

COUNTIES COAST

TERROR MUTATES, RECRUITS WOMEN

# Secure all police stations, shift spying tactics, MPs urge state

House committee wants Interior ministry to finance construction of perimeter walls and provide modern surveillance equipment to protect all police stations



Armed policemen walk outside the Mombasa Central Police Station after an attack last Sunday /REUTERS



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The National Assembly Committee on Administration and National Security wants the government to secure all police stations in the country to avert terror, especially at the Coast.

Committee members said Coast is the tourism hub and must be protected if the industry is to thrive. They spoke in Mombasa on Tuesday. On Sunday, the Mombasa Central Police Station was attacked by three women. This is the second attack on a police station in two months. The other was in Kapenguria, West Pokot, where a gunman opened fire at police officers, killing at least six officers.

They said on Tuesday in Mombasa such cases prompt countries to issue travel advisories, which

cause Kenya lose revenue from tourism. The MPs want the Interior ministry to release funds to build perimeter walls around all police stations and provide modern surveillance equipment. They also want desk officers at the stations armed at all times to enable them to respond adequately to danger.

Kandara MP Alice Wahome said infiltration of refugee camps is one of the committee's main concerns. She said women are increasingly being used as suicide bombers, a worrying trend because they are least suspected of being able to carry out terror attacks.

The committee is working on the Refugees (Amendment) Bill to regulate management of all refugee camps. The aim is to avoid infiltration by terrorists. "We want the country to be in charge of the office of the commissioner for refugees," Wahome said.

The running of the refugee camps and managing

the refugees' affairs have been left to UN agencies. "We feel this is not right. This is the point of entry by foreigners. You cannot be sure who is coming into this country," Wahome said.

The MPs want the anti-terrorism and radicalisation campaign to focus on women. They said women have become soft targets for extremists. The legislators said the recent attack indicates terror keeps mutating and intelligence gathering must change too.

"You can only fight terror through a robust intelligence system. We are dealing with a monster that mutates. They now use females. The next time you might hear another story," chair Asman Kamama said. "Some refugees are misused to cause harm in the country," Wahome said. The Mombasa attackers had been hiding among Kibokoni refugees. At least two refugees were arrested and are helping police in investigations.

THE DATA  
**SH150**  
Smallest bribe paid by Mombasa child abuser to evade justice

The Cry for Justice report says police Gender Desks play a key role in killing some of the cases forwarded for action. Offenders part with as little as a Sh150 bribe to evade justice.

PERFORMED FAIRLY WELL



Mombasa 2nd best for business start-ups – report

Mombasa county has performed fairly well in business, a report by the World Bank shows. 'The Subnational Doing Business Report 2016' launched by Industrialisation CS Aden Mohamed (pictured) on Tuesday at Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi. According to the report Mombasa was ranked second best county in terms of starting a business registering properties and enforcing contracts. However, it ranked eighth in issuing of construction permits.

CRY FOR JUSTICE

Scores of Mombasa minors have been defiled, raped, murdered, infected with STD and mentally and physically tortured in the past year by those entrusted to protect them. A report titled 'A Cry For Justice' says the cases have not been acted upon by authorities.

TAKE EDUCATION SERIOUSLY

Teen pregnancies decline in Witu, Lamu, by 30%

Teen pregnancies, early marriages and school dropouts in Witu division of Lamu West have significantly declined. According to records at the division education office, the cases have declined by 30 per cent. Witu Education officer James Akello said girls' enrollment has increased. He said girls now take education seriously.

'THREATENING' LEAFLETS

Mombasa woman fears for her life, joined Jubilee Party

Mombasa resident Jane Adeya says that on Sunday she received threatening leaflets outside her house warning her to quit Jubilee or be killed. Adeya said by Tuesday evening, Changamwe police had refused to record her statement. She suspected a conspiracy. She had come from the Jubilee Party launch in Nairobi.

FOR ORPHANS, VULNERABLE

Bamburi, Sarah Obama partner to build ECDE centre

The Bamburi Cement Company has signed an MoU with the Mama Sarah Obama Foundation to construct an Early Childhood Development and Education centre in Kogelo, Siaya county. The centre will benefit more than 1,000 orphans and children from impoverished families. Construction has begun, the company said yesterday.

END TRIBAL GROUPINGS

Few parties good for our unity, says MP Mwangangi

Kenya should have fewer political parties, Yatta MP Francis Mwangangi has said. He said having many parties creates tribal groupings that are not healthy for the stability of the country. The Muungano Party MP spoke at the Serena Hotel, where he said he will seek reelection on the Jubilee ticket. He said few parties promote unity.