



COMMEMORATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Ministry of State for Provincial Administration & Internal Security and United Nation Development Programme

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Message from the Minister



Hon (Prof) George Saitoti, EGH, MP, Minister of State for Provincial Administration & Internal Security

complex and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons have made conflicts to be violent and bloody. This calls for a collaborative and integrated framework to effectively enhance peace initiatives and address security challenges.

The theme of this year International Peace Day is "what are you doing for peace? Noting the peculiar circumstances in Kenya, after the post election violence, the event will seek to address peace, reconciliation and healing among Kenyans. Kenya will be joining other countries around the world in calling for harmonious relations and good neighborliness. As a Ministry charged with peace and security among other key mandates, we are in collaboration with other stakeholders spearheading the commemoration of the International Day of Peace in different parts of the country through peace barazas, and peacebuilding activities.

VALUES AND VIRTUES

In Kenya, the national commemoration meetings shall be an avenue by which Kenyans shall reflect on their values and virtues for a peaceful and prospective society.

By acknowledging this day without violence, ceasefire can provide hope for citizens who must endure war/violence and conflict. It is a prove that worldwide and societal peace is possible. Cessation of hostilities creates opportunities for the warring populace to reflect on positive issues and creates avenues for intervention by peace actors and humanitarian groups.

While appreciating that conflict is part and parcel of life, transcending all spheres and sectors of life, they are caused by various factors including structural, political, economical, social, and cultural perceptual. Often times, conflicts arise over needs such as identity and recognition.

In the past, Kenya has faced numerous threats to its national peace, stability and security. These challenges have become increasingly sophisticated and complex with time. They range from internal disputes between different groups, to cross border confrontations with groups from neighboring countries. These conflicts are either violent or non-violent and are exacerbated by a number of things. The spill over effects from the wider conflicts in Greater Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa has for instance affected neighboring communities adversely.

In the wake of post election violence, Kenya experienced a spate of violent conflicts that caused extensive damage to life, property, displacement of persons, besides other physical and emotional repercussions. For a stable country like Kenya this demonstrated that peace cannot be taken for granted.

Against this background, the Government of Kenya has embarked on laying foundation for good governance, transparency, accountability and efficiency through institutional reforms. To fully realize the country's peace and stability potential, there is a consensus on the need for a comprehensive and viable strategy on peacebuilding and conflict resolution/management.

Following the pre and post election 2007, the Government has made greater strides towards a peaceful and prosperous Kenya through;

- Ongoing implementation of the National Accord Agreement under the four agenda items.
- Constitution of the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC) has been created to address human rights violations among individual, state and groups among others. This is within the ambit of law to correct historical and current injustices hence pave way for healing and reconciliation among the Kenya communities.
- Implementation of the recommendations of the Commission of Inquiry on Post Election Violence (CIPEV) to investigate clashes thus bringing the culprits to justice.

among communities. Thus the goal of the first Medium Term Plan of 2008-2012 is to enact and operationalise necessary policy, legal and institutional frameworks around security, peacebuilding, and conflict resolution.

Kenya has also been at the fore front of efforts to prevent and resolve conflict in the sub region especially within the Horn of Africa. We have ratified the CEWARN Protocol and have set up the National Conflict Early Warning and Response Unit (CEWERU) which coordinates information collection and dissemination on cross border and pastoral conflicts for response within the IGAD region. Further Kenya has taken a lead role within the East African Community to address peace and security and more so develop the regional early warning and response framework for the entire region. Other initiatives within the IGAD region have been on cross border meetings to find lasting solutions for insecurity in Karamoja and Somali cluster. At the EAC, Ministerial meetings and consultations have been held on peace and security.

Further, there has been the development of the EAC Early Warning and Response Mechanism which greatly borrowed from Kenya's experience in the IGAD region. The government has continued to participate in fostering a Continental Early Warning Mechanism. This has further been reflected in the participation on harmonization of policies within the region. Technical support has been accorded to inform the processes.

The Government remains steadfast in its vision for a peaceful and stable Kenya. Through the NSC, an interagency that coordinates all actions on peacebuilding and conflict management, it should be acknowledged that we all have a role to play.

