

Dreaded packs of mchele damsels cast losses to nightlife ventures as revellers eschew ritzy clubs.



P21

Holy sanctuary or valley of the shadow of death? Prayer cave shut after invasion by a serial women slayer.



P39

Detective Julius Yego, the kenyan spear legend who also throws hoodlums into cells.



P72

The DCI

October 2024 | Issue 010

NOT
FOR SALE

The Race Towards A NARCOTIC-FREE NATION

Provoked by the surging cases of drug use and booziness across age groups, detectives gear up for a brazen fight against pushers, traffickers and the head honchos.

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Table of Contents

Director's message	5
DCI's fierce fight against abuse and trafficking of narcotics	7
How police K-9 gave away robbery suspect coiled under accomplice's bed	12
"Mchele" broom that sweeps money bags and bundles scores in jail	21
Spearheading the fight against defilement in Kenya	28
Green revolution sweeping across Kenya	36
The bloody teen: Suspected serial slayer Behind Ol Rongai murders	39
The road to total compliance: The fight against modern slavery and human trafficking in Kenya	44
Italian nationals in sh 32 million fraud case charged in a Kenya court	49
35 years behind bars for college dropout-turned-terrorist	52
Three decades of serving and protecting: Featuring RCIO Korir profile	55
DCI's place in pursuit of safeguarded human dignity and freedom	59
Against all odds: Crushing over childhood traumas to actualize dreams	62
Police and the people: Why they must co-exist	65
Witness protection key in criminal justice	67
Balancing the rights of article 37 with the responsibility to uphold law and order	68
Silencing the guns in Turkana, one player at a time	70
The kenyan spear legend- Julius Yego	72
Mission unblockable; Meet me at the net	75
The shooting star	77

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Editorial

Welcome to yet another exciting edition of our biannual magazine, The DCI. We thank the readers who have walked this journey with us since we produced our inaugural copy in August 2020. Truly, we couldn't have arrived at the 10th edition without your support.

The feedback we receive after every publication guides the decisions of the Board while compiling the subsequent edition. That is why we have realized progressive improvement in content and standard, suiting the needs of our valued audiences. The 10th edition is, therefore, a master copy of the previous documents, and I welcome all of you to the desk that not only leaves you informed and educated, but also intrigued.

Owing to the recent surge in homicides across the country, The DCI has delved into cases of public interest that have so far been successfully investigated and perpetrators put where they belong. In one of the stories, find out how a teen went out on a killing spree, and like a man possessed by a spirit baying for women's blood, slay three women and a 5-year-old girl in Nakuru's Ol Rongai area. In the same story, we have also dug into the historic tales of serial killers in the County, from the days of renowned Geoffrey Matheri alias Fongo, who made trends in the media as the "Naivasha Vampire".

Still in this edition, the heart-warming story of a police K-9 that helped solve a robbery puzzle is recounted. Take a read to find out how the sniffer dog deployed for a methodical search of a violent robber combed over 100 house units in Nakuru's Shabab area, before yanking the runaway suspect coiled under a bed in a gunny bag.

On matters of fraud investigation, the machinations of two Italian nationals caught up in a Sh 32 million real estate scam are uncovered, as the two fight for liberty in a Kilifi court. And in our main feature, we detail how the Directorate's persistent war on narcotics has flushed dozens out of business, subjected them to prosecution and seized their hauls.

As you enjoy reading these and more other stories, remember to share your comments and concerns with us. The Editorial Board wishes all our readers a happy December holiday and prosperous year 2025.

John Onyango, EBS, OGW
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Director's MESSAGE

Chuck Wexler, a prominent researcher in policing and professionalism, has emphasized that in order for law enforcement agencies to effectively combat crime in the 21st century, their approaches to criminal investigations must evolve. Relying solely on physical evidence and witness testimonies is no longer adequate in many cases. To succeed in the field of criminal investigations, Chuck Wexler recommends that agencies must have the training, tools, and skilled personnel to comprehend the changing nature of crime and to adapt to investigating new types of crime.

Since taking office in October 2022, one of my significant achievements has been enhancing the capacity of DCI officers to improve their investigative capabilities. My goal is to transform the institution into an efficient, effective, professional, and accountable organization that Kenyans can trust in the administration of justice.

I have also been making very deliberate visits to the Counties and Sub-counties to inspect offices and facilities under the

DCI. The aim is to find ways to enhance the efficiency and operational capacity of the stations. This involves evaluating the readiness of these stations in terms of infrastructure, equipment and human resources and the gaps that exist therein that hinder the provision of top-notch investigative services to the people of Kenya.

During these visits, I am always accompanied by senior officers from the DCI headquarters who enthusiastically share their knowledge, conduct informative lectures to our field officers, and offer valuable guidance on upholding professionalism and discipline while fulfilling the DCI's main responsibilities.

The deployment and utilization of cutting-edge technologies and state-of-the-art equipment at the DCI's National Forensic Laboratory represents a significant advancement in the field of forensic science in Kenya. This, combined with the ongoing training and mentorship of our forensic experts, will employ scientific rigour and objective analysis of evidence, increasing the reliability and accuracy of

criminal investigations and aiding in the quest for justice in our country.

The DCI has signed a contract with M/S Idemia Southern and Eastern Africa Limited to upgrade the Police Clearance Certificate system from the current Automated Palm and Fingerprint Identification System (APFIS) to a Multi Biometric Identification System (MBIS). This upgrade responds to legitimate concerns from members of the public regarding the delays in processing Police Clearance Certificates (PCC). The new system, MBIS will improve the processing speed of the certificates from the initial 14 days to 1 day, thus effectively contributing to the clearance of the backlog while also matching the corresponding number of applications to those processed in a day.

Additionally, the new system is fully bolstered to support live scans of the PCC applications in 52 Huduma Centres across the Country, at the DCI Headquarters and Police Stations. This feature will tremendously reduce paperwork in the processing of Police Clearance Certificates. The Directorate continues to spearhead

intricate investigations, especially in the realms of terrorism, organized crime, corruption, land fraud, child exploitation and abuse, sexual offences, money laundering, homicides and drug trafficking. This has garnered the institution significant recognition both domestically and internationally in the expeditious investigation, arrest and securing conviction of criminals. Indeed, a recent research survey by Kenya Trak placed Kenya's DCI top on the list of

the US Embassy, German Embassy, British High Commission, Canadian High Commission, Italian Embassy, and UN bodies such as the UNODC, have supported the DCI to bridge the gap between our needs and the available resources. Our partnerships with these missions have enhanced our effectiveness by leveraging resources and expertise, and we look forward to their continued support.

Equally, Kenyans were deeply shocked and saddened by the discovery of dismembered bodies at the Kware dumpsite near Mukuru Kwa Njenga slums in Nairobi. The DCI initiated swift and comprehensive investigations into these killings, leading to the arrest of the prime suspect, Collins Jumaisi Khalusha. In addition to posing significant investigative challenges for the investigators, serial murder cases garner a lot of attention from the media, mental health professionals, academia, and the public.

The exhibits from the scene were documented forensically, and comprehensive analysis undertaken at the National Forensics Lab and the government Chemist. The DCI pledges our utmost commitment to deliver justice to the victims of these merciless and abominable killings.

The DCI is grateful for the overwhelming support it receives from the public through the sharing of valuable information. This information has led to the apprehension of suspects and has played a crucial role in enhancing the safety and security of our nation. This act is a demonstration of their patriotic duty, as safety and security is a collective responsibility. We encourage members of the public to persist in this commendable endeavour for the greater peace and prosperity of our country.

I also wish to commend all law enforcement officers who selflessly and tirelessly work to keep our country safe, while often facing challenging situations. I urge all law enforcement officers to strive for the highest standards of professionalism and discipline, refrain from acts of corruption, promote and practice transparency and accountability, and comply with constitutional standards of human rights and fundamental freedoms.



Our success as the DCI is anchored on strengthening existing collaboration mechanisms with both state and non-state actors in the criminal justice system.



most effective criminal investigations departments in Africa, with Ghana and Uganda coming in the second and third positions respectively.

It is as a result of such recognition identifying the DCI as a powerhouse in investigation of major crimes that the Directorate hosted FBI Director Christopher Asher Wray for a historic visit at the Mazingira Complex headquarters in June 2024. This visit marked his first trip to the country since assuming the role of FBI Chief in 2017.

Our success as the DCI is anchored on strengthening existing collaboration mechanisms with both state and non-state actors in the criminal justice system. Foreign missions in Nairobi, such as

However, in fulfilment of its mandate the Directorate continues to face challenges in the fight against crime. During the nationwide protests organized by Kenyan youths (Gen Z) against the proposed 2024/2025 Finance Bill, some individuals with criminal intentions exploited the situation to harm and economically undermine their fellow Kenyans. Although many Kenyans appreciate the role of the National Police Service in protecting protesters and safeguarding lives and property, a few people have falsely associated the NPS with the wrong deeds of the criminals who infiltrated the protests. I assure Kenyans that the NPS, in its relentless pursuit of its mandate, operates with a strong focus on human rights and accountability.

Mr Mohamed I. Amin, CBS, OGW, 'ndc' (K)
Director of Criminal Investigations

DCI'S FIERCE FIGHT Against Abuse and Trafficking of NARCOTICS



By Benjamin Charo

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) defines Drug Trafficking as a global illicit trade involving the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, and sale of substances that are subject to drug prohibition laws. Drug trafficking has, for decades, been one of the transnational crimes (violations of law that involve more than one country in their planning, execution, or impact).

The vice adversely affects people's safety, health, and social well-being. According to UNODC's 2020 drug report, over 269 million people around the world were drug users in 2018. The report further highlights that about 35 million people suffered from drug-related disorders in that year. As international borders become

increasingly porous, the global abuse and accessibility to drugs have become widespread. In Africa, the trafficking menace has risen sharply, posing threats to political stability, as well as the economic and security sectors across the continent. Apart from the health crisis arising from cases of trafficking of narcotics in the region, the proceeds from the illegal trade end up funding more crimes that spark political instability and can potentially destabilize fragile economies.

The UNODC's 2020 report declared Cannabis sativa as the leading drug used by over 192 million people globally. However, data from narcotic drug seizure operations has shown increased levels of cocaine trafficking among other drugs

such as heroin and methamphetamine between 2019 and 2022. As noted by the 2022 UN World Report, at least 57 metric tons of cocaine were found in or on their way to Africa.

The East African region, in particular, has faced an upsurge in narcotics trafficking, with nearly all countries in the region affected by the illicit trade. UNODC Eastern Africa highlights an escalation in heroin and cocaine trafficking cases via the region. The international airports in Nairobi – Kenya (JKIA) and Addis Ababa – Ethiopia (Addis Ababa Bole Intn'l Airport) are the most notorious entry points for hard drugs primarily due to the commercial flights from Asia and the Middle East.

Drug trafficking is one of the most lucrative activities for organized criminal groups.

by the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs describes Kenya as “a significant transit country for a variety of illicit drugs.” According to the report, precursor chemicals used to produce methamphetamine (meth) and other illicit drugs are constantly making their way to Kenya. Also, domestic heroin abuse remains a growing threat in the country, especially along the Kenyan Coast.

The National Authority for the Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA) highlights that the hard drug menace Kenya faces is not a new development. NACADA’s policy brief on the Narcotics, Drugs, and Psychotropic

route to Western and Central Europe. NACADA’s policy brief also highlights that 1.5 tonnes of heroin were seized in the country in 2018, making Kenya one of the countries with the largest quantity of heroin seizures in the region.

The Role of Anti-Drug Trafficking Policies in Fighting the Drug Menace

Drug trafficking is one of the most lucrative activities for organized criminal groups. Unfortunately, while the criminals make millions from the illicit drug business, society pays for their greed in multiple ways.

Traffickers finding new ways to transport drugs. PHOTO/DCI



Given Nairobi’s position as an entry point for illicit drugs into the continent, Kenya faces its fair share of the consequences of the illegal transnational trade. The trade has grown widely in the country and infiltrated businesses and government hierarchies, adding to the basket of challenges that state machinery have to deal with to curb the vice.

A 2020 report by the International Narcotics Control Strategy authored

Substances (Control) Amendment Bill, 2020, stated that in the year 2004, 1000kg of cocaine were seized in Kenya. The operation was one of the biggest drug seizures in Africa.

Between the years 2014-2018, Kenya was among the top 13 frequently mentioned countries of origin, departure, and transit of trafficking in marijuana. It was also one of the main countries through which heroin was trafficked along the southern

For starters, drug trafficking fuels drug use, which has detrimental health implications. Second, the vice fuels violence, insecurity, instability, and corruption in nations where the cultivation, production, manufacture, transportation, distribution, and consumption of drugs occur.

The issue of drug trafficking has been a persistent challenge globally due to its international and evolving nature. Second, global drug cartels possess vast

+financial resources that they employ to cover their tracks. Nonetheless, Kenya remains resilient in the fight against the drug menace, using multiple strategies, including via legislation. Below is an overview of some of the legislations that empower law enforcement officers and public prosecutors in the fight against the abuse and trafficking of narcotics in the country.

First is the Narcotics, Drugs, and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act No. 4 of 1994, which provides the framework for combating the abuse of narcotics, drugs, and psychotropic substances. The Act provides the parameters for



the control, possession, transportation, trafficking, and use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Second was the establishment under the law and gazette of NACADA in 2001 to conduct public awareness and campaign against drug abuse. NACADA targets youths in high schools and institutions of higher learning in its anti-drug use campaigns. It also coordinates public participation in the control of alcohol and

drug abuse and facilitates inter-agency collaboration and liaison among agencies responsible for alcohol and drug demand reduction.

On March 7, 2022, the Kenyan Parliament, through the Statute Law (Miscellaneous Amendments) Act, 2022, amended the Narcotics, Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Control) Act No. 4 of 1994. The amendment sought to enhance enforcement and curb drug-related offenses more effectively in Kenya. Consequently, the newly-gazetted Act introduced stricter penalties for drug trafficking, including a minimum fine of KES 20 million or the value of the drug, whichever is higher, and longer imprisonment terms.

According to NACADA, the amendments were necessitated by the existence of several legal gaps that jeopardized the fight against narcotics trafficking. These gaps included lenient penalties, the absence of provisions to punish officers who aid or conceal drug trafficking, and the lack of measures to penalize the unlawful use of precursor chemicals in narcotic drug manufacture. Between 2007 and 2019, 2,840 convictions were successfully appealed due to ambiguities in the Act, among other significant concerns.

The amended bill provides stiffer penalties (including those highlighted above) for offences under the Act. It also outlines procedures for the seizure of drugs, conveyance, and implements used, as well as forfeiture of the same, including land, in cases involving the cultivation of prohibited plants. Other Kenyan legislations on drug trafficking include the Proceeds of Crime and Anti Money Laundering Act, 2009 (POCAMLA) and the Prevention of Organized Crimes Act, 2010.

The government has intensified its war against narcotics trafficking, reaffirming its commitment to a successful campaign. During his visit to the DCI stand at the Mombasa International Show on September 7, 2024, the acting Inspector General of Police Mr Gilbert Masengeli acknowledged the place of DCI in combating the use and trafficking of narcotics, the menace being among the leading transnational organized crimes.



Proceeds from sale of cocaine.
PHOTO /DCI

Equally, the then Interior Cabinet Secretary Prof. Kithure Kindiki affirmed the government's commitment to eliminate drug abuse and illicit brew trade. Speaking at PEFA church in Kamahuha, Maragua, on June 18, 2024, he said the country risked losing an entire generation to the vice. *"The manufacture, trade, use, and abuse of illicit alcohol and narcotic drugs in Central Kenya and other parts of the country is a serious security threat,"* Kindiki said.

"The government will not backtrack in this fight and will deploy equal if not more ruthlessness and viciousness as it has in combating terrorism and banditry," he added.

In line with the government's commitment, the DCI, as the primary investigative agency in the country mandated to investigate all serious criminal cases, has stepped up the fight against drug trafficking. The Directorate has implemented new strategies and adopted a multi-agency approach to combating the menace through its Anti-Narcotics Unit.

Seeking a better understanding of the ongoing fight against narcotics trafficking, "The DCI" turned to the Head of the Anti-Narcotics Unit Mr Samuel Laboso for his insights.

DCI's Anti-Narcotics Unit

The Anti-Narcotics Unit, one of the 19 Directorates within the Directorate

of Criminal Investigations (DCI), was established in 1983 and derives its mandate from Part III, Section 23 of the Service Standing Orders, the National Police Service Act No. 11A of 2011, and the Constitution of Kenya. It primarily tackles the drug and narcotics trafficking menace as empowered by the Narcotics, Drugs, and Psychotropic Substances (Control) (Amendment) Act, 2022.

The unit has well-trained and equipped officers deployed across the country at key exit and entry points, such as seaports, airports, borders, and major highways. Its officers receive extensive training locally and internationally, ensuring they are well-prepared to handle the complexities of drug enforcement.

In essence, the Anti-Narcotics Unit stands as a vigilant guardian, tirelessly working to protect Kenya from the scourge of illicit drugs and ensuring the safety and well-being of its citizens. The unit's primary functions include

- Investigating drug-related cases
- Preventing and detecting drug offences
- Apprehending and prosecuting individuals involved in drug offences
- Managing a database of reported drug incidents
- Collaborating with local and international organizations focused on drug-related issues
- Gathering and disseminating drug-related intelligence to other law enforcement agencies nationally and internationally.
- Educating the public about the risks associated with drugs and drug trafficking through various outreach efforts.

Kenya serves as a transit point for various illicit drugs, including heroin and cocaine. Sadly, drug consumption in Kenya is on the rise due to a multitude of factors that contribute to drug dependence, including:

Family history of addiction

- Peer pressure
- Lack of family involvement and supervision
- Life-altering complications (accidents, infectious diseases)
- Family problems
- Increased population and high unemployment rates

Besides narcotics like cannabis, heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and barbiturates, drug use victims in Kenya also abuse controlled prescription drugs that are available over the counter in violation of regulations. Such prescription drugs include Rohypnol (also known as "mchele"/blue), valium, diazepam, mandrax (methaqualone) among others.

As highlighted earlier, precursor chemicals used to produce methamphetamine and other illicit drugs also pass through Kenya. Unfortunately, drug users also access and abuse these chemicals.

One such chemical is xylazine, a veterinary sedative that drug dealers use to lace some illicit drugs. Although xylazine is not a banned substance in Kenya, it has gained notoriety for turning users into "zombies," rendering them unable to contribute meaningfully to society.

Recognizing the threat posed by the illegal drug trade, Kenya has taken steps to increase control over its territorial waters and borders. Efforts have focused

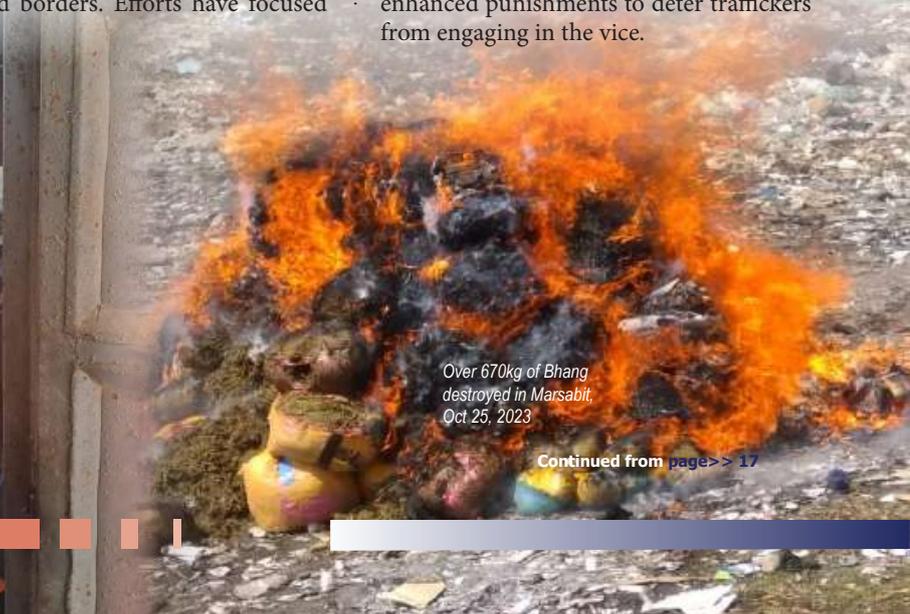
on capacity building and professionalism through enhanced cooperation with like-minded stakeholders. The stakeholders include other government institutions, including the immigration department, the defence forces, the government chemist, the judiciary, non-governmental organisations, international partners such as UNODC, and other key stakeholders in the private sector.

As highlighted earlier, a 2020 International Narcotics Control Strategy report by the International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs describes Kenya as a significant transit country for various illicit drugs.

Increased institutional presence is one strategy the DCI's Anti-Narcotics Unit has employed to rid Kenya of that shameful tag. The unit has enhanced its capacity to conduct narcotics investigations and successfully target and arrest traffickers operating within Kenya. The process includes cross-border investigations through ongoing liaison activities with neighbouring countries.

The Directorate has also embraced the multi-agency approach since trafficking narcotic drugs is an organized crime that transcends borders and involves several actors. Its multi-agency approach facilitated the formation of Joint Operation Committees (JOC) in most of the outposts; JOC is a successful venture in detecting all manner of crimes.

Second, as highlighted earlier, the government has since reviewed its laws to combat the illicit drug business by enhancing investigative capabilities and enhanced punishments to deter traffickers from engaging in the vice.



Over 670kg of Bhang destroyed in Marsabit, Oct. 25, 2023

Continued from page >> 17



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HOW POLICE K-9 Gave Away Robbery Suspect Coiled Under Accomplice's Bed

By PC ElizaAh Gakuya

You remember the old story of a thief who hid under the bed after sighting police officers making their way to his house, and instructed his young son to say he had traveled? Well, it was a smart move as he wouldn't expect the police to grill a young boy. But whereas the police may have bought the lie, one of the officers wished to know if the father said when he would be back.

The thief, however, did not prepare his naïve son for that question. What followed was a disappointing moment for the man as his son went straight to his hideout asking, "Dad, when will you be back?" Shamefully, the man had to crawl from under the bed in surrender, perhaps begging the officers not to cuff him in the full glare of his son.

Same is the script that kept the city of Nakuru awake on the night of June 10, 2024 when robbers struck one of the city's outskirts, killing a businesswoman in cold blood. The incident happened at Tanners area of Shabab in Nakuru.

Shabab, which was formerly an Indian settlement, has come to be known as the darling for young adults, slowly turning into a favourite for Nakuru's middle-class population. It sits close to Nakuru's industrial area, where the city's renowned mechanics operate from. Importantly, due to its proximity to the Central Business District, a high number of student hostels are situated in the estate, creating flourishing businesses such as cyber cafes, beauty shops, boutiques, movie shops, Mpesa shops and street food.

It is the potential that Ms. Florida Khamete Machachu, 48, popularly known as 'Mama Lucky' found in the area that saw her open an Mpesa and cereals shop, a business that she operated solo. Proceeds from the business were enough to cater for her family, and being the hardworking woman she was, she had made peace with driving back home in the dark.

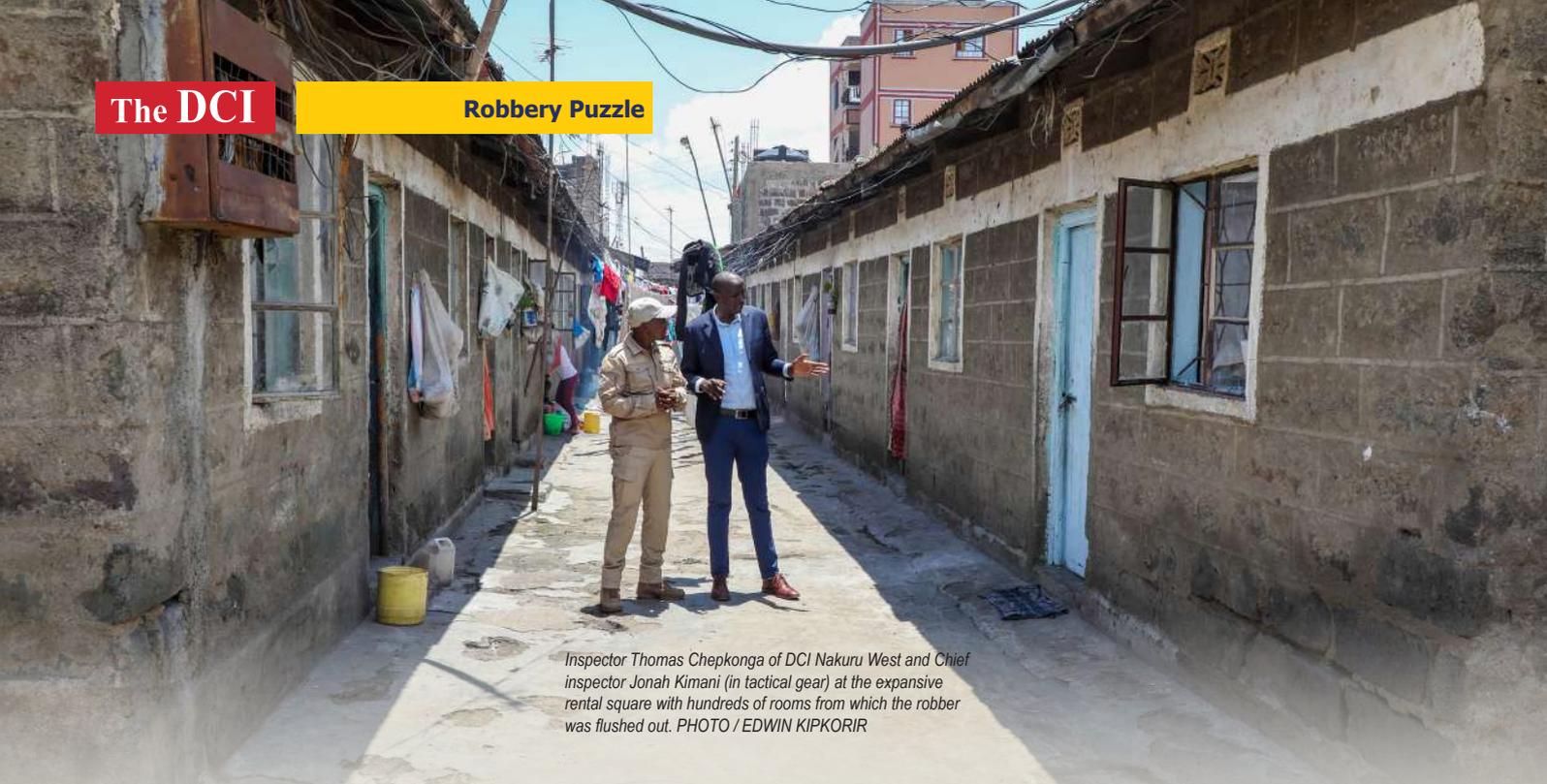
But after a day of toil and sweat (on June 10), when all she looked forward to was a normal night with her family, something terrible happened. As she closed her business at 9pm with a backpack at hand, two mean-looking men lay in wait under the cover of darkness ready to strike. They believed the day's proceeds were contained in the backpack.

And just as she made way to her car parked nearby, the men made a sudden jerk, jostling her with hefty kicks in record seconds as they violently pulled the backpack. But Mama Lucky wasn't the kind that went down easily. She had a family to go back to and mouths to feed, and no lazybones were going to deny her that. She thus clenched onto her bag, fighting back like an irked mule.

Defeated, the two-man gang decided to employ their final wicked tactic; a deadly shot. One of the villains brandished a firearm, aimed at Mama Lucky's chest and squeezed the trigger. The loud gunshot rang through the sleepy neighborhood, attracting the attention of several bodaboda operators who were stationed a few dark metres away.

As the responders made their way, the assailants grabbed the woman's bag and bolted off, leaving her sprawled on the ground with streams of blood gushing from her side.

Due to her profuse bleeding, some quick thinking altruistic responders thought it best to rush her to Evans Sunrise Medical Centre, which is about a mile away from the scene. Unfortunately, upon arrival at the hospital, Mama Lucky's luck ran out, and was declared dead. Her rescuers were devastated. A mother's life for a backpack! Meanwhile, DCI officers who were patrolling another side of the estate got



Inspector Thomas Chepkonga of DCI Nakuru West and Chief inspector Jonah Kimani (in tactical gear) at the expansive rental square with hundreds of rooms from which the robber was flushed out. PHOTO / EDWIN KIPKORIR

wind of the violent robbery at Tanners area and immediately swung into action. Their first stop was the crime scene, where they only found a small crowd gathered round a pool of blood.

The team got information that one group of responders had rushed the victim to hospital while a second group comprising bodaboda riders had chased after the assailants. Similarly, the officers split their numbers. Some headed to the hospital to check on the victim's condition, while the rest followed the assailants' trail which led them straight to Weavers area.

At Weavers, the detectives were directed to a residential apartment by members of public who had joined in the chase. On entry through the gate, about thirty houses stared at the officers. Some bodaboda riders swore that one of the hoodlums had gone through that gate, and were certain he must have been hiding in one of the rooms.

With reports coming that the woman had succumbed to the injuries, nothing was being left to chance. The officers decided to conduct a manual search in every house. The search was clearly not bearing any fruits. The only illegal possession the detectives came out of the search with was a jungle green raincoat that was recovered from Violet Adamba's house. Her

explanation for being in possession of the military coat was not satisfactory. She was bundled in a waiting police vehicle. But the police hadn't come for the raincoat. A cold-blooded killer was on the loose, and no matter what someone was swearing he went in through that gate. The detectives had to come up with another plan fast, lest Mama Lucky's murder became another cold case.

The detectives briefed their boss, the Nakuru West Sub-County Criminal Investigations Officer (SCCIO) Mr. Kamau Wanguhu about the situation on the ground. The SCCIO liaised with the Officer in Charge K9 Nakuru West to have the detectives backed up by a canine and K9 officers. The same were immediately dispatched. In no time, three K9 officers accompanied by three sniffer dogs hopped into a police Land Cruiser and revved towards Weavers area. It was now half past 11pm.

Ready for the task at hand, the highly-trained canines sharpened their claws for the job. Each handler whispered to their dog. The dogs would take turns to search each house, just to make sure that no mistakes were made. Based on experience and how best a sniffer dog is trained, it can not only pick the scent of a firearm but also that of someone who has recently been in possession.

As the exercise continued, the first dog made a positive indication at the single-roomed house of the earlier arrested suspect Violet Adamba. The canine sniffed around her bed, violently pulling a gunny bag stashed under the bed.

The handler understood the language. He knew his dog. He was a good boy. He went down to assist in pulling the sack, further raising the curiosity of the thronged mob. With every pull came the revelation of a shadowy figure of a fear-stricken man, whose eyes were sunk with hopelessness. He was ordered to show himself.

