- PRESENTATION NOTES -

Effects of Insecurity on Prosperity:
The Case of Kenya

By Stephen Kirimi, CEO, Peace and Development Network Trust
2015 Africa Prosperity Summit, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
Panel: Personal Safety and National Prosperity
May 2015

* * *

About PeaceNet

PeaceNet Kenya started as an idea of three organizations: Oxfam GB, the Mennonite Central Committee and the Anglican Development Desk. The three were collaborating in 1992, to provide relief services to the victims of the politically motivated ethnic violence in Molo and Burnt Forest areas of the Rift valley province in Kenya. In 1993, these organizations in partnership with other likeminded organizations, formed a loose network called the Ethnic Clashes Network (ECN), to coordinate relief and peace advocacy work. In 1995, the Network was renamed The Peace and Development Network (PeaceNet-Kenya) when its mandate was broadened to include capacity building and coordination of peace building activities among Civil Society Organizations in Kenya.

Vision
A peaceful and stable society that upholds equity and development

Mission
To facilitate, advocate and coordinate broad-based peace and development initiatives for the co-existence of Kenyan communities

11 Charles Street
Mayfair, London W1J 5DW
United Kingdom

1

T: +44 (0) 20 7148 5400
F: +44 (0) 20 7148 5401
www.li.com

Types of Insecurity In Kenya

1. **Terror attacks**
   There have been a total of numerous attacks since 2011 but perhaps the most devastating ones included Garissa University,(April 2015) where a total of 147 University students were killed as well as 1security officer; Mandera County bus attack where Christian Teachers proceeding home for Christmas Holidays were butchered in cold blood; Westgate Mall an up-market business centre where over 70 men women and children lost their lives, Mpeketoni attacks claimed over 30 lives. Other attacks included, Machakos bus terminus, Bus on Thika Superhighway, grenade explosions in restaurants in town etc

2. **Elections related violence e.g. 2007/2008:**
   Following disputed presidential election results, violence broke out in different parts of the country claiming over 1100 lives and over 300,000 internally displaced (IDPs)

3. **Organized criminal gangs** e.g. MRC, Mungiki, Siafu, Taliban etc. There are 39 proscribed criminal gangs. These continually mete terror on individuals through mugging, robbing, rape etc.

4. **Cattle rustling**:
   This is perhaps one of the oldest form of community insecurity where raids are conducted in an organized manner to steal livestock in some part of Kenya especially in the north. Although the vise has mostly been associated with cultural practice, it has in the recent past generated a lot of debate on where it should be treated as such or whether it should handled as robbery with violence. The most recent attack was in about a month ago with Turkana, Pokot, Samburu and Ilchamus communities being involved in deadly attacks and counter attacks. In one of the Cattle rustling menace a police platoon on a rescue mission in Baragoi was completely wiped out by the attackers

5. Political wrangles, both Inter and Intra county, usually between leaders is a phenomenon that is threatening citizen wellbeing progress. Examples of such conflict include. Narok and Machakos

11 Charles Street
Mayfair, London W1J 5DW
United Kingdom

2

T: +44 (0) 20 7148 5400
F: +44 (0) 20 7148 5401
www.li.com

Effects of Insecurity

- **Numerous loss of lives** leads to crashed hopes as bread winners are killed leaving young families desperate. A classic case of this desperation was aired on National TV recently about the Mpeketoni massacre which selectively killed men and boys who mostly were the bread winners of their families.

- **Severe trauma**- Many families are psychologically traumatized by events of losing their loved ones. These have found it difficult to adjust to previous normal lives thereby creating destitutes

- **Broken social fabric** – following various terrorist attacks associated with Somali based Al Shaabab, xenophobic tendencies have started to set in against Kenyans of Somali origin. Some have had to close their businesses as they felt targeted by their neighbors who accuse of them of aiding or celebrating the killing of the kith and kin. Broken relationships are evident in many parts of Kenya especially those predominantly occupied by Somalis

- **Lost livelihoods** as individuals lost shops and businesses to insecurity events including burning down and looting

- **Religious intolerance** is gradually building up and threatens to tear the society apart

- **Education system disrupted** –In the case of Madera Christian teachers have fled from the county and refused to return to work for fear of being targeted. Garissa University is now closed indefinitely

- **Construction industry adversely affected** –The killing of quarry workers in Mandera led to people abandoning the quarrying business thereby adversely affecting the construction sector in the county. Most of the quarry workers came from outside the county and mostly non-Muslim

- **Health services** have been disrupted as professionals relocated and are unwilling to resume duties in areas perceived to be highly threatened.

- Other sectors impacted on include, transport, agriculture

- **Declined economic growth**. During the post elections violence the economy of Kenya that had been growing at average of 7% drastically dropped about 1-2%

What needs to be done?

1. Joint approaches by both state, non- state and private sector actors to provide support systems for affected populations to retrace their prosperity path.

11 Charles Street
Mayfair, London W1J 5DW
United Kingdom

3

T: +44 (0) 20 7148 5400
F: +44 (0) 20 7148 5401
www.li.com

2. Investment in early warning and early response systems including in capacity building for prevention and rapid response. Existing systems e.g. PeaceNet's Sauti Mashinani, NSC's Amani 108 and the policy hotlines in Kenya, need to harmonize to support provision of early warning signals and recommend early response as necessary.

3. State strict observance of international protocols e.g. on responsibility to protect and respect to human rights

4. The Business sector should show more interest in investing in the social sector to uplift living standards of people and spur wealth creation by and for their consumers.

For more information please visit www.li.com/2015-Africa-Prosperity-Summit

11 Charles Street
Mayfair, London W1J 5DW
United Kingdom

4

T: +44 (0) 20 7148 5400
F: +44 (0) 20 7148 5401
www.li.com