Consolidated national cohesion, peace and good neighborliness is a cross-cutting task that requires efforts of all parties, ministries, civil society, development partners, faith-based organizations and all Kenyans.

VISION 2030

It is noteworthy that the enlisted initiatives are on-going in line with Vision 2030 whose prerequisite for security are peace and elimination of conflict. Under Vision 2030, it will be necessary for Kenya to build a strong and sustainable framework for peace and security and to ensure that all internal conflicts and differences are resolved within the boundaries of the law.

While a lot still remains to be done, the above strategy among others have to focus on rebuilding confidence in the government among Kenyans. There is need to cultivate trust and confidence

Supporting peace building and conflict prevention in Kenya

The United Nations' International Day of Peace - marked every year on September 21, is an important day that helps us highlight the efforts to end conflict and promote peace. As a key development partner, the United Nations Development Programme has identified conflict management, small arms and light weapons control as one of the strategic development priorities in Kenya.

Over the last five years, UNDP has been working with the government and civil society to develop and implement projects that address the challenges of conflicts and proliferation of small arms and light weapons across the county. These projects have contributed to the relative peace and stability in Kenya.

UNDP recognises that peace is not a one-off event but rather a process and a goal to be constantly pursued. This pursuit therefore requires constant vigilance and engagement of all stakeholders and the participation of all Kenyans across all levels of society. To support the achievement of peace, UNDP is constantly mobilizing financial and technical resources through its Peace Building and Conflict Prevention Unit. It is hoped that this investment will ensure that the

people of Kenya are able to attain their full potential by living in a peaceful country which is the foundation of any development. UNDP currently has programmes in areas such as peace-building and reconciliation, conflict transformation and armed violence prevention or reduction. These programmes are aimed at; integrating conflict prevention into development programmes; building national processes and institutions for conflict management and ensuring that there is consensus through dialogue.

In order to achieve sustainable peace it is critical that the country has in place a conflict management policy. UNDP supports the government through provision of technical assistance which includes setting-up and strengthening capacities for institutions for conflict prevention and peace building. The organisation also supports the harmonisation of national plans and policies related to peace building and conflict management, and other sectoral policies such as arid and semi-arid lands Policy. In cases where the country has experienced violence such as the post elections violence and cattle rustling among the pastoral communities, UNDP promotes national reconciliation

and dialogue at national and community level for peaceful co-existence. To support this initiative UNDP offers capacity building and has been instrumental in the establishment of District Peace Committees across the country.

Other areas that UNDP supports includes the implementation of Agenda item 4 of the National Accord and Reconciliation Act, which includes technical and operational support to the work of the Panel of Eminent African Persons under the Africa Union, National Commissions and tribunals established as part of the ongoing national reconciliation and cohesion efforts within the framework of the Act.

Peaceful coexistence among all stakeholders of the country is not easy and so everyone must be brought on board. UNDP therefore works with diverse stakeholders including the youth, elders, members of parliament as well as women and other vulnerable groups that are most affected in times of instability. High proliferation of small arms contributes to violence and instability. The UNDP is therefore working with the government to promote voluntary surrender of arms and illicit weapons through alternative means of livelihoods

for communities relying on pastoralism and cattle banditry. The project also raises awareness on the dangers of gun use and negative impacts of armed violence among the targeted communities. UNDP's programmes on conflict prevention and peace building have recorded considerable successes. Some of the most recent key achievements are;

- UNDP supported nation-wide consultations that yielded the draft policy that seeks to address the challenges of conflict in Kenya through establishment of elaborate peace architecture and resources.
- National capacity for conflict prevention and peace building has been enhanced through skills training on conflict transformation and peace building.
- Through UNDP's support, communities have held forums for dialogue and reconciliation often leading to negotiated dispute settlement mechanisms and the signing of peace accords such as the Modogashe Peace Accord and the Samburu-Pokot Naivasha Peace Declaration as some examples.
- Strengthening the capacity of: UNDP has seconded technical programme staff to support the National Steering



Mr. Aeneas Chuma, UNDP Resident Representative and Coordinator

Committee for Peace and Conflict Management, as well as provided required equipment.

• Two government delegations benefited from cross-country study and experience sharing visits to Ghana and Cyprus. This enhanced South-South cooperation and learning in conflict resolution and peace building.