



**MEDIA BRIEFING ON ELECTION SECURITY PREPAREDNESS BY THE
INSPECTOR GENERAL NATIONAL POLICE SERVICE ON 22ND JULY, 2022**

Members of the Media present,

As well known to all, the country is scheduled to hold a General Election on the 9th August 2022, barely three weeks from today. This is a momentous event on our five-year National calendar, and which we in the National Police Service, together with our partners and stakeholders, do take very seriously for its success.

Therefore, towards the preparation for the 2022 General Elections, the National Police Service has put in place elaborate measures and strategies to ensure that security is guaranteed throughout the electoral cycle and enable the IEBC to conduct a free, fair and credible election.

Our preparation therefore hasn't just started now, but has been ongoing since the last elections in 2017. During this time, we took stock of our then performance, picked and learned from the best practices as we acknowledged our past challenges, and purposed to plan ahead and deliver a much safer and secure election. And this, we didn't do alone, but in close partnership and coordination with our key partners on election, led by the Independent Election and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) amongst others.

To ensure proper coordination of all activities surrounding election security, I, as the Inspector General established the National Police Service Election Security Secretariat with express mandate to coordinate all activities on election preparedness. Among the activities that the Secretariat has undertaken is development of election security

manual, guidelines, and a training manual. These critical documents, which are first of their kind in the history of our Police, were developed in collaboration with other stakeholders among them IEBC, ODP, Judiciary Working Committee on Election Preparedness, NCIC, IPOA among other actors.

And as part of early preparations, I launched the process of election security preparations in September 2021 in a conference attended by Regional Police Commanders, Formation Commanders and County Commanders. During this meeting, then, I reiterated on the need for early planning to avert the challenges witnessed in the previous elections. I also emphasized on the need to sensitize and train officers on election security management to ensure that they were acquainted with their roles and responsibilities.

Subsequently, the National Police Service embarked on a training and sensitization programme of the men and women in the Service to ensure all are well prepared to handle all forms of threats to election security before, during and after the elections.

The key training areas covered during the programme include but are not limited to election security management and coordination strategies; process of risks and threats analysis; public order management; reporting, handling and investigations of sexual and gender-based violence; reporting and investigation of election offences; and police accountability.

To date, all police officers, including special police officers from partner agencies who normally offer support to the National Police Service during General Elections have been trained on election security. These are inclusive of the 1,115 command level officers from all such respective services and partners. It is this critical number that in turn led to a massive training outreach programme targeting their respective frontline officers responsible for the direct security provision. The Directorate of Criminal Investigations has also enhanced its capacity and capability, and further deployed officers to investigate all instances related to electoral malpractices. This team is working closely with the IEBC Returning Officers.

To ensure strong collaboration and seamless interoperability with stakeholders, the National Police Service has and continues to hold frequent engagement with State and non-State stakeholders as part of its preparedness to provide a secure electoral

environment. Through such engagements, the National Police Service has received unqualified support in training of police officers. Similar support on training has also been received through IEBC and partners, which is ongoing.

In an effort to remain objective, open and responsive to needs of the people we serve, as dictated by our NPS Mission, the Service through the Directorate of Corporate Communication, the Election Security Secretariat and other tasked officers have and continue to engage the public through various media channels, including social media platforms on the state of our security preparedness, including their role as citizens.

To ensure seamless and continuous operations, the Government has resourced the Service adequately. This is by leasing additional vehicles and operational equipment to ensure officers are well resourced and in a high state of readiness to handle all forms of threats that may arise before, during and after the General Elections.

Further activities undertaken include mapping of all emergency and rescue equipment across the country, whether privately or publicly owned, that the Service may need in the event of any threat or challenge.

Similarly, the Service through the Election Security Secretariat has been conducting continuous threat and risk analysis to identify emerging threats to National Security and inform on resource deployment in real-time during this electioneering period. Such emerging threats shall be tackled promptly. I therefore would like to warn all those hell-bent upon acts of criminality and lawlessness to desist.

Finally, the National Police Service has prepared and finalized a National Police Service Election Security Plan. This Plan has provided a critical input into Operation Orders and deployments plans by respective commands for the General Elections. We have also established a National Election Security Command Centre which is manned on 24-hour basis and equipped to handle all situational analysis related to election security. It can be reached at toll free on Tel. **0779756616,0779756615,0779756617** and **0779756606**

A total of 150,000 officers including special police officers will be deployed during the elections to ensure a safe environment for all to cast their votes and that all residents in the country conduct their activities without fear of crime or harm. Formed Police Units (FPUs) under the National Police Service have also been deployed across the country to offer tactical support to general duty officers before, during and after the general elections.

Further, there is a provision for a deployment of five (5) helicopters in strategic locations to provide logistical air support when and where required throughout the electioneering period.

Last but not least, I urge all Kenyans to remain peaceful and law abiding during this period of electioneering leading up to the General Elections and beyond. As the National Police Service, we count on the great partnership and support of all Kenyans of goodwill towards the realization of our mandate of delivering a safe and secure General Election.

ASANTENI SANA.

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PRESIDENT OF AFRIPOL GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**