



Service with dignity

NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE

NEWSLETTER

Issue No.13: October - December 2024



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MISSION

To provide effective, people-centric and accountable policing services for a safe and prosperous society.

VISION

A professional, efficient and responsive Police Service.

NPS

MOTTO

Service with Dignity

CORE VALUES

Integrity
Impartiality
Patriotism
Partnership and Participation
Efficiency
Transparency and
Accountability

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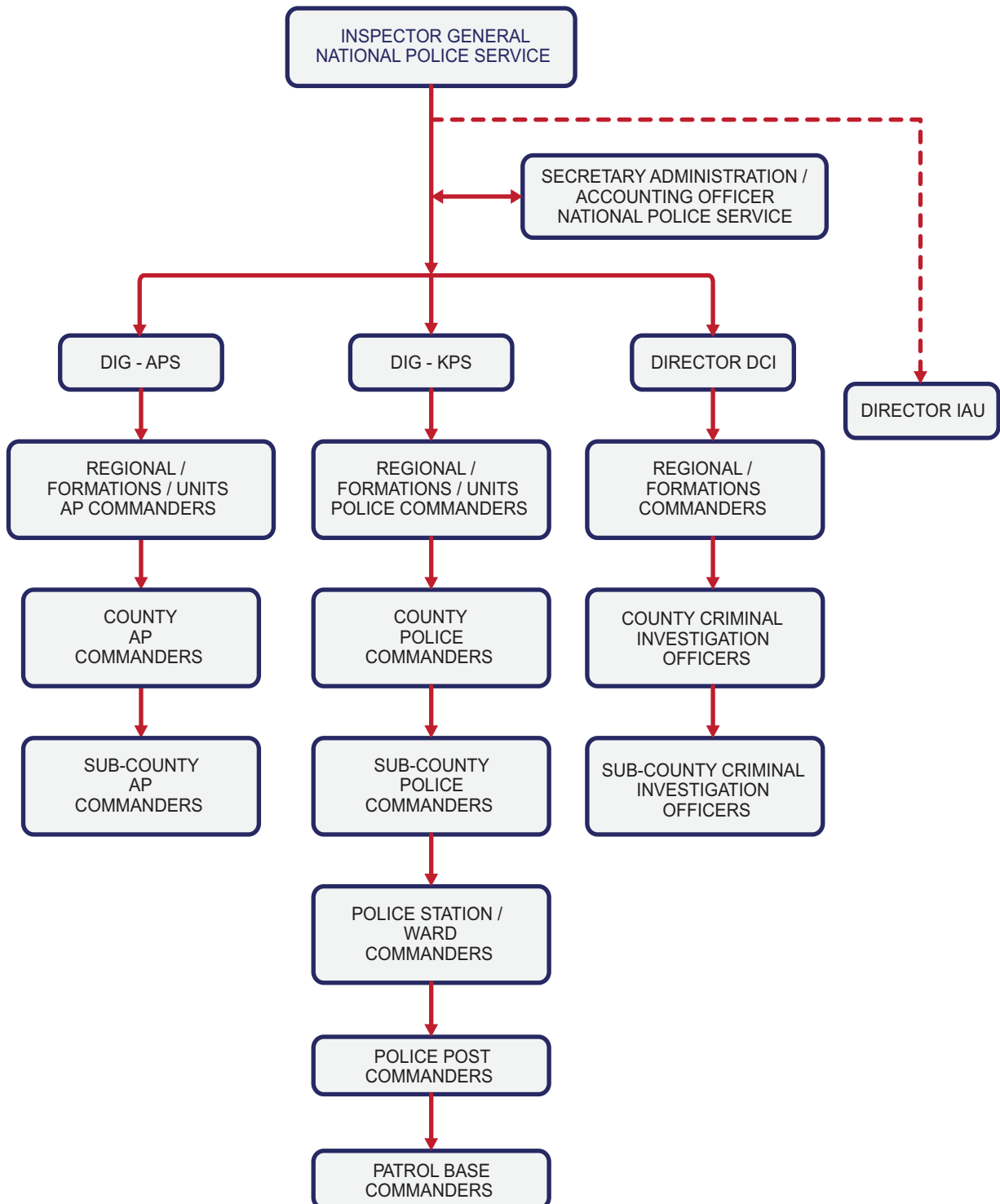
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NPS ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE



MESSAGE FROM THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

As we come to the tail end of a successful year, I am delighted to share some remarkable highlights of some of the achievements showcasing our commitment to provide effective, people-centric, and accountable policing services for a safe and prosperous Kenya.

In this quarter, NPS launched the 2023-2027 NPS Strategic Plan which is a comprehensive roadmap focusing on eight Key Result Areas. The ceremony, presided over by His Excellency Dr. William S. Ruto C.G.H, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces marked a significant step towards steering NPS to becoming a professional, efficient, and responsive Police Service.

To further strengthen our commitment to ensuring the safety and security of all Kenyans and residents within our borders, NPS sustained the multi-agency security approach, working closely with other national security organs, governmental and non-governmental agencies.

These multi-agency efforts led to successful responses to security threats especially terrorism and banditry. Owing to Operation Maliza Uhalifu in the North Rift and 'Operation Amani Boni' in Lamu County, terrorism, banditry and cattle rustling incidents reduced significantly.

In order to address mental health challenge in the Service, NPS entered into partnership with Africa International University and Disability Mainstreaming Foundation Kenya to launch the



IG DOUGLAS KIROCHO KANJA, MGH, CBS, OGW
INSPECTOR GENERAL
NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE

Psychosocial Support Training Program that aims to train and support Police officers in matters pertaining to mental health.

The need to address the welfare of our Officers remains one of the priority areas in our collective efforts to professionalize the National Police Service by ensuring that police stations not only become centres of excellence for police operations, but Officers's training and mental health are equally prioritized.

As marked by the launch of the strategic framework for implementation of reforms for NPS,, Kenya Prisons Service and National Youth Service earlier this year; the Police is working on a multi-pronged strategy to adequately address welfare issues geared towards transforming the Service into one that is adequately prepared to tackle the dynamic national security challenges.

Our collective dedication and relentless pursuit of excellence have brought us here, providing the foundation upon which we build our future endeavors through community partnership and upholding the rule of law.

On behalf of the National Police Service, I wish to sincerely appreciate the unwavering support of the Government, led by H.E President William Ruto, not forgetting our development partners and fellow Kenyans, without which NPS would not be successful in promoting public safety, law and order.

My assurance to fellow Kenyans is that the Service remains fully committed to discharging its mandate professionally by upholding the utmost fidelity to the Constitution and guided by principles of democratic policing. I wish you a happy New Year 2025.

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK



DR. RESILA ONYANGO, PhD, HSC, AIG
NPS DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS & SPOKESPERSON

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the 13th edition of the National Police Service Quarterly publication. It has indeed been an eventful year for the Police.

NPS continued to strengthen its regional and international cooperation by building strategic partnerships, enhancing institutional frameworks, and engaging in joint operations to combat transnational crimes and terrorism.

The Service sustained its commitment to supporting global peacekeeping efforts and peace support operations with our officers backing AU/UN-backed missions including Somalia and Haiti, as well as close collaboration with law enforcement agencies worldwide.