Amidst corked guns pointing straight at him, a middle-aged dreadlocked man crawled from beneath the sisal sack. Behold his fortieth day. He was identified as John Mungai.

The officers and their dogs walked out to a standing ovation from the swollen crowd for a job well done, as they marched the suspect into a police vehicle. Several members of the public positively identified the suspect. Some bayed for his blood.

Thorough interrogation was conducted to establish what had occasioned the earlier happenings, and to gather more details on the remaining suspect. John Mungai claimed that earlier that day at about

With Mungai holding the bag, the two immediately took off, with members of the public hot on their heels.

8:40pm while heading to his mother's house for supper, he met his friend Richard Otieno (the accomplice) at the gate of their residential plot. They both lived in that plot, but in different houses.

Otieno had allegedly convinced Mungai to accompany him to Tanners area for a quick errand. Mungai, in his defense, claimed that neither did he know what kind of errand Otieno was referring to, nor did he know that he was armed with a firearm. At Tanners area, Mungai was allegedly unaware that Otieno had a nefarious motive in mind, specifically a robbery. Otieno allegedly pointed towards a lady who was closing down her shop and tasked Mungai to grab her backpack, which he did without a second thought.

Mungai went ahead to narrate how they jerked for the kill, and when the victim resisted and started fighting back, Otieno pulled out a gun and without a blink, shot the victim on the left side of the chest. (The bullet had exited from the right side of her back).

With Mungai holding the bag, the two immediately took off, with members of the public hot on their heels. In the confusion, they had allegedly parted ways, each seeking to save his dear life. It was then that Mungai rushed straight to Violet Adamba's house and hid under her bed. It turned

out that Adamba was his accomplice's (Richard Otieno) wife.

Mungai led the detectives to where he had dropped the backpack. From the backpack, car keys and two mobile phones, all belonging to the victim were recovered and kept as exhibits. The items were identified by the victim's family.

Search for the second suspect, whom witnesses claimed had ran off with the firearm after the fatal shooting intensified. More police officers were called in to reinforce and extend the search into the entire Weavers neighborhood. The search was conducted with assistance from locals who wanted to see justice served to the victim. However, with Otieno motionlessly holding breath somewhere under the cover of thick darkness, he was nowhere to be seen. You'd say he had literally disappeared into thin air. Minutes past 3:00am, the search had to be called off. The officers decided to live to fight another day, oblivious that that 'other day' was fast approaching.

The first two suspects, John Mungai Nyakiringa and Violet Adamba Muyale were separately charged on June 26, 2024 at the Nakuru Law Courts. Mungai was charged with robbery with violence contrary to section 295 as read with section 296 (2) of the Penal Code, while Adamba was charged with being an accessory after

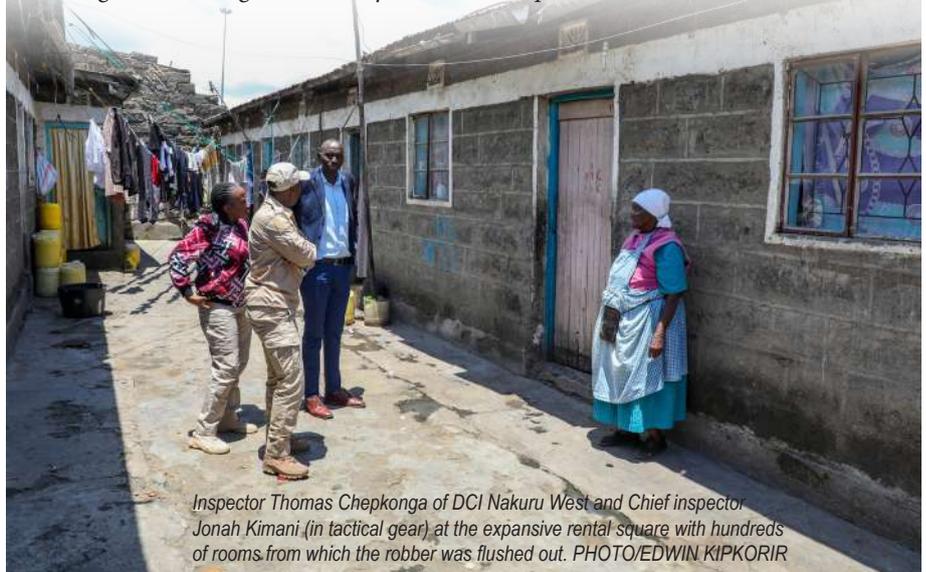
the fact to robbery with violence contrary to section 222 of the Penal Code, for harboring Mungai inside her house after committing a capital offence.

Meanwhile, the second main suspect, Richard Otieno, was living on borrowed time. The relentless pursuit for him came to an abrupt end on June 27, 2024, when he was smoked by detectives from his hideout within Rhoda slum, following days of intensive intelligence gathering coupled with community policing.

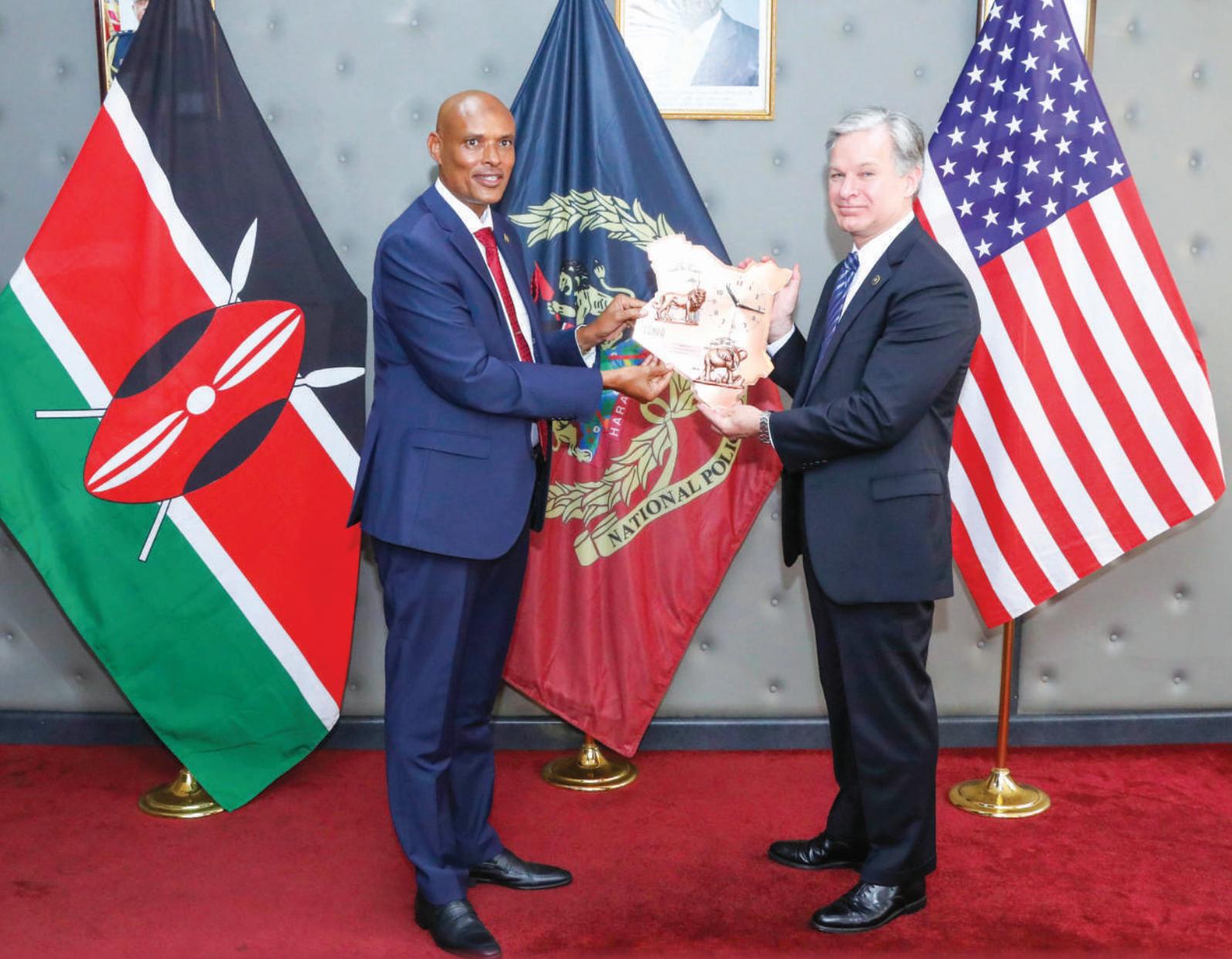
As of the time of his arrest, the gun-hardened miscreant had already disposed the firearm. He was arraigned in Nakuru Law Courts on July 1, 2024, leaving the detectives scratching their heads for clues as to how they'd recover the murder weapon. The arrest and arraignment was, however, a welcome win for both the detectives and Mama Lucky's family.

The two main suspects Richard Otieno and John Mungai remain in remand awaiting their fate. The third suspect, Violet Asimba, showed contrition for her transgressions. She was turned into a prosecution witness under the directions from the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to ensure the successful prosecution of the two main suspects.

Even as the dust settles at Tanners area, locals are hopeful that this will be the last senseless murder that will occur over greed for quick riches.



Inspector Thomas Chepkonga of DCI Nakuru West and Chief inspector Jonah Kimani (in tactical gear) at the expansive rental square with hundreds of rooms from which the robber was flushed out. PHOTO/EDWIN KIPKORIR



DIRECTOR FBI MAKES HISTORICAL VISIT TO DCI HEADQUARTERS, NAIROBI

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations was honoured to host the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Mr Christopher Asher Wray at our Mazingira Complex headquarters on July 11, 2024, during his maiden tour to the country since his appointment as FBI Chief in 2017.

During his four-day trip, Director Wray met with high ranking government officials and several national security and law enforcement heads in the country, holding meetings that focused on strengthening bilateral security and investigative cooperation.

In an exclusive meeting held with selected Heads of Directorates at DCI HQs, the eighth Director of the FBI lauded the existing partnerships with the country's topmost criminal investigation agency, highlighting key successes in counterterrorism and transnational organized crimes.

Director Wray further reaffirmed FBI's commitment to cooperation with stakeholders in adopting modern-day pragmatic measures pertinent to disrupting global threats.

Meanwhile, the host Director DCI Mr Mohamed I. Amin conveyed his appreciation to his guest and the US government, for the immense support the Directorate has continued to receive through sponsored trainings locally and abroad, donation of state-of-the-art equipment and enhanced information sharing networks.

Mr Amin noted that as a result, the DCI has managed to greatly suppress highly complex criminal activities, built its capacity and earned the confidence of Kenyans in its capacity to combat all manner of crime.



Continued from page << 21



Bhang Seized at Butule Police Station
PHOTO/DCI

Overview of concluded Anti-Narcotic cases.

The conviction rate of trafficking in narcotic cases is 95%. As Kenyans on Twitter (now X) like to say “evidence kwa kalatas.” Below is an overview of successful drug trafficking convictions standing as proof that the DCI’s Anti-Narcotics Unit has its boots on the ground in curbing the drug trafficking and illicit drug use menace.

Traffickers Slapped with a 45-year Jail term following Seizure of 474kgs Marijuana

On the fateful day of October 31st, 2021, DCI officers and the Anti-Narcotics Unit personnel, armed with a tip-off, set a cunning trap along the Garissa-Nairobi highway. They flagged down a Mercedes Actros prime mover registration number KBS 601S, which towed a trailer license number ZE 0056 with two occupants on board.

A closer inspection revealed a different story. Hidden beneath the trailer’s floor were meticulously crafted false compartments concealing several bales of suspected drugs. The officers escorted the vehicle and its occupants to DCI Headquarters, where a thorough search uncovered 89 bales of cannabis sativa weighing 474 kilograms and valued at Sh 14,220,000.

The suspects were promptly arraigned at JKIA Law Courts, where charges of

trafficking in narcotic drugs were preferred. Eight witnesses took the stand, and the evidence was damning. Consequently, the court found the suspects guilty as charged, sentencing them to 45 years in prison each, along with a staggering fine of Kshs. 42,600,000. In default of payment, they would serve an additional year behind bars.

Ill-famed Traffickers Slapped with 25-year Jail Sentence

On the fateful day of August 14th, 2020, DCI officers from the TOCU and the Anti-Narcotics Unit, acting on a tip-off about a notorious drug trafficker operating with impunity, struck gold. They intercepted a Toyota Noah, loaded to the brim with nine sacks of dry plant material, along the Nakuru-Nairobi Highway near Gilgil.

The vehicle, hired for the illicit purpose, had journeyed from the Busia Border and was manned by two individuals; Paul Otieno Ochieng and Stephen Wandera Barasa. The duo was promptly escorted to DCI Headquarters for interrogation.

During the interrogations, Ochieng and Wandera revealed crucial information that led to the arrest of two more suspects, Tom Aero Ouma and Ruth Atieno Ouma, in Githunguri, Utawala. Another Toyota Noah, registration number KCX 488H, believed to be an asset procured from ill-gotten gains, was also seized. Additionally, a stash of cash totalling Kshs 426,698 was discovered in the accused’s house.

The seized substances weighed 368.5 kilograms upon processing and had a street value of Sh 11,055,000. The suspects were swiftly arraigned before the JKIA Law Court and charged with trafficking in narcotic drugs. During the trial, the prosecution called upon 12 witnesses, and by April 2023, they had closed their case.

The court ruled that the prosecution had established a “prima facie” case, meaning the suspects had a case to answer. Consequently, on June 5th, 2024, the magistrate sentenced each accused to 25 years in prison and imposed a hefty fine of Sh 33,165,000.

Interestingly, one of the

suspects, Paul Ochieng, had a history of slipping through the cracks. He had been charged in 2019 for a similar offense involving one kilogram of cannabis but had absconded court. Warrants of arrest had been issued against him, and this new case was a breakthrough, bringing him to justice. The city court sentenced Ochieng to serve four years without the option of a fine in 2022.

Notorious Traffickers Face 24 Years Behind Bars in KES 4 Million Trafficking Case

In a courtroom drama that unfolded like a blockbuster movie, two notorious traffickers were sentenced to 24 years behind bars for smuggling narcotics worth over Sh 4 million.

Hussein Ota Wakhayanga and Daniel Gor John were caught red-handed on May 22, 2023, along the Nairobi-Naivasha highway in the Flyover area. It all started when officers from the Transnational Organized Crime Unit (TOCU) flagged down their Toyota Passo (KCS 679P). A meticulous search revealed seven sacks and eight packages bursting at the seams with dry plant material, suspected to be narcotics.

After making an arrest, the TOCU officers handed over the suspects, along with the seized substances and vehicle, to the Anti-Narcotics Unit (ANU) at the DCI headquarters. An Analysis of the material confirmed that it was cannabis sativa, weighing 161.75 kg and with an estimated street value of Sh 4,852,500.

On May 29, 2023, the suspects appeared before the JKIA law courts, and six prosecution witnesses with rock-solid testimonies took to the stand, leading to the accused’s conviction. The duo was



Cannabis worth over 25 Million seized at Kadzandani Police Station in Nyali sub-county. PHOTO/DCI



Proceeds of sale of narcotics
recovered from Mathee wa Ngara.
PHOTO/DCI

slapped with a 24-year prison sentence and fined fifty million each, with an additional one-year sentence hanging over their heads if the fine is unpaid.

Habitual Trafficker Handed 15-Year Sentence

On October 9, 2019, TOCU officers, armed with a tip-off, set the stage for a dramatic showdown on Lang'ata Road near the Eastern Bypass. Like a scene straight out of a thriller, they laid in wait, ready to pounce on a Mombasa-bound transit lorry from Western Kenya. As the clock struck 9pm, the officers sprang into action, catching the lorry's occupants red-handed as they offloaded the sacks. A motorcycle believed to be used to ferry the sacks from the scene was also on standby.

With the precision of a well-rehearsed dance, the officers swooped in and caught four individuals: the rider, the driver, the turn-boy, and a lady who had hitched a ride from Kanduyi to Nairobi. The TOCU officers arrested the suspects and escorted them to Lang'ata Police Station, where the Anti-Narcotics Unit took the reins.

Keen observation revealed more about the sacks, which were seemingly filled with mundane foodstuffs like potatoes. Concealed within a false side of a laptop bag belonging to one of the occupants was a stash of heroin weighing 915.5 grams, with a street value of Kshs. 2,746,500/-. The suspects were arraigned before the JKIA Law Court, facing charges of trafficking in narcotic drugs.

On July 15th, 2021, the judge issued a guilty verdict against Emily Akwabi and sentenced her to 15 years behind bars and a hefty Kshs 8,000,000 fine.

Active Cases in 2024

July 2 – JKIA: Methamphetamine worth Sh 9.2 Million Seized

In a thrilling twist, hawk-eyed detectives from the Anti-Narcotics Unit (ANU) stationed at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) struck gold when they seized approximately 1.15 kilograms of methamphetamine.

Acting on a red-hot tip about a suspicious package lurking in the shadows of the FedEx express warehouse at Mitchell Cotts Shed, the detectives swooped in like eagles on prey. They uncovered a consignment under tracking number 777071896402, bound for the sun-kissed shores of Cyprus. Preliminary tests confirmed their suspicions: the substance was indeed methamphetamine, tipping the scales at approximately 1.15 kilograms.

Although the suspect got wind of the seizure and holed up, the consignment was confiscated as scrupulous hunt for the source and recipient continues.

Nose candy in pants!

Later on in August, undercover detectives from the ANU unit intercepted a female drug trafficker under the cover of an ordinary passenger, seizing over a kilogram of cocaine concealed in her undergarments. Ignorant of the heightened scrutiny at the airport, the suspect, Bioma

Alice Gbassay from Sierra Leone, believed she could slip through the security net. Unfortunate for her, vigilant detectives were a step ahead, monitoring travellers' behaviour and composure far ahead of both physical and electronic screening.

Upon touchdown to Kenya for a stop in a Mumbai-bound flight, Bioma was escorted to the immigration offices. Her luggage was retrieved from the baggage hall and taken to the Anti-Narcotics office. A meticulous search of her body and belongings revealed suspected narcotic drugs hidden in various places. From her inner garments, detectives recovered a whitish substance wrapped in clear tape. Additionally, two slabs of dove soap concealing a suspicious powdery substance were found in her luggage. Laboratory tests confirmed the substances to be cocaine, weighing a total of 1080 grams.

In a parallel incident, law enforcement officers responded to a distress call from the manager of Promise Bus Services, which operates on the Malaba-Nairobi route. The manager reported a passenger exhibiting suspicious behaviour aboard a bus with registration number KBY 156K. Upon arrival, officers searched for a parcel belonging to Emmanuel Erony, who had boarded the bus to Nairobi. Inside the parcel, officers discovered 19 large stones of suspected narcotics wrapped in yellow cello tape. Further investigation revealed that these stones contained cannabis sativa, weighing 19.8kg, estimated at Kshs 990,500 in street value.

July 8 - Kisii: Trafficker in Custody as Police Seize 146kg of Bhang

A 42-year-old man was nabbed trafficking a whopping 146kg of bhang along the Kisii-Migori highway. The arrest followed a high-octane chase by Kisii law enforcers who had caught wind of his illicit activities. The officers had set up a strategic roadblock at the Iyabe Bomokora area, where they intercepted a Toyota Land Cruiser TX, registration number KDG 508E, with two occupants. However, the driver, in a desperate bid to evade capture, floored the accelerator, sparking a thrilling pursuit.

The chase, however, was short-lived as the Prado found itself stuck in a ditch, much to the dismay of its determined occupants. While the driver managed to vanish into the nearby thickets, his accomplice, Collins Otieno, wasn't as fortunate. He was swiftly apprehended and escorted to a police car,

along with six sacks of bhang discovered in their vehicle. A reflective motor vehicle plate bearing the number KDL 841X was also found in a carrier bag.

Two days later, two other suspects, Clinton Ndede and Kelvin Sibukhu were arrested at a bus station in Nairobi Central Business District after they were found with 17 bales of bhang approximated at Sh990,000 in street value.

The two who posed as travellers were nabbed moments after disembarking from a Guardian bus from Budalangi in Busia County, just before boarding a Super Metro bus bound for Kamulu where they resided.

On July 23, detectives in Kisii South once again scored a major victory in the relentless war against narcotics trafficking, when they arrested a notorious suspect who had slipped through a police dragnet in the early hours of July 10, 2024 by abandoning a drug-laden vehicle.

The saga began on a routine patrol along the Kisii-Migori highway where officers spotted a speeding Nissan X-Trail registration number KDP 353U hurtling towards Kisii town. When signalled to stop, the vehicle initially complied but then bolted like a bat out of hell, tearing over spikes at the roadblock.

What ensued was a high-octane chase worthy of an action movie. The suspect's vehicle skidded off the road and landed in a ditch. Three occupants fled the scene to a nearby thicket, leaving behind the drug carrier and a cloud of dust for the police to deal with. A discovery of 112.8kg of bhang estimated at over Sh3.3 million was made. What followed was a relentless pursuit for the perpetrators, with the police working closely with the community that was growing tired of the drug infestation in their locality. The manhunt bore fruits two weeks later, when the 36-year-old main suspect Samuel Omondi Audi was smoked out of his hideout in Kibera, Nairobi.

July 12 - Mombasa: Sh16 Million Worth of Cannabis Seized, Traffickers Nabbed

Four suspected drug traffickers were apprehended at their clandestine hideout in the Fisheries area of Bamburi in Mombasa County, in an operation that saw cannabis valued at a staggering Sh16,621,500 seized. Doris Achieng (46), Brenda Achieng (20),

Rhoda Vonza (47), and David Omondi (26), were nabbed following a meticulously planned intelligence-led operation. The joint operation which involved detectives from the Anti-Narcotics Unit (ANU) Coast Region, the RCIO Coast Operations Team and officers from Bamburi Police Station saw the suspects rounded up one after another in a dramatic hunt.

But it was the actionable tip-off from vigilant citizens that secured a spot in police cells for the four suspects, moments after detectives swooped down on the suspects' hideout. A thorough search of the premises revealed a treasure trove of illicit goods: eight green polythene gunny sacks, eight multi-coloured Nigerian bags, and a small white polythene bag all brimming with large khaki rolls of Cannabis sativa, weighing a hefty 554.05 kg.

The scene having been processed in their full glare amidst an agitated neighbourhood, the suspects are having a difficult time pushing for presumption of innocence at court corridors.

A week later, a fifth notorious trafficker, Elisha Omondi aged 32 was intercepted along the Samburu-Kinango road, and Cannabis sativa valued at over Sh 11 million confiscated.

Acting on a hot tip, Coast region detectives set up an ambush at Mdomo Centre, successfully intercepting the suspect's heavily laden Toyota Ipsum registration number KBJ 679M.

Stashed in the tinted vehicle were seven green gunny sacks brimming with long

khaki rolls of marijuana, tipping the scales at 389.45kg. Anti-narcotics detectives approximated the street value of the haul at Sh11, 683,500.

Barely a month earlier on June 9, two suspected traffickers (a driver and his turn boy) had been arrested in Malindi, and over 429kg of bhang estimated at Sh12 million in street value seized.

In the operation conducted jointly by ANU Malindi and their Mombasa counterparts along the Mariakani-Mavuani road, the officers responded to a tip-off that a Mercedes-Benz Actros trailer registration number KAY 269J/ZC was about to become a vessel of vice, poised to transport the illicit cargo to a location shrouded in mystery.

A 28-year-old driver identified as Joseph Nzomo and his accomplice Aures Godfrey, 27, were assisted to a police car along with the seizure, and escorted to Mariakani Police Station where the truck was also detained.

In the dead of night five days later, another hunt ensued. A team of vigilant anti-narcotics officers from Kilindini who had their eyes locked on a suspect loitering at the Likoni matatu station struck. He had been anxiously waiting for a delivery from Tanga, Tanzania, oblivious of the hawk eyes that were glued on him.

As dawn approached and the clock struck 6am, Collins Omondi discreetly seized the parcel and stashed it in his Subaru Treza, registration number KDE 948E. He was in the dark about his every move being



shadowed by the officers, who trailed him to Fazuka Apartment Complex in Utange Solian where they pounced on him.

A meticulous search of his vehicle revealed a cleverly concealed manilla sack, camouflaged under a mound of oranges. It contained 14kg of bhang.

With the evidence secured and Omondi in custody, the officers proceeded to the residence of Halima Masudi Hassan, who was up and ready for business. Unfortunately for her, the faces at her door were mean, nothing close to her list of expected guests that morning. In cuffs stood her favourite face, Omondi, staring at her in despair and hopelessness. As police searched the house discovering an additional 12kg of the same drug, Halima threw a scuff around her neck turned off the lights read for a long stay out of her abode.

July 24 – Murang’a: More Seizures as Battle Against Narcotics Intensifies

In a meticulously orchestrated sting operation, detectives from the Transnational Organized Crime Unit (TOCU) swooped down on Kandara area in Murang’a County, nabbing three infamous drug traffickers and confiscating 15 sacks of marijuana.

The trio, Caleb Nisa Ochieng, 38, Nisa Gordon, 32 and Peter Karanu, 39 were caught pants down at the County’s Destiny Bar and Restaurant, thanks to the detectives’ seamless coordination.

A Toyota Avensis bearing registration number KBT 236G which the suspects were using was seized during the raid, in which the stash of cannabis and personal documents were found. A motorcycle bearing registration number KMF 568U believed to be the traffickers’ preferred mode of swift delivery was also detained.

August 16 – Moi Intn’l Airport, Mombasa: Sh13 Million Worth of Narcotics Seized

An operation by drug-fighters stationed at the Moi International Airport in Mombasa led to the arrest of two suspected traffickers in whose possession cannabis worth over Sh13 million was found.

Acting on a tip-off from a member of the public, the officers organized a stakeout at the Mariakani weighbridge where

But like a ghost in the night, Ware vanished into thin air, leaving his stash unguarded.

they intercepted a silver Toyota Noah of registration number KBQ 605K driven by Crispin Oduor Owino and his co-driver Caleb Otieno Agolo, arresting the two and seizing a hoard of sixteen sacks of the illicit drug. Further search inside the vehicle revealed another two hundred and twenty-six large sticks of Cannabis Sativa, making a total haul of 456kg with an approximate street value of Sh13, 680, 000.

August 19 – Malindi: Sh2.5 Million Haul Seized from Elusive Trafficker

A high-stakes cat and mouse game has left Anti-Narcotics Unit detectives stationed at Malindi Police Station hotly trailing Morris Ware, a cunning trafficker who slipped their dragnet during a dramatic Sh2.5 million cannabis bust.

Acting on a tip-off from vigilant locals, officers swooped down on Ware’s hideout in Midodoni village. But like a ghost in the night, Ware vanished into thin air, leaving his stash unguarded. After a search, the officers uncovered 86 kilograms of bhang neatly packed in four sacks, whose estimated value amounted to Sh2.5 million.

Detectives believe that the suspect works in cohorts with a notorious drug trafficking ring, which earlier on in August 7 beated off from police after a drug-hunt chase. In the incident, detectives from the Anti-Narcotics Unit (ANU) at DCI Malindi sub-county offices intercepted a

black Subaru Exiga registration number KCF 259K along the Kilifi-Malindi road in Mtondia area.

When signalled to stop, the occupants abandoned the vehicle and fled on foot, leaving behind a drug haul of cannabis with a street value of Kshs 4.6 million, which remains in the custody of police at Malindi Police Station.

“Ma-foreigns!” What’s that even?

With sharpened claws coupled with the precision of a king fisher, anti-drug detectives based at DCI headquarters moved out on September 8, hot on heels for a notorious duo that had sneaked into the country with a uniquely blended unholy herb. Tests at the government lab confirmed elements of marijuana, but there was more to just the normal green leaf. This one, detectives learnt, cost up to Sh8,000 per gram in the streets.

But it was not the drug nor its cost that set all hands on tools. It was the presence of a renowned Tanzanian suspect, Simba Kitwana Khamri, a trafficker that remains in bad books for his involvement in the illicit trade especially along the Kenya – Tanzania border at Namanga. Intelligence reports described him as a maestro in the skilful packaging and disguising of narcotics in backpacks for distribution across the globe.

Getting wind that Simba had been spotted with another suspected female trafficker at Donholm in Nairobi, the crime busters swiftly cast their net, successfully dragging Simba and his accomplice Teresiah Nduku off the shore. After sessions of interrogation, the suspects led detectives to their abode within Manyazani area of Tala in Kangundo sub-county, where the house was searched and a backpack with a false pocket containing the drugs was discovered. Also found were a digital scale and several incriminating documents.

When the DCI online management team ran the story on its X space, reactions from the comments section revealed existence of the rare commodity in the streets. For instance, one “concerned” follower wondered why it was being sold at that much in Kenya, “yet it goes for \$20 in other countries”. It was its presence in the country that earned it the street name, “ma-foreign”.

Continued to page>> 26

“MCHELE”: Broom That Sweeps Money Bags and Bundles Scores in Jail

By Jonah Kimani

Mchele, which is Swahili name for rice is a slang that denotes a kind of stupefying drug usually administered by escorts to cash-rich revellers at drinking joints with the aim of stealing from them.

For years now, it has emerged as one of the most dreaded evils that bedevilled club businesses especially in urban setups, with well-heeled customers packing and deserting their once favourite drinking spots due to infestation by the annoying parasites.

Whereas the vice is popularly orchestrated by women dressed to kill and disguised as merrymakers, recent years have seen men indulge in the same, who target young beautiful women for sex or ransom. As the menace infiltrates almost every corner of the country, it has added to the police's to-do list, becoming their business to hunt down rogue pharmacists who avail the drugs to felons.

But the issue of Mchele is more serious and dangerous than it sounds. Not very many people take the matter seriously. Tell your peers that you were stupefied by a damsel

and see how they will laugh off their noses. How much worse for married men! The mention of it could be the only ticket your wife needed to get packing.

Whereas stupefying is a crime in itself, it is also a precipitate for more serious crimes that has seen both the victims and perpetrators suffer dire consequences.

In some unfortunate cases, victims have succumbed to high doses of the drug since there is usually no prescription. Still, other victims who suffered delayed effects of the drug have harmed themselves after driving off in their vehicles only to doze off along the way landing into ditches or causing multiple accidents.

As for the culprits whose initial plan was only to afford an opportunity to get away with their targets' monies and other valuables, they have found themselves serving long jail terms for causing death or murder. Some unlucky few who are caught in the act have suffered life-threatening injuries after being subjected to ruthless beating by to-be victims or bouncers at the clubs.

These are real issues that have been and continue to be reported across the country. Just months ago in March 2024, and in what appeared to be a grand return of the Mchele babes rocking nocturnal activities in the industrial town of Thika in Kiambu county, two female suspects found stupefying a male clubber at VSpot Nightlife bar were arrested.

