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**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS ON THE  
CURRENT SECURITY SITUATION**

Rt Hon Speaker, Hon Colleagues,

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2019 Hon Zaake Francis whilst raising concerns regarding the current security situation made outlandish allegations to the effect that perhaps security agents and agencies are behind the insecurity incidents we are witnessing. This is absolutely far from the truth.

In order for us to fully understand and appreciate the current security situation it is useful for us to pause a little and reflect back to our recent history.

Early last year (2018), about April, we went through a period of security anxiety marked by murders of women in Entebbe and Nansana, kidnaps and assassinations. I came here (on 09/05/2018) and made a statement in relation to that situation. I shall therefore not repeat what I said then. June last year (20/06/2018) His Excellency the President of Uganda took it upon himself to address the nation through this august house about the security situation. In his address he explained twelve action points he informed the country government would take to address the security situation. Some of these included:

- . Installation of the CCTV cameras
- . Recruiting and deploying local defense units
- . Finger printing of guns

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JR'.

- . Establishing the Forensic laboratory
- . Require every vehicle to have electronic number plates
- . Re-introduce the 999 response system
- . Social media misuse to be addressed
- . Outlaw wearing of hoods (especially for boda boda riders)
- . Introduction of helmets with illuminated numbers
- . Introduce more scanners
- . Regulate use of drones and UAVs
- . Encourage installation of private CCTV cameras
- . Addressing the socio economic conditions of our society

**So where are we now on some of these action points and what have been the benefits?**

In relation to the installation of CCTV cameras in phase one (KMP) we now stand at about 70%. We hope to conclude installation of CCTV cameras by end of September 2019 then thereafter we shall embark on phase 2&3.

We have recruited and deployed a number of LDU units. More have been recruited and will soon be deployed immediately after their training.

The 999 speedy response units have been reconstituted.

We have finger printed nearly 68% of the guns in police, army, private security organizations and private individuals.

The question of the forensic laboratory to assist in scientific investigations still lies with this august house. I would like to appeal to you Hon members to expedite this.

We continue to work on all the other action points and I shall be briefing this august house on progress as and when necessary.



### **So what are the benefits that have accrued so far?**

In December 2018 you will all agree with me that we had one of the most peaceful Christmas celebrations we have had.

On 03/06/2019 we had nearly three million people gathered at Namugongo shrines for the annual martyrs' day celebrations. There was no major security incident; apart from minor petty thefts.

Recently my colleague, the Hon minister of state for internal affairs, released the annual crime report. In that report he clearly demonstrated the noticeable decline in crime rates in nearly all types of crime.

These achievements, Hon colleagues, are commendable by all means; and they are not accidental. Rather they are a product of deliberate actions by the security agencies.

Rt Hon Speaker, Hon colleagues, in spite of these achievements it is also true in the recent weeks we have witnessed disturbing trends in the form of murders of especially boda boda riders and some kidnaps also resulting in murders.

Let me now turn to these developments.

Let me begin by making some general statements. There is no society that is totally crime free, Uganda inclusive. The duty of government and security agencies is to minimize the occurrence of crime. And that is precisely what we are doing as I have demonstrated.

Secondly, on the balance, the security situation is relatively good. The apparent bad situation is actually a social media hype. There are many good acts that the security agencies have achieved but are not talked about. But when one bad incident occurs it makes rounds in the social media and creates the impression that the situation is so bad. By the way, on the flip side, the social media hype is good. It informs the general public and increases their alertness and awareness.



The security agencies have tried to understand what drives this new trend and we have concluded that there are certainly factors driving this new trend. These include but not limited to:

a) **Politics.** The greatest success of the NRM government has been and is, among others, its ability to provide security of person and property to Ugandans. Our population understands and appreciates this. This is why the population has always voted in the NRM so that it can continue to guarantee their security. Many detractors of NRM know this and are now attempting to create the impression that the NRM has failed to provide security.

b) **Drug abuse.** We have noted that there is a perceptible increase of drug abuse particularly among the youth. This abuse unduly influences their behavior patterns.

c) **Recivism.** Recivism is a term that refers to a situation where an individual has served his jail term and when released again commits a crime and is once again jailed. Rt Hon Speaker, Hon colleagues, you will all recollect the video clip which showed two individuals strangling a boda boda rider, you will also remember the broad daylight robbery at a hardware shop in Nansana, and the robbery at Kanyanya or the attempted robbery which occurred in Mbale in which one policeman was killed? Security has been able to establish that all these four incidents were carried out by one gang. These individuals had been in prison in Luzira together.

They were released in April this year and soon after they resumed their criminal acts (some of which are the four I have mentioned). The good news is this gang has been dealt with.

During this same analysis we as security agencies have also carried out a self-examination and analysis and we have established that there is a need for self-rectification.



For example: we are going to improve our 999 and fixed line call system so as to improve our contact with the population and our response time. We shall also improve our command levels for both the LDU units as well as at police station level. We are going to improve monitoring of our officers at the reception counters at police stations.

We have noted the following challenges;

a) There are quite a number of duplicate telephone handsets. These duplicates make it difficult to track dubious callers because their IMEI are duplicates.

b) We have also noted that the crime of snatching vehicle number plates is inadvertently helped by the tedious process of replacing number plates. We are engaging URA on this.

c) Acquiring CCTV cameras is still expensive. We are now engaging the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development with a view to review the tax regime on this. Removing the tax all together would be desirable so as to make CCTV cameras for private people more affordable. We have seen how some of the private CCTV cameras have been very helpful.

Let me now turn briefly to the specific matter of murder of boda bodas and kidnaps. Government is carrying out multi-sectoral consultations between the Ministry of Works Communication and Transport, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Security, Ministry of Kampala City Council Authority and Ministry of Local Government with a view to coming up with a policy guide on how to control and manage the boda boda Industry. The outcome of this multi-sectoral consultation will feed into a Committee chaired by the Rt. Hon Prime Minister on this same matter.



In as far as kidnaps are concerned, as we continue to implement the action points that HEx directed and as we continue to build capacity we are sure we shall address this challenge as well.

### **In conclusion**

The security situation is not as bad as is being portrayed, and is continuing to improve. Let us avoid politicizing security. It is a common good. Let us all work together on it. I would like to particularly thank the general public for their awareness and support. Together we Ugandans can make Uganda a much safer and better place to live in.

### **For God and my Country**

  
General Odongo Jeje  
Minister for Internal Affairs

05/09/2019