Director DCI Mr. Mohamed I. Amin led NPS Delegation at the 92nd annual INTERPOL

General Assembly in Glasgow, United Kingdom from 4th to 7th November 2024. The Service was also part of the 15th Ordinary Technical Advisory Committee Meeting that was hosted in Nairobi, bringing together representatives from Member States, marking a critical step towards addressing the persistent challenge of Small Arms and Light Weapons proliferation, as envisioned in Kenya's Vision 2030.

In line with our commitment to excellence, NPS also implemented several training programs and capacity-building initiatives, designed to ensure officers are adequately prepared for the dynamic and increasingly complex challenges of their roles.

In addition to these efforts, the rollout plan of the Customer Service Excellence Program for NPS in partnership with the Kenya School of Government - Kabete marked a significant step in realizing the vision to be

A professional, efficient and responsive Police Service as we strive to meet the needs and expectations of the people we serve.

As we close of this year, NPS reaffirms its unwavering commitment to executing our mandate of protecting life and property while upholding the rule of law and respect for fundamental freedoms.

Moving forward, we remain dedicated to strengthening our efforts, embracing innovative strategies, and fostering partnerships that enhance our ability to serve with integrity, impartiality and transparency.

I sincerely appreciate the media for their cooperation and support to NPS throughout the year. I look forward to your feedback and more interaction, especially on our social media platforms.



EXECUTIVE CORNER

H.E President William Ruto attends NPS 2023-2027 Strategic Plan Launch



His Excellency Dr William Ruto, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces joins the National Police Service during the launch of 2023-2027 Strategic Plan at Kenya School of Government,

The National Police Service, a key national security organ launched its 2023- 2027 Strategic Plan on Friday, December 13, 2024, during a ceremony held at the Kenya School of Government-Lower Kabete, Nairobi.

The launch which was officiated by His Excellency Dr. William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-In-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces marked a momentous occasion and a significant milestone in the rich tapestry of our history.

As Dr. Martin Luther King said, 'our survival depends on our

ability to stay awake, to adjust to new ideas, to remain vigilant, and to face the challenges of change', words that are perfectly embodied by the innovativeness of this strategic plan which aligns with the ever-changing security landscape.

The 2023-2027 Strategic Plan outlines eight key goals that are integral to transforming the National Police Service into a professional, efficient, and responsive Police Service and aligning it perfectly with the broader national security agenda.

In his address, H.E. tehe President Dr. Ruto expressed

confidence in the leadership of NPS, and lauded all NPS Officers for their dedication to their mandate in national security. The Head of State called upon members of the public to respect and support the Police.

The President also commended NPS for placing technology at the core of the Strategic Plan. In today's rapidly evolving digital landscape, many offences and security threats are enabled by digital technology, and the ability to detect, disrupt, deter, and investigate these threats depends on our capacity to operate effectively in a high-tech environment.

Further, His Excellency the President reiterated his commitment to the NPS modernization program by implementing the recommendations made by the Maraga Taskforce, which are aimed at improving the terms and conditions of service, digitization, housing, and provision of vehicles for Police.

Speaking during the event, the Inspector General of the National Police Service, Mr. Douglas Kanja, appreciated

H.E the President for accepting to officiate the launching of the strategic plan which is a roadmap with a clear vision to guide the Police for the next five years, towards the realization of its primary mandate of securing the country.

He stated that NPS has embarked on a transformative journey to make all police stations centres of excellence for police operations and service delivery, through training, addressing mental

health, and fighting corruption within the Service.

Further, IG Kanja mentioned that the Service in collaboration with the Kenya School of Government and *Huduma* Centre had developed a customer service training program for Police Officers aimed at improving customer experience and building the much-needed trust and confidence between the public and Police.

CS Interior spends Christmas with Officers leading Operation Maliza Uhalifu



CS Interior Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen takes a selfie with a section of police officers during his tour of Baringo County on December 25, 2024

The Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Interior and National Administration Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen on December 25, 2024 made his first official tour of duty since taking office by visting NPS

Officers. The CS, accompanied by the Deputy IG Kenya Police Service Mr. Eliud Lagat spent Christmas Day with officers in the frontline of Operation Maliza Uhalifu in North Rift. The operation, which began in February 2023, has been

successful in restoring normalcy the banditry-prone region.

The CS made his first stop at Ngaratuko Rapid Deployment Unit (RDU) camp in Baringo County where he spent the



CS Interior Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen together with DIG-KPS Mr. Eliud Lagat shares a meal with section of police officers in Tot, Elgeyo Marakwet County on December 25, 2024

morning with officers from several camps including General Service Unit (GSU) Kosile and Sangorok, Quick Response Team (QRT) Loruk, Kapsebeiwa, RDU Kagir, Anti-Stock Theft Unit Kabirwok and Temo among others.

He then made his way to Tot in Elgeyo Marakwet County in the afternoon where he shared a meal with the multi-agency security teams and National Government Administration Officers. Speaking to the officers, Hon. Murkomen thanked them for the sacrifice they continue to make putting their lives on the line every day, to ensure the safety and security of all Kenyans.

He urged them to take care of their mental health despite the challenges faced in the execution of their duty, assuring the full support of the his Ministry in ensuring the

Officers are well equipped and facilitated in order to effectively perform their duties.

On his part, DIG Lagat urged the Officers to support each other in navigating the challenges they face while protecting the community, reminding them that teamwork and cooperation were vital to the success of the operation.

The CS Interior together with DIG-KPS also visited officers in Kainuk in Turkana and Turkwel on the border of West Pokot and Turkana Counties where they also delivered supplies.

While efforts to restore normalcy in various parts of the North Rift are still ongoing, the focus is now on rebuilding and ensuring sustainable peace to prevent the resurgence of violence.

On the same day, the Deputy

Inspector General Administration Police Service Mr. Gilbert Masengeli took to Kajiado County, assessing the road traffic situation along the Kajiado-Namanga road. DIG Masengeli made stops at key checkpoints including the Isinya weighbridge, Bull's Eye-Ilbissil traffic checkpoint, Ilbissil town, Maili Tisa multi-agency checkpoint, and the Namanga One Stop Border Post where he reviewed ongoing operations.

The Deputy Inspectors General also spent Christmas Eve assessing traffic flow and along major highways to ensure Kenyans traveling to various destinations are safe. DIG Eliud Lagat took to the Nairobi-Nakuru and Naivasha Mai Mahiu Highway while DIG Masengeli was on the Nairobi-Namanga Highway.



IG Kanja chairs the 12th AFRIPOL Steering Committee



President of AFRIPOL General Assembly IG Douglas Kanja (centre) chairs the 12th AFRIPOL Steering Committee Meeting held on 29th and 30th October, 2024, in Algiers , Algeria. He was flanked by AU Legal adviser-Amb. Mohamed to his right and AFRIPOL Director Amb. Jalel Chelba (in glasses)

Inspector General of the National Police Service & President of AU Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) presided over the 12th Ordinary Session of the African Union Mechanism for Police Cooperation (AFRIPOL) Steering Committee Meeting held from 29th to 30th October, 2024 in Algiers, Algeria.