The arrest of the two followed keen observation by the club supervisor who was concerned after seeing the two forcefully dragging a frequent customer to his Toyota Crown, before putting him on the driver's seat in his drunken state.

But even before he could intervene, he was caught agape by a rather strange scene. One of the women who sat on the co-driver's seat had sprayed something on her breasts and forced the helpless man to suck. And like one who had suffered a hammer hit squarely on the head, the man completely passed out.

With the help of a few colleagues, the supervisor managed to stop the women who were fleeing with the victim's ATM

cards and other personal documents, before alerting Thika police officers. The police found the unconscious man lying in his car, with a bottle of alcohol at whose base settled some white precipitate. More tablets were found concealed within the persons of the women upon search.

As the suspects were rearrested and booked in cells to be charged with stupefying and robbery, the heavily drugged man was escorted to hospital where he spent a couple of days before doctors could give him a clean bill of health. He had heavens to thank for the botched mission that almost took away his lifetime savings, and probably his life too.

Police issued a caution to club-goers, especially men, to be wary of such seductive but dangerous criminals who lurked in bar corridors targeting cash-rich customers, advising revellers to embrace partying around known friends who would have their back in case of any threats.

Likewise, on February 2023, three men who were enjoying their drinks at a popular Nyama Choma joint located at Kamakis along the Eastern By-Pass, were saved from a pack of mchele babes by a bar manager.

The trio had checked into Green Spot Gardens in the afternoon to unwind as they planned for the week ahead.

They imbibed rounds of cold swallows to cool their oesophageal glands as a kilo of goat ribs and kienyeji chicken which they had ordered roasted metres away, in the characteristic setup of drinking spots found along the popular weekend getaway.

And as the rounds of frothy waters quadrupled on their table, they suddenly spotted three women seated a table from theirs, and decided to invite them for a bite. Whether they were seated there before or not, none of the men could clearly recall. All that mattered to them was their presence at that very crucial moment.

Though they kept throwing alluring glances at the men, the women initially pretended to be hesitant until one of the men quipped humorously, “Maitu, yumbukaga na kiria imeretie”. (Mom, it flies with what it has swallowed).

Police issued a caution to club-goers, especially men, to be wary of such seductive but dangerous criminals who lurked in bar corridors targeting cash-rich customers



Chief Inspectors Jonah Kimani (in short-sleeved shirt) and Mwitii Karau with a DCI detective (clean shaven) based at Thika West. The officer heads investigations into stupefying cases in the area.
PHOTO /CLAUDY OTIENO

That statement seemed to have worked the magic and the women giggled as they joined them in tearing away the marinated juicy goat ribs and washed it down with rounds of drinks.

The men filled with boyish excitement enjoyed their new found company as hit song “Wendo wi Cama” (love is sweet) by popular Kikuyu musician Samidoh and Joyce Wamama rent the air, setting the mood for a happy ending. Little did the men know that they had innocently invited a marauding pack of mchele damsels whose intentions were far from a fun-filled night.

As darkness crept in, the ungrateful women laced the drinks with a stupefying substance and began wooing the men whispering that it was about time.

Luckily, the barman who was at the counter noticed the sudden turn of events

as the three men appeared “zombied” all at once, prompting him to call police officers who responded immediately.

Hellen Wambui, 36, Irene Wairimu, 30 and Fidelis Wambui aged 34 were arrested and upon quick search, stupefying tablets were discovered tucked in their garments.

As police whisked away the women, it was all hail to the barman who saved the day, with men muttering that he should be invited to make welcoming remarks during the oncoming Men’s Conference. That barman saved three families.

But such was not the case for a Kisii man who was similarly stupefied by two female suspects at a popular entertainment spot in Kisii town on July 23, 2023 where a renowned mugithi maestro had staged a spectacular performance.

In the incident, the man and his company of two had downed multiple drinks as they

shook leg to the infectious tunes from the artist cum policeman, who had created a storm in the land of matoke that night. And as the rounds of frothy waters multiplied on their table and took a toll on the victim's faculties, he leapt to his place of abode in Nyanchwa estate with the two babes in tow, to crown the night in style. That was the last time the man was seen alive.

Days later on August 3rd, the two women, Kajuju Samuel and Carolyne Kawira aged 30 and 26 years respectively, and who were believed to have overdosed the deceased with a stupefying substance were traced to their hideout in Kasarani in Nairobi and arrested.

Among the items recovered from the suspects included a laptop, mobile phone, a flash disk and other assorted electronic gadgets belonging to the deceased. The suspects are facing murder charges.

In the wake, women have also found themselves on the receiving end, prove that these are acts of criminality and not a reserve for any specific gender or age group. Whereas orchestrators mostly target monetary gain, male culprits have multiple targets.

On the night of July 29, 2021, an 18-year-old first year student at a Kitui based university was rescued by police officers from two men who had taken her hostage and raped her in turns.

The two suspects Biron Orwa, 25 and Samwel Mulama, 22, were caught in the beastly act as the seemingly intoxicated victim lay helpless on a bed at Diani

Apartments in Kitui's Kwa Vonza market. Earlier that day, the three had been spotted at Monte Christo Bar in the town, supposedly where the lady was stupefied before being dragged to one of the suspect's room.

Detectives who pursued the case established that the first year student had walked into the bar earlier in the day accompanied by her boyfriend and the two suspects. The boyfriend was known to the suspects.

The suspects mischievously ordered for rounds after rounds of alcohol, that left the victim's boyfriend in a complete state of helplessness. Unable to comprehend what was going on, he staggered to his abode in drunken stupor, leaving his girlfriend in the jaws of wild dogs.

The suspects then seized the opportunity and dragged the victim to the room where they inhumanly raped her in turns.

Police officers got wind that two men had been spotted dragging a young woman who could barely support herself to a room. They responded by storming the room and busted one of the suspects cringed under the bed trembling, while the victim lay helpless on the bed. The second suspect was arrested at the bar where he had gone to collect the victim's shoes and part of her clothing which they had left behind after partly undressing her.

The victim was taken to Kitui General Hospital in serious condition for tests and medical attention, while the two suspects also underwent medical examination.

What started as a day of merrymaking for Orwa and Mulana left them fighting their way back to freedom after being slapped with rape charges.

Board, there is Enough Mchele for Everyone

Again on April 23rd, 2022, police in Kabete had a difficult time arresting four suspects, who had stupefied passengers in a bus with an unknown substance before stupefying themselves in a bid to evade arrest.

The bus traveling to the capital city from Kisumu had been driven to the station, after its driver noticed from the rear view mirror that everyone was fast asleep, save for two people who were moving from seat to seat.

But it is the snores reverberating from all corners of the bus that were unusually loud, punctuated by threatening growls that alarmed the driver, who immediately detoured to the police station situated a few kilometres to the city of Nairobi.

Attempts by the two thugs to jump from the fast moving bus turned futile, after the beast stormed the police station at a high speed prompting police officers on sentry duties to dash down for cover and take positions.

As the bus screeched to a halt, the driver leapt from his door and dashed towards the report office shouting that the bus was under attack. The officers responded swiftly by throwing a cordon around the bus and ordered everyone out of the vehicle.



VSPOT Nightlife club where a reveller was drugged by two women before staff at the business hub rescued him.
PHOTO /CLAUDY OTIENO



To their shock, more than half of the occupants were sleepy and drowsy, reeling from the effects of a stupefying substance that had been administered to them.

Additionally, most of them had lost their valuables including laptops, tablets, mobile phones and cash. The officers managed to single out four suspects in whose possession the valuables were recovered. The suspects were identified as Stephen Odero, Benson Odero, Joshua Orendo and Harrison Nyamu.

However, as the officers were booking them, the suspects suddenly went drowsy, incoherent and overly drunk. This forced the law enforcers to first rush them to a nearby hospital for medical examination.

It was at the hospital that it was discovered that the suspects, who were then sweating profusely, had taken a dose of their own medicine by ingesting the remaining 'mchele' in a bid to destroy evidence. Such are the sad memories stuck in the mind of victims who were lucky to escape alive, though hurt.

Reincarnation of Mchele Babes

But as is the nature of crime which keeps evolving, these scripts have been borrowed by yet another ring of hoodlums, a more vicious and ruthless syndicate incorporating both men and women.

In the crime trend that gained currency barely weeks after DCI Communications Directorate ran an expose duped 'Basmati Babes' in 2022, hell-bent felons retreated from the streets and turned to social sites in search for vulnerable targets. Women started stalking and luring seemingly well-to-do men on their social networking platforms, before seductively inviting them

for days or nights of merrymaking at some given lodges. Woe to them that swallowed the bait!

In one classic case reported on May 2022, detectives based at DCI parklands arrested five suspects among them three women for kidnapping a man and demanding for a ransom to set him free.

In the well-choreographed plan, the three damsels lured the man online, promising him blissful moments with a happy ending. The wowed man fell into the trap hook, line and sinker. But nothing happy was scheduled to happen.

Instead, when a special team of sleuths stormed the house where the victim was being held incommunicado, they found him stark naked, as the five suspects eagerly waited for an Mpesa transaction of Sh100,000 to set the man free. The man had called his relatives claiming that he had been involved in a road accident and needed the amount for treatment.

The police, however, knew better. After getting wind that a man was asking for Sh100,000 for treatment from relatives with conditions that no one visited him at the hospital, they knew something was amiss. This had to be a kidnapping or a

case of blackmail. Several such incidents had been reported. This was a good lead to the culprits.

Acting on forensic leads, the investigators moved straight to the house located behind Ruaraka's Naivas Supermarket where the victim was found and rescued. The five suspects identified as Joseph Makau Mulatya, Patrick Wekesa Omosa, Rehema Njeri, Vigilance Mumbi and Hadija Ong'ai were also found therein and arrested.

Luckily, another victim who had suffered the same fate positively identified the suspects, being the gang that had earlier accosted him at Parklands in Nairobi and stolen from him Sh450,000.

In their series of investigations, detectives have established that the criminals have a special preference for men of Caucasian origin, whom the women lure with a promise of an action packed night by two to three babes depending on one's preference.

But moments before they get down, a rude knock interrupts the occasion as a man posing as a boyfriend to one of the women suddenly appears, throwing a spanner in the works of an eventful evening.

What follows are demands for a ransom depending on how deep one's pockets are. Victims cut across all affiliations. From politicians to members of the clergy, to military men and businesspersons, everyone becomes a potential victim as long as they have deep pockets and an eye for romance.

Well, there are negligible cases of persons stupefied in their own homes. Do we, then, stay home and stay safe?



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Other Highlighted Narcotic Crackdowns 2024

30th May: Mombasa-bound Toyota Prado stashed with 327kg of bhang intercepted in Voi following an intelligence report. Police erected a roadblock at Ikanga area of Voi, flagging down 45-year-old driver of the vehicle whose frantic efforts to turn and escape proved futile. 11 gunny bags containing bhang and 963 big rolls of the same unholy herb found upon search, alongside two extra sets of number plates (KCU 888F & KCV 489R).

Patrick Odoyo Jabuya (the suspect) was immediately arrested and the cargo estimated at a street value of Sh9.8 million seized.

27th May: A joint team of ANU and the Operation Support Unit (OSU) detectives recovered 41 bales of bhang stashed in gunny bags within Komarock Phase 2, after searching House. No. 228 belonging to Alah Mohamed Kala. The seizure weighed 205kg estimated at a street value of Sh6.2 million. Also detained was a Toyota Noah registration number KBL 186E believed to be a proceed of the illegal trade.

26th May: Three suspects found with 298 pellets of cocaine concealed in three teddy bears at their house in New Donholm area, Nairobi were rounded up by a joint team of

ANU and OSU police. The detectives were acting on a tip-off that the trio planned to smuggle the drugs abroad.

The mission by Sharon Debra Achieng', 25, Leon Ochieng', 28 and Ronald Onyango, 25 was however crippled by police presence at their house, when they initiated a systematic search therein. In a black suitcase containing a few clothes, toiletries and three teddy bears, police also found a loud suspicion.

On ripping the teddy bears open 298 pellets of the nose candy weighing about 6.8kg estimated at Sh27.5 million in street value was discovered, alongside several air tickets for different destinations in the names of the female suspect. Sh37,000 in cash believed to be proceeds of the illegal trade was also found and preserved as exhibit.

24th May: Two women suspected of trafficking narcotics in the coastal city of Mombasa were nabbed with sachets of cocaine in an operation mounted by Anti-Narcotics Unit officers in Kisauni, Utange area.

Acting on a tip-off, police cordoned the house of the two suspects, Amina Musa Chirunga and Saumu Ali Khamis, where upon search crack estimated at a street value of Sh495,000 was discovered.

18th May: Two Nigerian nationals and a Kenyan were arrested for their involvement in the trafficking of Cocaine, Heroin and Methamphetamine. Stephen Emenike, Chijioko Andrew Maduka and Margaret Wanjiku Kioni were ambushed by anti-narcotic operators at their hideout within Clay City, Kasarani, and upon search a discovery of the drugs estimated at a street value of over Sh1.3 million, three weighing machines & various packaging materials were found.

The operation leading to the arrest of the three suspects followed an earlier seizure of 200g of cocaine from another Nigerian national, Victor Chinenya Ikonne, in Mombasa, who was equally nabbed at his rental house located at White House Apartments in Utange - Kisauni area.

8th May: In a bid to rid the nation of narcotics and psychotropic substances, detectives in Moyale seized over 3.9kg of cocaine with an estimated street value of Sh15, 660,000 from a woman identified as Vivian Achieng Okello.

Acting on actionable intelligence, the quick-witted officers conducted a stealth operation that saw the suspect arrested at Moyale's one-stop border point while on her way back to Kenya from Ethiopia.

7th May: Approximately 928 grams of cocaine estimated at Sh3.7 million was seized by Anti-Narcotic Unit officers in Lamu, in a security raid where several houses suspected to be illicit drug hubs were targeted. In the house belonging to Muuna Omar Bori, a weighing machine and 5 pellets weighing approximately 85 grams of cocaine were found, while another 164 grams were seized from Mote Shamuni's house.

At Mwalimu Shamuni's residence, a polythene bag was discovered with about 354g of the crack, and another 325 grams at Fatma Mote Yusuf's house.

In a parallel operation conducted in Mombasa and Kilifi counties, cocaine and heroin estimated at Sh3.7 million in street value was also recovered, three suspected traffickers being arrested in the sweep.

The swoop conducted by a combined team of Anti-Narcotic Unit (ANU) and Transnational Organized Crime Unit (TOCU) detectives saw a total of 50 grams of cocaine and 1.15kgs of heroin being confiscated.

Suspect Hussein Mansur Salim was apprehended in Kisauni, Mwandoni with approximately 50 grams of cocaine valued at Sh250,000, while Ali Swale was nabbed at Stage ya Paka still within Kisauni. He was in possession of approximately 1kg of heroin estimated at Sh3 million in street value.

The third suspect, Harrison Mwenda Kiambi, was netted in Mtwapa - Maweni with heroin weighing 150 grams, valued at Sh 450,000.

26th April: A drug trafficker was ejected from a Nairobi-bound bus from Moyale, and from him 417g of Cocaine discovered hidden under the inner soles of his rubber shoes. This followed an intelligence tip to anti-narcotic officers augmented by the Operation Support Unit detectives, who intercepted the bus belonging to Score Investment Ltd at Blue Post section of Thika. After conducting a search therein, a panic-stricken 24-year-old Charles Obaga Kavehere was arrested and whisked to the Jomo Kenyatta Intn'l Airport (JKIA) for a detailed search and screening.

Within his person, detectives discovered that he had swallowed more drugs that he intended to egest at the destination, besides the earlier found 417g estimated at Sh1.8 million.

22nd April: A woman found trafficking over 135kg of bhang with an estimated street value of Sh4 million was arraigned at the Senior Resident Magistrate court in Kwale, after she was arrested by Mombasa anti-narcotics officers.

30-year-old Regina Akoth Kungu was arrested at her house within Kwa Musa in Diani, wherein several gunny bags containing the prohibited drug and Sh12,100 believed to be proceeds of her peddling were seized. After pleading not guilty to trafficking offences, the woman was released on a cash bail of Sh50,000. The case continues at the same court.

5th April: A drug trafficking cartel that put to test the stern measures adopted by anti-narcotics hawkshaws to paralyze the illegal trade suffered hefty losses when police seized their cargo while being trafficked in the guise of animal feeds from Subukia, Nakuru County.

In the operation, 45 bales of Marijuana weighing 138kg were found parked separately in a KBX 684H Nissan Vanette and KBZ 861H Toyota Crown Royal Saloon. The seizure followed a tip-off to the police regarding the suspicious Nissan vehicle, triggering its interception in Subukia while headed to Nakuru.

After search and discovery of 9 bales covered in sacks of hay, the driver, Evans Oluoch Rogo, 32 led detectives to his two accomplices who were enjoying a cool breeze at QUALIT Hotel in the city of Nakuru. Ali Abdikadir Ali, 30 and Ortofa Dida aged 28 were also arrested and 36 bales of the green herb weighing 79kg seized from their saloon car.

Challenges Faced in the Fight Against Drug Trafficking, Distribution, and Sale in Kenya

Although a 95% conviction rate is a win, the DCI units at the frontline against drug trafficking, distribution, and sale still grapple with significant challenges.

For instance, drug trafficking is a transnational crime. Therefore, despite the many initiatives and strategies by the Kenyan government at a local level, ruthless cartels and criminal organizations often exploit gaps in international law.

Second, drug cartels wield significant financial power, enabling them to invest in advanced technologies, bribe officials, and hire skilled personnel. This financial superiority poses a considerable challenge to law enforcement agencies, which may lack the resources to avert.

Third, drug traffickers continually advance their strategies to evade law enforcement. They employ various techniques, such as altering trafficking routes, concealing drugs in innovative ways, and using encrypted communication methods.

Fourth, corruption and collusion can obstruct investigations and undermine efforts to dismantle drug networks. Ensuring the integrity of law enforcement agencies is crucial in combating this issue. Fifth, willing buyer, willing seller; long as there is a market for illicit substances, drug trafficking will persist. Addressing the root causes of drug addiction and implementing effective prevention and treatment programs are essential to reducing the demand and weakening the drug trade.

Bottom Line:

The challenges above are anything but unique to the DCI's Anti-Narcotics unit and other anti-drug agencies and task forces. Given the fact that drug trafficking is a transnational crime, getting ahead of global trends and sealing loopholes in the laws of other jurisdictions is anything but black and white.

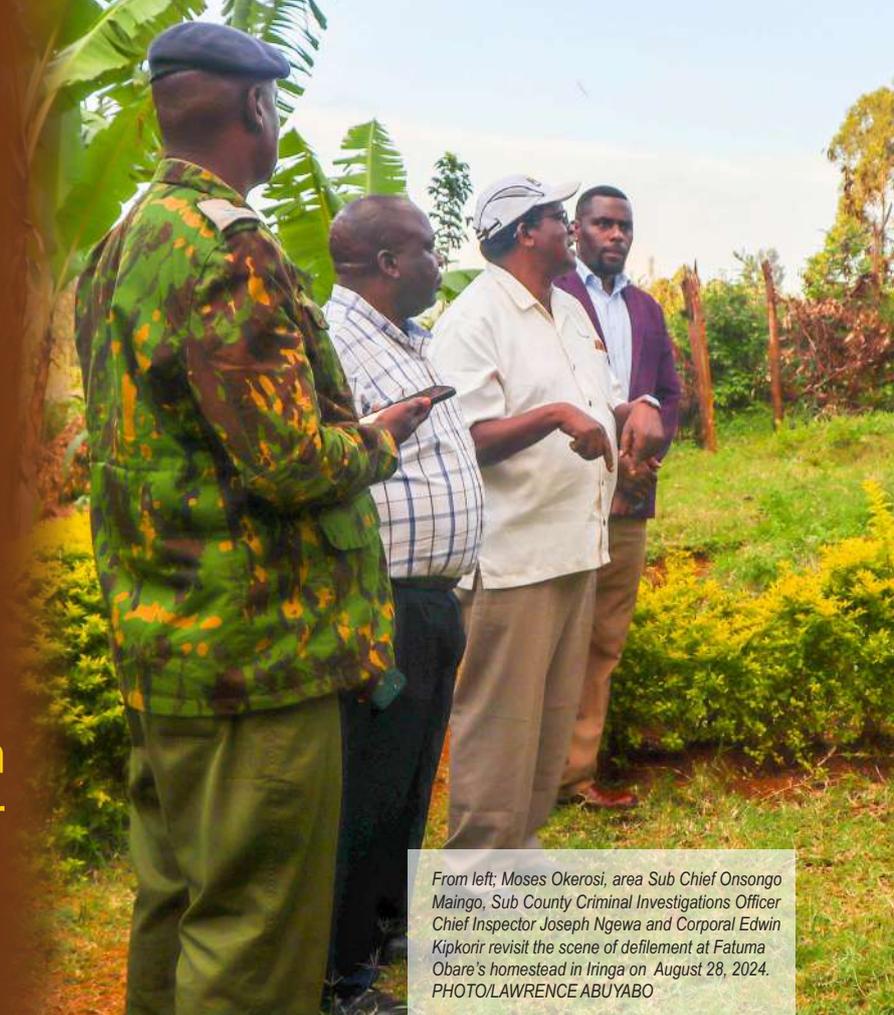
Nonetheless, the DCI has its eyes on the price, using the resources at its disposal, including more punitive punishments to traffickers, to wage war against drug traffickers and distributors in Kenya.

Although the war on drugs is nowhere near over, the directorate strives to win more battles each day.

Spearheading the Fight Against Defilement in Kenya

40-Year Damnation for Sex Pest Who Preyed on Tween as Guardian Fought for Her Life in Hospital

By Edwin Kipkorir



From left: Moses Okerosi, area Sub Chief Onsongo Maingo, Sub County Criminal Investigations Officer Chief Inspector Joseph Ngewa and Corporal Edwin Kipkorir revisit the scene of defilement at Fatuma Obare's homestead in Iringa on August 28, 2024. PHOTO/LAWRENCE ABUYABO

It was the morning of December 24, 2023, Christmas Eve. 68-year-old Moses Okerosi Birario had just settled in his homestead to enjoy the Christmas spirit after his morning routine of patrolling his farm in Iringa Sub-County, Kisii. However, Okerosi's holiday excitement was about to be shut down by a single phone call.

The 68-year-old man was resting when he received a distress phone call from his wife. Okerosi's distraught wife informed him that his 10-year-old niece, Rebby (not her real name), had been defiled by her uncle Wycliffe Onuonga Osuko.

The abominable incident had occurred three days earlier when Rebby's grandmother and primary guardian, Fatuma Obare, left her and her two siblings home alone. Ms. Obare had gone for what she considered a routine check-up at Tabaka Mission Hospital, only for the doctor to advise that the severity of her condition demanded immediate admission. Consequently, her grandchildren, including Ruby, had to spend the night home alone.

It was not the first time Fatuma's grandkids had had to spend the night alone at their grandmother's home; the other nights had passed without incidents. However, nothing prepared them for what they would experience that night.

Unfortunately for Rebby, her uncle, Osuko, got wind of the fact that the vulnerable children would be home alone that night. Osuko was a known sexual predator with a history of sexual deviance, including an alleged unnatural act with an animal.

Rather than stepping up as a guardian, Osuko's twisted mind took him where no sane person should go.

As the night crept in, Rebby and her siblings locked themselves in the house, as was the norm. They ate dinner before retiring to their beds, unaware of what the night had in store for them.

At around 10p.m, Rebby was awakened by a knock on the door. Frightened, she hesitated to open it. The knocking intensified, and an angry voice demanded she open the door. She recognized the

voice as that of his uncle Osuko, whose house settled a few meters at the corner of the compound, and reluctantly opened the door.

Osuko stormed in, asking for a radio and panga, which Rebby retrieved and handed to him. To her surprise, rather than leaving, Osuko reached out for a walking cane belonging to Rebby's granddad and began attacking the other sleeping siblings. The demented man then ordered Rebby out of the house into the maize store erected beside the house. The sex predator followed the young kid into the store, overpowered her and savagely did the unthinkable.

Poor Rebby was petrified and confused as Osuko escorted her back to her grandmother's house as if everything was okay. Osuko locked the door from outside, rendering Rebby and her siblings unable to leave the house.

Rebby narrated the night's ordeal to Fatuma when she returned from the hospital. Fatuma did not believe her ears.



She examined Rebbly, and her heart sank when reality dawned on her, seeing what Osuko had done with her eyes.

Fatuma took Rebbly to Teresa Onderi, a community nurse volunteer, to seek medical attention. After examining the girl, Teresa informed Fatuma that Rebbly required further examination and specialized treatment. At this point, Fatuma called Moses Birario's wife, seeking a helping hand to take Rebbly to a hospital. As soon as Okerosi learned of this heart-breaking news, he facilitated Teresa, who took Rebbly to Ndura Sub-County Hospital, where she was examined, treated, and discharged.

On such a day, Rebbly and her siblings, in their joyous, celebratory mood, would help their grandmother prepare the rare Christmas delicacies—a joy that every kid eagerly awaited the entire year. This time, Osuko had deprived the whole family of this happiness. For Rebbly and her family, this was a Christmas season to forget.

Teresa handed Rebbly's medical report to Okerosi, who had now taken over the

matter. On December 26, 2023, Moses Okerosi accompanied his niece, Rebbly, to Tabaka Police Station, where they recorded a defilement report. As per procedure, they were issued a P3 form, which was filled out at Nduru Sub-County Hospital. With this, Osuko's journey to prison had just taken off.

The Officer Commanding Tabaka Police Station, Inspector Sammy Bungei, initiated a manhunt for Osuko and handed Rebbly's case to Mercy Chepchumba, a seasoned investigator at the station.

Osuko managed to evade arrest for two days, prompting a coordinated reinforcement of the Sub-County Criminal Investigations Officer, Chief Inspector Joseph Ngewa.

The law enforcers, determined to smoke out Osuko, recruited the expertise of the area Sub-Chief, Onsongo Maingo. The concerted multi-agency efforts began bearing fruits as Maingo, who had his ear to the ground, gathered intel that led to Osuko's apprehension.

Investigations revealed that Osuko's wife, who resided in Nairobi, had arrived from the city after getting wind of the incident. Her mission in Iringa was to aid her children's father to escape. The couple was on the verge of successfully executing their escape plan when the area Sub-Chief Maingo intercepted them. He arrested Osuko and handed him over to the officers at Tabaka Police Station.

Osuko was re-arrested, processed and arraigned on January 2, 2024 at Etago Law Courts, the first of his many tours to the court. Reality had now dawned on him that he was facing a jail term if found guilty. The thought of life behind bars did not settle well with him. Consequently, he orchestrated a plot to escape from custody. The culprit's "genius" plan entailed taking off during one of his hearings. He took off at lightning speed, slipping from the hands of the court orderly officer and disappearing out of the vicinity.

A search team was immediately assembled to hunt him down. Moses Okerosi, Rebbly's uncle, received information that the escapee was hiding at Manga in Nyamira. He immediately relayed the information to the law enforcers, who coordinated a

prompt re-arrest of the suspect paedophile. The sex predator's jailbreak plan handed him a three-year sentence upon his arraignment, even before his case began.

Mercy Chepchumba, the investigating officer, presented a strong case against Osuko. She had assembled enough witnesses, including Rebbly, to ensure a watertight presentation that would grant Osuko a ticket to one of Kenya's maximum-security prisons. Rebbly's testimony was the nail that sealed his fate at Etago Law Courts.

Following Osuko's botched escape, his wife disappeared with their four kids, one of whom was believed to be a victim of Osuko's devilish sexual desires. Her case is still being pursued.

Wycliffe Osuko Onuonga was found guilty of defilement contrary to section 8(1) as read with 8(2) of the Sexual Offences Act of 2006. The 35-year-old received 40 years behind bars to contemplate his actions.

With rampant cases of defilement being witnessed in several areas of the country, Osuko serves as an example of the National Police Service's commitment to bring each one of them to book.

Osuko is not the only paedophile to be slapped with a much-deserved four-decade jail sentence. A similar fate met two other sexual predators found guilty of defilement in Kakamega.



Fatuma Obare (seated) recounts the occurrence of the fateful day to the Sub County Criminal Investigations Officer Chief Inspector Joseph Ngewa (left) Corporal Edwin Kipkorir (right) and the area Sub Chief Onsongo Maingo (middle) at her homestead in Iringa on August 28, 2024.
PHOTO/LAWRENCE ABUYABO



Lead investigator in Isaac Anyula's defilement case Corporal Caroline Wanjiru during an interview with "The DCI" at Kakamega Police Station on August 28, 2024. PHOTO/LAWRENCE ABUYABO

"Nilikuambia usiambie mtu, utaona!" (I warned you not to tell anyone; you will regret!).

These were the words Isaac Anyula barked at Angie (not her real name) on the day he was arrested for defilement. The grandfather used a mere KES 10, or sometimes KES 100, as tokens to lure and defile Angie, an 11-year-old girl, repeatedly for eight months in Maraba, Kakamega County.

It all started in June 2022 when Angie visited her aunt in Maraba, a village on the outskirts of Kakamega Town. Her aunt lived a walking distance from their home in Shikhambi, where she had left behind her mother, Mary Khasoya, and her younger brother. Angie enjoyed her aunt's company in a new environment for two weeks. Nonetheless, she still attended Nabonga Primary School, where she was a class six pupil while staying with her aunt. One evening, as she was walking to her aunt's place from school, Angie was stopped by a man only known to her physically. She would later learn his name was Isaac Anyula, a well-known man in the village.

Anyula enticed Angie with KES 10 and asked her to follow him to his house. Excited, Angie followed the 62-year-old to his house, a few metres from the road, unaware of his evil intentions. Anyula lured the small girl into the empty house and into the bedroom, where he proceeded to defile her.

After he had satisfied his wicked desires, he gave the girl more money and coerced her into an unholy arrangement. Anyula would wait for Angie beside the road in the evening and force her into his house. He promised her more money the next time she returned. However, besides giving her money, he threatened the young girl that he would kill her if she told anyone about it. The defenceless girl kept going back to the paedophile's lair for eight months, even after she had relocated back to her mother's house.

On January 12, 2023, Angie entered Anyula's house only to find another small girl also trapped in the paedophile's snare. To silence her, the sex pest gave Angie Sh 100 and dismissed her. He then asked her to go back to his house after two days. On the agreed day when the girl returned, Anyula, as was his norm, went ahead and abused her.

That same day (Saturday), the villagers at Shikhambi were getting ready for a ceremony. During such occasions, the whole neighbourhood comes together to share good moments; Angie and her younger brother, Ben (not his real name), were not left behind. Their mother permitted them to attend the occasion but ordered them to return to the house by 6PM.

When Angie and Ben had had enough of merrymaking and playing with other children, they returned home. Mary, their mother, instructed them to go fetch water from a nearby stream.

