



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR AND NATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

For immediate Release

| Harambee House, Nairobi; July 21, 2023 |

1. Security intelligence information has established that some of the weapons, including firearms and crude weapons which have been used to fuel violence during violent riots that have been experienced in the Country in the past few weeks are supplied by a wide network of civilian firearm holders and leaders of known criminal gangs.
2. These civilian firearms and crude weapons are credibly suspected to have been used to harm law enforcement personnel and civilians alike during the violence that has been experienced recently.
3. While the Police have intensified their crackdown on the criminal gang leaders who have been commanding criminals to reign terror on the public, the law enforcement agencies have rolled a nationwide operation, pursuant to their mandate of regulation, control and



management of civilian firearm holders to ensure that those licensed to possess weapons abide by the relevant laws.

4. On 19th July 2023, a prime suspect was arrested while preparing to distribute a large number of crude weapons to facilitate criminals to inflict violence on the public during the last three days of violent protests. The suspect was found in possession of 14 machetes, 24 swords, 46 rungas, and over 300 sachets of assorted narcotic drugs, including cannabis sativa and cocaine. Also found with him, were documents describing the distribution of Ksh.42M across 11 Counties in Nairobi, Central and Rift Valley regions.
5. Today afternoon, an operation has been going on targeting three homesteads within the Karen area where a total of 23 firearms, some of which are suspected to have been used in illegal activities are kept.
6. Today's operation is part of a broader operation targeting scores of firearm holders who are reasonably suspected to be availing firearms not only for purposes of supporting violent protests, but also other illegal activities.
7. For the avoidance of doubt, security agencies are authorized under the Firearms Act (CAP 114) of



the Laws of Kenya to inspect premises where firearms are kept, to require civilian firearm holders to produce them for inspection and ballistic examination where it is reasonably suspected that such firearms or ammunition may have been used or expended outside the law.

8. The operation will proceed to cover civilian firearm holders in Nairobi and other parts of the Country, who may be using the weapons in their possession to jeopardize our national security. The operation is purely of a security nature and neither its politicization or sensationalisation will deter law enforcement agencies from ensuring that the Country remains safe and stable.

**KITHURE KINDIKI,
CABINET SECRETARY FOR THE INTERIOR AND NATIONAL
ADMINISTRATION**