This convention, which marked IG Kanja's first meeting chairing the AFRIPOL General Assembly since taking over as Inspector General of Police brought together Chiefs of Police from AU Member

States, Chairs of Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation, AU representatives and the AFRIPOL Secretariat.



President of AFRIPOL General Assembly Mr. Douglas Kanja (centre) pose for a photo with AFRIPOL Secretariat at AFRIPOL Headquarters in October 30, 2024

Also present were the Director General of Algerian National Police- Mr. Ali Badaoui, Ag. Executive Director AFRIPOL- Amb. Jalel Chelba, AU Legal advisor -Amb. Salem Mohamed, AFRIPOL Director of Training-Dr. Benaired Mohamed African Chiefs of Police, NPS Spokesperson- Dr. Resila Onyango, AIG, representatives of AU PAs and HR, and Regional Chiefs of Police Cooperation.

The two-day session served as a crucial forum to discuss strategies to enhance AFRIPOL's operational

approach and communication channels, improving the efficiency of information sharing among AFRIPOL members. By fostering a collaborative environment, the session aimed to ensure that all member states are better equipped to respond to transnational security threats in a unified and coordinated manner.

During the closing ceremony, on behalf of AFRIPOL General Assembly, President Kanja appreciated the Algerian Police Chief and the people of Algeria for hosting the meeting.

AFRIPOL, which is the technical institution of the African Union is mandated to strengthen cooperation between the police agencies of AU member states in the fight against organized transnational crime, terrorism, and cybercrime. The organization works closely with other law enforcement agencies including INTERPOL and development partners, in pursuit of its mandate, to prevent and combat crime.

Inspector General Douglas Kanja chairs AFRIPOL Extra Ordinary General Assembly Online



President of AFRIPOL IG Douglas Kanja chairs the Extra Ordinary AFRIPOL General Assembly Virtual Meeting at NPS Headquarters on November 28, 2024. He was flanked by NPS Spokesperson Dr. Resila Onyango, AIG and Personal Assistant to the IG, Mr. Murithi, SSP.

The Extra Ordinary Session followed recommendations from the 12th Steering Committee Meeting, held on October 29-30, 2024, in Algiers, Algeria, which emphasized the need for structural and operational reforms to align AFRIPOL with the African Union's governance framework. Discussions focused on proposed amendments to AFRIPOL's Statute and organizational structure, aimed at strengthening its capacity to combat transnational crime, terrorism, and other complex security threats while ensuring its alignment with continental and global security priorities.

The Extraordinary General Assembly witnessed active participation from Chiefs of Police and representatives of 40 Member States. In addition, the meeting included key representation from the African Union Commission, including the Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace, and Security (PAPS), the Director of the Office of Legal Counsel, the Acting Executive Director of AFRIPOL and a representative from the Human Resources Management Directorate. This diverse and comprehensive attendance underscored the shared commitment to bolstering AFRIPOL's role and enhancing its effectiveness in tackling security challenges across the continent.

During the said Extra Ordinary General Assembly meeting, H.E. IG Kanja stressed AFRIPOL's role in fostering cooperation among law enforcement agencies to combat organized transnational crime, terrorism, and cybercrime. He underlined the importance of secure communication systems like the donated AFSECOM tool and acknowledged AFRIPOL's progress in capacity building and operational gains through partnerships with organizations such as INTERPOL. Reflecting on the complex nature of modern policing, he called for enhanced collaboration and intelligence sharing among Member States to counteract transnational crimes effectively. Concluding his remarks, IG Kanja recognized the dedication of the AFRIPOL Secretariat and reiterated his commitment to supporting AFRIPOL's mandate and urged delegates to actively contribute to strengthening the AFRIPOL's role in ensuring continental security.

The General Assembly commended the Secretariat's relentless efforts in advancing AFRIPOL's mission and achieving significant milestones in enhancing continental security, despite the constraints of limited budgetary resources and staffing; and equally endorsed the elevation of AFRIPOL to the status of an African Union organ, thereby enhancing its legal and operational capacity to independently fulfill its mission.

DCI Amin leads NPS delegation to the 92nd INTERPOL General Assembly in Glasgow, UK

The National Police Service joined close to 1,000 police Chiefs from around the world in Glasgow, United Kingdom for the 92nd annual General Assembly held from 4th to 7th November 2024. NPS was represented by a delegation led by Director DCI Mr. Mohamed Amin.

This year's assembly was opened by Hon. Keir Starmer, the UK Prime Minister who recognized the General Assembly as a forum of the world's security experts whose cooperation has been vital in



Left to Right: Director Human Capital Madam Rosemary Kuraru, SAIG; DCI Mr. Mohamed I. Amin and Head of INTERPOL NCB Nairobi Mr. Ibrahim Jillo Guyo, AIG represent NPS during the 92nd INTERPOL General Assembly on November 4, 2024 in Glasgow, United Kingdom

the fight against transnational organized crime.

In his opening address, Hon. Starmer noted that crime is global and criminals do not respect borders, further emphasizing the importance of global cooperation to fight crime and affirming INTERPOL's integral role in these efforts.

President of INTERPOL, Ahmed Naser Al-Raisi, in his address, thanked Jürgen Stock, then outgoing INTERPOL Secretary General for his dedication and commitment to excellence with the organization having made major progress in international Police cooperation and strong commitment to improving global security during his time in office.

He further noted that the criminal landscape continues to evolve and INTERPOL must stay ahead of it, leveraging its capacity to adapt, innovate, and respond proactively to

emerging challenges.

This year's forum saw Valdecy Urquiza from Brazil elected as the next Secretary General, taking over from Jürgen Stock, who has held the post for the past 10 years. Delegates also elected nine new members to the Executive Committee who will serve from 2024 – 2027, namely Morocco, USA, Canada, Qatar, China, Germany, France and Türkiye.

The announcement of the INTERPOL Law Enforcement Academy, which will offer an Executive Leadership Programme for senior police leaders from around the world was also made during the 92nd General Assembly.

Delegates passed several resolutions aimed at strengthening INTERPOL, including the impact of technology and Artificial Intelligence on policing, capacity building for police to combat transnational organized crimes, cybercrime,

terrorism and crimes against women and girls; intelligence sharing and enhancing use of INTERPOL Databases including biometric data among countries.

The General Assembly which is INTERPOL's supreme governing body, meets once a year in a forum that presents an opportunity for member countries to engage and enhance collaborative strategies as well as major decisions affecting general policy.

Last year's INTERPOL General Assembly was marked by the celebration of 100 years of Police cooperation. With a membership of 196, is the largest police organization in the world.

The closing ceremony was held on Nov 7, 2024 and was graced by the Duke of Edinburgh. The next General Assembly will be held in Marrakesh, Morocco in 2025.

NPS attends 15th RECSA Technical Advisory Committee Meeting in Nairobi

Inspector General of Police, Mr. Douglas Kanja on November 22, 2024 represented NPS during the 15th Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) Technical Advisory Committee meeting, held at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Nairobi.