On his way back home, Ben noticed Angie picking a different route to the stream. "Angie!" "Angie!" He called his sister, but she did not answer. Angie was heading towards Maraba to Anyula's house.

A boy accosted Angie on the road to Anyula's house in Maraba. She screamed at the top of her voice, causing the boy to take off, disappearing into the darkness that quickly crept in.

Her screams attracted the residents of Maraba, who surrounded her, inquiring what had happened. They were curious why such a young girl would be walking alone along that road so late in the evening. Scared and confused, Angie spilled the beans. She explained to them that she was heading to Anyula's house. She had no choice but to reveal what they had been up to for months. The news shocked the villagers, who had perceived Anyula as respectable.

Two men from the crowd escorted Angie home and explained what had transpired, including Angie's confession, to her Mother. Mary interrogated her daughter about the shocking revelations, hoping they were false. To her disappointment, Angie confirmed the heart-breaking news. Mary had noticed a change in Angie's walking style but ignored it, thinking she was imagining things. It now dawned on her that her concerns were valid. She demanded to visit Anyula's house and asked Angie to accompany them there, which the little girl did.

Anyula was not expecting any guests other than Angie. The 62-year-old locked his

door when he heard voices and footsteps of people approaching his house.

Mary, accompanied by the two men who had brought Angie home, begged the old man to open the door, but Anyula refused. “Nimefunga mlango na kifuli ya Sonax, Mtapitia wapi?” (I have locked the door using a Sonax padlock; how will you get in?) Anyula’s voice could be heard from inside.

The commotion caught the attention of “Mzee wa Nyumba Kumi” (Organizing Secretary of Community Policing), who joined the efforts to get Anyula to open the door. Police from Kakamega Police Station were also called to prevail over the situation, but Anyula remained unperturbed. Consequently, the police officers advised Mary to file a report to the police station at dawn. Anyula had survived the night, but he was living on borrowed time.

The following day, Angie was accompanied by her mother to Kakamega Police Station, where they recorded a case of defilement. After the tribulations of the previous night, Anyula decided to go into hiding. Unbeknownst to him, Alfred Amambia, the Organizing Secretary of Community Policing in Shikhambi Village, was monitoring his movement.

On January 19, 2024, Amambia received news that the sex maniac had gone back to his house. He assembled four other “Nyumba Kumi” coordinators, and together, they matched to Anyula’s house and took Angie with them.

Anyula was caught unawares. He seemed restless and barely talked to the four men. He got agitated when the men confronted him with the defilement accusations, laying his sins bare before him. Anyula angrily locked the door, threatening to call the police on Amambia for trespassing.

Perhaps he thought his fearful reputation in the village would work this time. However, Amambia and his counterparts were unshaken by his threats; they even called his bluff.

Anyula faked a phone call as he walked around the living room while the others watched him.

“I will call my DCI friends, do you know who I am?” threatened Anyula with a shaky voice and trembling hands.

“Call them!” replied Amambia. “And if you fail to call, I will call the OCS Kakamega Police Station myself.” This statement silenced Anyula.

True to his word, Amambia called the OCS, who deployed two officers to Anyula’s residence. At some point, Anyula attempted to escape but was overpowered by the men.

When the law enforcers arrived, Anyula was apprehended and bundled into a police vehicle. In the process, he saw Angie and seized that moment to threaten her by reminding her of their agreement.

Corporal Caroline Wanjiru, renowned for her investigative expertise, took the case as the investigating officer. Wanjiru began gathering substantial evidence to build up the case. She escorted Angie to Kakamega General Hospital, where a medical examination revealed that, indeed, there was penetration on the young girl. More evidence of a girl living in constant abuse emerged each investigative day.

Wanjiru unravelled vital details that were essential to corner the old paedophile with Angie’s younger brother adding more facts to the case. He highlighted that he would occasionally escort Angie to Anyula’s

“He always tells me to stay outside. That he’s going in the house with my sister to give her money to go and buy him sugar at the shop. He then remains with my sister inside the house closed,” Ben’s statement read.

house. While in the compound, Angie would get into the house while Ben was asked to wait outside. His patience outside was sometimes rewarded with a token of Sh 10 or Sh 20.



Shikhambi village Organising Secretary of Community Policing Alfred Amambia during an interview with “The DCI” at Kakamega Police Station on August 28, 2024.
PHOTO/LAWRENCE ABUYABO



Isaac Anyula appearing in court during one of his proceedings. PHOTO/COURTESY

“He always tells me to stay outside. That he’s going in the house with my sister to give her money to go and buy him sugar at the shop. He then remains with my sister inside the house closed,” Ben’s statement read.

Despite the overwhelming evidence, the case proceedings had some pitfalls. First, Anyula lodged a complaint against the OCS Kakamega Police Station and Corporal Wanjiru on March 6, 2023. While writing to the Regional Police Commander Western Region, Anyula requested that the two be arrested for malicious damage and that the case be handed over to other investigators.

Throughout the sessions, Anyula maintained that he did not commit the offense. He linked the matter to his differences with his neighbours, who he claimed were jealous of his life’s progress.



Shikhambi village Organising Secretary of Community Policing Alfred Amambia showing detective Lawrence Abuyabo around Isaac Anyula’s homestead where Anyula repeatedly defiled minors. PHOTO/EDWIN KIPKORIR

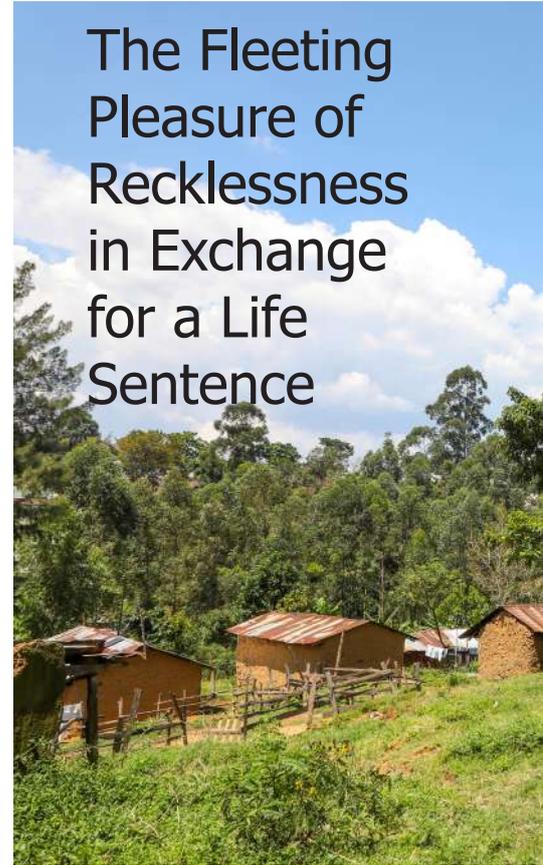
The case went on for two years, during which Anyula hatched every possible trick to water it down. For instance, he offered the Organising Secretary of Community Policing, Alfred Amambia, KES 30,000 bribe, begging him to withdraw from the case as a witness. Amambia declined. Even after raising the figure, Amambia, whose integrity has never been questioned, still refused.

Seeing that money didn’t work, Anyula resorted to the use of force. He threatened to kill Amambia, Mary and her daughter, Angie, should the court find him guilty. Eventually, his supposed influence and self-importance failed him. The Chief Magistrate’s Court, Kakamega found Anyula guilty of defilement. A detailed report by the Kakamega probation officer rendered Anyula unfit for community-based rehabilitation.

Just like Osuko, his fellow defiler, Anyula, was handed a 40-year jail term. Although the damage Anyula had left behind in the lives of Angie and her mother cannot be repaired, some semblance of justice was served.

While speaking to “The DCI,” Amambia expressed his satisfaction with the handling of the case to its completion. His dedication to attending every court session in the case of Anyula was finally rewarded with justice. Amambia, however, expressed concerns about a spike in defilement cases reported in the area. He expressed fears that the vice disrupts young girls’ lives.

The Fleeting Pleasure of Recklessness in Exchange for a Life Sentence



When Wilson Ikocheli pushed a nine-year-old girl into a ditch, all his steamy body yearned for was an abominable act that would not only shut down his dreams but also crush the sweet memories of the girl’s childhood. Unbeknownst to him, the few minutes of false pleasure were his ticket to life imprisonment.

At around 5 p.m. on December 19, 2020, in Masingo village, Kakamega, 9-year-old Mel (not her real name), a PP2 pupil at a local school was headed home after an evening of play with her friends.

Cheerfully, she walked home solo along a narrow path humming her favourite childhood song. Midway, she met Wilson Ikocheli, a 17-year-old boy known to her as “Willy”. When Willy spotted the girl, his mind went wild and he stopped her. The young girl had learnt in school that she wasn’t supposed to talk to strangers, but Willy wasn’t one. She knew him from the village.

After ascertaining that no one was on sight, the teenager attempted to touch



Masingu village in Kakamega.
PHOTO/EDWIN KIPKORIR

the girl inappropriately but she resisted with a resounding “STOP” and turned to go. This did not augur well with the boy. Shamelessly, he roughed up the innocent kid, tossing her into a nearby trench where he forced himself on her.

After the ordeal, a teary Mel wobbled her way home, her school bag and pair of shoes held in her hands. An aunt inquired why she was crying, and Mel painfully narrated the incident to her. However, she did not take immediate action but promised to inform Mel’s mother. She didn’t.

The following day, Mel informed her mother, Betty Andala, that she was bleeding from her genitalia. She was, however, afraid to reveal the cause, probably because no action was taken the first time she did. She lied that her undergarments caused the bleeding, later saying that she had fallen on a piece of rock.

The change in narrative raised her mother’s suspicion, who decided to examine her. Betty immediately realized that her child had been defiled. She turned red with rage. Willy was exposed for the beast that he was.

Betty wasted no time with the shocking information. She grabbed her daughter, and together, they proceeded to Kakamega Police Station to file a report. After recording her statement, she was referred to the Administration Police Dispensary, where her daughter was examined and treated. They then went home, giving chance to the law to take its course. The Officer Commanding Kakamega Police Station handed Mel’s case to Corporal Anne Akoth, an officer with a stellar track record for closing similar cases.

Meanwhile, Willy got wind that his animosity had been exposed and that law enforcers were hot on his trail. He devised a plan to clear his name. He went to see the Masingu Nyumba Kumi Chairlady at her house to clear his name – it was the first time the chairlady was hearing of the girl’s defilement. In her wisdom, she never took Willy at his word, but decided to interrogate the case further. She therefore reached out to the area assistant chief, who was also in the dark. Together, the local administrators set out on a fact-finding mission. They dragged Willy with them.

The Chairlady’s house was a stone throw away from Betty’s home. In no time, they were standing behind Betty’s door waiting for her to open. Mel’s frightened look when she came face-to-face with Willy told it all. With immense courage, she positively identified Willy as the boy who had sexually abused her.

Willy was handed over to the police at Kakamega Police Station, where the full wrath of the Sexual Offences Act awaited him. His fate lay at the mercy of the unforgiving law, and a Principal Magistrate at Kakamega Law Courts was ready to deliver justice.

As required by law, age assessment for both the victim and accused person was conducted at Kakamega General Hospital, which confirmed that Mel was nine and Wilson Ikocheli 17. Moreover, a medical examination report on the PP2 pupil from the same facility indicated that there was penetration.

Considering his age, PM’s Court Kakamega remanded Willy to the Kakamega Children’s Remand Home. He was still a child, but had surpassed by five years the age at which a male person is presumed to

be incapable of having carnal knowledge under the laws of Kenya.

After three years in remand, Willy yearned for freedom. Consequently, he hatched an escape plan and recruited other minors to join him in the prison break.

On March 14, 2022, Willy and his crew were ready to execute their plan. They had scheduled it strategically during the afternoon general cleaning session.

When the time came, Willy and his crew helped each other scale the perimeter wall of the home before taking different routes. It was a mission possible, which caught prison warders flat foot. They successfully scampered into the institution’s farm which covered the area between the remand facility and the sprawling neighbourhood. And for some days, they enjoyed the sweet scent of freedom.

A manhunt was launched for each escapee, particularly Wilson Ikocheli, whose defilement case was in advanced stages. DCI detectives were brought on board to support the pursuit, and in no time, poor Willy was back in cuffs, but this time as an adult. He would face the full force of the law pertaining to escaping from lawful custody. That expensive miscalculation fostered a new trajectory of his case.

When all witnesses had testified, Willy’s destiny was decided. Hon. J.Z Nyakundi found Wilson Ikocheli guilty of defilement contrary to section 8(1) as read with 8(2) of the Sexual Offences Act No. 3 of 2006. For his entire life, Willy will not have another taste of freedom.

It was all hail to the cooperation and concerted efforts of the community and law enforcement agencies when the case was successfully prosecuted and the conviction secured. Whereas victims may never recover what is taken from them, the feeling that justice is served and that perpetrators suffer the consequences of their actions is comforting.

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations commends the judiciary’s upholding of the law in the ruling against Wilson Ikocheli, Isaac Anyula, and Wycliffe Osuko. The three serve as an example of the Directorate’s commitment to ensuring that such criminals are placed in their rightful places.



EALA DELEGATION VISITS NATIONAL CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS ACADEMY (NCIA) TO ENHANCE REGIONAL COOPERATION.

A delegation from the East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) led by Hon Zipporah Kering when they paid a courtesy call to the National Criminal Investigation Academy (NCIA) on 18th September, 2024.

The delegates were on an official visit in the country, on a mission to explore ways of improving East Africa Centers of Excellence to enhance the existing channels of partnership and collaboration among the member states.

Welcoming the guests, the Commandant National Criminal Investigations Academy Mr Sospeter Munyi who was also accompanied by Director Training, Mr Edwin Kamau called for strengthening of existing alliances, adding that the move would not only build investigative capacity of officers within the region but also cement cross-border relationship among the East African Countries.

Hon Kering commended the efforts made by the Directorate in building the capacity of detectives to fight crimes and contemporary security challenges in the country. She affirmed the Assembly's commitment to improve the existing partnership in an effort to make the DCI's Center of excellence even more resourceful to the region.



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GREEN REVOLUTION SWEEPING ACROSS KENYA: DCI JOINS FORCES TO COMBAT CLIMATIC ACTION.

By Lawrence Safu



Members of MAA community engage in plant trees at maghadi training field. Flanked by DCI's senior officers. Photo by CJ JONAH KIMANI



“It’s the little things citizens do, that make the difference. My little thing is planting trees.”

Prof. Wangari Maathai

The late environmental enthusiast Wangari Maathai and an award-winning Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, in her dedication to the world filled with environmental challenges encouraged the simple act of planting a tree. Her legacy, rooted in the Green Belt Movement she founded in Kenya continues to inspire generations around the globe in environmental conservation through tree planting.

The Green Belt Movement began with a vision to combat deforestation and

empower communities through tree planting. By so doing she realized that trees not only anchor the soil and prevent erosion but also provide sustenance, shade, and economic opportunities. Her initiative encouraged ordinary citizens, particularly women, to plant trees as a grassroots’ effort to improve the local environments.

It has, similarly, become President William Ruto’s passion for tree planting running deep, etched into the very fabric of his being to safeguard Kenya’s natural heritage for the coming generations. Towards the

initiative, the President officially declared an ambition of 15 billion tree planting challenge on December 21, 2022, that aims at raising Kenya’s tree cover by 30% by the year 2032.

On several occasions, the President himself rolls up his sleeves, leading by example and inspiring others to join him in his actualizing the tree cover dream. To foster the move, President Ruto further made a declaration that all public holidays be marked by planting trees across the country. In his address, he noted that trees

were a symbol of hope and a tangible expression of the nation's commitment to safeguarding the planet for future generations.

By issuing a gazette notice on November 6, 2023 declaring a public holiday solely for the purpose, Kenya became the first and only nation to take the step. It was an effort towards conserving the 10.6 million hectares of degraded landscapes and ecosystems. Public documents indicated that as of November 2023, the country's forest cover was at 8.8% with the tree cover encompassing only 12.13%.

Heeding to the presidential directive, the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) has amplified the call, marching patriotically towards environmental stewardship under the current Director Mohamed I. Amin.

Aligning with the ambitious directive, the DCI has embraced its role with fervour by planting over 50,000 trees at key locations, including its headquarters located along Kiambu Road and adjacent to the Kenya Forest Headquarters, the National Criminal Investigations Academy (NCIA) at Nairobi's South C area, Kedong Ranches Training Field and at the National Police College Magadi Field Campus.

This has not only transformed barren landscapes into thriving ecosystems, but has also fostered a culture of environmental awareness and responsibility among DCI personnel and the surrounding communities.

Director Amin's tenure at the helm of DCI is characterized by a bold and progressive approach to law enforcement, one that recognizes the balance between environmental conservation and public safety. Moreover, his take on the upholding of the rule of law extends beyond the confines of traditional policing to encompass a broader mandate in protecting Kenya's natural heritage and the promotion of a more sustainable future for all.

Walking down the same path, Mr John Onyango, the deputy chief of DCI led other heads of directorates and their officers to the expansive Magadi Field Campus in May, 2024, in an exercise that saw over 5,000 drought resistant trees planted.

Addressing over 600 stewards of the environment who converged at the parade quarters of the para-military training ground, Mr Onyango highlighted the significance tree planting had to environmental sustainability. He noted that the idea was not based on planting trees, but growing every single one of them.

"Every seedling planted here today must be nurtured so that it grows to maturity. This is the true reflection of our faith in a better future for us and the coming generations", he said.

Speaking in the same forum where the local Maa community was invited, the then Director Reforms at DCI Mr Johnstone Mwangela also urged attendees to also plant trees at their homes while marking important days of their lives such as birthdays and



The Director DCI, Mr. Mohammed I. Amin poses for a photo after planting a tree at The National Police Leadership Academy, Ngong on 31st May 2024. PHOTO BY LAWRENCE SAFU

special anniversaries. This he did while enumerating the various ways in which tree- growing mitigated the adverse effects of climate change.

In a similar vein, the Advanced Rider Course at Kedong Ranches in Naivasha offered another opportunity for environmental engagement. At the event, Chief Inspector Alvince Osura (Officer-in-Charge of the Emergency Response Team (ERT) at the Anti-Terrorism Police Unit (ATPU) and Mr. Sammy Onyango of Triple-Tap spearheaded a significant tree planting initiative. The joint effort exemplified the collective commitment of various security agencies collaborating with the DCI towards environmental sustainability.

Already, the Kenya Police National DT Sacco has partnered with the DCI in its move to plant over 1.5 million seedlings in five years being part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The tree planting exercise was marked at the DCI Headquarters in November 2023 in an event attended by then Cooperatives Development Cabinet Secretary Simon Chelugui. The exercise further sought to restore the former glory of the Karura Forest which houses DCI's Mazingira Complex.



The Deputy Director DCI, Mr. Onyango having a chat with the camp RSM during Mashujaa Day tree planting session at Mazingira forest block. PHOTO BY LAWRENCE SAFU

“We are introducing fruit trees like avocado trees, lukwart trees, jamun trees and oyster nuts, which will be a major source of food to animals, mainly monkeys, who are on the brink of exiting this part of Karura Forest”, the Police Sacco Chairman David Mategwa had pointed out.

The impact of DCI’s green crusade extends far beyond the mere act of tree planting. By creating green spaces within its own facilities and training grounds, the DCI is not only beautifying its surroundings but also enhancing the quality of life for its employees and fostering a sense of pride and ownership in their workplace. These green spaces are serving as sanctuaries of calmness amidst the hustle and bustle of investigative work, providing a welcome relief for its officers to recharge and reconnect with nature. (photo of a detective enjoying a sunbath at a flowery spot within the HQ).

Furthermore, DCI is engaging in community-based conservation programs and supporting initiatives that foster environmental awareness. Leveraging our unique position and influence, we aim to inspire and mobilize communities across Kenya through public awareness campaigns and community engagement initiatives. Additionally, we are committed to educating citizens about the risks associated with living in flood-prone areas and the critical importance of heeding evacuation warnings by providing essential information and guidance on safety, ultimately contributing to the protection of lives and the enhancement of community resilience.

Looking ahead, the Directorate of Criminal Investigations team is set to play a significant role in shaping a future where environmental stewardship is a shared responsibility. The ongoing commitment ensures that we are not only participants but leaders in the drive towards a more sustainable and vibrant Kenya. By continuing to innovate and engage with communities, DCI is poised to make a lasting impact on the nation’s environment and contribute to a legacy of sustainability for future generations in mitigating the current world’s biggest disaster on climate change.



The Director Personnel, Mr. Francis Ndiema leading from the front in the tree planting session. Looking on, LEFT Mr Chirchir from the Ballistics and Madam Betty Chepng'eno [Deputy Director RRID] PHOTO BY LAWRENCE SAFU



Officers who represented their various Directorates participate in the tree planting activity On 20th October 2024. PHOTO BY LAWRENCE SAFU



The ATPU's Quick Response Team planted trees at Kedong Ranches Training Field to mark the closure of the Advanced Rider Training Course on 10th May 2024. PHOTO BY LAWRENCE SAFU

The BLOODY Teen:

Suspected Serial Slayer Behind Ol Rongai Murders

By Jonah Kimani

Ezekiel Sakwa Mwangi, a murder suspect who recently confessed to killing three women and a five-year old girl in a span of one month in Nakuru County, has joined the list of what a local daily dubbed “A Serial Killers’ Paradise”. This is due to the numerous cases of horrifying murders that have been reported over time in the county, casting fear among locals and shock to the country.

Hitherto, all that was known of the 19-year-old was his delinquency, evidenced by the many times he came into loggerheads with simple school rules at Ol Rongai Secondary School. Before he was expelled for good, the School Deputy Principal reported that he had severally threatened fellow students with kitchen knives and toy guns, items that were confiscated and handed over to law enforcers. Ejected from school on July 11, 2024, Ezekiel returned to his guardian’s home where he was no longer welcome.

It was then that Ezekiel turned wild, even vampiric. He, walking in the script of other vampire diaries of the County, started baying for blood. The beginning of his end had beamed, and he obliged. Heart-wrenching events that followed left the life of a naïve 5-year-old girl cut short, and thereafter that of three women in a span of four weeks.

The Bloody Bolt-Head

Baby Alice Ayuma was the first victim of Ezekiel’s savagery. It occurred on July 13, 2024, barely two days after he was expelled

from school for threatening to stab a fellow student. The young girl and her three-year-old brother were playing joyously outside their rented house at Mwangaza village within Ol Rongai area of Nakuru, when Ezekiel interrupted. He pretended to be seeking direction to the home of a neighbour identified as Simo, and the girl helped by pointing to his (Simo’s) house. But he, Ezekiel, enticed the girl to escort him, allegedly because there were dogs that would undoubtedly maul a strange face. The girl complied.

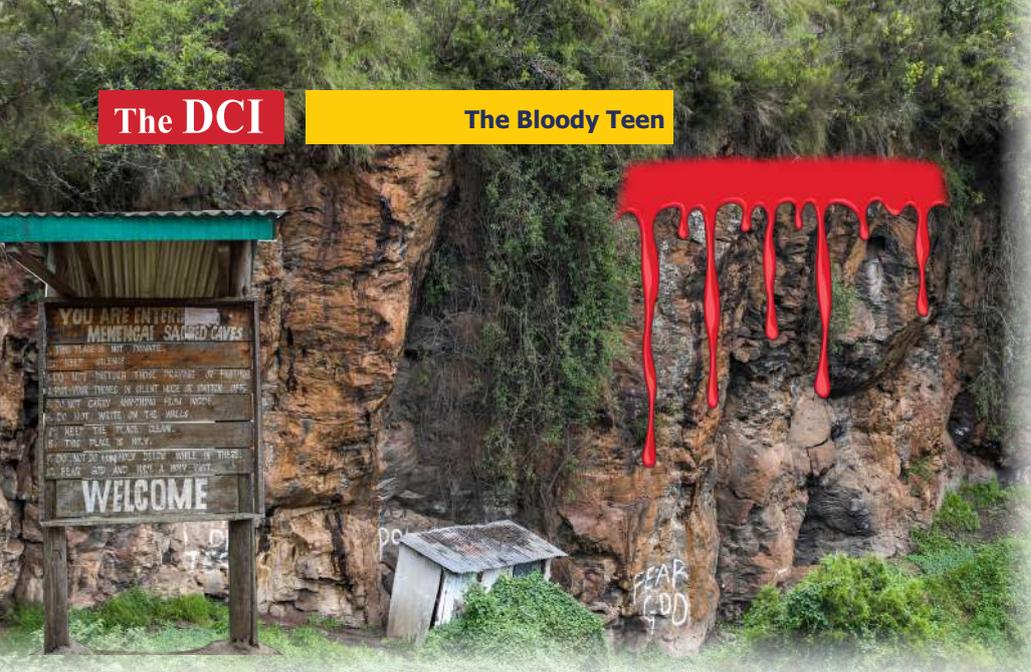
A mason working from a roof top saw Ezekiel talking to the girl. He knew him from the neighbourhood, and, although he was curious to know what the conversation was about, he was a distant away. He, however, snatched glimpses at the young man whom he expected to be at school until he disappeared around a corner. If only he was curious enough! He could have dropped his tools to find out what the chat was about. That was the last time he ever saw the little girl alive.

Detectives unearthed that once at a secluded spot locally known as Kwa Kariuki junction, the accused brandished a Maasai rungu which was tucked on his side, with which he struck baby Alice severally on the head before dragging her to a maize plantation. The heartless man then rushed out of the field to check whether anyone had spotted him, then went back to the victim to complete his hell-sent assignment.

As if narrating a fictional story and with no shreds of tenderness, Ezekiel confessed to the detectives that he found out that the girl was still breathing, which prompted him to hit her in the head several other times. When she finally gave up the fight and breathed her last, his necrophilous spirit led him to sexually assault the deceased. He then fled the scene just as the night crept in.

Back at Mwangaza village, there was no little confusion over the missing child, as the mother unsuccessfully rummaged in the neighbourhood. Her worst fears were confirmed the next morning (July 14) when a search party discovered the body. The murder was reported to the police, but with no crucial leads availed at the time, it remained a mystery.

Part of the reasons why Ezekiel’s name wouldn’t top at the list of highly suspected persons was because he was not expected or supposed to be within Ol Rongai at the time. Earlier in the day when the heinous murder was committed, Ezekiel’s guardian and the area chief had escorted the him out of the village, all the way to the Nakuru-Eldama Ravine road and given him Sh 300 as bus fare to vacate the area. The move was informed by his unbecoming criminal behaviour coupled with his expulsion from school. The guardian, who was only a well-wisher who offered to help the young man after the death of his mother, had run out of patience.



Unbeknownst to the two, Ezekiel never left. In fact, after the murder, he sneaked into the guardian's home under the cover of darkness and spent the night there. He used a window to access the room he had been living in. The day that followed, he woke up at the crack of dawn, left his bloodstained clothes hidden in the room and disappeared to the nearby Olive Inn area.

On July 17, Ezekiel sought employment as a herdsman at Mangu village at a home where no one knew him. He would, however, flee two days later after seriously injuring a calf.

A forensic trail of his movements indicated that he travelled to Manyatta area in Ruai allegedly to check on his siblings and their foster father. The man welcomed him to his house on July 29, offering to help him settle. But three days later, the man would only come back to find Ezekiel gone, and behind him a killed kitten and a goat with a broken leg. He had also disappeared with his host's clothes, spectacles, wrist watch, hearing aid batteries, a kitchen knife and a hammer. He travelled back to Nakuru.

Struck Dead in Prayer

On 5th August and for God knows why, Ezekiel went to Menengai Prayer Cave in Nakuru, a place where Christian faithfuls seeking God's mercy and strength visit to pray. It is an expansive area, where believers from all walks of life can visit any time of day to make private prayers. And as they pour out their spirits to the Almighty, even confessing the deepest of their sins, no one else but God needs to eavesdrop. It is the respect Centre Pastor Dominic Rading requests on those visiting.

Praying solo at a secluded spot was Ms Virginia Njeri Mwangi, 46, a resident of Nakuru who worked as an agent at Clifin

Ventures located at Nakuru's Pinkam House. Her daughter, Wincy Wambui Njeri and close friend Dorcas Wairimu Muiruri said that she loved praying at the Centre whenever she got time off work.

Her prayers were interrupted by a young man asking for permission to join her in prayers. Politely, she had okayed Ezekiel's request, but reminded him of the vastness of the cave whereby he could grab a different spot. She then turned her face to pray, unaware that her last ever glance, and her last conversation was with the agent from hell sent to take her life.

At that holy ground and in full glare of the open heavens and the nature so green and beautiful, Ezekiel turned to his side a second time, drew his bolt-headed Maasai rungu and rewrote his history. As Virginia painfully bled to death in the way of biblical Abel when his brother Cain struck him, Ezekiel frisked her of valuables and took off.

School children who were on a tour at the Menengai Prayer Cave were the first to catch the horrifying glimpse of the scene.

Her prayers were interrupted by a young man asking for permission to join her in prayers.



Petrified, they clung on the Site Chief Scout mouths agape, wishing to end the tour at that point. Police who were notified collected the body and preserved it at the Nakuru County Funeral Home.

The incident sent shockwaves to Nakuru dwellers, wondering where one would be safe. It was even more terrifying for the worshippers who prayed and fasted at the prayer cave. They had to cut short their invocation and solemn requests as officers from the Administration Police Service were deployed to cordon the area, temporarily shutting it down. When "The DCI" visited the prayer centre, all footpaths down the cave had been blocked using thorny cut offs from the surrounding acacia trees. Herders within the vast area said no people were allowed to gain entry, and that even the Centre Pastor Dominic Rading who had made the cave his home for over a decade had been sent packing.

Ezekiel Strikes Again

Like a man possessed and baying for more blood, Ezekiel returned to Ol Rongai on August 6, where he met his third target, Florence Mweni Mwalimu. Mweni, 34, was an employee of Co-operative Bank Nakuru Branch, and a resident of Kalyet village in Ol Rongai. On this day at around 11am, she sought permission to leave office after getting a phone call from her house help that her child was unwell. The Branch Manager, Mr Peter Kangau, granted it. He wishes it was one of those days when everyone has to be in office. Maybe his employee, a fervent and skilled worker, would still be having her desk.

Mweni boarded a matatu right away, alighting near Kanola Factory at a place known as Kwa Komen Gate. She went through the gate to a foot path between successive stretches of a maize plantation and bushes. The stretch extends about 800 metres to the exit.

It was along that path that she met Ezekiel, who pretended not to know the direction that led to a nearby shopping centre, Kwa Gitau. Mweni told him that she was headed in that direction. He followed her.

A few steps along when there was no one else on sight, the suspect did his thing. He drew his rungu, hit Mweni on the head severally and dragged her deeper into the bush. He then rushed back to the pathway to ascertain whether anyone heard her scream. Indeed, two men who have since recorded their statements came running in that direction. But on meeting Ezekiel

and asking if he had heard anything, he apologized for having made a loud sneeze and convinced, they backed off.

