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MEDIA ENQUIRY FROM NTV'S ROSE WANGUI ON THE JUNE 25TH AND JULY 7TH 2025 PROTESTS

Question 1. During the June 25th and July 7th protests, share data on deaths and injuries recorded?

25th June 2025 (Anti-Finance Bill Commemorative Protests):

1. Civilian fatalities: 23
2. Civilian injuries: 195
3. Police injuries: 99
4. Arrests: 362

7th July 2025 (Saba Saba Protests):

1. Civilian fatalities: 41
2. Civilian injuries: 147
3. Police injuries: 72
4. Arrests: 760

Combined, these two protests accounted for **65** total fatalities and **513¹** injuries recorded during all four protests monitored in June–July 2025.

Question 2. Police were dispatched to quell the riots but ended up using disproportionate force. Did the police fail in their part? Any cover-ups?

IPOA found that, except in Mombasa, police who were deployed treated the protests as riotous rather than peaceful assemblies, using teargas, rubber bullets, and live ammunition for public order management. The reason the police treated the protest as riots was clearly because some of the protestors were not peaceful. This manifested itself in chaos and vandalism. This approach undermined peaceful protest rights under Article 37 of the Constitution. Further, some officers concealed identity by not displaying their nametags, rank insignia, and hiding vehicle number plates. Also, the NPS only notified IPOA of 5 out of the 65 fatalities, contrary to the law. IPOA flagged these as serious accountability breaches designed as possible attempts to avoid oversight.

Question 3. We've seen cases where innocent people who were not part of the protests getting killed, including children. How many cases of police brutality are under investigations?

While the report doesn't give an exact total number of brutality cases under investigation, it notes that IPOA received 48 public complaints after the 25 June protests and 70 after the 7 July protests. Many involved allegations of excessive force, unlawful killings, and injuries to persons not participating in the protests (including minors). Quite a number of investigations are under way into the documented

¹ 342 civilian and 171 police injuries

violations. For example, the death of Boniface Mwangi Kariuki (17 June protest) was successfully investigated and led to the arrest and charging of ex-police officer Klinzy Masinde Barasa.

Question 4. Did the Authority attend any postmortem examinations to verify the causes of deaths? What were the findings?

As at report launch, IPOA had attended 61 out of 65 autopsies for fatalities from the protests and plans to attend the remaining 4 when scheduled. These post-mortems are part of ongoing investigations into causes of death. While the detailed forensic results are not fully disclosed in the report, the attendance confirms IPOA's effort to independently verify the circumstances surrounding the deaths.

Question 5. Last month, IPOA released a report dubbed "Monitoring Report on Police response to Public Protests between June and July 2025". Elaborate more on the findings.

- **Notification and Organization of Protests:** Some protests, such as the 12th June demonstration in Nairobi, proceeded without prior notification, contrary to the Public Order Act. Others, including the 17th June protest in Mombasa, complied with legal requirements by issuing formal notices in advance.
- **Police Deployment and Conduct:** Both uniformed and plainclothes officers were deployed during the protests. However, many failed to display visible name tags or Service numbers, violating the National Police Service Act (CAP 84). Riot control involved the use of teargas, firearms, batons, and vehicles, some with concealed number plates, raising accountability concerns.
- **Use of Force and Resulting Casualties:** While de-escalation techniques were used effectively in some instances, other protests, particularly those infiltrated by armed groups were met with significant and often excessive force. This led to injuries and fatalities. Across multiple locations, police responses were marked by a lack of professionalism and failure to meet legal and ethical policing standards.
- **Infiltration and Escalation:** Peaceful protests were frequently undermined by armed goons and counter-protesters who infiltrated crowds and incited violence through stone-throwing, use of sticks, mugging, and property destruction.
- **Property Destruction and Looting:** Widespread looting, vandalism, and destruction of both public and private property were recorded. Targets included supermarkets, banks, police stations, government offices, and vehicles. In many instances, police failed to contain the damage effectively.
- **Nature of the Protests:** Many protests, including those in Nairobi and Mombasa, began peacefully and were often organized by civil society groups, Gen Z activists, and human rights defenders. However, violence instigated by external actors disrupted these events.

Cross-Cutting Issues Identified

- **Breach of Constitutional Policing Standards:** Use of disproportionate force, lack of professionalism, and failure to uphold public safety.
- **Police Anonymity:** Officers operated with concealed identities and unmarked vehicles, undermining accountability.

- **Lack of Medical Support:** No police ambulances or medical assistance were available to the injured.
- **Failure to Contain Destruction:** Public and private property was looted, vandalized, or burned, often without timely police intervention.
- **Poor Engagement with Organisers:** Police frequently rejected or failed to respond to protest notifications, hindering lawful assembly.
- **Presence of Criminal Elements:** Armed goons and counter-protesters infiltrated peaceful events, escalating violence and chaos.

The level of violence, looting and destruction of property by persons disguised as protesters and opportunistic goons was unprecedented and in some instances overwhelmed the police. Lessons must be learned from this by all affected stakeholders so as to inform better public order management in the future.

Recommendations include adopting body-worn cameras, improving police welfare, creating public order management policy, ensuring prompt medical aid, operationalising County Policing Authorities, community policing and increasing IPOA's budget to enhance oversight.

Overall Quote from IPOA Chairperson Ahmed Issack Hassan:

"The findings revealed both commendable restraint in some instances and deeply troubling violations in others. The level of violence and vandalism witnessed must be addressed. Implementing the IPOA recommendations is critical to safeguarding constitutional rights and restoring public trust in policing."

IPOA is committed to conducting its investigations, inspections of police facilities and monitoring of police operations with impartiality, as it delivers its mandate.



**AHMED ISSACK HASSAN, CBS
CHAIRPERSON.**

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