The event was officiated by the Prime Cabinet Secretary/Ag. Cabinet Secretary for Interior, Hon. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi. This high-level event brought together representatives from RECSA Member States to



Prime CS & Ag. CS Interior Hon. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi poses for a photo with RECSA Executive Secretary Mr. Jean Pierre Betindji (2nd left) and representatives of member countries during the 15th RECSA Technical Advisory Committee meeting held at Radisson Blu on November 22, 2024



L-R. PS Interior
Dr. Raymond
Omollo, IG Mr.
Douglas Kanja
Prime CS & Acting
CS Interior
Hon. Dr. Musalia Mudavadi
during the 15th RECSA
Technical Advisory
Committee at Radisson Blu
on November 22, 2024

further deliberate on the resolutions adopted during the 3rd Extraordinary Council of Ministers meeting.

In his address, Hon Mudavadi called upon all the 15 RECSA Member States to commit to honoring the vision of cooperation, embodied by the Nairobi Protocol, through action and policies.

The Prime Cabinet Secretary noted that an overview of the security status highlights the devastating impacts of the unregulated flow of illicit small arms.

These include fueling armed conflicts, illegal exploitation of natural resources, terrorism,

cattle rustling and other serious crimes which undermine the peace, security and development of member states. Despite the challenges faced, the shared resolve to secure peace and stability in the region must be strengthened.

The meeting was chaired by the Principal Secretary State Department of Interior, and National Administration who is also the Chairperson of the Technical Committee Dr. Raymond Omollo.

Also present were Executive Secretary of RECSA, Mr. Jean Pierre Betindji. Representing the Kenyan delegation were the Chairperson Kenya National

Focal Point on Small Arms and Light weapons, Madam Jacinta Muthoni, SAIG, Director of Administration and Finance (RECSA) Madam Eunice Dobby, CP, and NPS Director of Corporate Communications & Spokesperson, Dr. Resila Onyango, AIG.

RECSA is an intergovernmental organization established to coordinate action in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit manufacturing, trafficking, possession and use of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, Horn of Africa and Bordering States.



Honoring Our Fallen Heroes: A Commemorative Service for National Police and Kenya Prisons Officers



Families of Fallen Heroes walk back from laying a wreath at a monument in commemoration of officers who lost their life in the line of duty at NPC Embakasi A Campus on December 6, 2024

The National Police College – Embakasi 'A' Campus hosted the fifth joint commemorative service on December 6, 2024, honoring fallen heroes of NPS and the Kenya Prisons Service. The two Services joined families of the fallen heroes on what was a day of remembrance and honor for the brave men and women who gave their lives in service.

Hon. Musalia Mudavadi, the Prime Cabinet Secretary and Acting Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Interior and National Administration, who graced the ceremony, praised the bravery and selflessness of

the fallen officers, acknowledging their unwavering commitment to Kenyan security. He further assured of the Government's support to the families left behind by the heroes.

At the core of this is the proposed NPS Veteran Endowment Bill that will cater for the families of officers who lose their lives in the line of duty. The CS also mentioned the ongoing partnerships with insurance companies to fast-track payment of benefits to bereaved families, so that they don't face unnecessary delays compounding their grief. Hon. Mudavadi emphasized the

need for police and public to work together, saying collective effort is key to public safety and security.

Inspector General of Police, Mr. Douglas Kanja, echoed this saying the commemorative service is a reminder of the bravery and sacrifice of the fallen officers. IG Kanja assured the bereaved families that NPS will ensure timely payment of benefits and honor their loved ones' legacies. As proof of this, IG Kanja recalled that six widows and three orphans of fallen officers were recruited during the last police intake to support the widows.

The event drew the presence of key dignitaries, including Principal Secretary for the Ministry of Internal Security, Dr. Raymond Omollo, Principal Secretary for the State Department of Correctional Services, Dr. Salome Beacco, Chairperson of IPOA, Mr. Isaack Hassan, Commissioner General of

Kenya Prisons, Mr. Patrick Aranduh, and service commanders from across the NPS and Kenya Prisons Service.

This commemorative service is a poignant reminder of the courage and sacrifices of the fallen heroes, reinforcing the nation's collective gratitude

and unwavering support for their families. Their legacy lives on, inspiring those who continue to serve and protect our Motherland.

3rd Contingent of NPS Officers complete pre-deployment training as MSS Officers in Haiti register gradual successes



NPS officers attend the closing of the pre-deployment training course ahead of their deployment to MSSM in Haiti held at NPC Embakasi A Campus on November 8, 2024

Seven months have elapsed since the first contingent of NPS Officers arrived in Haiti to be part of the UN-mandated, Kenyan-led Multinational Security Support Mission (MSSM) in the Republic of Haiti. During this period, the MSS Officers comprising Kenyan Police and Haitian National Police, including Jamaica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Bahamas and

Belizean forces, continued to register gradual successes characterized by a return to normalcy in various pacified areas.

Slated to join the MSS team in combating gang violence and restoration of stability in Haiti, is another team of 600 NPS officers drawn from GSU, Anti-Stock Theft Unit, Rapid Deployment Unit, and the all-

female Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT). The officers, like the initial contingents, have successfully undergone a pre-deployment course which was officially closed by the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Douglas Kanja, on November 8, 2024, at the National Police College Embakasi 'A' Campus. The ceremony was attended by National Security Advisor

Advisor Amb. Dr. Monica Juma, Deputy National Security Advisor/former Inspector General of Police - Mr. Joseph Boinnet, among other senior officers from the National Police Service.

The officers were lauded for exhibiting a high level of discipline, commitment, and responsibility during the training period and encouraged to keep the same momentum in Haiti.

During the period under review, several key activities have been ongoing including hosting the delegation from UNHCR-Geneva that was led by UNHCRs Assistant High Commissioner for Operations Mr. Raouf Mazou who received a brief on the successes achieved by MSS so far including the challenges being faced. Mr. Mazou commended MSS for the achievements that have been made thus far; he

assured of UNHCR's active engagement with MSS and Haiti National Police in line with the mission's mandate. Mr. Mazou's visit comes in the backdrop of the various visits from leaders and members of the Diplomatic core.

On December 14, 2024, French Ambassador to Haiti, Antoine Michon, presided over the awarding of language course certificates to over 400 MSS



Inspector General of Police Mr. Douglas Kanja plants a tree during the closing ceremony of MSSM pre-deployment training at NPC Embakasi A Campus on November 8, 2024

personnel who had completed the training in the French and Haitian Creole languages. Ambassador Michon was impressed by the commitment of the Kenyan contingent to learn the languages, noting that it has been beneficial to the

officers as they conducted their policing services and further reaffirmed France's commitment to the success of the MSS mission.

The positive impact brought by MSS activities was evident as

the beginning of Haiti's 2024/2025 academic year kicked off. On October 14, 2024, parents, teachers, Edupol staff, and the MSS Community Engagement teams formed part of a community policing program



National Security Advisor to the President Amb. Monica Juma, Deputy National Security Advisor and former IG Mr. Joseph Boinnet with Inspector General of Police Mr. Douglas Kanja pose for a photo with Senior Police Officers and the all-female SWAT team during pre-deployment course closure

that aims to promote seamless school attendance and collaboration with education stakeholders to ensure classes resume after being hampered for a long time by gang activities. MSS activities with the HNP aim to pacify various parts and ensure that schooling resumes comfortably.