Ezekiel confessed to the police that he had thereafter returned to the scene, where he found the victim still breathing. He then struck her repeatedly until she was still and stiff. Savagely, he went ahead to engage in sex with the body, and thereafter stole valuables including cash and a mobile phone. He thereafter fled the scene.

Later on in the evening, the suspect confessed to have gone back to the scene after allegedly getting nightmares in his sleep. He had then chopped off the deceased's ears and a finger, sandwiched them in a loaf of bread and eaten them. Explaining his actions, he alleged to have been advised to do such by some murder convict years back when he was committed to a probation centre over charges of stealing. That to avoid nightmares, the convict had said, one had to scavenge on pieces of the victim's flesh.

When this was happening, the house help, who expected her boss back at home earlier, grew impatient. Mweni's phone wasn't going through. She called the man of the house, who launched a barren search. It was until the following day (August 7), when some children who were hunting birds at the bush discovered the body and broke the devastating news to farm hands, the area chief and the police. Her body was taken to PNN Funeral Home for preservation.

By this time, news had spread like wild fire that a vampire was on the loose, hunting down women. The entire village was living in untold terror. Ezekiel was now a prime suspect, but was lurking in the shadows. He never showed up openly. His images started circulating among locals, police working hand in hand with the community to track

down the blood-sucker. He was a wanted man. The proverbial 40 days were too many for him. Each extra day could mean more corpses in the village. No one was ready to be a next victim.

The Last Fatal Hit

But despite everyone being extra careful, 30-year-old Vellah Moraa Mogambi wasn't as lucky. On the day when Mweni's body was being discovered at Kwa Komen area, the cold-blooded killer was trailing her along a railway line leading to Baraka estate where she lived. She was a food vendor, and had just left a nearby construction site with a load of firewood given to her by the site guard.

It was raining and most people had taken shelter either in the homes or at various covers, save for Vellah who braved the showers in her determination to get home. Hardwork 'was the only sin' she committed, one that preceded her brutal killing.

Ezekiel pursued her. It was not easy for her to notice that someone was on her heel. The care she took watching her every step, and the raindrops hitting hard on everything provided just the perfect cover for the miscreant. Sure that no one was seeing him, Ezekiel struck Vellah on the head with his weapon of choice.

Had she not tripped and fallen, Vellah would probably have escaped with her life either by outrunning the psychopath or by screaming thus scaring him off. The first hit had not landed on her squarely, and so she had managed to drop the load and flee. But when she fell, Ezekiel landed countless blows on her, mercilessly killing another man's wife. He then dragged her to a nearby maize plantation and furthered his abominable sexual acts. He also stole the victim's money and phone as he fled the scene.

No doubt Ol Rongai land had soaked with enough blood. It could take no more. Even fate was against Ezekiel. The devil would think twice before claiming ownership of the agent, lest God punished him twice.

Vellah's husband searched for her all night long. He tried to call her Safaricom line but it was off. He then remembered that her phone, make Itel, was also fitted with an Airtel line. That one went through. A man's voice answered, identifying himself as Ezekiel Kwame, who had found the phone along the way on his way home and whose owner he didn't know. He then hung up.

The following morning, Vellah's husband went to the construction site where she had been seen last. He asked the guard to call the Airtel line pretending to be Vellah's father who was trying to reach her. Swallowing the bait, Ezekiel broke the news to him that "his daughter" had been murdered and that her body lay somewhere in a maize plantation, near the railway line leading to Baraka Estate.

With that information, the husband hurried towards the route where he met a friend of his and narrated the story. Indeed, his friend said he had seen, from a distance, what looked like someone sleeping in a maize plantation and assumed he or she was drunk. On return to the spot, it was all tears as Vellah's body was found stiff, cold and lifeless. Beside her, a kitchen knife with a plastic handle which was identified by a witness in the case. Her body was collected and preserved at Evans Rise Funeral Home.

The entire community was heads low jerked by the cheeks. Hopelessness threatened to take over the reins of power. The black hat was invincible. Tension was building up and soon someone would be called out for what! Sleeping on their job!

And guts Ezekiel had, that after the gruesome murder, he went to Mwariki Police Station pretending to be a poor man in need of fare to travel to his home in Naivasha. Driven by the motto "Utumishi kwa Wote", a sympathetic police officer at the station offered him the fare and he left. He never left the town for Naivasha. Instead, he went back to Ol Rongai to spend the night at a makeshift structure near Redwing Flower Farm. Security guards at the farm who were not privy to his being wanted found him asleep in the location, disarmed him of the Maasai rungu but allowed him to spend the night and leave in the morning.

On August 9, Ezekiel moved to Maraigushu





village located along the Nakuru-Nairobi highway in Naivasha East, where he was employed as a herdsman. Three days later, he abandoned the herd, fleeing the homestead with a radio and a hammer.

On August 13, he travelled to Nairobi where he allegedly met a technical inspector of roads working with the Nairobi County Government. He cried for help claiming that he was an orphan child with no relatives, who was willing to do any kind of work for food and shelter. The county employee sheltered him for five days, before he again disappeared back to Nakuru.

Luckily, word had then spread wide and loud. His fate as a guest of the state had a date with him. No sooner had he alighted at Ngata Bridge along the Nakuru-Mau-Summit road than members of the public pounced on him and offered him to the police like a burnt offering, to answer to his crimes.

News on his arrest was received with a huge sigh of relief. Sleepless nights and terror that had rocked Ol Rongai dwellers melted away. Although the deaths of baby Alice, Virginia, Mweni and Vellah remain a permanent reminder of Ezekiel's vampiric attacks, his confinement in a prison facility provides a ray of hope that safety and security has been restored.

Ezekiel has since been arraigned and formally charged with the four murders at Molo law courts.

A Blood-Suckers' Favourite?

But Ezekiel's is not the first psychopathic story rocking the county of Nakuru, begging

the question, "Do vampires really exist?" Well, they do in Hollywood movies, and in that world, they have lightning speeds and super powers that enable them to hunt and vanish. They also live like Methuselah. But Kenya's vampires (or self-proclaimed vampires) have no diaries. Their reign is short-lived. They even cry when cornered and arrested.

It all started with Philip Onyancha, who was arrested in 2010 after claiming that he had killed 19 people out of a 100 whom he was set to slay. In his confession to law enforcers, he said he had joined a cult that required him to suck blood from 100 victims for good fortune. The nation was shocked.

The then 32-year-old said that a teacher recruited him to the cult while a student. He believed that by doing so he would have a successful life. He was wrong. The only place human blood secured for him was a 2 by 2 at the Kamiti Maximum Security Prison in the county of Kiambu, after revealing several sites where he had dumped bodies of his victims.

The other blood-thirsty killer Onyancha may have borrowed a script from was the 2008 "Naivasha Vampire", man who abducted women, sexually abused some before killing and sucking their blood.

His name was Geoffrey Matheri alias Fongo. He confessed to have been recruited by a clergyman of the New Hope for All Nations Church, to kill and sell human body parts to him. Whether a cult or not, the clergyman could undoubtedly be a trafficker of human parts, a capital offence.

Upon arrest, the man who, just like Onyancha, operated mostly at the then Kihoto slums of Naivasha, identified himself as a serial killer. He went ahead to narrate how he abducted, raped and sucked blood from his victims, claims that were substantiated by some of the rescued victims. They are the claims that earned him the name "Naivasha Vampire".

Although he was linked to and confessed to the killings of many women and schoolgirls, a Nakuru court acquitted him of murder charges in 2016, only convicting him of a charge of kidnapping a Naivasha magistrate in November 2014. He was sentenced to serve four years in Naivasha Maximum Security Prison.

Killings of Escorts in Nakuru

When the Nakuru court was letting Matheri loose in 2016, commercial sex workers in the town were packing their bags and fleeing for dear lives. An unknown being was whisking them away one after another, like a reincarnated jeeps creeper only baying for scantily-dressed women. In just like six months, about 10 from their numbers had been found brutally murdered.

But there was more to the worry. The bodies found had missing parts. Their eyes had been gorged from their sockets, and so were their private parts. Worse still, their facial skin had been peeled off. It appeared someone devilish was harvesting human souls and their parts, and the sex workers were an easier target. The youngest known victim was a 17-year-old, who was killed just three months into the venture.

Even the police were shocked. At first, it was not possible to determine whether or not the missing escorts had been attacked. I mean, someone could wake up and decide to get off the streets. But as the numbers quadrupled, it became apparent that a criminal was in play. And by and by, the once busy walkways, including Kanu Street where several bodies were found dumped, were deserted and Nakuru's nightlife died down.

In the course of time, a tuktuk driver was intercepted ferrying the body of a known sex worker at Freehold in Nakuru town. The suspect was identified as Aston Wachira, aged 32. Although word had it that the victim he was found ferrying was known to him by way of having co-habited with her for some time, there was no proof that he wasn't responsible for the serial murders. He was hence charged with murder.



PRIME MINISTER OF HAITI MEETS NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE OFFICERS GOING TO HAITI

The Prime Minister of the Republic of Haiti, His Excellency, Dr. Garry Conille on October 12, 2024 visited National Police Service Headquarters at Jogoo House accompanied by Cabinet Secretary for Labor, Dr. Alfred Mutua.

The PM was received by the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Douglas Kanja Kirocho, before he toured the Integrated Command and Communication Centre. The PM later proceeded to the National Police College Embakasi "A" Campus, where he addressed the officers on pre-deployment training in readiness for next deployment to Haiti mission.

In his remarks, Dr. Conille conveyed his gratitude to the Kenyan people for the sacrifice and support extended to the people of Haiti. On his part, IG Kanja stated that the 600 officers who were on training at the college were drawn from specialized NPS Units including GSU, ASTU, RDU and the all-female Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT) and would soon be ready for deployment.

Present at both events were the National Security Adviser, Amb. Dr. Monica Juma, DIG KPS Mr. Eliud Lagat, DIG APS Mr. Gilbert Masengeli, Director DCI Mr. Mohamed I. Amin and other Senior NPS Commanders.



THE ROAD TO TOTAL COMPLIANCE: THE FIGHT AGAINST MODERN SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN KENYA

By *Martin Mwangi*

Human trafficking and modern slavery have become issues of major public concern over the past two decades. Almost all countries, including Kenya, have enacted laws criminalizing the two vices, thanks to the Palermo Protocol. The Palermo Protocol is arguably the most significant international agreement/United Nations Protocol crafted to prevent, suppress, and punish trafficking in persons. Besides the commitments by governments, international organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have in the past sponsored a large variety of projects to curb trafficking and slavery.

However, as the UN states in the U.N.'s Palermo Protocol (2000), effective action to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children, requires a comprehensive international approach. It requires concerted efforts by the authorities in the countries of origin, transit, and destination. The efforts should include preventative measures against trafficking, punitive punishment for traffickers, and protection for human trafficking victims.

Therefore, besides the relevant authorities in the affected jurisdictions, international

human rights bodies also have a significant role to play in the fight against human trafficking. Modern-day slavery takes the shape of:

- economic exploitation
- social isolation
- total coercive control over the workers
- confiscation of legal documents
- restrictions on one's freedom (can they expound on this, like which freedoms, speech, movement, or association? For example, freedom of speech does not automatically translate to slavery or trafficking in most cases.)
- harsh working conditions
- Sexual exploitation
- meagre pay
- and debt that mushrooms over time (this portion is not clear- perhaps he's talking about debt bondage/ bonded labour/ debt slavery; he could expound on it more clearly because I don't think its something in the public domain. How do these debts even come up? Who are most vulnerable?) also requires concerted efforts of all if we are to set human beings free from such slavery.

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) has in place two specialized units

that are mandated to investigate trafficking crimes: The Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Protection Unit (AHTCPU) which investigates child trafficking crimes and the Transnational Organized Crimes Unit (TOCU).

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP) has also set up a specialized human trafficking unit and trained prosecutors to deal with human trafficking, smuggling of migrants, and related crimes.

If the war on human trafficking is to be won, the above units require continuous strengthening in the form of capacity building for officers. Hence, the DCI in collaboration with several partners, including the Home Office International Operations, has organized and facilitated several courses to better-equip officers in combating human trafficking. The courses have gone a long way towards facilitating hands-on training and imparting DCI detectives with skills that have been helpful in the fight against modern slavery and human trafficking.

The Directorate is gradually making strides against unscrupulous players who continue to profit from businesses that stifle human rights. This war can, therefore,

be won by maintaining closer ties with our international partners, NGOs, the immigration department, and the ODPP, among other players who support the fight against transnational criminal elements.

Tactics Employed by Human Traffickers in Kenya

Modern slavery exists because people profit from it globally, including in Kenya. While it's unfortunate, some people and agencies continue to exploit the vulnerable and make millions of shillings while at it.

Nonetheless, the DCI has remained fervent in this fight. It has put in place measures to interdict, arrest, investigate, and seek prosecution of purveyors of this trade.

To better understand the strides made in the fight against human trafficking and modern slavery, we spoke to authorities within the DCI. Below is an overview of the human trafficking and modern slavery trends the DCI's units have identified and the steps they're taking to neutralize the trend of evolving human trafficking tactics.

RCIO Njeru Nthigah's Insights

"A closer look at what is happening in our country reveals a heart-breaking pattern where mushrooming recruitment agencies take advantage of Kenyans seeking employment abroad. Such agencies fleece Kenyans seeking greener pastures of thousands of shillings. Additionally, they create an artificial shortage of passport books at the passport application centres," stated the Regional Criminal Investigations Officer (RCIO), Nairobi, Mr Njeru Nthigah.

"Notably, our Transnational Organized Crime Unit officers have in the past rescued hundreds of job seekers who had been



Inspector Martin Mwangi interviews Mr. Tobias Abondo, the Officer Commanding Transnational Organized Crime Unit, in his office. PHOTO / ABUYABO SAFU

holed up in poor conditions waiting for the processing of their travelling documents that was never forthcoming."

Unscrupulous agencies have proved to be brutal enhancers of modern-day slavery and human trafficking. DCI detectives have in the past interdicted such agencies' plans and continue to monitor such agencies to ensure that such occurrences are nipped in the bud. These monitoring efforts have helped achieve the aspirations of Article 4 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which reads;

"No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms."

Furthermore, without prejudice to international commitments in relation to the free movement of people, the DCI has continued to keep a keen eye on our borders and transport facilities. Nonetheless, the Directorate observes the provisions of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

As efforts geared towards making Kenya hostile to human traffickers and modern-day slavery kingpins continue, Nairobi's strategic location as a technology and transport hub (particularly aviation) remains a major headache for law enforcement agencies.

Ideally, having top-notch infrastructure in your country is worth celebrating. However, individuals hell-bent on traveling abroad seeking employment opportunities

and better living standards take advantage of Nairobi's strategic position to connect to countries abroad.

To shed more light on Nairobi's involvement in human trafficking and modern slavery, we spoke to Mr Tobias Abondo, Senior Superintendent of Police, the man at the helm of TOCU in Kenya. We conducted the interview a day after Kenya marked the Anti-Human trafficking day at Namanga Primary School.

Tobias Abondo's Insights

To Start, Tobias Abondo builds context by outlining TOCU's mandate as a unit, particularly regarding human trafficking and modern slavery. According to Mr. Abondo, the Transnational Organized Crime Unit (TOCU) was established in 2017 in collaboration with the British government. It is a Multi-agency initiative that combines intelligence and investigative functions. The Government of Kenya provides personnel and technical support, while the British Government provides funding. Currently, the Unit draws its personnel from the National Intelligence Service (NIS) and the National Police Service (NPS).

TOCU is mandated to fight Organized Crimes, which include:

- Trafficking in persons
- Smuggling of migrants
- Illegal arms trafficking
- Money Laundering crimes
- Drug Trafficking
- Cyber Related Crime
- Terrorism.

Additionally, TOCU handles investigation into asset tracing, identification, and recovery of proceeds of crime in



Tobias Abondo, Transnational Organized Crime Unit Chief

collaboration with other stakeholders in the Criminal Justice Delivery system.

Detectives drawn from TOCU are also involved in the fight against the sale and distribution of narcotics and psychotropic substances. One notable case was the arrest and subsequent arraignment of “Mathe Wa Ngara.”

TOCU detectives also search property and other resources that are suspected to be proceeds of drug trafficking. However, they hand over any narcotics substances to the Anti-Narcotics Unit for processing and arraignment, whereas the Assets Recovery Unit pursues forfeiture of such property and drug-related assets.

People smuggling occurs when individuals voluntarily opt to be transported to a place with the promise of a better life. Such persons pay money and are willing parties to the deal. However, people smuggling often takes a trafficking angle where enablers bring in an element of exploitation, leaving the victims to survive on their mercies. At that point, the victims may be helpless in securing their freedom or pressuring their transporters to abide by the initial agreements.

Human trafficking varies from country to country and usually preys on vulnerable situations. People in vulnerable and hazardous conditions who are looking for a way out and, in their desperation, often fall prey to human traffickers.

Human trafficking and modern-day slavery take various forms and shapes that include sexual exploitation, where

someone is deceived, coerced, or forced to take part in sexual activity. Others take the form of labour exploitation, where people are coerced to work for little or no remuneration, often under the threat of punishment.

Domestic Servitude is yet another form of modern slavery. It restricts domestic workers' employment; they are also forced to work long hours for little pay. The victims of domestic servitude may also suffer physical and sexual abuse. Other forms of exploitation arising from modern-day slavery include forced marriages, organ harvesting, forced criminality in the form of begging, pick-pocketing, bag snatching, etc.

War, civil unrest and natural disasters have left many to struggle for basic survival hence providing a fertile ground for human trafficking and smuggling. Unemployment and the disintegration of the traditional family and other social structures especially in the rural areas have also been found to play a huge role in creating vulnerable populations that find themselves in the hands of human traffickers and smugglers.

Additionally, social causes like violence within the family, unhappy marriages and death of parents have also been identified as the major push factors that have led more to the hands of human traffickers. Moreover, women and children are the most vulnerable groups, suffering different types of inhuman abuses and exploitation. Limited access to social services also makes women and children vulnerable to human trafficking.

In Kenya, the Southern route is reported to be the most notorious transit route. It sees migrants being transported from Ethiopia to Moyale through Isiolo and then to Nairobi from where they are diverted to Tanzania via Namanga, Voi or Mombasa

How bad is human Trafficking in Kenya?

Kenya is a country of origin, transit, and destination for trafficked persons (UNICEF, 2023). As a country of origin, Kenyan victims are recruited from different parts of the country to be trafficked to other African countries. Some vulnerable victims are also transported to European, Middle Eastern, and North American countries. They are trafficked for domestic labour and sexual slavery, and to and for domestic work, forced labour, and commercial sexual exploitation. As a destination country, citizens of other African and Asian countries have been identified as victims of trafficking in Kenya.

As a country of transit, identified victims include Ethiopians, Somalis, Indian nationals, Nepalese, Burundians, Rwandese, and Ugandans destined to other countries in Africa and the rest of the world. They enter our country through the Namanga, Lunga Lunga, Taveta, Malaba, Busia, Moyale, Mandera, and Lokichogio borders. Some also enter through the Mombasa port and airport, and through JKIA.

To put this to perspective and from statistics, kindly tell us more.

Going by the statistics, the situation is extremely bad; the numbers are mind boggling. Therefore, something more needs to be done for tangible results to be achieved.



Eastleigh, one of the estates in Nairobi where several Karamojong girls have been found subjected to cheap labour and sexual exploitation.
PHOTO | CLAUDY OTIENO

Locally, so many people are trafficked to known destinations by unscrupulous agents who choose to operate outside the law. The agents promise their victims jobs at the point of contact but somewhere along the line, things change, giving rise to exploitation and inhuman treatment. Some victims end up being forced to engage in commercial sex work, others are confined in brothels while a good number is condemned to domestic servitude with little or no pay.

In other cases, some are also subjected to verbal, physical and emotional abuse by their employers whereas a good number is also subjected to work without rest and adequate food.

Some returnees/survivors have shared horrifying stories where they found themselves in foreign jurisdictions like Dubai, Malaysia, Myanmar where they were exploited through forced labour. Others were forced to engage in cyber related crimes like social engineering and scamming people in the United States of America and other Caribbean countries.

Locally, investigations have revealed an increasing trend in trafficking Karamojong girls through the Busia, Malaba-Kenya Uganda boarder. The girls end up in Eastleigh, Kaloleni and Kariokor in Nairobi. Investigations reveal that the girls have been found to have been subjected to cheap labour and even sexual abuse. Fortunately, the investigation geared towards nabbing the traffickers are at an advanced stage.

Another heart-breaking trend entails trafficking disabled victims from Tanzania to Kenya where they end up in the streets of Nairobi as street beggars. Investigations have established that their traffickers are domiciled at Kariobangi, where they keep the victims in holding places from where they are transported to the streets in the wee hours of the night and picked in the evening. The exploiters pick the day's loots as the beggars continue to live in abject poverty and squalor.

Earlier above, you mentioned about statistics. Kindly breakdown the numbers in the last four years.

Statistics from 2020, show that of the 86 victims of trafficking rescued, 12 were female; 5 traffickers were also arrested and charged accordingly. In the following year, victim numbers shot up sharply to 437, including 49 women; the number of traffickers arrested rose from 5 to 22.

The year 2022 reported a small decline in victim numbers as we managed to rescue 423 of them. fortunately, we nabbed 46 traffickers, more than twice the number nabbed in 2022. A decline trend in the number of victims that were rescued in the year 2023 continued where 191 were rescued but again as seen in the previous year, traffickers' number increased to 51. A look at the above numbers indicates that all agencies involved in the fight against human trafficking must continue to push harder. The goal is to make sure that it becomes too hot for traffickers to undertake their illegal business on the Kenyan soil because no human being deserves to be commodified.

Just like there are various seasons in a year, an analysis of the numbers you have shared above should reveal certain trends in the trafficking cycle. Kindly say something about that.

Human trafficking has no seasons for its elements happen at any time of the year. However, from the month of October to February, there is tendency to experience high number of migrants from Ethiopia and Eritrea moving from their country through Kenya to other countries.

Most victims on transit to other countries are male, while those from Kenya as a country of origin to other destinations are both male and female. Whereas all ages feature in the trafficking list, a further analysis reveals that a majority of them are below the age of thirty.

The primary reason why youth fall victim to human trafficking schemes masquerading as life-changing opportunities is the lack of employment and other opportunities in their mother countries. Hence, the youth desire to immigrate in search of jobs and possibly a better life abroad. The constant thread drawn from

Victim interviews are that the few who have successfully travelled out and landed to greener pastures are the major agents spreading the immigration gospel. Sadly, a majority of the young ones have fallen victims to human trafficking and not better jobs overseas as promised.

Overseas job recruitment agencies remain a big threat in the anti-human trafficking war. Investigations have revealed that



illegal recruitment agents, those not registered with National Employment Authority (NEA), derail the government's effort to fight the vice. Similar to the unregistered agents, are "briefcase" agents that do not have offices but conduct everything, including exploitation online. Furthermore, it has emerged that these "briefcase" collude with corrupt Embassy officials to issue fake visas.

Unfortunately, some registered agents have been found to have gone rogue; they recruit, transport and abandon their clients in their destination countries. Others have been found to exploit the victims' inability to read and understand the terms of engagement. The ignorant victims usually travel on one-month visas and the rogue agents cut off communications once the visa expires, leaving the victims at the mercy of exploitative employers who have no respect for any contractual obligations. In such cases, the victims report the agencies and upon conclusion of investigations, the individuals behind such agencies are charged accordingly.

Cases where employers confiscate victims' travel documents immediately they arrive in the host country airports have also been reported. This marks the beginning of a horrendous journey of torture and exploitation with no recourse. The victims live under the mercies of their masters/traffickers for fear of being reported.

In other cases, it has been established that employers force the victims to sign contracts whose contents is alien to them resulting to years of servitude in foreign nations under abusive, exploitative, and degrading working conditions. Also, investigators have established that some victims sign genuine contracts before

they leave their source countries only to be short-changed once they arrive in the destinations where they receive meagre pay for work that they had not signed for. The internet and the cyber space has also proved to be a fertile ground for recruitment, where agents use using social media to advertise job opportunities and lure the victims for exploitation. It is worth noting that most victims are already vulnerable hence fall for the tricks very easily. Before they realize it, a majority of them have already lost a lot of resources and end up in places and circumstances they did not sign for.

Some traffickers have also been found to offer good and promising contracts for teaching and care giver jobs, yet their victims end up getting skewed contracts contrary to their wishes. We have had male victims who signed for teaching contracts destined for Thailand and ended up doing forced cyber bit coin jobs in Laos and Myanmar under Chinese traffickers. Some female victims sign contracts for domestic working and end up in brothels for sexual exploitations especially in South East Asia.

With all this information, what is TOCU doing to ensure that perpetrators of this crime are held to account?

Looking at human trafficking with a wide lens, this is a menace that cannot be handled by a single directorate, service or unit. In efforts to have effective investigations, TOCU collaborates with the following law enforcement agencies: The police other than DCI TOCU,

- The Immigration Services
- Labour Inspection Services
- Children and Social Services
- Directorate of Public Prosecution
- State Department for Correctional Services

- Asset Recovery Agency
- Business Registration Services
- National Registration Bureau
- National Intelligence Service
- Embassies, among others.

This therefore puts to perspective the magnitude of the task that rests on our shoulders. That said and done, we have done extremely well in this fight. It is worth noting that some of these cases are interrelated with others hence since inception, TOCU has handled over 356 cases where among them, 284 have been finalized, 95 are pending before court, 7 are pending under investigations and a total of 1,844 victims have so far been rescued.

At the National level, the Kenyan government has put in place measures that are geared towards identifying trafficking victims and providing identified victims with direct care. It has also developed a bench book for judges to improve hearing of labour trafficking cases. The government has also finalized guidelines for the disbursement of funds from the National Assistance Trust Fund to the trafficking victims; the fund supports economic reintegration for trafficking survivors.

Further, the government, both independently and in partnership with NGOs and international organizations continues to capacitate the officials involved in the fight against human trafficking. For starters, it provides trainings to police, prosecutors, judges, immigration officials, and labour officers on how to detect and respond to trafficking crimes in their respective capacities.

Does Kenya have a Victim Assistance Program?

The Counter Trafficking in Persons Secretariat (CTiP Secretariat), Under the State Department for Social Protection and Senior Citizen Affairs, offers some assistance. The Secretariat runs a fund that is mostly used to assist Kenyans in foreign jurisdictions to facilitate their return and re-integration into the country.

Also at Kabete, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, has set aside a space for construction of safe shelter for the victims. However, there are several privately run shelters where victim assistance services are offered. A good example is the one run by HAART Kenya, a non – governmental organization based in Nairobi.

Italian Nationals in Sh 32 Million Fraud Case Charged in a Kenya Court



By *Elijah Gakuya*

It's the end of the line for two Italian nationals who hoped to ride into more wealth using stratagem in Kilifi County. The two, Daniele Lo Coco and Massimo Nativi, allegedly obtained Kshs. 17 million from Rita Nappo, also an Italian national on diverse dates between 30th August, 2018 and 1st August, 2019, under the pretext that they were in a position to sub-lease her a villa at the heavenly Watamu area. Almost a year later and in a classic case of a dog failing to learn new tricks, they went ahead and reused the same ruse on another Italian national, Girola Fiorenzo, thereby defrauding him Kshs. 15 million.

When the 62-year-old director of an Italian transportation company Girola Fiorenzo first landed in Kenya from Italy in the year 2019, little did he know what fate had in store for him. He was here for an amiable holiday with his wife and four kids. He had spent some time searching over the internet for a villa to sojourn in during the visit, and after closing in on one villa in Watamu owned by Rafiki Company Limited, he decided to give it a try. What he did not know was that the devil was in the shadows.

The road to predicament

During his stay in the villa, Girola met a fellow Italian national, Daniele Lo Coco, who claimed to be the director of that and nine other villas, and who made known to him his intention of selling the villas. A villa within a beautiful coastal town sounded like a sweet deal, but like all good family men, Girola opted to discuss the intended purchase with his family first. After two weeks of fun in the country, Girola and his family flew back to Italy.

While in Italy, Daniele reached out to Girola and extended him an irresistible offer to

purchase the villa at Kshs. 15 million. Daniele followed the offer with a home invite extension to Girola for further discussions on the deal. Girola took up the offer seriously and on February 29, 2020, he went to Daniele's home in Italy, where he met Daniele and his friend Massimo Nativi, who introduced himself as a co-director of Rafiki Company Limited. After agreeing on the payment details, the three signed a Sales Agreement, indicating that he was to purchase Villa No. 4B, and that the payment would be made in installments.

Girola made the first installment of 15,000 Euros (Approx. Kshs. 2 Million) on March 2, 2020, depositing the final installment of 5,000 Euros (Approx. Kshs. 700,000) to Rafiki Company Limited's bank account on February 24, 2021. Before making this final installment, Girola requested for the title deed and signing of the long term lease agreement. This request was met with sharp opposition from Daniele, who insisted that full payment had to be made first before any document transfer or signing could be initiated. Girola had no choice but to comply with Daniele's terms of engagement.

Girola, accompanied by his family, flew to Kenya to sign the lease agreement and bask in their new found comfort zone. On 15th March, 2021, he went straight to the office of one Ole Kina who's Rafiki Company Limited's advocate, where he happily signed a lease agreement. After spending a few days in Kenya, Girola and his family flew back to Italy. While in Italy, he sent Ole Kina an email to request for the title deed, followed by another...and another.

A total of five emails. None was replied to, not until January 24, 2022, when Ole Kina sent him an email, informing him that the lands office required the company to change the user of the land first before they could register any leases. Ole Kina added that the process was ongoing, and that he would revert back to Girola in due time with further information. Feeling beaten, he requested for proof from Ole Kina showing that the process of change of land user was ongoing, but the email was

not responded to. Girola therefore had no choice but to fly back to Kenya to follow up on the matter personally.

“Hey compatriot! They are serial”

On arrival at Watamu, he heard that one of his neighbors there had also allegedly been duped by the directors of Rafiki Company Limited. The neighbor, Rita Nappo, explained that in the year 2018, she started looking for a building within Watamu to open a restaurant. She also had a keen interest in purchasing a villa. A local advertisement regarding properties and villas being sold by Rafiki Village located in Watamu, off Jacaranda Road caught her eyes. She called the telephone number provided on the advertisement and an Italian who introduced himself as Daniele Lo Coco answered. He told her that he was the joint owner of Rafiki Limited with a Mr. Massimo Nativi, and asked Nappo to visit the place for further discussions.

Without wasting time, Nappo proceeded to the location of the development of Rafiki Village. She was informed by Danielle that there was a villa which was ready for occupation and that she could stay in it for free for some days to enable her evaluate it. Nappo immediately fell in love with the villa during her stay, so much so that she went through with the purchase.

