanal and small-scale miners in the country to organize themselves into SACCOs. Such association will not only enhance ability to negotiate better market prices, but also boost the miners credit worthiness besides accessing other benefits from the Government.

The Government has also taken deliberate measures to promote TVET institutions to build a reservoir of diverse skills and knowledge for the labour markets within and out of the country. For instance, the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) continues to impart semi-skilled knowledge to persons seeking employments outside the country, while the Private Security Training Institutions build the capacity of private guards in their complementary roles to national security organs.

5.1.3 Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development

The ongoing sectoral reforms aim at creating the enabling environment for increased productivity as well as improved market access so as to enhance national food security, including opening up the underexploited opportunities in the Blue Economy. One of the key initiatives under this programme is the Fertilizer Subsidy Programme whereby over 6 million farmers have been registered and access these inputs. The other major initiative is the rolling out the Feedlot Programme to 31 ASALS and Semi-ASALS Counties across the country.

5.1.4 Job Creation and Youth Empowerment

Kenya's population is relatively youthful and educated. In the BETA model, the Government aims at revitalizing agriculture and stimulate rural economies with the aim of improving youth employability, supporting youth entrepreneurship and inculcating the savings culture for the youth in the informal sector. Consequently, the Government is investing in the establishment of Digital Hubs in all counties to spur digital economies. In

addition, the Government has enhanced the Public Service Internship Programme to provide temporary jobs to 25,000 interns with a variety of skills and specialisms so as to prepare them for the job market.

5.1.5 Promotion of Manufacturing and Value Addition

The Manufacturing sector is pivotal to Kenya's industrialization agenda to be realized through the implementation of various programmes, interventions and projects targeting various BeTA Value Chain approaches including agriculture, textile and apparel, leather, construction, among others in the Industrial Sector.

In order to protect the local industries from unfair competition, the Government introduced a proportionate tax rate that imposes high tax on imported products which can locally be produced. Further, to exemplify the favourable conditions the Government has created for the private sector to invest in Kenya, the Cemtech Sebit Clinkerization Cement Plant with a capacity to process 6,000 tons of clinker daily, was established in West Pokot County. This will open up the area for other investment opportunities to service the plant as well as serve the workers and others along the various value chains.

To actualize BETA, the Government has also focused on commercializing and reforming the livestock sector to improve quality and productivity. The commitment to invest in developing the leather sub-sector to support competitive export industries, benefiting both enterprises and households developing local capacity to handle hides and skins to provide quality raw material, the Kenya Leather Industrial Park at Kenanie, Machakos County, is at an advanced stage of completion.

5.1.6 Universal Health Coverage

The relationship between good health and development cannot be overlooked. To attain the highest possible standards of health in a responsive manner, the Government commits to supporting equitable, affordable, and high-quality health and related services across the country. To this end and among other initiatives, the East Africa Kidney Institute and the construction of National Commodity Storage Centre at KEMSA is at an advanced stage of

completion. Also, the Government commissioned Community Health Promoters during the 2023 Mashujaa day while in the spirit of partnership with key stakeholders, has initiated the *Afya Bora Mashinani* programme set to roll out Social Health Insurance Fund.

5.2 Police Reforms and Modernization

Police reforms as part of the wider security sector reforms play a crucial role in enhancing the capacity and the capability of the Police to provide the requisite public safety and security, as well as protective services. These reforms include the provision of the necessary tools and logistics while integrating technology under the ongoing modernization programmes. The current reforms also address issues related to the welfare and working conditions of Police, Prisons and NYS officers, as proposed under the Justice Maraga Report. Currently, the Technical Committee on Review and Development of Legislative and Policy Reforms for the NPS, KPS and NYS has been gazetted with the relevant identified sectoral action points being implemented in phases.

5.3 Taskforce on the Review of the Legal and Regulatory Framework Governing Religious Organizations

The Constitution guarantees citizens the right, either individually or in community with others, in public or in private, to profess any religion or beliefs. However, the Constitution does not allow anyone to use their faith or religion to harm or advocate the hatred of others.

Religious extremism has been on the rise in the country whose adherents propagate distorted teachings resulting in extremist cults that advocate for suicide while engaging in human and drugs trafficking, murder and money laundering, among other social vices. The classical example is the case of “Good News International Church” in Malindi whose leaders espoused beliefs and doctrines which led to the deaths of over 400 people in 2023. The leaders are currently before courts of law facing serious charges of murder, among others.

In order to protect the citizenry from being misled in future, in addition to streamlining the religious sector, the Government has developed the Draft

Religious Organizations Bill, 2024 and the Draft Religious Organizations Policy which recommends for the establishment of a Religious Affairs Commission to inculcate a sense of self-regulation and good order in the sector.

5.4 Peace Building and Conflict Management

Both the Constitution and Kenya Vision 2030 promotes sustainable peace and security as a basis for the achievement of the sustainable socio-economic growth thereby offering all its citizens a high quality of life. In addition, Kenya continued playing its noble role in seeking peaceful resolution of conflicts nationally, regionally and globally. The social unrest experienced during the period under review were amicably resolved through adoption of political inclusivity in the restructuring of Government, in addition to round table engagements by senior Government officials and targeted groups.

Regionally, Kenya Quick Reaction Force was deployed to reinforce the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) to assist in not only stabilizing the country, but also restoring law and order. This is in addition to continued presence in peace keeping missions in Sudan, South Sudan, Central African Republic, Djibouti and Somalia. At the global front, Kenya did not shy from playing its part of making the world a better place. This is exemplified by the deployment of a contingent of National Police Service Officers to the Multi National Security Support (MSS) Mission in Haiti as the lead nation, a country ravaged by criminal gangs. Kenya Peace Building Architecture (PBA) and Prevention Strategy were also reviewed to incorporate emergency issues which affect the country, the region and the world at large.

CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSION

Kenya has demonstrated resilience and strategic foresight in addressing the diverse security challenges that emerged during the review period. The Government has strengthened its national security infrastructure by adopting a whole-of-society approach while enhancing collaboration with regional and international partners to tackle traditional and emerging threats to national security.

At the global and regional levels, geo-political conflicts, cyber insecurity, and regional instability in neighbouring countries have necessitated enhanced diplomatic and other efforts to maintain our national security and interests. Kenya's proactive role in regional peace processes and its commitment to international partnerships have reinforced its position as a key player in promoting stability in the Horn of Africa, the Great Lakes region and even beyond in the Caribbean.

The Government's robust measures against terrorism, organized crime, cyber-attacks and social unrest have mitigated internal threats. Efforts to address socio-economic drivers of instability, such as youth unemployment and corruption, have been vital in enhancing national cohesion and development. Moreover, the Government's focus on environmental security and climate adaptation has strengthened the country's resilience against climate change-related risks. Through continued vigilance, strategic engagements and partnerships as well as innovation, Kenya is well-positioned to navigate the evolving security landscape, hence maintain its well-established role in the maintenance of international peace and security.

Finally, the Government remains committed to keeping the country safe and secure by deploying a variety of strategies that include addressing challenges to our economy and the social fabric of our nation, among others; advancing security sector reforms; and remaining committed to regional and international co-operation as a means to address transnational challenges. These efforts will be crucial in safeguarding Kenya's national interests and ensuring a safe, secure and prosperous future for its citizens.