Reclamation of Haiti's infrastructure from the control of gangs has been amongst the priorities of MSS; this has led to the reopening of infrastructure and facilities such as Toussaint Louverture International Airport in Port-au-Prince, recapture of Auorite Portuaire Nationale (APN) port and Haiti's National Hospital.

Joining this list was the

reopening of the Liancourt Police Station and Petite-Rivière Police Station in Artibonite.

The stations had previously been forfeited due to the increased gang activities; the station's opening is critical in bolstering security in the areas of Gonaives and Artibonite, respectively, which had been rendered a criminal haven.

Additionally, this period has seen the establishment of the 3rd Forward Operating Base (FOB) - the General Inspectorate of the National Police of Haiti. It will complement other FOBs that had been established at Port Sonde and the Police Academy. The facilities have been crucial

in centralizing policing and strengthening the presence of law enforcement services, which has brought security services closer to the public.

During the Festive season, the MSS team on December 21 and 22, 2024, led a blood donation drive ahead of year-end festivities and conducted a medical camp for vulnerable children held at Hotel Karibe.

The drive brought together various stakeholders and officers for blood donation in an event that was accompanied by other assorted activities including free medical treatment and consultation services to children and Christmas gifts.

The health sector in various parts of Haiti has been adversely affected by gang activities, with the visible scar being the closure of The National Hospital, which was reopened in recent months.

The MSS team expanded further early this year when troops from Guatemala and El Salvador landed in Haiti,.

Presidential Transitional Council H.E. Leslie Voltaire; Haiti Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aimé; U.S. Ambassador to Haiti, H.E. Denis Hankins; Haiti's National Police Director-General Normil Rameau AND Force Commander were present to receive the contingent. The arrival of the troops is an indicator of continued solidarity with the Haitian people, urging the international community to continue with the provision of equipment and resources, among other commitments.

NPS training and capacity building at the Ngong' Academy



NPS Leadership pose for a photo during the closing of National Police Service County Commanders' Course No. 1/2024 at the National Police Leadership Academy- Ngong' on December 20, 2024

In order to stay effective and efficient in today's modern policing, training and development are a necessity. These processes not only enhance skills and knowledge but also empower individuals and teams to adapt and thrive in an increasingly complex world.

The National Police Service

continues to ensure officers in their various roles expand their skill sets, acquiring new competencies while improving on existing ones, and remain adaptable and responsive to these evolving challenges.

Several training programs were conducted across all Services during this quarter, focusing on various

aspects of job responsibilities and professional development.

On December 20, 2024, the Inspector General of Police Mr. Douglas Kanja, officially closed the National Police Service County Commanders' Course No. 1/2024 at the National Police Leadership Academy- Ngong'. The course, which

was opened on November 26, comprised of Senior Police Commanders drawn from the KPS, APS, and the DCI.

Speaking during the closing ceremony, IG Kanja directed the Police Commanders to strengthen community policing, the multi-agency security approach and embrace teamwork for the collective success of NPS. He also encouraged the

commanders to avoid malpractices and take up their responsibilities of mentoring officers under their command.

During their five-week stay at the institution, the course participants undertook lessons in several areas including prosecution and policing, mental wellness and emotional intelligence, counter terrorism, police

accountability, leadership and management, witness protection, border management, complaint resolution, ethics and integrity among others.

They also heard from various speakers including the Deputy Inspector General Kenya Police Service Mr. Eliud Lagat on leadership theories and styles, the Deputy Inspector General Administration



Inspector General of Police Mr. Douglas Kanja presents certificate of completion to Madam Nelina Anyango, CP at the closure of County Commanders' Course 1/2024 on December 20, 2024

Police Service Mr. Gilbert Masengeli on protective and border security, Director DCI Mr. Mohamed I. Amin, Dr, Resila Onyango, PhD on Corporate Communication and Media Relations among others.

The Counter Violent Extremism Directorate of the DCI early December

conducted a three-day training in Kwale County where they trained NPS Officers on several topics aimed at understanding terrorism threat dynamics, recognizing the signs and factors that contribute to extremist behavior, identifying and deterring terrorists' activities. The Directorate underscored the

importance of community policing and engagements in information sharing on suspicious persons and activities.

This training was preceded by similar trainings in Mombasa and Lamu counties Marsabit and Isiolo counties where law enforcement officers from



Agnes Wangeci Muchiri from the Directorate of Criminal Investigations receives a certificate of completion of the IED Awareness Training from Deputy Ass. Director at the U.S. Office of Anti-Terrorism Assistance Mr Timothy Leeds at La Mada Hotel on November 14, 2024

the Kenya Police Service, Administration Police Service, and DCI were trained on effective, softer strategies for countering terrorism and extremism. The officers were equipped with knowledge of emerging trends in radicalization, particularly in border regions, and encouraging the formation of community

policing teams at the sub-location level to enhance coordination with local authorities.

In November, the Anti-Terrorism Assistance (ATA) program of the U.S facilitated a two-week IED Awareness Training where twenty-four officers drawn from DCI's Forensic

Directorate and the Directorate of Public Prosecutions were trained at Border Police Training Campus - ATA Centre in Kanyonyoo, Kitui County. The course was designed to equip the participants with vital knowledge on IED threats, enhance their skills and fortify strategies to safeguard lives against



Administration Police Officers take part in the Fieldcraft and Tactics Course 2/2024

potential dangers, as well as offer guidelines on the prosecution processes for perpetrators.

Other trainings conducted by the DCI include a Regional Training on Cybercrime Investigation that brought together 29 detectives drawn from five African countries at the

National Criminal Investigations Academy in Nairobi.

The week-long training, which was sponsored by the German Federal Foreign Office through GIZ and Germany's Central Criminal Investigation Agency (BKA), focused on building the detectives' capacity to

address the surge in online Sexual & Gender-Based Violence.

The same month marked the culmination of a crucial 4-month Sergeants' course as well as the Linguistic and Cultural training course at the National Police College - Embakasi 'A' campus. The training was one of the



The second-year students at Egerton University's Department of Peace, Security, and Social Studies take a tour of the National Forensic Laboratory at the DCI Headquarters on October 31, 2024

courses undertaken by the Multi-National Security Support Mission team set to join their counterparts in Haiti to equip them with necessary language skills and cultural awareness to ensure a smooth transition as they undertake their duties in Haiti.

The Administration Police Service also held several other training programs in its institutions, one of these being the Fieldcraft and Tactics Courses, which entail training in various areas including intense fitness and endurance training, weapon handling and shooting skills, terrain navigation skills among others, all intended to enhance leadership skills and teamwork under

challenging conditions.

Recognizing the importance of mental wellness in fostering a healthier, more productive Service, the Kenya Police Service also held several trainings, aimed at improving not only work-related skills but also enhancing the mental wellness of officers. The Kenya Police Wellness Program together with Interweave Solutions brought together 110 officers from various commands in the Service for a training session held at the Police Pavilion in South C, Nairobi.