Since Danielle and Massimo were both in Italy at the time, Nappo decided to travel back to Italy to meet the two, and it is during this meeting that they reached and signed the preliminary purchase agreement for the property on August 25, 2018. The three

agreed on a purchase price of 140,000 Euros (Approx. Kshs. 16 Million at the time) with a promise that once fully paid, she would receive ownership documents as established in the preliminary purchase agreement.

Nappo faithfully paid for the property in installments till February 2020 when she made her final deposit. She signed the long-term lease contract between herself as the lessee and Danielle and Massimo as the lessors. This was witnessed by Rafiki Company Limited’s advocate, Tukero Ole Kina.

A few days after signing the agreement, she paid an amount of Kshs. 1,040,373.40/-, allegedly for the registration of the long term lease contract and legal fees. This, she paid in the account of Tukero Ole Kina, as she had been instructed.

According to Nappo, Ole Kina promised to give her a copy of the registered contract within a few days and although she personally went several times to Ole Kina’s office in Malindi, the contract and title deed were not forthcoming. She made numerous attempts to establish communication

with both Danielle and Massimo over the issue, but that almost proved futile, until Danielle answered. Unfortunately, when Nappo asked him when she would have the original copy of the registered contract and the ownership title deed, he kept referring her to their lawyer Ole Kina, who proved to be of no help.

Due to her limited command of the English language, Nappo reached out to Armeni Modugno, a fellow Italian who

was more conversant with the Queen’s language to follow up on the matter. When Armeni reached out to Ole Kina he said that the registration of the lease would be done within a short time.

Doomed!

It was now panic time! In October 2021, she felt tired and cheated by the three. She resolved to seek the advice of a lawyer from Nairobi, one Dennis Kimakia. She took to him the few copies of her documents and that is when Kimakia told her that the Kenyan law provides that there must be change of user of the title from freehold to leasehold before the sale of the villa. This is because foreign citizens cannot own land in Kenya, they can only lease.

Nappo requested Kimakia to inform Ole Kina that she wanted out of the contract after realizing that she was getting duped. The response from Ole Kina was not heartwarming. Having taken notice of the fraudulent conduct of Danielle, Massimo and Ole Kina, she reported the matter to Watamu Police Station on February 18, 2022.

After listening to Nappo’s ordeal, a thunderstruck Girola was left with no viable option but equally report the matter at Watamu Police Station, which he did on April 22, 2022. She subsequently recorded her statement, and immediately, detectives launched investigations which culminated in the arrest of the two Italian nationals on April 27, 2024.

The two were charged before Kilifi Magistrate’s Court on April 29, 2024, with the offence of Obtaining Money by False Pretences Contrary to Section 313 of the Penal Code where they denied the charges. They were released on a Bond of Kshs. 3 million each and a surety of a similar amount, with the option of a Kshs. 2 million cash bail each, in addition to providing a Kenyan contact person whom the court would reach out to if they failed to attend court sessions faithfully. The case is ongoing, with Ole Kina’s role in the entire scheme being pursued.

After listening to Nappo’s ordeal, a thunderstruck Girola was left with no viable option but equally report the matter at Watamu Police Station



U.S. UNDER SECRETARY FOR CIVILIAN SECURITY, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS VISITS DCI HEADQUARTERS

The US Department of State Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights Uzra Zeya paid a courtesy call on the Director DCI Mr Mohamed I. Amin on August 6, 2024

Zeya, who was accompanied by the US Ambassador to Kenya Meg Whitman encouraged the DCI to continue sustaining the fight against corruption, and to ensure provision of services in strict observance to human rights and the rule of law for a safe and secure society.

Mr. Amin registered his appreciation to the U.S. government through its embassy in Nairobi for the support given to DCI through various partnerships including support for investigations and prosecution of cases of Gender Based Violence (GBV).



35 YEARS Behind Bars

for College Dropout-Turned- Terrorist

By Harrison Mwaura



For four years, Jacktone Jacob Kanoti lived in Siaya town operating as a Food vendor opposite Samco Supermarket. His kiosk stood next to the Kenya Power and Lighting Company's main transformer, wherein he sold organic food flavours and spices such as karafu, mdalasini, iliki, pilili manga among others. Donning a brown kanzu symbolic of a Muslim faithful, neither his family nor customers thought of him as a perfect example of a wild dog in sheep skin. To a people too busy with their daily hustles and bustles, Kanoti was just another local.

It was not until 18th December, 2021 when Kanoti was arrested by sleuths from Siaya County that whispers started wheezing. Word had it that he was a man on a mission. The neighbourhood was least suspicious of him, but was soon going to be in for a rude shock. Kanoti was like a rattle snake, quietly creeping in covers waiting for the opportune time to strike with deadly venom. He was smart and knew just the place where detection and suspicion was close to impossible.

When police went knocking, Kanoti was only 27, married and a father of four. His last born was a month old. He had settled



his family at Bulwami village within Budalangi sub-county, the place where he was also born and raised.

As a young boy, he schooled at Bulwani Primary School between 2000 and 2006, thereafter sitting for the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE) at Budala Primary School in 2007. He then transitioned to Kamusinga Secondary School for his O-levels. For some reason, he sat for the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) at Makunda Mixed Secondary school, before joining the Technical University of Mombasa. Due to financial constraints, poor Kanoti deferred his studies in the year 2016, never to walk the Technical doors again.

Months passed and Kanoti made peace with never going back to school. He had to find a means of earning a living. He therefore went to a cousin's place at Sori Kanungu in Homabay County, with whom he stayed while helping at his Mpesa Shop. After some period, Kanoti moved to Nairobi where love opened doors, meeting the love of his life and would-be mother to his four children. But without proper academic credentials, a formal job or business, life in the capital became unbearable forcing the young couple back to Sori Kanungu. In 2018, they once again migrated to Siaya town where Kanoti started his food kiosk to support his fast-growing family.

All this time, Kanoti professed Islamic faith. He got the alias name Abdul Hakim. He is

said to have joined the Faith in the year 2012 and attended prayers at Siaya Jamia Mosque. However, he was chased from the mosque in the year 2018 on allegations of propagating new teachings contrary to the ones being taught at the Mosque. However, his misguided beliefs had pooled several followers from Nyandorera, Hawinga, and Sio-port. He thus moved to Nyandorera mosque where he fellowshipped, until his day of judgement.

Kanoti's unceremonious dismissal from Jamia mosque got anti-terrorist police curious. His every move was put on radar. No way the mosque leadership was wrong about him. There must have been something. His conduct became the business of a select team of undercover cops.

Come December 2021, the anti-terrorism police believed they had something on him. It was time to strike before he slithered into cracks leaving no trail. Whoever acted first had the advantage. If he succeeded, his blow would be hard and loud, even fatal. The police car pulled over at his courts on December 18. The two mobile phones he possessed were confiscated. They were an android phone and a small KXD type. His house was also searched for any exhibits. Therein, another five mobile phones, two national identity cards, assorted Islamic faith literature, a military knife, assorted exercise books and certificates among other exhibits were confiscated for investigation.



A miscellaneous application seeking custodial orders was made at Siaya Law Courts. 14 days were granted to detain the suspect at Siaya Police Station as detectives finalized investigations. The Anti-Terrorism Police Unit, Busia detachment took over the investigation, fast-tracking the forensic analysis of the recovered exhibits.

Back at the National Forensic Laboratory (NFL), cyber-forensic analysts were hands on tools drawing evidence from the recovered handsets. The efforts paid off. Crucial evidence relating to terrorist activities was found, including videos and chats on his Telegram accounts. The content sources were from groups such as Maswali na Majibu, Worldnews 2021, Falsehood Shooter, Lecturers Imams, JM, Mchezo Wetu and AT, which are believed to be associated with terrorist activities.

On 13th January, 2022 at Busia Law Courts, Kanoti was charged with several charges:

- Count I: Being a member of a terrorist group namely Al-Shabab and Islamic State of Iraq also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and Sham (ISIS) contrary to section 24 of Prevention of Terrorist Act 2012,
- Count II: Collection of Information Contrary to section 29 of the POTA, and

- Count III: Being in Possession of the Articles Connected with Commission of a Terrorist Act contrary to section 30 of Prevention of Terrorist Act.

The suspect pleaded not guilty. The court denied him bond. The prosecution argued that any chance off the hook would be detrimental. At least, history resonated with everyone.

The trial went on for two and a half years. The prosecution presented a watertight case against the accused person, proving beyond reasonable doubt that the accused person was out to cause harm. The evidence tabled in court sealed his fate as a guest of the state.

On 10th June, 2024, the Busia court established beyond reasonable doubt that the evidence adduced by the prosecution was credible and consistent for conviction. Kanoti was slapped with a 20-year jail term for Count II (Collection of Information Contrary to section 29 of the POTA), and 15 years for Count III (being in possession of the articles connected with commission of a terrorist act contrary to section 30 of Prevention of Terrorist Act). The two sentences were to run cumulatively.

Kanoti is now incarcerated at Kodiaga Maximum Prison in Kisumu, with no hope ever seeing his kids as juveniles. His only hope lies in the completion of his jail term in the year 2059, and the slim chances in the Presidential Power of Mercy.

In yet another terror related case determined in April 2024, Mohamed Abdi Ali alias Abu Ramzi who had been in prison remand for 8 years following his arrest in 2016 over terrorism related activities was sentenced to 12 years in prison. This was after the chief magistrate court Milimani found him guilty of five out of the eight counts with which he was charged.

The 34-year-old suspect was arrested at a medical facility in Wote, Makueni county, where he was working as an intern medic having completed his studies at the Kampala International University between 2010 and 2015.

In the case, 25 witnesses including Uganda's counter-terrorism detectives, US Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI)

agents and Kenya's Anti-Terrorism Police Unit detectives testified where Abu Ramzi was found guilty of, among others, being a member of a terrorist group (ISIS), recruitment of members of a terrorist group and being in possession of articles connected with the commission of a terrorism act.

Passing the sentence, the chief magistrate Hon. Martha Mutuku said that she had considered the gravity of the offences committed, thereby committing the terrorist to a 12-year term in jail for each of the five counts. The sentences were to run concurrently starting from the time of his arrest in 2016.

This sentencing followed the March 7, 2024 jailing of another two suspects by the Milimani Principal Magistrate court. The two had planned to bomb an unidentified building in Nairobi.

Abdimajit Hassan Adan and Mohammed Osman Nane were sentenced to 25 years in prison, after being found guilty of possessing Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), seven projectile bombs and AK 47 rifles in 2018. Their female accomplice, Lydia Nyawira Mburu, got off the hook on POTA charges, but was found guilty of forging a national identity card bearing the name Jirma Huka Galgalo (deceased), who was a renowned member of the al Shabaab terrorist group, but who died in the course of the trial. Nyawira was handed a 3-year imprisonment.

During the trial process, a Bomb and Hazardous Materials Disposal Unit detective who testified in court submitted that had the bombs been launched at any point in the central business district, the kill range would have been at a radius of 100 metres.





In the judgement made by the Principal Magistrate Hon. Zainab Abdul, she noted that the offences committed were serious in nature, hence declining the non-custodial prayers made by the convicts. However, the court considered the six years the suspects had been in custody as the trial was going on, making the 25-year term inclusive of the six.

Although the two terror incidents were painstakingly investigated and prosecuted, several entities and the general feeling of Kenyans especially victims and would-be victims of the planned attacks found the sentencing not punitive enough as to discourage future planners. When the stories were published through both mainstream and social media platforms, most reactions suggested more ruthless penalties that would put away the terrorists for good. This was in comparison with the criminal justice systems of other countries such as the United States where most terrorists are put away for life.

For instance, suspects in the August 7, 1998 simultaneous bombings in Kenya and Tanzania that left 224 people dead (12 Americans included) and over 4,500 injured were either neutralized in combat or condemned to life imprisonment.

In the aftermath of the twin attacks christened KENBOM and TANBOM (Kenya Bombing and Tanzania Bombing) by the feds, over 900 FBI agents were deployed overseas to assist in tracking down the perpetrators, identification of the victims and recovery of evidence. A FBI report notes that the deployment of

the agents (which was exclusive of other FBI employees) is one of the largest in the Bureau history.

Within 20 days of bombings, two suspects, Mohammed Sadeek Odeh and Mohammed Rashed Daoud al-Owhali who were directly linked to al Qaeda were arrested and rendered to the US government. Sadeek and Daoud were convicted of their roles in the attacks and sentenced to life imprisonment in October 2001.

More members of the al Qaeda terrorist group found culpable in the bombings were arrested in the days that followed, including Texas-based naturalized American citizen Wadih el-Hage and Mamdouh Mahmud.

In the case of el-Hage, he was arrested by the FBI for making false statements during questioning, and upon indictment for his participation in the bombings, convicted to life imprisonment. Similar fate befell Mahmud, who was in September 1998 flushed from his hideout in Germany.

Osama Bin Laden, his military commander Muhammad Atef and several members of his network were also named in an indictment based on the investigation. They have since been pursued and killed, notes a report by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Recently in August 2024, British terror suspect Jermaine Grant, 41, was deported to the United Kingdom after completing a lengthy prison sentence in Kenya. He was jailed in 2011 after bomb-making equipment were discovered at his residence in Mombasa.

Anti-Terrorism Police believed that Grant, who shared a residential flat with highly wanted Samantha Lewthwaite aka the “White Widow” was plotting a bomb attack in some major hotels frequented by tourists in the coastal city. The White

Widow remains a wanted suspect for involvement in London’s 7/7 bombings.

After 8 years of trial, the Kenyan court acquitted Grant of conspiracy over the alleged plot, but convicted him for being in possession of bomb-making materials. Upon release and deportation to UK, Grant was arrested by the Metropolitan Police soon after touch-down at Heathrow Airport, London, on grounds of a Terrorism Act. Met police said he was also arrested on suspicion of being a member of al-Shabaab. He is believed to have become radicalized after spending time in prison with a renowned violent extremist, Richard Reid alias “shoe-bomber”. Reid is serving a life sentence in one of US federal prisons after a failed plot to blow up a transatlantic flight with explosives in his shoe.

A BBC news report published on August 9, 2024 indicates that as for the case of Samantha Lewthwaite, her whereabouts remain unknown since 2011. She is one of the most-wanted fugitives by both the UK and Kenyan authorities.

Her nickname “White Widow” followed her marriage to Germaine Lindsay, a London suicide bomber. She spent her childhood in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, later in adulthood establishing links with the al Shabab militant group.

But the anti-terrorism operators believe in the possibility of bringing extremists to their knees, or rather, putting them away once and for all. In Kenya, improved intelligence-gathering has seen a drastic reduction of terrorist attacks over the past few years, thanks to multi-agency approaches and co-operation in mitigating all aspects of terrorism threats.





THREE DECADES OF SERVING AND PROTECTING:

Featuring RCIO Benard Kiplangat Korir

By CI Lilian Akinyi

Benard Kiplangat Korir, the Regional Criminal Investigations Officer (RCIO) Eastern Kenya, has a stellar three-decade career in the Kenya Police Service, including a decade at the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI). Interestingly, Mr. Kiplangat had zero desire to join the police force. However, what he stepped into as a last resort has panned out into an enviable career.

Mr. Kiplangat has risen through the ranks, holding various positions within the National Police Service. He has deputized the command of a Police Division, headed criminal investigations in various counties, and his current rank of Commissioner of Police puts him in a place of responsibility as a Regional Coordinator in criminal investigations. In his many years of service, he has worked in almost all parts of the country and even posted beyond borders to sharpen his astuteness as an officer of the law. So, what does it take to rise through the ranks and have an established and fulfilling career as a police officer in Kenya?

Benard Kiplangat unpacks his career journey with “The DCI”, including his work in Western Kenya, before his current appointment as the RCIO Eastern region on September 25, 2024. Draw inspiration from the skills, opportunities, challenges, and lessons that made this officer of the law, family man, teacher, and academic the man that he is today.

His Formative Years

Born in 1968, Benard Korir spent his formative years in Mombasa and Kericho counties, pursuing his education up to A-levels in both counties. His father worked as a clerk with the Kenya Railway Corporation in Mombasa, where the family lived during his formative years. However, Korir and his siblings later relocated to Kericho, where he pursued primary and secondary education. Nonetheless, he returned to the Kenyan coast to pursue his A-level education in Kwale County and sat the exam in 1988.

With Biology as his favourite subject, Benard Korir initially desired to be a biology teacher or a clinical officer. He even worked as an untrained teacher in Kericho County for a year in 1992.

Unfortunately, his applications to the institutions offering these courses went unanswered. Because life must go on, Mr. Korir found other honest ways to earn a living, including clerical work at the Cereals Board in Kilindini and other menial jobs.

During the 1993 Police recruitment, he embraced an open mind and decided to attend the recruitment drive. He was among the ten recruits from Kericho County enlisted into the Police Service that year.

“Honestly, I hadn’t considered a career in the police service before my enlistment. However, I read a lot of literature on investigations when I was in high school,

and I got inspired by how the detective characters investigated and solved various crime puzzles. I also read about fourteen books written by James Hadley Chase (an English crime fiction and mystery writer) and I admired the detective characters in the stories. My village mates even nicknamed me James Hadley Chase because I would borrow Chase's books from libraries and share with fellow avid readers."

Benard lightly points out that perhaps his interest in crime thrillers as a child indicated the career path destiny would bestow upon him. Interestingly, his passion for teaching would also be realized during his career as an officer of the law.

The Advent of His Career in The Police Service

Benard Korir enlisted in the police service on September 4, 1993, and trained for six months before graduating in April 1994. His first posting was to Kenya's northern frontier (formerly North-Eastern province), where he served his first three years.

"We were 200 officers, and underwent two months of paramilitary training before deployment. I was deployed to Rhamu Police Station along the Kenya- Ethiopia border where I served for two and half years."

Korir also served as the in-charge at Fino along the Kenya-Somali Border and in Mandera. His career would be marked by several postings to Kenya's border counties.

From Kenya's North frontier, Korir's solemn vow to serve the people of Kenya truly and diligently took him to the hinterland. In August 1997, he was transferred to Kerugoya police station in Central province then to Bomet a year later.

Rising Through the Ranks

"It was in 1999 when I was serving in Bomet that I was recommended to attend the Special Station Commanders Course - a promotional training where a graduate police officer rises directly from a constable to an Inspector of Police. After the training I served as an acting inspector in Bomet for another one year before I was moved to Kiganjo as an instructor- faculty of law at the Junior Training Wing where I worked for four years."

Finally, his passion for teaching had come to manifest with the posting at Kiganjo. But besides getting a chance to inspire young minds, Korir's career as a law officer took an upward trajectory at the turn of the millennium. This section of his career would see him rise from strength to strength within the force.

"In December 2001, I got promoted to the rank of a Chief Inspector and in April 2004, I was transferred to Embu Provincial Training Center (PTC) as the Officer in Charge. I only served in Embu for six months because the then PPO, Mr Thomas Chigamba (May he rest in peace) realized my capability and proposed to send me to the field to gain exposure and experience." Consequently, in November 2004, Korir was posted as the Officer Commanding Mbooni Police Station.

Less than a year later, Korir was a g a i n



recommended to attend the Higher Training Course (HTC) in Kiganjo. He was among the youngest officers in the HTC 66 class.

"I was made up as a Superintendent of Police (SP) after successfully completing the course in December 2005 and was transferred to Embakasi as the Deputy OCPD, where I served until 2008 during the post-election violence. I was later moved to Migori as the Deputy OCPD where I served up to the year 2010."

Korir was redeployed to the DCI after his time in Migori. The Directorate presented opportunities for him to expand his repository of law enforcement knowledge beyond Kenya's landscape. "I was promoted to Senior Superintendent

of Police (SSP) and redeployed to DCI Headquarters' training department as the deputy director. In 2012, I got an opportunity to go to Liberia for a UN mission where I served as an advisor and team leader, (managing officers from different countries) up to March 2013 when I went back to DCI headquarters."

In June 2013, Korir was deployed to Tana River as the first County Criminal Investigations Officer (CCIO) and moved to Trans-Nzoia in the same capacity in November 2016.

In February 2017, he joined the National Police Service Leadership Academy - Loresho for a Strategic Management course, which took the better part of the year. "After completing the course in 2018, I was deployed to Kirinyaga County still as CCIO

up to February 2022 when I moved to Nyandarua in the same capacity."

Korir worked in Nyandarua for one and a half years before being redeployed to DCI headquarters in 2023 as the Deputy Director Training. In December the same year, he swapped seats with the then RCIO Western Mr Stephen Chacha.

A Man with Unquenchable Thirst for Knowledge and Growth

One fact about Benard Korir is that he is always willing to grasp opportunities that project growth. For instance, as highlighted above, he was agile enough to recognize the police recruitment exercise as an opportunity, even though it wasn't what he dreamed of growing up in Kapsugut village.

One of his strongest qualities is his agility in embracing learning opportunities from whichever quarter.

“Since enlistment, I have undergone training both nationally and internationally. Within the Police Service, I have also undertaken Instructors’ Training of Trainers (TOT) course, Fraud Investigations course, Advanced Investigations course among others. I have also attended other courses sponsored by the United Nations in Italy, Ghana, and Sweden, as well as human rights workshops and trainings sponsored by the Norwegian government.”

Besides his training across various police departments and the DCI, Benard Korir has also pursued high education

“I enrolled for an undergraduate degree in Criminology at Egerton University and graduated in 2015 with Second Class Honours, Upper Division. Later, I enrolled for a Master’s degree in Strategic Leadership and Management at Kenyatta University. I have also studied at the University of Nairobi, where I took a Disaster Management course and another one in Project Planning and Monitoring.”

While academia isn’t everyone’s cup of tea, Korir has one more treat in his personal growth arsenal: short courses, seminars, and workshops. “At the Kenya School of Government, I also attended a Crime Prevention workshop sponsored by the Swedish government.”

Challenges That Dotted His Career

Benard Korir has lived the life of the detectives that dotted his imagination as a young boy reading James Hardley Chase books back in Kapsugut village. On the one hand, he’s grateful because many people within and outside the Police Service never get to realize any childhood dreams. However, James Hadley Chase “conveniently” forgot to reveal the not-so-spectacular side of the job.

Police work is generally challenging. While other people mostly imagine the horrors human beings are capable of, police officers confront these horrors more often than they’d like.

While Korir has confronted his fair share of human horrors, he highlights the 2007-2008 post-election violence among the most challenging periods in his career. He



Western Regional Commander Mr Kiprono Langat hosts Mr Benard Korir and Chief Inspector Lilian Akinyi in his office in Kakamega on August 28, 2024. PHOTO/LAWRENCE ABUYABO

was the Deputy OCPD Embakasi at the time.

“After the announcement of the election results, there was a spontaneous eruption of violence where people suffered greatly. Sadly, the circumstances under which this was happening were very complex, and it was very difficult to nail the culprits and render justice to the victims. When I saw the amount of suffering and even deaths, I was so heartbroken.”

Korir further highlights that, sadly, the political situation at that particular time negatively affected police work. The working environment became very harsh since police officers were also profiled based on their surnames; some were even wrongly accused of being affiliated to various political wings.

The second most challenging professional experience for Korir was when Al-Shabaab attacked Gamba Police Station. *“We lost a Police Sergeant. Losing an officer in such circumstances was one of the most unfortunate experiences I had. Worse still, the terrain and environment allowed the perpetrators to escape unpunished despite our willingness and resolve to see to it that they were arrested and prosecuted.”*

Another traumatic event that lives rent-free in Korir’s mind is an attack that occurred when he served as CCIO Tana River. “Around that particular time, the conflict between the herders and farmers in Miti Charaka in Garsen resulted in the death of twelve people in one night. The worst part was that the investigating team encountered insurmountable challenges in search of justice for the deceased. Although we visited the scene and collected the bodies, no arrests were made thereafter due to local political interference. However, a senator was later

arrested for incitement, but again; he was not arraigned as the ODPP did not approve the charges preferred against him.”

An Overview of the State of Security in Western Kenya:

Benard Korir’s Reflections.

Benard Korir notes that Western Kenya is generally calm. That notwithstanding, specific crime patterns occur within the region. *“The most prevalent crimes in the region are murder, assault, defilement, theft, drug abuse, and smuggling especially along Busia and Malaba borders.”*

Being Kenya’s western frontier, cross-border crimes also occur, especially in the border towns of Busia and Malaba. According to Korir, the cross-border crimes include smuggling of spirits and ethanol (bootlegging), uncustomed sugar, and powdered milk. Moreover, he adds that a few rogue officers and government officials collude with unscrupulous businessmen to facilitate such crimes. Additionally, the porous nature of these borders also catalyses the illegal trade.

“Illegal trade not only hurts our economy but also endangers the health of our residents who may at times consume goods that do not meet the necessary health standards. However, we work closely and harmoniously not only with Kenyan security agencies but also with the security agencies in our neighbouring country Uganda. We assist each other in crime management and by sharing information on cross-border crime.”

Korir cites an example of an incident from August 2024 when criminals stole and drove a Ugandan Police vehicle to Busia, Kenya. *“We coordinated and managed to trace and recover the vehicle from a homestead within our country and handed over the same to Uganda Police.”*

A second incident was when a firearm was stolen from Uganda. *“Upon receipt of intelligence that the same was smuggled into Kenya, we mobilized our security agents and the same was later recovered and returned back to Uganda.”*

Besides smuggling, another crime raising concern in the region is murder. According to Korir, the murders are attributed to drug and substance abuse, low literacy levels, outdated cultural practices, and scarcity of resources like land, causing inheritance issues.

While these crime trends are unfortunate, Benard Korir, being the man of action he is, had instituted several proactive measures to ensure safety and security in the region. First, he ensured that the region fully embraced the multi-agency approach to fighting crime, where state and non-state actors were actively involved in the area's security matters. *“We have established exceptionally functional community policing initiatives that work hand in hand with the Nyumba Kumi initiative, ensuring that residents of this region are active participants in matters of their safety and well-being. We also have a close and good working relationship with our counterparts from the neighbouring regions of Nyanza and Rift Valley. In Butere and Mumias areas, there are instances where the residents are closer to police stations under our jurisdiction, and they do report cases in those stations and are assisted accordingly. We have an ongoing case where a vehicle used in a crime in Ugenya was intercepted by patrol officers in Vihiga and handed over alongside the culprits for processing and arraignment.”*

The General Service Unit officers have also played a critical role in securing this region, especially in Mount Elgon. We also work in tandem with the Kenya Defence Forces, who have helped keep away Sebei attackers that would have caused terror and disrupted life in the affected areas. And in line with the presidential directive on greening our country, we have worked closely with Kenya Forest Service officers to plant over 2,000 trees, and the partnership continues.”

Additionally, Korir and his team embraced technology, which allowed them to profile known suspects and keep tabs on their activities. Technological surveillance allows them to thwart any plans by the said bad elements to commit crimes within the region.

Other proactive crime-prevention strategies in the region include, enhanced surveillance and intelligence collection, mapping out crime hot spots, and ensuring that adequate policing resources are allocated in such spots on time.

Benard Korir leaves Western Region in the capable hands of RCIO Njeru Nthiga, formerly the Nairobi Regional Coordinator.

7 Nuggets of Wisdom from an RCIO to Young Police Officers

Benard Korir starts by commending the team of youngins under his command. *“A functional workforce is one of the greatest assets for any commander. I'm committed to seeing that all officers under my command work and achieve their full potential.”*

As the late Thomas Chigamba held Korir's hand, through his words of wisdom, Korir, lights a candle for the young police officers.

- First, work as though someone is watching because indeed someone is watching. *“Always give your best in whatever work you are assigned and observe human rights at all times.”*
- Second, never stop learning and growing. *“Pursue personal development, even if it means pursuing short courses to supplement training opportunities that are sponsored by the government.”*
- Third, put family first. *“I encourage my officers to try as much as possible to have and maintain a close and positive relationship with their families and the society at large because at the end of it all, they are the people we always go back to.”*
- Fourth, find a safe space where you can share your struggles. *“Just like in every society, I have officers who, unfortunately, are struggling with drug and substance abuse. I hereby encourage them to seek help. While dealing with them, I handle them as sick and should be understood rather than condemned. They should also be encouraged to seek help and not to shy away.”*
- Fifth, maintain an active lifestyle.

“I live a very simple life, and after work, I normally engage in exercises, including jogging and walks.”

- Sixth, make time for the things you love. *“I like watching football and visiting friends during my free time. I love tea and can take it any day and at any time. Additionally, I don't consume alcohol, and I also read a lot.”*
- Seventh, seek mentorship. *“I have two role models both from within the service: Director DCI, Mr. Amin and Mr Bakari Njambeni, a high ranking officer in the police service who is jovial, interactive and down to earth.”*

Bottom Line:

RCIO Benard Korir's three-decade career can be summed up in one sentence, *“the stone that the builders rejected became the cornerstone.”* While he was rejected by teacher's colleges multiple times, he never gave up on himself. Therefore, like Benard Korir, we can all become the best versions of ourselves, provided we live in the moment, seize opportunities as they arise, and be intentional about growth.



Mr Benard Korir and Chief Inspector Lilian Akinyi outside the Western Region Police Headquarters in Kakamega on August 28, 2024. PHOTO/EDWIN KIPKORIR

DCI's Place in Pursuit of Safeguarded Human Dignity and Freedom

By Lawrence Safu &
Mwanajuma Shame



The chief guest Mr James Kamau (Seated middle) representing the Inspector General and other members of the NPS during the official launch of training curriculum on investigating Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Smuggling: PHOTO BY MWANAJUMA SHAME

Human trafficking and migrant smuggling have long been serious issues in Kenya and around the world, presenting formidable challenges for law enforcement agencies striving to combat these crimes. Despite extensive efforts, the problem persists, but there is hope for a significant breakthrough. The Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) in Kenya is poised to make substantial strides in addressing these issues. How, one might ask? Let's explore the details.

Human trafficking, often referred to as modern day slavery, is a severe violation of human rights. It encompasses various forms, including forced labour, sexual exploitation, and organ trafficking. Trafficking involves recruiting, harbouring, transporting, or obtaining individuals through force, fraud, or coercion for purposes such as compelled labour or commercial sex acts. This practice poses a significant threat to labour markets, economies, and state security. Trafficking can be internal, occurring within Kenya, or international, crossing borders.

In contrast, migrant smuggling refers to facilitating the illegal entry of individuals into a country in exchange for payment. Unlike trafficking, which involves exploitation through deception or force, smuggling is primarily about the unlawful movement of people for profit.

The dynamics of human trafficking are influenced by various factors, including socio-economic disparities, technological advancements, and geopolitical shifts. Digital platforms and social media have

made it easier for traffickers to recruit and exploit individuals online, targeting the vulnerable.

So, what facilitates human trafficking?

Push factors leading to trafficking include poverty, lack of education on proper immigration procedures, unemployment and high demand in destination countries. Pull factors, on the other hand, include the perception of better opportunities abroad, the allure of a different lifestyle, restrictive immigration policies, and the demand for cheap labour.

