

SECURITY GOVERNANCE IN KENYA AND THE AFRICAN PEER REVIEW MECHANISM (APRM)

August 8, 2008

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By

KENYA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

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Summary

This summary is on the deliberations that transpired during a one day consultative workshop on Security Governance in Kenya and the APRM. The consultative workshop was held on the 8th of August 2008 at the Grand Regency Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya.

The consultative workshop was organized by the Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) and the Africa Human Security Initiative- Institute for Security Studies (ISS). It brought together about 40 participants drawn from civil society organizations (CSOs), academics, Government, State security agents as well as other groups interested in the rubric of security.

The major aim of the consultative workshop was to utilize the opportunities presented by the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to assess the quality of security governance that Kenyan citizens experience.

The workshop had three main objectives. First was to revisit Kenya's APRM process and its implications for security governance. Second was to reconsider the rather precarious security question particularly in the context of APRM, with a view to prescribing policy reforms. Third was to review the post 2007 general election violence, especially the role played by militia groups and State security agents.

The workshop was organized into two main parts; first it had presentations from distinguished speakers who shared papers on identified thematic areas. Secondly, there were plenary sessions for participants to build on the presentations through

raising questions and making comments. The papers presented at the workshop were specific to the following themes:

1. APRM/NEPAD and its relevance to the Security Problem in Kenya-A critique
2. The Rise of Militia Groups and their role in the 2007 Electoral violence in Kenya: *The case of Mungiki*
3. Security governance in Kenya: Law enforcement agents' reaction to post 2007 election violence.

This report offers collective input of the workshop participants on ways to deal with the imminent security threats in Kenya. It appraised the APRM's role in identifying the deficits in security governance in Kenya.

Some key recommendations from the workshop were:

1. The revised APRM questionnaire should not only be more incisive, it must also offer more guidance on conflict causes, consolidate discussions of both human and state security in one section and demand evaluation rather than engage in mere description.
2. APRM should be integrated into other national planning systems, debates and oversight mechanisms. Most countries possess good laws and policies on paper, and they can easily note these in responses, but rigorous assessment is necessary to evaluate whether they really work.
3. The APRM needs a stronger connection to three critical constituencies:
 - a) To the citizens in whose name it is being undertaken (through outreach by Government media and civil society);
 - b) To the political class (through policy planning processes, parliament and political parties); and
 - c) To the wider African and international community (through African continental institutions as well as the structures through which dev. Assistance is channeled)
4. For the challenges to be effectively addressed, the PoA might need to be structured in a manner that takes security challenge 'head on' and come up with serious mechanisms and timeframes for tackling them.
5. Explicit sanctions for non-compliance with APRM recommendation is required in lieu of the name-and-shame tactics
6. Given that the institution will struggle to review each of the 27 states every
7. To address the issue of militia, it is important to look at the hidden faces of the militia groups.

See forthcoming full report www.africareview.org