The training covered a wide range of topics including recognizing and managing depression, maintaining a

healthy work-life balance, understanding family relationships, recognizing and coping with trauma, negative emotions, substance abuse, suicide prevention, domestic abuse, crisis response, and promoting overall individual wellness.

In partnership with the International Justice Mission, KPS also held a three-day training for Kenya Police Psychologist counsellors and chaplains in Naivasha aimed at enhance the quality of service delivery for KPS counsellors and chaplains, foster a culture of learning, and encourage participants to engage in self-reflection and seek out new knowledge and techniques that will

benefit them and other police officers in the NPS.

In addition to training Police Officers, NPS hosted a group of 142 students from Egerton University's Department of Peace, Security, and Social Studies, who paid a visit to the National Forensic Laboratory at the DCI Headquarters.

The second-year students, specializing in Criminology and Security Studies, gained first-hand insight through hands-on demonstrations and explanations of forensic investigative techniques, enhancing their practical understanding of the field.

NPS, AIU, DMF-K partner to launch Psychosocial Support program for Police Officers



L-R. DIG-KPS Mr. Eliud Lagat, NPSC Chairperson Mr. Eliud Kinuthia, Vice Chancellor of AIU Rev. Dr. Nelson Makanda, IG Kanja, Former IG Joseph Boinnet, Director DCI Mr. Mohamed I. Amin and DIG -APS Mr. Gilbert Masengeli during the launch of the Psychosocial Support Training Program held at the Africa International University in Karen, Nairobi on November 13, 2024

The National Police Service on November 13, 2024 in partnership with Africa International University and the Disability Mainstreaming Foundation of Kenya (DMF-Kenya), launched the Psychosocial Support Training Program at an event held at the Africa International

University in Karen, Nairobi.

The program aims to promote mental well-being among Police Officers by raising awareness and bringing to an end the stigma associated with mental illness, providing them with necessary support to manage job-related stress,

trauma and other challenges, fostering a healthier and more supportive Service.

Speaking during the launch, Inspector General of Police Mr. Douglas Kanja underscored the vital need to prioritize mental health within the Service



noting that police work is a noble career as one is accorded the responsibility to serve and protect humanity.

However, the demanding nature of the job exposes officers to the risk of long-term psychological challenges rendering them more susceptible to suicide more than the general public.

Research has also shown that Kenya ranks fourth in mental health illnesses in Africa with 1.9 million persons in the country suffering some form of mental illness. 1 in 7 officers in Kenya faces mental health challenges.

IG Kanja appreciated the support that AIU, DMF-K and other development partners continue to extend to NPS in tackling these challenges; noting the launch of the program as a much-needed

platform to share ideas and information on mental health.

He added that the program will reinforce existing initiatives put in place by NPS such as the establishment of the Directorate of Chaplaincy and Counseling, partnership with medical institutions such as the Chiromo Group of Hospitals providing counseling and psychosocial support services to officers.

On his part, the Vice Chancellor of Africa International University Rev. Dr. Nelson Makanda appreciated the work done by the Police recognizing the unique challenges posed by the nature of the job which in turn affect service delivery to members of public. He further assured the commitment of the University to upholding its contribution to the partnership.

Also present at the event were former IG of Police Mr. Joseph Boinnet, National Police Service Commission Chairperson Mr. Eliud Kinuthia, Deputy Inspector General Kenya Police Service, Eliud Lagat, Deputy Inspector General Administration Police Service, Gilbert Masengeli, the Director Directorate of Criminal Investigations Mr. Mohamed Amin, among other senior officers.

In pursuit of excellence: IG Kanja, DIGs, Director DCI embark on assessment tour of NPS Institutions



IG Douglas Kanja, DIG-KPS Mr. Eliud Lagat and DIG -APS Mr. Gilbert Masengeli addressing APS Officers during an impromptu visit to Rapid Deployment Unit Embakasi on November 27, 2024

In his first three months of taking the helm of National Police Service, Mr. Douglas Kanja undertook several assignments with a focus on fostering improvement which in turn positively impacts the overall the quality of Service.

IG Kanja, accompanied by his two deputies, DIG Kenya Police Service, Mr. Eliud Lagat and DIG Administration Police Service, Mr. Gilbert Masengeli visited various Units within the National Police Service meeting Officers deployed for various roles and identifying opportunities to improve service delivery.

In October, the IG made his first official visit to the Internal Affairs Unit Headquarters located at KCB Towers, Upper Hill, Nairobi where he took time to interact with officers, speaking to them on the need to maintain professionalism and discipline. Acknowledging the critical oversight function the Unit performs; IG Kanja commended their contribution to fostering accountability and professionalism. He reassured them of his steadfast support in bolstering their capacity, ensuring optimal efficiency in the performance of their duties.

Currently under the leadership

of Director of IAU is Mr. Boniface Maingi, SAIG, the Internal Affairs Unit is tasked to receive and investigate any complaints against Police and cases of police misconduct.

The Inspector General together with the DIGs also visited the Critical Infrastructure Protection Unit (CIPU) Headquarters in Athi River and the Rapid Deployment Unit Headquarters in Embakasi where they toured various sections of RDU including the Water Treatment Plant, a welfare initiative for the production of bottled water. RDU Headquarters is also

home to the all-female SWAT team tasked with crime control especially in urban areas.

During the festive season, IG Kanja, accompanied by DIG APS - Mr. Gilbert Masengeli, conducted a security assessment of the Boni Enclave in Lamu County where he was briefed on the current situation of Operation Amani Boni. He was received at the Kenya Navy Manda Bay by military officers led by Commander Kenya Navy Base Manda Air Bay-Brigadier L.P. Wafula and Brig J.K. Maiyo. The IG commended the multi-agency security teams that have made operations at Lamu and Boni a success, and further stressed that the rest of the country is safe because of the sacrifice made by the multi-

agency security teams along the Kenyan border stretching from Border Point 1 to 29.

IG Kanja thereafter visited the GSU Mokowe Camp, where he met with NPS Officers drawn from the Kenya Police and Administration Police Services and the DCI, and later went to Pandanguo GSU and Nyongoro SOG Camps. This visit was preceded by a tour of Dabel Goldmines in Moyale, Marsabit County following reports of the collapse of a goldmine alleged to have resulted in the deaths of five people. Following the visit, these reports were established to be untrue and the multi-agency security team supported by National Youth Service is backfilling the mine

holes following the closure of the mines.

Since taking over office, the Inspector General has made clear his mission to transform police stations into centres of excellence where services are delivered with professionalism, promoting public trust and fostering collaboration between law enforcement and the communities they serve. For this reason, IG Kanja also took time to visit several Police Stations including Kitengela, Thika, Ngong and Lang'ata Police Stations where he inspected various departments including Report Office, Gender and Child Protection Unit, Crime Office, Police Cells, Armoury, Exhibits Store and



IG Douglas Kanja speaks to Special Operations Group (SOG) officers at Nyongoro camp in Lamu County on December 23, 2024

the Traffic Department, DCI Offices among others.

To ensure this outcome, the Service will ensure continual improvement and enhancement of officers' skills through comprehensive training programs focusing not only on updating and refining the technical skills required for their specific job roles but also on excellence in Customer Service.