Traffickers and smugglers can come from diverse backgrounds, including small criminal networks, business owners, and even acquaintances like friends or neighbours. Victims are often deceived by traffickers who use tactics such as false job promises, misleading living conditions, or fake romantic relationships to control their victims.

Who suffers?

The impact of human trafficking extends beyond the immediate victims, affecting entire communities and economies. Victims suffer severe physical and psychological trauma, while communities face diminished social cohesion and economic strain from reduced productivity and increased healthcare costs.

Then what do we do?

The Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) Kenya is at the forefront in the fight against human trafficking and migrant smuggling, utilizing specialized units and strategic partnerships with both domestic and international organizations. The DCI's

primary units addressing these complex issues are the Transnational Organised Crime Unit (TOCU) and the Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Protection Unit (AHTCPU). Each plays a vital role in tackling trafficking and smuggling operations, both within and beyond Kenya's borders.

The Transnational Organised Crime Unit (TOCU) is specifically tasked with addressing crimes that span international boundaries, including human trafficking and migrant smuggling. It employs advanced investigative techniques such as intelligence gathering, surveillance, and undercover operations to disrupt and dismantle organized criminal networks involved in trafficking and smuggling.

TOCU also works closely with other international law enforcement agencies, facilitating cooperation to track and counteract global trafficking routes. This collaboration includes sharing intelligence, conducting joint operations, and participating in global task forces aimed at curbing organized crime. Additionally, TOCU has invested in the development of its personnel through specialized training programs designed to enhance their capabilities in handling complex trafficking cases and adapting to evolving criminal tactics.

The Anti-Human Trafficking and Child Protection Unit (AHTCPU), on the other hand, focuses on combating human trafficking and ensuring the protection of children. AHTCPU's responsibilities are multifaceted. It provides crucial support services to victims of trafficking, including



From left, Mr James Kamau representing the IG, Mr Edwin Kamau the director training DCI, UNODC's Pieter Cronje and Julius Lemako during the official launch of training curriculum on investigating Trafficking in Persons
PHOTO BY MWANAJUMA SHAME

counselling and rehabilitation through collaborations with NGOs and social services. This ensures comprehensive care and reintegration of victims.

The unit also conducts preventive measures such as awareness campaigns and community outreach programs to educate the public on the risks and signs of human trafficking. Furthermore, AHTCPU plays a significant role in the legal prosecution of traffickers by collecting evidence, preparing case files and coordinating with the judiciary to hold offenders accountable. The Unit ensures that legal frameworks are effectively applied to achieve justice for the victims.

Is that all?

DCI Kenya's efforts are further strengthened through strategic partnerships with national and international entities, notably the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). UNODC, renowned for its expertise in combating illicit trafficking and organized crime, has been instrumental in supporting Kenya's anti-trafficking initiatives.

The organization provides valuable technical assistance, shares best practices and connects Kenyan authorities with a global network of experts. Through programs like the Better Migration Management (BMM) initiative funded by the European Union and German Government, UNODC helps develop and implement training curricula that enhance the skills and knowledge of Kenyan law enforcement agencies. The training focuses on critical aspects such as victim

identification, investigative techniques and legal frameworks. Additionally, UNODC fosters international cooperation by linking Kenyan authorities with global counterparts, facilitating information exchange, and coordinating joint operations to disrupt transnational trafficking networks and address their root causes.

The combined efforts of TOCU, AHTCPU, and strategic partners like UNODC form a comprehensive strategy to combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling. This integrated approach leads to increased operational efficiency, enabling more successful interventions in trafficking and smuggling cases. Coordination with various stakeholders ensures that victims receive thorough support, including legal aid, psychological counselling and social reintegration services. Moreover, the insights and data gathered from these collaborative efforts contribute to the development of more effective anti-trafficking strategies and legislative measures, ensuring a robust and adaptive response to these persistent issues.

Immediate and Future prospects

The latest development in the relentless struggle against human trafficking is the introduction of a newly designed curriculum centered on Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and Smuggling of Migrants (SOM). This initiative, which saw its official launch on February 26, 2024, at the Sarova Stanley Hotel in Nairobi, marked a pivotal advancement in the efforts to combat these heinous crimes. The curriculum was crafted with substantial support from the

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and funded by the European Union and Germany Corporation through the Better Migration Management (BMM) program.

This new curriculum embodies a significant effort in the fight against trafficking, combining expertise from a range of disciplines to create a comprehensive educational tool. The curriculum's primary goal is to empower law enforcement agencies, judicial officials, and social workers with the knowledge and skills required to effectively tackle trafficking. The curriculum is designed to cover essential aspects such as victim identification, investigative techniques, legal frameworks and support services for victims. Its implementation is to be effected through Trainer of Trainers (TOT) programs.

These programs are intended to be integrated into the existing training curricula in all National Police Service training colleges across the nation. By enhancing officers' understanding of human trafficking, the curriculum seeks to improve public awareness, detection and prosecution of trafficking cases, and to bolster support services available to victims.

Moreover, the curriculum is structured to undergo continuous evaluation and adaptation. This process ensures that it remains responsive to evolving trafficking tactics and emerging challenges, thereby maintaining its relevance and effectiveness in addressing the complexities of human trafficking.

Bottom line

The fight against human trafficking is a multifaceted challenge that demands a unified approach from governments, organizations and communities. The new curriculum represents a significant stride in this collective effort, highlighting a commitment to addressing both the immediate and systemic issues related to trafficking. Through this comprehensive educational approach, the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) is at the forefront in safeguarding human dignity and freedom. This initiative is a crucial step towards a future where human trafficking is no longer a persistent threat but a challenge that might one day be a thing of the past.



UNODC BOOSTS KENYA'S WAR AGAINST TRAFFICKING OF NARCOTICS

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on April 22, 2024 made a significant contribution to DCI's fight against drug trafficking, after paying a courtesy visit with a donation of modern equipment which included handheld Drug Identification Devices and assorted Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

Led by the Head of Somalia UNODC office Mr Mostaffa Elbanna, the delegation handed over the donation to the Director Forensics based at the National Forensic Laboratory Dr. Mwangi Wanderi, Phd. Thanking UNODC for frequenting the Directorate with immense support, Dr Wanderi

emphasized the need for continued cooperation between the two entities, noting that the drug menace was a global challenge that required concerted efforts to address. He also took cognizance of the high-level trainings offered by UNODC to DCI officers in the year 2023/2024 in its endeavour to support criminal justice practitioners in Kenya to detect, investigate and prosecute perpetrators with a human rights & gender-based approach.

Present were the Project Support Officer Somalia Ms Ayan Keynan, Project Officer Kenya Ms Becky Adiele, Project Support Officer Kenya and Ethiopia Ms Shirleen Nyandundo, DCI Deputy Director Operations Mr Abed Kavoo and a host of senior officers from the Anti-Narcotics Unit.

Against All Odds

Crushing Over Childhood Traumas to Actualize Dreams

By Bob Lumbasi



When he is not hunting down dangerous criminals trying to flee the country or sneak dangerous narcotics through the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA), Dr. Robert Bob Lumbasi, a Chief Inspector of Police will be out fulfilling the Great Commission of the holy book, The Bible. Not only is he a Christian faithful, but is also an ordained Reverend at Life Source International Church. He is the founder of the denomination which has 23 branches across Kenya, and even more in Uganda, Liberia and South Africa. The church has its headquarters based in the USA at Maryland.

Dr. Lumbasi (or Bob as commonly referred by peers) is also a gospel artist, songwriter, motivational speaker, conference speaker, missionary with the Christian Police Association of Kenya, founder of Lumbasi Children Foundation as well as an addiction, marriage and youth counselor. Most importantly, he is a family man and a father of four. As he shares his life journey with The DCI, three virtues for a fulfilling life stand out; Hope, Patience and Determination.

Bob had a turbulent childhood. A polygamous family which he was born to wasn't all that bad. What was worse is the abandonment by his own mother

at the age of nine months, leaving him in a foreign country and at the mercy of anyone who would hear him cry. He thus grew up a product of rejection, hopping from one family to the other. When no one was welcoming, he found a home in the streets. And because of his experience, he is convinced that one cannot fail in life unless they choose to. He says life is about setting one's standards and living by them. He gives the chilling account of his life story as we watch and listen with admiration.

Do I really belong!

"I grappled with rejection from the tender age of nine months. I was my mother's fifth child, and born out of wedlock. My foster father worked for the then East African Community in Kampala, Uganda, where he met my mom, a Nigerian, also working in Uganda at the time. They fell in love and got married in 1960. In 1969, my mother got pregnant of a man who wasn't her husband. Due to huge cultural disparities, they couldn't agree and parted ways when I was only nine months old.

Cultural differences aside, my mom wished I was born a girl since my four older siblings were boys. And to make matters worse, I resembled my dad, the man who impregnated her – the womanizer she had come to despise. That I constantly reminded her of this man was enough for her to reject me. She abandoned me in our rented house in Kampala and moved with the other children to Jinja town where my foster dad had some property.

When my dad came home to find me crying on the bed, he also packed his bags and left to start life with another woman in another part of Kampala. My relentless cries attracted neighbours who came to my rescue. One of them, a close family friend, informed my Kenyan grandmother. She traveled from Busia to Kampala and settled with me in one of my dad's homes in Mayuge, Uganda. She took care of me until I was old enough to start schooling. My grandma enrolled me in nursery school. Dad remained indifferent to my circumstances, an attitude that irked my grandmother. After the break-up of the EAC, my father returned to Nairobi to work with the civil service.



Cl Robert Bob Lumbasi with Pastor John Mark Hoolbrook from Ohio, USA when he (John Mark) visited Lumbasi at his Anti-Narcotics Unit office at JKIA.

My grandmother also moved back home to Busia and took me with her. After sometime, she took me to my dad's house in Nairobi where he lived with one of his four wives. It was obvious my grandmother was fed up with her son's don't care attitude in regard to his parental responsibility over me. She left me in Nairobi and returned to her home in Busia.

Growing without a role model

My dad had, in total, four wives including my mother back in Jinja, another one in Kampala, another in Busia and the one he lived with in Nairobi. Even in that young age, I could tell that no one wanted me. Life with my stepmother in Nairobi was unbearable. She would beat me up for no reason. To cushion me from the abuses, dad took me to Voi to live with one of his brothers. This family was equally dysfunctional. My uncle was recently divorced and had remarried a childless woman who thoroughly mistreated my uncle's three young daughters from his previous marriage. At least she didn't beat me up as much as my stepmother did, but she wasn't any better. However, having three cousins of my age to share life's challenges with was some consolation. My aunt's way of punishing us was denying us food.

We often rummaged in dustbins for food. After a year at my uncle's home I could not stand the hardships anymore. I decided to run away from home to go look for my grandmother. In my young mind, Mbololo Hills near Voi looked so much like my grandmother's home in Busia, and I was sure I could find her there. I hadn't gone too far when the police rescued me after they found me wandering on the main road towards the hills. They traced my dad who was a senior government officer in Nairobi and handed me over to him.

Life in school

My foster father enrolled me at Muthurwa Primary School in Nairobi in standard one. I was a bright child and this did not augur well with my stepmother. She convinced dad to enroll me in a primary school in Busia claiming that city life had a negative influence on me. My dad took me to Busia to live with my other stepmother and also enrolled me at Angorom Primary School. I still performed well in the school which did not please my Busia stepmother either. She perceived me as a burden and so she chased me from home.

I went back to Nairobi but this time as a street child. In that frustration and feeling of rejection, I turned to God and the Bible, and in Him I drew so much consolation and strength. I became a born-again Christian while in class five. I was a lonely child and did not share my problems with anyone, not even my Sunday school teachers or my pastor. My foster father discovered that I was in the streets. He came for me and enrolled me again in school. I was still in class five. The disruptions affected my performance in school and I dropped drastically, holding the last position for two consecutive years.

However, I remained steadfast in my faith and resolved not to allow rejection destroy my life. I constantly prayed to God asking him to help me live by my resolve. Owing to my new sense of worth, my school performance improved gradually and my teachers expected me to perform well in the Certificate of Primary Education (CPE). To sabotage my newfound confidence, my Nairobi stepmother once again convinced dad to send me back to Busia. The move severely traumatized me as it was just before I sat for the CPE. I lost hope in life and even attempted suicide, but I was caught before I could accomplish my mission. To my surprise I did well in CPE and scored 36 points out of the possible 36. I joined a renowned national school.

Overwhelmed by his many responsibilities because of his large and still growing family, my father refused to pay my school fees. I joined 4K Club, a young farmers' organization that encouraged students to plant crops and sell the harvest. I used the little proceeds I got to pay for my secondary education, until I got a full sponsorship from the late President Daniel Moi (may God rest his soul in eternal bliss). During the school fees turbulence, the head teacher was so understanding and lenient that he allowed me to attend school uninterrupted.

I sat the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (KCSE) which I performed exceedingly well. Before I could figure out my next step, I left home after a bitter family misunderstanding and took a job as a shamba boy in Busia. My employer, a primary school teacher, and his family were very kind to me. When I shared the problems I was experiencing at home, they helped me to join the National Youth Service (NYS) for a diploma course in plant mechanic.



Bob Lumbasi at an evangelism crusade in Diani - Ukunda, where he led a team from the Christian Police Association.

I was initially posted to Lomut in Northern Kenya and later to Yatta NYS for further training. After this training I applied to join the police force and was lucky to pass the interview. I joined Kiganjo Police Training College in Nyeri on May 1992, and upon graduation I was posted to the Anti-Stock Theft Unit (ASTU) in Gilgil. I was later posted to Kakamega and then to Busia Police Station in 1996. In the years that followed, I served in Kitale, Iten, Parliament Police, Prosecution, DCI Academy and now at JKIA Anti-Narcotics Unit as the Deputy Officer in Charge.

Turbulent sail on the job

While working in Busia, I got in trouble when a rifle got lost from the house I was sharing with colleagues, and I was held as a suspect. I was locked up at Busia Police Station and later interdicted from duty to pave way for investigations. This was a trying time for me and I sought God to be my Defender. This incident strengthened my faith in God and reawakened my talent as a musician. I composed my first gospel song – Ni Wewe Bwana – the story of my life, while in police custody from 1996 to 1998. I have since composed 14 gospel albums with several singles. Recently, I composed a song for the DCI Anti-Narcotics Unit, “Mihadarati”.

More predicaments came my way. My foster father passed on in 1994. No family member wanted to get involved in my case. My friends and fellow worshippers also deserted me, some claiming I was guilty of the theft. I was humiliated and felt rejected. When my mother heard that I had been



Chief Inspector Bob Lumbasi prays with congregants during an evangelistic mission in Diani, Kwale County.

arrested, she traveled from Jinja to see me. This was my first time to see her since she abandoned me when I was 9 months old. Because of bitterness, I declined to talk to her, feeling that I did not need her at that time in my life. Where was she when I was a helpless child and needed her most!

My case came up for hearing in 1998 but none of the witnesses turned up to give evidence. I was acquitted for lack of evidence and reinstated to my job. I thanked God that I was free at last and forgave my false accusers. I immersed myself in evangelism work alongside my job. I also decided to shed the baggage of anger from my life and took it upon myself to seek reconciliation with my family. I traced my mother in Uganda where she lived with some of my siblings, and later went looking for my biological father in Kakamega where we reconciled. As we slowly started rebuilding our relationship, both parents passed on.

Overcoming obstacles through determination

To better equip myself for God's work, I enrolled at African Theological Seminary in Kitale in 2001 as a part time student. I graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Divinity. Later I joined Moi University where pursued a Bachelor of Science degree in Education Science (biology and chemistry). The fruits of my six-year labour were so sweet that I was inspired to enroll for a Masters' degree in Psychology at Daystar University in 2010. I graduated in June 2012. I then enrolled for a PhD in clinical psychology which has been very helpful in my work.

Policemen and women go through a lot of psychological trauma in the course of duty. Whenever they sign in for their day to day duties, they often deal with traumatizing experiences including scenes of violent robberies, murders, rape, serious injuries and fatal road traffic accidents among others. I provide free counseling services to my colleagues. I extend my counseling services to schools, churches and colleges. In addition, I conduct marriage and addiction counseling. I am also a motivational speaker, a service that I offer at institutions of higher learning.

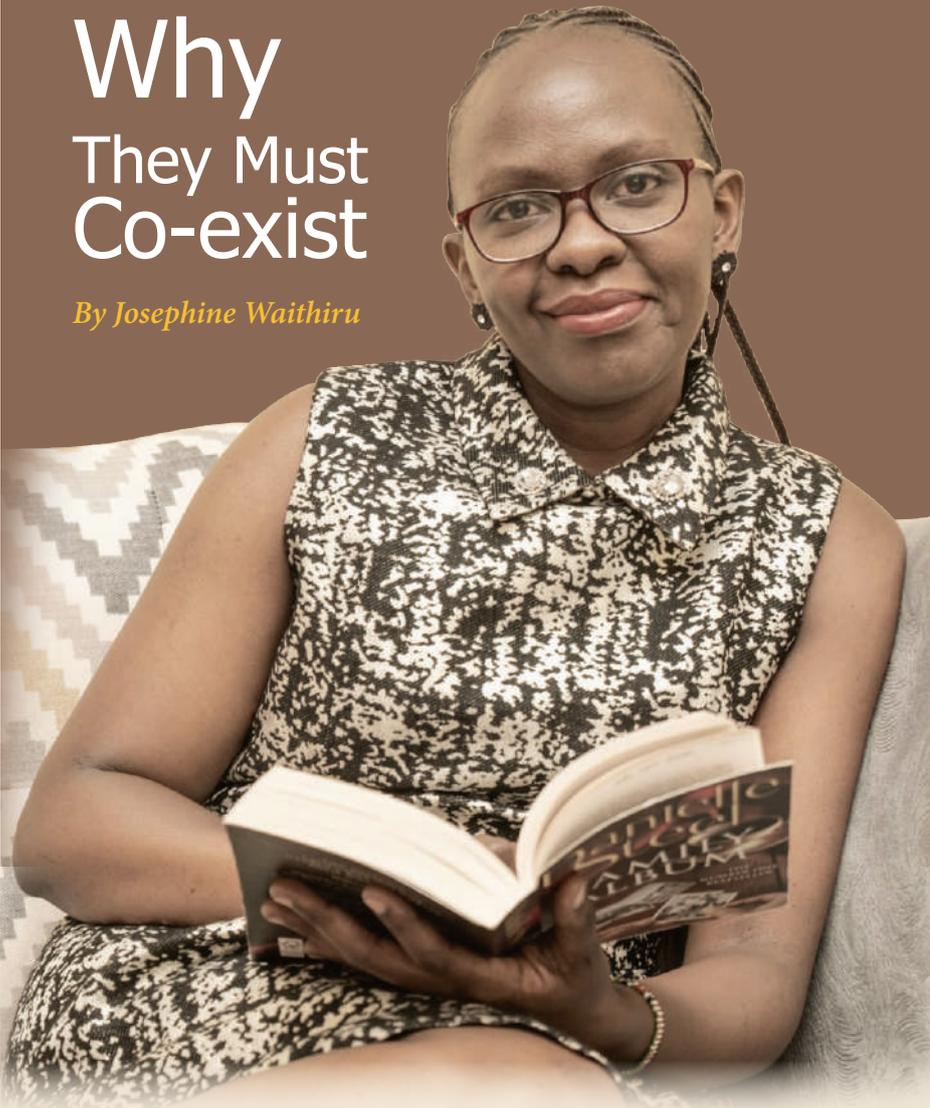
As he shares the entire life journey, Bob can't help but take pauses to reflect on the graciousness of God, whom He terms the pillar of his strength and success. His story ends with a deep sigh and a broad smile. His shift is over, but he is not in a hurry to leave his duty station. The police commander who has invested heavily on social capital has hands to shake, and warmly offers to bless the interviewing team with a cup of mocha at Paul's Café. No way we decline this.



POLICE AND THE PEOPLE:

Why They Must Co-exist

By Josephine Waithiru



The bitter sweet relationship between Kenya's law enforcers and the public should be studied because, personally, I wonder why there exists so much distaste among the two groups. And more often than not, it is the police who are blamed. Well, so much power is bestowed on them, which may be abused by a few who forget their roots hence viewing the public as an enemy. However, condemning the entire Service on that account lays ground for my reflections.

To understand the stalemate, I peruse through social media walls where cops on duty are attacked and either injured or killed by a mob. My attention is quickly drawn to the "RIP" comments that are usually accompanied by many vulgar words back to back. I tend to believe that these come from disgruntled persons who have had it rough in police hands, whether directly or indirectly, to whom nothing worth reminiscing has ever come from the security agents. Equally, I read threads on suspected "armed and dangerous criminals"

felled by police bullets across cities, and wonder whether that is the only way of justice.

Most are times when relatives of the neutralized suspects vehemently object the narrative by police that their kin were caught up in a battle of guns at a crime scene. Well, thuggery is no clean job one would go revealing to family. Even so, one thing is clear, that the Kenyan police have not inspired enough confidence in the people they serve on its ability to deliver justice within the rule of law and without bias.

Both sides considered, it begs the question; do we put a blanket condemnation on the whole police lot? Or do we filter the chaff and demand for justice, whatever the cost?

The different elements within the police service become evident particularly during demos, when individual officers are recorded for who they are. I get moved to tears when I see a police officer putting his life on the line to save a life of a helpless Kenyan caught up in a line of fire between a police forces and a riotous mob. Although it's what servicemen and women sign up for when they take the job, it is usually heart-warming. I watch with equal measure of agitation clips of uniformed officers cornering a subdued civilian, landing countless boots and batons on his weak self without a shred of pity. Worst still is when the rogue cops are ID'd and, despite public outcries from the public, no action is taken by the responsible organs.

My line of work provides a platform where I interact a lot with the police. I even take time to visit those remanded in prisons to get their story. Some are truly sad. An instance is when one says that they were just carrying out orders. Others remorsefully wish they could just meet their victims and say "Sorry", and thereafter serve their sentences gracefully. Still, some regret that they found themselves in difficult situations and before they could figure out the best course of action, mistakes had been done which flushed them to prisons. It is worse for those who end up in correctional facilities where victims of their police work are also locked up. These, I feel their pain.

Out of curiosity, I take time to enquire from people what they think could be done to have peaceful co-existence with the police. Most tell me how cops have been brutal to them, some even showing scars caused by cops while in police cells or during security operations. However, there are those who believe that the police are a dignified service, only tainted by rogues who should be put away for good. It is this small group among the publics that give me the strength to further my advocacy for “Askari ni Binadamu”.

I have dreams, which I believe are valid. I dream of a time when men will not have to be afraid of moving out at night for fear of being swept away by the “Saa Mbaya” boot men. I dream of a time when Kenyans who have had it tough in life and have been forced to live in the slums of Korogocho, Kibera, Mukuru kwa Njenga and the like will not have to flee at the sight of police land cruisers for fear of being framed for criminality. I have a dream that one day, police will move out in their numbers to clear traffic for Kenyans to peaceably assemble and protest.

During one of my sessions, it caught me by shock when a female client confided in me and narrated how she got traumatized after going to report a rape case at a local police station. That her experiences at the report office were more painful than the rape itself. She had found no female officer

at the reception and those attending to her seemed more thrilled by her ordeal than taking the crime for what it was and showing some empathy. Although I succeeded in convincing her that there now exist Gender Desks and trained officers attending to such matters in almost all police stations, I could not erase the picture she had painted of that particular station.

But I have also encountered women who tell me how they were rescued from violent male partners and escorted to safety by female officers. How the officers bought ‘lesos’ for them to cover their nakedness and even helped feed their toddlers. How some who were arrested for violating the law were escorted to police cells without having to be cuffed, roughed up or searched by male officers. These testimonies blow the mind and massage the soul.

So, is there a chance that we can co-exist peacefully, defined by our roles and positions in the community? Yes. If we can be a bit more humane, understand the place of each other in the society and be more tolerant in instances where an understanding can be arrived at. I believe that justice is more humane when tampered with mercy. If we all keep to our lanes, then we’d work and live in peaceful coexistence.

In a life where we can be cruel to each other, yes because that’s a choice, why can’t we

choose humanity? Why not be kind to each other? Why can’t our brothers in uniform be more gentle and view us as family? Why can’t we look at the police as one among our numbers, our brothers and sisters who chose the nation over their own selves? Personally, I do understand the challenges that come with a policeman’s job. There is so much pressure from the job itself, including traumatic experiences coupled with meagre remuneration. But there are always ways of relieving that pressure positively and at the same time making sure there’s a conducive environment for everyone to go about their duties without being in the face of the other.

I believe that the National Police Service has a Counselling Department where its staff can call in any time and comfortably relieve the abundance of their hearts. Being first responders to serious or fatal road traffic accidents, horrendous crime scenes such as death by suicide, rape, brutal murders, offences against children and all the nasty things one can imagine can be traumatizing. An individual officer’s capacity to handle all this will vary, yet it doesn’t give one the right to act in a way negatively impacts self or another. It is the point where Therapy comes in, and awareness need to be created on what it entails and why one should willingly attend to alleviate some of the work-related stress they go through.

I still hold that “Askari ni Binadamu”. They bleed when pieces of rocks are pelted at them, they get emotional when insults are hurled at them, and they also reason out things and can sense when danger is coming. Ooh! And they also carry guns, which, by law, they use to protect lives and property. Protecting lives means protecting their own too. While at it, police must never forget that people out there need and demand their services by right, and need them to be human enough to address them.

Josephine Waithiru is a Counselling Psychologist who is passionate about young people, community policing and environmental conservation.





Witness Protection Key in Criminal Justice System

By Jedidah Waruhiu - Director/Chief Executive, Witness Protection Agency

There is no doubt that witness protection is widely recognized as a unique and valuable tool in the promotion of the rule of law all over the world. Efficient witness protection programmes need to command unflinching trust by justice sector players for successful judicial processes. Protecting critical witnesses before, during and after court proceedings is hence an important cog in the wheel of justice.

Historically, Witness Protection came into prominence in the US in the 1970s as a legally sanctioned procedure to be used with a programme for dismantling mafia-style criminal organizations. The unwritten code of silence among members of the mafia held unchallenged sway, threatening death to anyone who broke ranks and cooperated with police. Witnesses could not be persuaded to testify for the state and many witnesses were lost and targeted for persecution.

That early experience convinced the US Department of Justice that a Programme for the protection of witnesses had to be initiated. Joseph Valachi, the first member of Italian American mafia was the first to break the code of silence. He was the first person to be offered protection- guarded by 200 US marshals during his testimony, he was at a very high risk as the mafia had placed on his head a price tag of USD 100,000.

Today, witness protection is viewed as a crucial tool in combating organized crimes and many countries around the world have established witness protection programs and legislated their creation. e.g. Australia (1994) China (1994) Colombia (1991), Germany (1980), Italy (1991), South Africa (1996), Kenya (2006).

In Africa, South Africa and Kenya are the only countries with witness

protection programmes. Kenya's Witness Protection Agency is an independent and autonomous State Agency established under the Witness Protection Act CAP. 79, Laws of Kenya (Revised 2022) which came into operation on 1st September, 2008. The object and purpose of the Agency is to provide the framework and procedures for giving special protection, on behalf of the State, to persons in possession of important information and who are facing potential risk or intimidation due to their co-operation with prosecution and other law enforcement agencies.

An application for admission into the Witness Protection Programme may be made by any person (witness, an intermediary, legal representative, parent/guardian, public prosecutor, and law enforcement agency) if they have reason to believe that the safety of a witness or related person may be threatened. The Witness Protection Programme covers the threats which cannot be addressed by other protection measures. The Director of the Agency determines the admission criteria into the Programme and the type of protection to be accorded to the admitted witnesses. This will be based on a thorough risk and threat assessment. One qualifies for admission into the Witness Protection Programme if he/she has given or agreed to give evidence before a court of justice, commission, or a tribunal, and must have recorded a statement to the police or any law enforcement agency.

Factors that might be considered before a witness is included in the Programme will include the seriousness of the offense to which any relevant evidence or the statements relates, the nature and importance of any relevant evidence or statement, the nature of the perceived danger to the witness, whether there are other viable alternative methods of

protecting the witness, public interest in the prosecution of the case, the ability of the person to adapt to the programme and its measures; and any other matter the Director considers relevant.

Admission to the Programme begins when an applicant downloads and fills in the relevant form from the WPA website (www.wpa.go.ke). The application may be made by any person if they have reason to believe that the safety of a witness or related person may be threatened. The filled form is then submitted to the Witness Protection Agency (WPA) by email (director@wpa.go.ke) or hand delivered to WPA Liaison Offices in Nairobi, Mombasa, Embu, and Kisumu or through a referral or law enforcement agency. If recommended for admission after conducting threat and risk assessment, the witness signs a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Agency.

The Agency works closely with stakeholders like National Police Service, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Judiciary, Kenya Prisons Service, the Independent Policing Oversight Authority, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission and the Kenya National Commission of Human Rights among others. There are also development partners such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the European Union (EU) who have supported the Agency by training its staff and offering technical support.

Like every government institution, the Agency grapples with some challenges which include but are not limited to inadequate financial base, inadequate human capital, insufficient court infrastructure, lengthy trials and low awareness levels.

Balancing the Rights of Article 37 with the Responsibility to Uphold Law and Order

By Nyang'ori Alitsi

The recent Gen Z-inspired protests in Kenya not only manifested youthful zeal to exercise rights under Article 37 of the Kenyan Constitution which guarantees the right to peaceful assembly and demonstration, but also highlighted a strong demonstration of their quest to be heard and involved in critical national decisions that impact their daily and future lives. These protests were primarily triggered by proposed Finance Bill 2024 which sought to amend the law relating to various taxes. There was public concern that if passed, the tax would have made life unbearable, while the government had justified measures as necessary to fund development programs and cut the tax debt.

It is instructive to note that the bill was happening in the backdrop of what is considered to be a high unemployment amongst the youth, who according to Kenya's constitution 2010, are defined as being individuals between the ages of 18 and 35 years. This category, is estimated to constitute 29% of the total population who are grappling with high unemployment and limited job opportunities despite obtaining higher education courtesy of the revolutionary education policies that have ensured high transition rates to secondary and tertiary institutions. Thus, youth

bulge, limited opportunities which create a high dependency ratio which may create a sense of disillusionment and frustration and a feeling of inadequate efforts to address their needs.

Finance Bill thus became the powder keg that triggered the youth protests, who went under the moniker Gen-Zs. Their adeptness with social media played a crucial role in organizing and amplifying the protests. Platforms like X, Instagram, and TikTok were used to spread the call for a "Gen Z uprising" and organize demonstrations. The digital nature of these platforms allowed for quick mobilization and coordination, making it difficult to effectively anticipate and counter the protests. The digital era's democratization of media, characterized by instantaneity, interactivity, and personalized communication, has facilitated the organization and mobilization of protests. However, it has also led to instances of chaos and anarchy due to the lack of structured leadership. For example, the funeral of social media personality Brian Chira saw significant disorder and mismanagement, illustrating how quickly these movements can degenerate.

