

**MALALANI – TWAMBUI AREA.**

**THE KAMBAS AND SOMALIS  
CONFLICT.**

**REPORT AT MWINGI WORKSHOP**

**3<sup>RD</sup> – 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2012 AT IDEAL  
PALACE**

**KITUI COUNTY**

**Background of conflicts:-**

Along the common Kitui and Tana River boundary, The Agro-Pastoralists (Somalis) have for a long time been experiencing occasional flare ups over the grazing resources especially water and forage in Enziu – Malalani and Mutha respectively.

The area of land in contention is historically community land used by Kambas and Ormas for grazing their animals.

In 2004 NCCCK (National Council of churches of Kenya) through Tana River Basin peace project did a research to determine the real causes of conflict between the two or so communities which had by then developed into fully blown armed conflict and established PASTURE and WATER for domestic and livestock use as the KEY causes of conflict.

After the research NCCCK put in place APDC'S - Area peace Development communities for both Kambas and Somalis and were charged with the responsibility of managing the conflicts in both Malalani - Enziu and Mutha.

With functioning of the area Peace Development communities the areas became relatively peaceful until May 2012 when the Somalis migrated to

Malalani - Enziu in search of pasture and water for their animals.

Over the years the committee leadership has changed and Divisions emerged amongst them some in support of Somalis and others against them.

## **DEVELOPMENT OF CONFLICT**

Towards end of June 2012 a misunderstanding between the Kamba and Somalis heightened which prompted consultative meetings with a climax one on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2012 by the district Commissioner Mutito –Mr. Kamau and OCPD Mutomo which bore no fruits and later involved the DMO Kitui and the MONITOR from (Peace Net Trust)-Kenya Peace Managers to visit the conflict site on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2012 on fact finding mission. They found the area had much tension and could do very little but confirmed

the back-filled wells by Kamba which escalated conflicts.

The tension between the two communities heightened and developed into armed conflict on 3rd July 2012 resulting to deaths and migrations-IDPS from the area to Endau market for safety.

### THE IMPACT OF ARMED CONFLICT

1) On 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2012 Mr. Nzaluo Mtinda was stabbed to death with a knife at Twambui - Enziu after an argument with the Somalis after resisting them to graze on his parcel of land.

2) On 4<sup>th</sup> July 2012 Mr. Benjamin K. Mwilu was shot with a gun on his way to visit his workers in the grazing area at Ililuni-Twambui in Malalani location.

3) On 5<sup>th</sup> July 2012 - 28<sup>th</sup> July 2012:

There were confirmed forced evictions which prompted closure of all schools.

Approximately 400 people both adults and children are now hosted by the PEFA church Endau with a lot of hopelessness.

### **GENERAL SECURITY STATUS**

Although the Government has promised to beef up security in the area, there are fears from the residents (Kamba) that Somalis might attack them again with guns. This is a prove Kamba are not willing to go back to their homes until peace is restored in the area through the right organizations e.g. state and non-state actors “SECURITY NOT ENOUGH”.

## **CONCLUSION**

### **SHORT TERM**

1) The government to beef up security at Enziu/Malalani areas because the current peace situation is alarming likely to escalate to a full conflict that might lead to lose of many lives and property

2) Supply of emergency humanitarian AID e.g. Food, clothing, shelter and medical care to the IDP's urgently.

### **LONG TERM MEASURES**

1) Establish conflict transformation measures through peace and conflict management programmes targeting both communities (Kambas and Somalis.)

2) Step-up Community peace initiatives both locally and regionally targeting all communities along Tana River basin, Makueni County included.

**N/B:** Arid lands to co-ordinate other partners towards the same.

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