IG Douglas Kanja together with senior officers from NPS visit Dabel Goldmines in Moyale Marsabit County on December 11,2024

This is already a work in progress as NPS in partnership with the Kenya School of Government rolled out a plan in December to train NPS Officers on Customer Service Excellence.

Further, for the success of this mission IG Kanja recognized the importance of ensuring mental wellness of all Police Officers through Comprehensive Mental Health Programs. Speaking to officers during his visits, he encouraged officers to protect their mental wellbeing and support each

other. Those in need of medical assistance are advised to utilize the services available to them through the Group Life Insurance Policy.

NPS also partnered with Africa International University, and Disability Mainstreaming Foundation (DMF-K) to train and support Officers on mental health.

As the Service takes transformative steps towards achieving its strategic vision to be a professional, efficient and responsive Police Service, the

focus remains on our commitment to serve and protect.

In addition to these visits, DIG-KPS, DIG-APS and the Director DCI also conducted visits of several other regions countrywide including North Eastern, Rift Valley, Central and Coast Region during an assessment of the security situation in Tana River and Lamu Counties, following a spate of violence witnessed in the area, resulting in the displacement of persons and loss of lives.

Beefing up security; Bukiri, Namuduru and Ganga security facilities opened in Busia



DIG-KPS Mr. Eliud Lagat accompanied by Funyula Constituency Member of Parliament, Hon. Dr. Wilberforce Oundocuts a ribbon to open the Namuduru Police Post in Funyula, Busia County built by NG-CDF on November 22, 2024.

Members of the public in Funyula, Samia Sub-County in Busia County will now enjoy enhanced security as a Patrol Base, Police Post, and Police Station were opened by the DIG - KPS Mr. Eliud Lagat on November 22, 2024.

The DIG and his entourage touched down at Nandereka Primary School aboard the NPS helicopter piloted by Captain Mr. Evans Okoth ASP and his crew.

The DIG was received by Funyula Constituency Member of Parliament, Hon. Dr.

Wilberforce Oundo, Busia County Commissioner- Mr. Mwachaunga Chaunga, Regional Police Commander Western- Mr. Kiprono Langat, AIG, the local leadership and members of the public.

The DIG's first stop was at Bukiri Patrol Base; which was established to address insecurity cases at Bukiri Centre and neighbouring areas. Mr. Lagat officially opened the Namuduru Police Post and later presided over the opening of Ganga Police Station.

While making his remarks at

Ganga Police Station the DIG commended the local leaders for taking into account the construction of the three facilities, noting that NPS Officers who had been posted at the stations will fulfill their mandate by utilizing the facility well to discharge their duties responsibly to the members of public.

He further assured the public that the Officers will work relentlessly to address the various cases of insecurity in the area including robbery cases and smuggling of drugs and counterfeits.

This move will not only improve working conditions at the stations and enhance security but also foster collaboration between law enforcement, local leaders and the communities they serve. It also stokes the embers of NPS leadership's mission to transform police stations into centers of excellence for service delivery.

He further promised that the facility will be well equipped to enhance efficiency in service delivery, urging members of the public to cooperate with the officers through the existing structures such as Community Policing, and NPS Officers will work closely with the Criminal Justice System actors and National Government Administration Officers

(NGAO) in the region.

Mr. Lagat later made an impromptu stop at Sio-Port Police Station, where he interacted with the officers and urged them to remain focused on service delivery to the residents, reminding them the station is a critical point in service delivery for members of the public within the Port area.

MAKL, Kenya RE, step up to aid injured Officers



DIG-APS Mr. Gilbert Masengeli and Chief Operations Officer of MAKL Mr. Parmanand Mishra during the handing over of a multipurpose electric wheelchair held at DIG's office on October 30, 2024

The National Police Service received assistance from partners who have been instrumental in their support; from providing specialized medical equipment to offering financial support, their contributions have been invaluable.

On October 30, 2024, the Deputy Inspector General (DIG) of the Administration Police Service, Mr. Gilbert Masengeli formally handed over a multipurpose electric wheelchair to Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Boniface Mutua. This essential equipment donated by Medical

Administrators Kenya Limited (MAKL) came with specialized software that will reduce physical strain, and enhance his mobility, enabling him to navigate ease.

ASP Mutua, a Silver Star Kenya presidential awardee, sustained life-altering injuries



IG Douglas Kanja receiving a cheque from Kenya Re Managing Director Dr. Hillary Wachinga during a ceremony held at NPS Headquarters

in 2019 when his convoy was ambushed and came under heavy fire and an IED explosion, which left him paraplegic.

DIG Masengeli thanked Mr. Parmanand Mishra, Chief Operations Officer of MAKL for the donation. In his remarks, he further commended ASP Mutua for his bravery and dedication to duty and reaffirmed the Administration Police Service's support to officers affected by

occupational hazards.

In December, NPS also received mobility and assistive devices worth Sh.13 million and a further donation of Sh.1 million Shillings from Kenya Reinsurance Corporation, through its Niko Fiti Program, in support of police officers who sustained injuries or disabilities in the line of duty.

The donation was presented to Inspector General of Police Douglas Kanja by Kenya Re

Managing Director Dr. Hillary Wachinga at a ceremony held at NPS Headquarters in Nairobi. IG Kanja, acknowledging the challenges faced by injured officers, welcomed the partnership saying it will go a long way in making it easier for the officers and their families.

NPS extends sincere gratitude to our partners for their unwavering support.

NPS marks International Human Solidarity day

Nelson Mandela once said, “It is in your hands to make a better world for all who live in it.” As the National Police Service, we find inspiration in these words; they've shaped the path we have taken by joining the rest of the world in commemorating International Human Solidarity Day on Friday, December 20, 2024, at the National Police College-Embakasi 'A' Campus.



The celebration of this day highlighted the resilience and commitment of NPS officers and reaffirmed the Service's collective commitment to creating an inclusive environment for all personnel.

The occasion was attended by top NPS leadership led by the Inspector General Mr. Douglas Kanja, representatives from NPSC, IPOA among others.

The United Nations recognizes International Human Solidarity Day as an annual observance that emphasizes the importance of unity, cooperation and shared responsibility in addressing global challenges. Hence, it creates a better world for all and achieves common goals, including human dignity, equity, social justice, inclusiveness, equality, and non-discrimination.

In that respect, the National Police Service collaborates and partners with strategic national and international partners on matters of mental wellness and support for officers with disabilities.

In his address, IG Kanja, who was the chief guest, noted that 830 officers were injured in the line of duty in 2024 alone. He assured that welfare of personnel is one of the Service's vital priority areas, reiterating commitment to equity, inclusivity and mental wellness as outlined in the NPS 2023-2027 strategic plan. He underscored mental health as a core pillar in building resilience and effective service delivery.

The IG commended the strategic partnership between the National Police Service, Disability Mainstreaming Foundation (DMF-K), and Africa International University (AIU) that led to the launching of the Psychosocial Support Training Program on mental health for Police Officers.

He also expressed his gratitude to Kenya Reinsurance Corporation Limited for the immense and timely support through the provision of assistive and mobility devices to Police Officers with disability which will enable them to have equal access to opportunities as their peers.