One of the defining characteristics of this movement was their political neutrality which made it difficult to manipulate them politically. Their pride in cultural diversity, cohesion, and ability to operate seamlessly across ethnic and religious lines added strong camaraderie around their agitation, making them less likely to be swayed by partisan or ethnic politics. This demographic's unity and inclusivity are aspirations reflected in the preamble of our Constitution which should be celebrated.

While Gen Z's activism is commendable, there are instances where their interpretation of constitutional rights has led to oversimplification and misapplication of their pet subjects of Article 1 and 37 of the constitution. Article 1 of the Kenyan Constitution emphasizes the sovereignty of the people, while Article 37 guarantees the right to

assembly. However, in their zeal to exercise these rights, there have been cases of misinterpretation and overreach.

Gen Z's focus on their rights often overshadows their understanding of constitutional responsibilities and obligations. For instance, Article 24 of the Constitution outlines that the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms is subject to respect for the rights and freedoms of others and the public interest. Additionally, Article 238 emphasizes national security and the role of the police in maintaining law and order. In some protests, disregard for these provisions led to destruction of property and loss of lives.

Similar dynamics have been observed globally, particularly in countries where youth-led, Gen Z-inspired protests have not led to meaningful political change but rather to political stagnation, chaos, and instability, sometimes resulting in military rule. For instance, in Myanmar in 2021, protests against the political situation escalated into widespread unrest, plunging the country into ongoing conflict and significant humanitarian challenges. Similarly, in Sudan, the 2019 movement that initially brought hope for reform later faced setbacks, with renewed military influence leading to continued instability and suffering. These situations highlight the risks of protests that lack clear leadership, moderation, and adherence to constitutional principles, emphasizing the potential for negative outcomes when dialogue and lawful processes are overlooked.

The Gen Z-inspired protests in Kenya are a testament to the youth's desire for systemic change and a better future. While their ability to mobilize and their emphasis on diversity and inclusivity are commendable, there is a need for a more nuanced understanding of constitutional rights and responsibilities. Balancing activism with respect for law and order is crucial for achieving sustainable and meaningful progress in Kenya.

C.I Nyang'ori Alitsi is a Lawyer and Social Scientist.





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SILENCING the Guns in Turkana, One Player at a Time

By Mark Owiti



Kibish local authority enjoying a live football match between Kibish FC and Lebere FC staged in Kibish, Turkana County. PHOTO/COURTESY



Kibish FC players lining up against Lebere FC football players for pre-match protocol in Kibish, Turkana County. PHOTO/COURTESY

Many football fans will argue that the biggest rivalry in football is between Manchester United and Arsenal. But for those whose patriotism is unshaken by the international football, Mashemeji Derby remains to be the greatest rivalry in the history of Kenya Football. There is nothing quite like the fierce clash between Gor Mahia and AFC Leopards.

Legends of the Kenyan football have left indelible marks in the history of Mashemeji Derby, a testament of their impact when facing arch rivals. This season, the two football giants will be locking horns for the 100th time.

In the grand tapestry of the Mashemeji clash, every goal is a chapter in the unfolding narrative of the documented

rivalry where players dare to make a difference when it matters the most.

At the heart of Turkana County, in Ilemi Triangle, such goals have been instrumental in resolving land disputes. For years, ownership of the Ilemi Triangle covering about 14,000 square km has been disputed by the neighbouring countries of Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda.

Local law enforcers have taken football beyond just a sport to address the security challenge in the area. Kibish, a sub county whose most part of land contributes to the Ilemi Triangle has for a very long time faced inter-ethnic conflict between the Turkana of Kenya, Nyangatom and Dasannach of Ethiopia and Toposa of South Sudan. These conflicts have been noticeably neutralized by the magic of football.

The communities are now able to come together and resolve disputes in a more pragmatic manner. With the willingness of the conflicting parties to resolve their differences, the area has witnessed substantial progress in the peace-building process. Such progress does not happen overnight. They could take weeks, months and sometimes years.

In their plans to replace the reverberating sounds of gun fire with those of goals celebrations, DCI officers based at Kibish and the 19th Platoon of the General Service Unit organized a football tournament in August 2024, which drew young men from the Turkana community in Kibish and the Nyangatoms from the neighbouring Ethiopians. The battle for pasture and water had shifted into a battle of goals. Just like the Mashemeji Derby, the best of their



Tandale FC lining up against Kibish FC for pre-match protocol in Kibish, Turkana County. PHOTO/COURTESY



Kibish Sub County Criminal Investigations Officer Chief Inspector Mark Owiti engages players and locals after a match in a campaign to bridge gaps the communities living in the area. PHOTO/COURTESY



Substitute players and fans watching a match between Kibish FC and Lebere FC. PHOTO/COURTESY

11 men would battle it out on the pitch.

The law enforcers assembled four teams; Kibish Football Club, Tandale Football Club from Lokomarinyang, Kibish Police football team and Lebere Football Club from Ethiopia. Besides being just a peace campaign, prizes and trophies were up for grabs by the winning teams.

Under the scorching sun, backed up by their local fans, Kibish FC proved their prowess in the sport by emerging the overall winners of the tournament. In a thrilling encounter, Kibish FC faced the Tandale FC in their opening match. Tandale put up a fight but was unmatched by the quality display of Kibish. They were outscored by 5 goals to 1.

The same fate befell the law enforcers who had dropped down their weapons

to embrace community policing by interacting with the locals through football. The team, comprised of police officers based at Kibish was handed a humbling 4 goals without a reply. To the police, losing the game was not such an issue, on the contrary, it was a big win for them.

The much awaited game between Lebere FC from Ethiopia and Kibish FC gave the fans a compensation of their quality time. The teams locked horns in a game that would determine the overall winner of the tournament.

Although the teams were evenly matched for most part of the game, individual quality and endurance among the Kibish players proved to be the difference when they edged out Lebere by a goal to nil.

It is in such forums that police commanders in the region build bridges between communities living with geographical, cultural and social differences. Vices associated with crime are discouraged whereas peaceful coexistence is encouraged.

Sports has been used across the globe to enhance peace while fostering good understanding amongst communities. Elements such as discipline, teamwork, endurance and tolerance are instilled to the players.

With the tournament serving as one of the many platforms to reach out to the locals, law enforcers made a big win in building trust and friendship among the people in the region.



Julius Yego celebrates after making a colossal 91.39m throw at the British Grand Prix in Birmingham in 2015. PHOTO/COURTESY

The Kenyan Spear Legend- Julius Yego

By Edwin Kipkorir

When the Kenyan National Anthem is played at the World Athletics Championships or the Olympics, a feeling of novelty nourishes every Kenyan in honour of the golden moment. For years, Kenyan athletes have dominated track events on these stages topping the podium more than 80 times since their first Championships in Helsinki in 1983.

There is no doubt that the rendition, “Ee Mungu Nguvu Yetu” will be played over and over in the years to come during such events.

But in one particular occasion, when the rendition was played, it stood out uniquely from the rest. It was played when Julius Yego bagged Gold for Kenya in the 2015 Beijing World Championships.

No Kenyan had ever won Gold from a field event, or even garnered a medal, but Julius Yego had defied the odds. The “YouTube man”, as he is famously known, had destroyed the whole field with a 92.72m throw in javelin to register an African Record.

Not only has Yego flown the national flag high, but also that of the National Police Service. When he is not in his javelin elements, the Kenyan star camouflages into a detective at the Directorate of Criminal Investigations headquarters where he bears the rank of a sergeant.

Clearing the Myth

Julius Yego was born in Tinderet, Nandi County on January 4, 1989. In his youthful days at Kapsabet Boys High School, Yego developed special interest in javelin throw. However, he had less knowledge and skills at the time.

With the technological advancement, Yego took advantage to learn about the sport by watching YouTube videos of his role models, Jan Zelezny and Andreas Thorkildsen. When he got onto the National stage in 2006, he broke the Kenyan junior record with a throw of 67 meters.

So fast was his ascending to the world stage that in 2010, he bagged Bronze in the African Championships with a personal best of 74.51 meters.

While still drawing his skills from watching YouTube videos, Yego surprised the athletics world by finishing seventh in the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi without a coach. It is then that he earned his name “The YouTube Man”.

Yego did not have enough resources to train back in his home country where

the sport was less celebrated. It is for this reason that he kept his eyes on the ultimate prize. He attracted attention from the International Association for Athletics Federation (IAAF) who sponsored a six-month training scholarship for him alongside elite javelin coaches in Europe at Kuortane, Finland with the aim of preparing him for the Olympics.

With a throw of 79.95 metres during the 2012 Olympics trials in Kenya, Yego registered his name in the country's history as the first Kenyan to qualify for Olympics in javelin. He went on to break his own national record at the 2012 London Olympic with a throw of 81.81 meters.

Although he was placed 12th, the YouTube man was awakened by the over 80

African descent to win gold in a throwing event.

Glorious 2015

Yego continued his rise in 2015. At the British Grand Prix in Birmingham, he answered Vitezslav Vesely with a massive third round throw of 91.39 meters breaking the African and National Records. The throw was originally ruled out but was reinstated after his coach appealed. It was the best throw in the world since 2006.

With such a remarkable performance in Birmingham, the Kenyan sensation was ushered into the elite javelin athletes as he geared up for the World Championships and the Olympics that were coming up later that year.

everyone knew that was a massive throw.

Yego destroyed the whole field with a colossal 92.72 meters throw to win the championship. This performance went down in history as the third biggest throw in history under the new Javelin regulations at the time.

When he landed back into the country, Yego was greeted by a song, specially composed to celebrate him by Khaligraph Jones, a prominent rapper in Kenya and Africa. For the first time in Kenya, javelin was celebrated. From throwing sticks as javelin when he was still a small kid, Yego had now become the world champion.

Shortly after, the Kenyan 2016 Olympics team to Rio was handed the flag by the former President Uhuru Kenyatta. In a rare occasion, Yego, who was appointed the team Kenya Olympic captain, had a one on one with the president. His response when he was asked if he will win Gold was a strong "Yes" with a broad smile.

When the world champion stepped on the field for the Olympics clash, he was the clear favourite to win Gold. He had adopted an unusual style which gave him extra power. With just his first attempt, he grabbed an early lead of 88.24 meters.

His hopes to hit another over 90 meters ended after his second throw in an unfortunate circumstance. He launched another unorthodox throw injuring himself in the process. He made an unusual landing on the ground rendering him unable to make the final two throws. With teary eyes, the YouTube man was wheel-chaired from the competition while still in the lead. However, later on, Thomas Rohler of Germany threw a 90.30 meters to hand Yego a painful Olympics Silver.

Road to 2024 Paris Olympics

When the Kenyan javelin star Julius Yego qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics, his goal was clear; to add another medal to his already glittering career and inspire the next generation of Kenyan javelin throwers.

However, it cannot go without saying that his journey to qualifying was not a walk



meters throw. He followed it up with an impressive 85.40 meters in the 2013 World Championships, missing the podium by a tooth gap.

Yego had earned a respectable spot in the athletics fraternity. His dedication had begun bearing fruits. He felt that his peak was yet to come.

In 2014, the Kapsabet Boys alumni surprised the world when he won Gold in the Commonwealth Games beating the Trinbagonian track and field athlete and reigning Olympic Champion Keshorn Walcott, the first Caribbean male of

In August, Yego looked ripe for the Beijing World Championships. The sport had gained much prominence in his home village and the country at large. Everyone in Tinderet was glued to their screens supporting their local hero.

In just his second attempt, the YouTube man delivered beyond his expectations. To date the visuals of his superhuman throw still linger in the minds of many. Clean shaven and in his Kenyan costumes, Yego took to the stage after a first 82.42 meters attempt. When he launched his signature style of throwing, a small dive to the ground as he follows up the javelin release,

in the park. Yego admitted he almost lost hope at one point. The 2024 season was his hardest.

He had to come back from an injury incurred at the 2024 KipKeino Classic to get ready for the Olympics. Further, he had to wait until the last minute to know if he had qualified for the Olympics through the rankings.

Since his injury from the 2016 Rio Olympics, Yego has struggled to make a comeback with a roller-coaster of seasons filled with injuries.

At 35 years, the Kenyan javelin sensation was gearing up for an unprecedented fourth appearance at the Olympics. He took to Miramas, France to refine his technique for pre-Olympics preparation. The Kapsabet Boys alumni was aiming for nothing but Gold, a goal that if achieved would grant him the ultimate dream.

The Gold Hunt

After the camp in Miramas, Yego was fit and focused. He was pushing his body to the limit to peak for the Olympics.

The atmosphere at the Stade de France was set and the athletes were let loose to hunt for the medals. Yego was no exception.

In the preliminary stage, the former world champion secured a spot into the finals with a remarkable throw of 85.97 meters. As soon as he realized he had qualified, he punched the air in jubilation as the fans inside the stadium applauded him. He advanced into the finals joining other athletes who managed a threshold of 84 meters or at least 12 best performers.

The finals proved to be highly contested. If Yego was to win gold, he would have to grab it from the reigning Olympics champion, India's Chopra Neeraj, the world champion Peters Anderson of Grenada and Commonwealth Champion Pakistan's Nadeem Arshad.

The heavily built detective started slowly with a throw of 80.29 meters. In his second attempt, Yego notched seven meters higher with a season's best throw 87.72 meters to join the medal contention.

His third attempt fell short at 84.90 meters. With a high of 87.72 meters Yego's dream of another Olympic medal was shattered. He exited the games with his head high having finished fifth in an event that was won by Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan who broke the Olympic record with a throw of 92.97 meters.

The YouTube man was contended with his performance adding that the competition had gone up as compared to before.

"I said before the final that for anyone to be in the medal bracket you need to throw over 90 meters. It was very tough and I can say it is the best ever for me. Imagine throwing 88 meters but you still can't get a medal. That really shows how things have changed. Training is different now and we will have to change things if we are to catch up"

As he contemplates the possibility of Paris being his last Olympics, Yego expresses concerns over the lack of prominence in the sport in Kenya. "I have tried to elevate the game for 16 years now. We have the talent, but the problem is the facilities, and the sport is not cheap," he lamented as he called for more support in nurturing javelin.

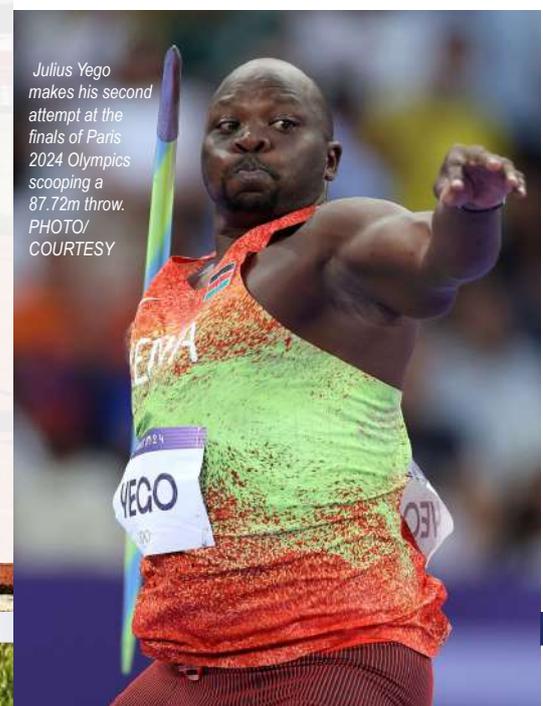
With a silver medal from the 2016 Rio Olympics, a world title in 2015, Commonwealth Games gold in 2014, and a record five-time Africa championship, Yego's journey serves as a testament to inspire generations of javelin throwers in the country.



Julius Yego at a training camp in Miramas. PHOTO/COURTESY



President William Ruto embraces Julius Yego with a hug after the Paris 2024 Olympics. PHOTO/COURTESY



Julius Yego makes his second attempt at the finals of Paris 2024 Olympics scooping a 87.72m throw. PHOTO/COURTESY



MISSION UNBLOCKABLE; Meet Me at The Net

By Edwin Kipkorir

In their 7th year in the Kenya Volleyball Federation Women National League, the DCI volleyball women team is aiming for nothing short of a podium finish.

For five consecutive years, the team finished 4th in the national rankings after brave battles during playoffs with the country's top teams. They will be looking to break the curse this season with their eyes on the ultimate price.

During the most recent playoffs staged at Kasarani Indoor Arena in May 2024, the girls bagged a painful 4th position missing the podium by a whisker. Consequently, for the first time, four players were selected into the National Women's Team, Malkia Strikers.

The four earned their rightful spots in the team after a spectacular display of talent that captured the attention of the volleyball world. The four; Mercy Iminza, Jemmimah Siang'u, Caroline Sirengo and Sarah Namisi joined the rest of the team to fly the Kenyan flag on the international stage.

Hard-hitter Jemmimah Siang'u

Famously called "Magereza", Jemmimah Siangu hails from the outskirts of Trans Nzoia County. Born in October 1998, Magereza developed her love for the sport during her high school days at Soweto High School after joining form 1 in 2014.

Just like her role model, the dazzling Brazilian Gabriela Braga or Gabi, Magereza

is happy as an outside hitter, a position she is mesmerizing to watch. On bad days, she struggles with her defense but rectifies almost immediately when she attacks from the back court.

While still in high school, her talent was discovered by Kenya Pipeline Volleyball Club and she was recruited immediately after sitting for her Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education. Having ignited her professional volleyball career, Magereza was again spotted by Kenya Commercial Bank where she joined in 2019 and later recruited into the DCI team in 2022.

The 25-year-old celebrated her maiden call up into the national team in 2018 and has since secured the same position rocking her favourite jersey number #18.

Despite looking forward to bagging several medals, Magereza explains that her love for the sport is what keeps her going. "It keeps me healthy," she says with a smile.

By just being a volleyball enthusiast, Magereza has represented the country in Cameroon, Morocco, France, Brazil and Egypt.

"My goal is to win an Olympic medal" she voices. "But despite that, I want to be a role model to other young girls who love the game of volleyball" she adds.

Youngster Mercy Iminza

Many who know her can agree that she loves to keep for herself. For the first time in her volleyball career, Mercy Iminza was

called up to the National Team in 2023. This was a deserved call following the growth in her volleyball journey since she began playing in 2014 at Khaweli Primary School in Bungoma County when she was only in Class 8.

Iminza acknowledges Melissa Vargas, a renowned Turkish volleyball player as her role model. Equally, she admires the skills of Sharon Chumba, a prominent Kenyan outside hitter of the Malkia Strikers.

Born in 2002 in a small village in Bungoma County, Iminza recalls how she developed her love for volleyball. She took after the footsteps of her dad, Shaban Likhayo, a former volleyball player whom she used to accompany to local open tournaments within the area.

Having learnt the basics, the Kenyan opposite hitter joined Lugulu Girls High School where she was called to represent Kenya in the Under-16 team at the 2018 Africa Cup of Nations tournament in Uganda and in the Africa Under-20 Championship held in Kenya.

In December 2023, Iminza featured in the CAVB Continental Cup Qualifiers Beach Volleyball where Kenya bagged the 2nd place behind Egypt.

"My desire is to play in the International Stage of Club Championship" expresses Iminza. "I wish to continue with what my dad started and achieve more than what he expected."

From left; DCI's Malkia Strikers sensations Mercy Iminza, Caroline Sirengo, Jemimah Siang'u and Sarah Namisi.
PHOTO/ EDWIN KIPKORIR



Best attacker Sarah Namisi

At only 21 years old, Sarah Namisi was named the league's best attacker for the 2022 season after her heroic showdown during the playoffs at Kasarani Indoor Arena. She has since then been on the watch list of the National Team and in 2023, she earned the highly coveted call to represent the country.

Namisi's love for volleyball began in 2016 while at Kesogon Secondary School. The Bungoma county native began her professional career with the Kenya Commercial Bank in 2021 but left the bankers to join DCI in 2022.

Despite shining in the 2022 and 2023 volleyball league, she still believes she has a lot to learn. "I need to concentrate more on my reception and my attacking accuracy," says Namisi.

As she aims to feature even more in the international stage for Kenya, Namisi believes age is in her favour to achieve her goals in the game.

"I look forward to gaining more exposure working under Coach Jeremiah Mukopi and achieving trophies with the help of my teammates."

Namisi has received high praise from Coach Mukopi. "She is still a young player and with raw talent. She is one of the best attackers in the country and she can only get better."

Sensational Caroline Sirengo

In 2017, Caroline Sirengo received her major call up into the National Team. Her devotion into the game has ensured multiple other call ups since then.

Her first feature in the national team was in the Under-19 Africa Championship in Egypt which was subsequently followed by Under-23 World Championship in Slovenia.

Having impressed the coaches, Sirengo then carried the Kenyan flag in 2019 at the All Africa Games in Morocco.

Her major highlight was rounded up by a call to represent Kenya in the in 2019 World Cup held in Japan.

Sirengo thanks her high school coach who first introduced her into the sport in 2013 at Mautuma High School, shaping her into who she is now.

The 6'1 inch middle blocker rates highly KCB's Edith Wiswa drawing her inspiration from her.

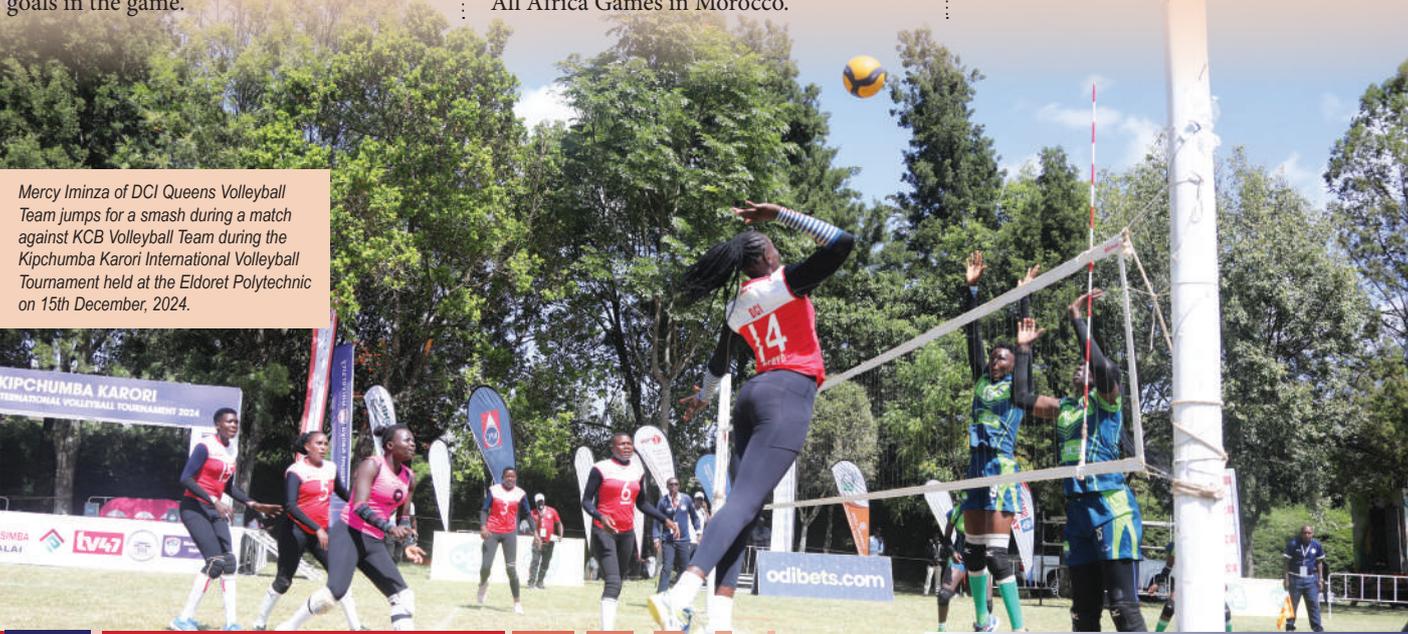
"Being called into the National Team was a dream come true for me," she says. "Although I have other volleyball goals, the most burning one is winning the title with DCI."

League showdown

With the four talents backing up Coach Mukopi's charge for the title, the DCI Queens look promising. Backed by the expertise of Assistant Coach Sang, the girls' quest for glory which began in October 2024 will witness some entertaining encounters with all to play for.

Coach Mukopi believes that it is time to break ties with the stubborn 4th place. "We have been in the league for a substantial time now and we have gained the much needed experience. Our desire to clinch the title has now multiplied and we are hopeful that we will rise to the occasion," ascertains Coach Mukopi.

The Team Manager Inspector Neddy Kilimo affirms that the team has been focusing on its weaknesses and looks forward to putting an unrelenting fight in this year's championship.



Mercy Iminza of DCI Queens Volleyball Team jumps for a smash during a match against KCB Volleyball Team during the Kipchumba Karori International Volleyball Tournament held at the Eldoret Polytechnic on 15th December, 2024.



THE SHOOTING STARS

DCI Crowned Champions of the 2024 Annual Disciplined Forces Shoot

By Claudy Otieno

It was a perfect aim and shot on the target streak as members of DCI's elite Emergency Response Team (ERT) demonstrated their rifle shooting prowess during the Annual Disciplined Forces Shoot, 2024 at the Bamburi Rifle Club, Mombasa. In the competition which comprised seven categories, the DCI managed to scoop 13 trophies, sparing 21 to be shared among the other teams drawn from KDF, GSU, Kenya Prisons, Kenya Police Service and KWS who won 6, 8, 3, 2, 2 trophies respectively.

Engineer Sammy Onyango, the African Rifle champion and ERT's official trainer for five years was a happy man after witnessing the team receive a standing ovation from the other competitors. Sammy reminisced how he introduced the team to sport shooting and sharpened their skills to their current indomitable state.

Raising the curtains, Chief Inspector Alvince Osura, the Officer-in-Charge DCI Emergency Response Team at the Anti-Terrorism Police Unit opened the pistol range with rhythmic shots to the targets, injecting jitters among other competitors. Osura has been the commander of the unit since June 2018 when it was formed, in response to the deadly attack at the Dusit D2 Hotel by the Al-Shabaab terrorist group. Over the years, the team has sharpened its capabilities in combat and sport shooting, marksmanship and sniping.

Having set the pace for the event, other shooters from the team followed suit, well to the despair of other medal seekers. One after another, they dropped falling plates in successive hits, to the amazement and cheer of intrigued spectators. And with every hit came an added score to their basket of points, guaranteeing the team additional trophies at the awarding table.

When her turn came, DCI's crème de la crème Agnes Wangechi - better known as the Gun-girl - sprung to the fore armed with her weapon of choice. With her master eye fixed to the aiming mark, she rapidly released copper rounds to her targets, scooping scores likened to the numerous miracles of Jesus Christ at Capernaum. Her win thrust the sleuths to the topmost podium in the overall winner's category, taking home 13 trophies and leaving the awarding table almost empty.

Addressing the participants at the venue ahead of the competition, Bamburi Rifle Club Chairman Mr Abdulhakim Daud noted that the events of the day tested individual and group's speed, accuracy and safety handling of the weapons, which is a discipline for all sport shooters. Pistols, rifles and shot guns were fired in competitions of various stages and divisions, which comprised seven categories including Pistol Carbine Caliber (PCC), Standard Division, Open Division, Production Division, Production Optics Division, Team Competition and Top Shot.





In the Top Shot, the Gun-girl had a good day in office, trampling on familiar ground with her weapon of choice. When the guns went silent, she stood shoulders high wearing her broad signature smile, ready to add to her collection of 1st position trophies. The win was necessary and a motivation to the ballistic expert, who was preparing for the upcoming Kenya Open Sea and Sand Championship at Hado Shooting Range in Naivasha.

Likewise, ERT's Mike Kiptanui made a majestic approach to the awarding stage, having garnered leading scores in the Standard Division category. Amidst the reverberating lauds of applause were whispers from his colleagues, swearing that his unbeaten glory resulted from the peace his left hand had made with the trigger. The sharp and decisive handling of the weapons coupled with the marksman's principle of following through every released shot without disturbing the aim, also saw constables Boniface Kyalo, Adan Barow and Joel Lesikamoi of ERT hold the top positions in Open Division, Pistol Carbine Caliber and Production Optics respectively. Other shooters who also received the highly coveted trophies included Denish Onzalez and John Asanju.

With the shooting team flying the Directorate's flag high in the local and international arenas, the Director DCI Mr Mohamed I. Amin has pledged his fervid support, noting that the sport suits the shooters' deployments into relevant fields within the National Police Service.





DIRECTORATE OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

PUBLIC ADVISORY

As the leading investigative agency in the country, the Directorate of Criminal Investigations (DCI) strives to ensure that world class services are offered to victims of crime and injustices.

That's why proactive approaches to crime prevention are our go for, with determination to quell all manner of crime and uncover the shady deals of the underworld.

We do not stop at the unlikely point where our clients (Victims) feel dissatisfied with the service offered by any of our detectives or other members of the National Police Service. The DCI headquarters is home to the Directorate of Public Complaints, which ensures that any concern regarding mishandling, unprofessional conduct and police inaction is escalated by any member of the public for further assistance and administrative action against those found culpable.

Formed in the year 2001, the Directorate is charged with the following mandate:

- ▶ To receive and record all complaints made at DCI Headquarters and advice on the appropriate action to be taken
- ▶ Receive and investigate complaints against police made at DCI Headquarters as directed by the DCI
- ▶ Liaising with the office of the Inspector General of Police, Internal Affairs Unit, Office of the Director of Public Prosecution, Independent Policing Oversight Authority, Ombudsman, Regional Counties, Counties and other police units on matters of complaints against police
- ▶ Perusing files and advising the DCI through the Legal Directorate on all files forwarded to DCI Headquarters on issues concerning complaints against police
- ▶ Writing referral letters of complaints to respective Regional Criminal Investigations Officers, counties, sub-counties and other sections within DCI Headquarters for action
- ▶ Dealing with all complaints and conflicts of interests reported against police officers
- ▶ Give feedback to members of the public on the progress of investigation of complaints and the outcome once investigations are completed, among others.

The Directorate of Public Complaints has continued to stamp its visibility in the security space by fast-tracking cases reported from all fronts, to ensure that the human face of the DCI does not wrinkle. Do not get frustrated while pursuing your genuine case. There is always another door to knock for help. Knock at ours and experience a free and fair service that is subject to the confines of the law.

To report your complaint

1. Address your letter to Director DCI, P.O. BOX 30036-00100 Nairobi and send it via courier services or drop by hand at the DCI security registry, Block A 1st Floor,
2. Send an email via complaints@cid.go.ke
3. Or call the Fichua kwa DCI hotline 0800 722 203 for guidance.

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