The IG reaffirmed NPS' commitment to human solidarity and collective action in building a better, safer world for all and specifically ensuring that Police Officers with disabilities are accorded all the necessary support to enable them to engage in all aspects of work and social life.

International day for elimination of Violence Against Women

November 25, 2024 marked the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. This significant day presented an opportunity for the National Police Service to reaffirm its unwavering commitment to protecting women and girls from all forms of violence.

In light of the growing prevalence of violence against women, NPS acknowledges the need for a unified and strategic approach to addressing this pressing issue. The Service continues to collaborate closely with key stakeholders, engaging in meaningful dialogue to come up with practical and impactful solutions.

Additionally, NPS has also put in place several measures to address gender-based violence including the establishment of gender desks within police stations, training officers to handle GBV cases, partnering with non-governmental organizations to provide survivors with counseling and legal aid. The day also marks the beginning of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, a global campaign dedicated to raising awareness about the harsh realities of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), particularly violence targeting women and girls.

NPS calls upon members of the public, civil society organizations, and other partners to join hands with us in this fight. Together, we can work toward achieving Kenya's commitment to ending all forms of GBV and eradicating Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) by 2026.

We encourage anyone affected to reach out to us through the SGBV hotline 0800 730 999 or our toll-free numbers 999, 911, 112 and #FichuakwaDCI 0800 722 203.

NPS joins NCAJ for the launch of Annual Report 2023-2024



Inspector General of Police Mr. Douglas Kanja represents National Police Service during the launch of NCAJ Annual Report 2023-2024 at Safaripark Hotel on November 6, 2024

The Inspector General of Police Mr. Douglas Kanja on behalf of National Police Service on November 6, 2024 attended the launch of the National Council for the Administration of Justice (NCAJ) annual report at the Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi.

The auspicious event marked the celebration of the achievements of NCAJ for the past year as well as identifying the challenges faced and developing workable solutions to affectively address the evolving justice needs of the society.

It brought together council members, both state and non-state actors, who contributed to the success of ensuring a coordinated approach in the administration of justice and reform of the justice system.

IG Kanja in his remarks congratulated NCAJ on the significant milestone, further expressing NPS commitment to continuously improve our effectiveness and efficiency, in detection, prevention, and investigation of crimes and continued partnership for collective success.

NCAJ is an umbrella body that brings together justice sector actors, both State and Non-State, to ensure an efficient, effective and consultative approach to the administration of justice.



DIG-KPS Mr. Eliud Lagat interacts with officers during his visit of Baringo County on December 25, 2024



Officers pose for a photo with a police helicopter during the visit of CS Interior Hon. Kipchumba Murkomen in Baringo County on December 25, 2024



NPS Officers display kit used by officers in their line of duty during Joint Thanksgiving Service in Nairobi on November 9, 2024 Below: DIG-KPS Mr. Eliud Lagat with NPS Corporate Communications team during an assignment in Eldoret, Uasin Gishu County on December 7, 2024





NPS officer patrols inside a camp in Baringo county.



Ariel view... A police chopper conducts air surveillance of major highways during the festive season



From The Beat to The Ice: Inspector Oliver Obala's Path To Curling Success



Inspector of Police Oliver Obala Echenje (centre) flanked by his coaches at a past event

Kenya's active law enforcement, especially regarding the police service, is not always a walk in the park. For Inspector of Police Oliver Obala Echenje, however, the badge meant the beginning of more fantastic dreams. Sandwiched between his life of serving the public, not many would believe he would one of these days go down in the books, not with a baton but rather with the act of sliding a curling stone weighing twenty kilograms across an ice rink. It all commenced during an atypical moment of tranquility. "The first time I saw the game was during the Winter Olympics, and from that time, I was very interested in it," he says. Curling intrigued him due to its precision, strategy, and collaboration. However, it was not just the gameplay that

fascinated him but also the dynamic between the teams. Although he had never played, he found himself drawn to the subtle intricacies of the sport.

This world was completely different from the dusty roads of Kitui or the crazy sounds of Pangani Police Station in Nairobi, where he served. Still, he felt a profound connection to the sport's calm intensity and tactical sophistication.

His introduction to curling was without formal training or access to local coaches, so he turned to YouTube to study the game's rules, techniques, and strategies. He discovered the different roles in a curling team: the Lead, Second, Third, and Skip—the captain and strategist. Each throw of the stone demanded precision,

teamwork, and a keen understanding of the opponent's tactics. In 2018, his dream began to be shaped by establishing the Kenya Curling Federation. The training was at the Panari Hotel along Mombasa Road, Kenya's only ice rink. For three years, they trained on weekends, evenings, and any spare moment between their busy police jobs. Slowly but surely, the team came together; they got better and more confident. The Kenyan squad reached a big milestone in 2021 when Kenya debuted at Canada's Pan Continental Curling Championships.

Representing the country on such a big stage was a big deal, but it was even more special for Inspector Obala. He was appointed the team's skip, the

first Kenyan to hold that position. The championship was tough. The competition was fierce, and there was a steep learning curve, but Team Kenya proudly got a bronze medal in Category B.

"It was a proud moment for all of us," he says, reflecting on their historic achievement. Though subsequent tournaments in 2023 and 2024 didn't yield medals, the team's spirit remained unshaken. For him, every match was a step closer to mastering the game and putting Kenya on the global curling map.

Balancing the rigorous demands of policing and the dedication required for a sport like curling hasn't been easy. Inspector Obala's career has taken him across Kenya, from Mutomo Police Station in Kitui to Ortum in West Pokot, where the challenges of rural policing leave little time for personal pursuits. "It's a tough nut to crack," he admits. "Most of my training was done on weekends while stationed in Pangani.

Now, whenever I come to Nairobi, I train and continue to learn through YouTube." Despite the challenges, he remains committed to the sport. For him, curling is not just a competition; it's a source of physical fitness, mental sharpness, and a way to connect with people from all walks of life. As one of the pioneers of curling in Kenya, he is heavily invested in developing the sport. "Curling is a great sport slowly taking root in Kenya," he says. "Young players will take it to greater heights and achieve greater things." His hopes extend



Inspector of Police Oliver Obala Echenje during training session

beyond the rink to the police force itself. As the only police officer on the national team, he dreams of having a national curling squad one day. He is grateful to the Inspector General of Police for allowing him the time off he needs to attend international tournaments, and he encourages his fellow officers to see the sport as a way to stay healthy, build confidence, and relieve stress. There have been no obstacles along the way. Nairobi's lonely rink makes regular training nearly impossible for many aspiring athletes, especially those far away. The cost of the sport – equipment, travel, rink time – also poses a significant barrier.

Nevertheless, he remains

optimistic. "With time and more resources, curling in Kenya can grow significantly," he says. His message to policymakers and sports fans is simple: invest in the game, and its potential will surprise everyone. From the quiet streets of Mutomo to the frozen tracks of Canada's Ice Rink, this officer's story is one of resilience and passion. It's a reminder that dreams can take root in the most unexpected places and blossom with hard work and determination.

For Kenya, his journey is a beacon of hope for the future of curling. It's proof to the world that the spirit of sport has no borders.



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